

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ms Loide Kasingo

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

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

Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Dr G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential Affairs & Attorney-General)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information & Communication Technology)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Labour & Social Welfare)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands & Resettlement)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>

Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

Ms P Haingura	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport & Culture)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Information and Communication Technology)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr U Herunga	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Finance)</i>
Dr. D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

Mr I Shixwameni *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Mr B Ulenga *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*

Mr P Moongo *(Chief Whip)*

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*

Mr A Tjihuike *(Chief Whip)*

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

Mr S Bezuidenhout

Mr Hidipo Hamutenya *(Party Leader)*

Ms A Limbo

Mr H Lucks

Mr P Naholo

Mr K Nehova

Mr J Nyamu

Mr A Von Wietersheim

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Ms C //Gowases

SWANU

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

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Mr B Amathila	
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr E Dingara	
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)	<i>(Speaker)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Mr U Herunga	
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr E Kaiyamo (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P I Kapia	
Ms L Kasingo	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms S Makgone	
Ms A Manombe-Ncube	
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr A Muheaua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Mwaningange	
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>

Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr F Ueitele	
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr Piet Van der Walt	
Ms L Witbooi	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr J //Garoëb	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr S Tjongarero	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

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

Ms M Jankowski	
Prof. P Katjavivi (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee)</i>
Mr C Schleittwein	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms S Swartz	
Ms A Tjongarero	

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
18 SEPTEMBER 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: The business of the House now commences. I want to welcome you all, my dear Colleagues and Comrades, fellow Members of Parliament, representatives of the people, elected to do so by the voters and that we resume the business of the National Assembly. I trust that during the break you have been able to do just that and celebrate the democracy we enjoy for more than 22 years, the engagement that we have maintained with the people as it is our duty and we have, indeed during the break continued to engage the people in whatever we do, think and say. This is just the first day of the resumption of the Sixth Session of the Fifth Assembly of the Parliament of Namibia.

I want to start with the happy news that those who do not know will join me in celebrating. One of us, in the name of Elia George Kaiyamo, henceforth to be known as Dr Elia George Kaiyamo and I will tell you why. He got sick and tired of being sick and tired listening to mentioning names of Dr this, that and the other and he, therefore, applied his best efforts as a student and researcher and doing that from the bottom of his heart and bodily and has earned a doctorate from the Washington International University, a Doctorate of Philosophy in Arts, International Studies and Diplomacy. Congratulations, Comrade. It can be done if you know how to order challenges and priorities and for those of you who do not have that as a habit, as some of us do, make regular acquaintance with books and any other reading material. It is good for you, it is good for your health actually. For those of you who are married, it is also good for marriage.

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**REPORTS AND PAPERS
HON DR NAMWANDI / HON DR KAIYAMO**

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

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS: NAMIBIA
QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY AND NATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Namibia Qualifications Authority for the year 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 as well as the Annual Report of the National Council for Higher Education for the year 2010/2011.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister please table the Report? Dr Kaiyamo.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS OF
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
IMMIGRATION:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for the years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 24:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of September 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Works and Transport:

It is a well-known fact that this House appropriated more money to bail out Air Namibia. For more than 20 years we failed to recognise and acknowledge that there are no buses to transport passengers in the hot and cold chilly wind from the Hosea Kutako Airport. It is now the appropriate time for the Minister to consider, prepare and allocate money for the 2012/2013 Budget for this purpose. Can the Minister explain why he failed to cater for this problem for so long?

QUESTION 25:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of September 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Works and Transport:

Is the Minister aware or can he explain the dusty road at Onethindi? The tar of that road was removed two years ago and it took a whole year to replace the tar of just one kilometre. The community which lives there has been suffocating for too long and it is causing ill-health. When will the Minister give this tender to another construction company to urgently tar that road or will the Minister ignore the plight of the community?

18 September 2012

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

HON SPEAKER: Will Honourable Moongo table the Questions?
Honourable Von Wietersheim.

QUESTION 26:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of September, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister:

1. I wish to know why the organisers of the SWAPO Party Policy Conference were not instructed to schedule the conference sometime during the two-months long recess of the National Assembly? Is it once again the often experienced arrogance of the Ruling SWAPO Party towards the separation of State and Party matters or is it simply the inability on the part of the SWAPO Cadres to do proper advanced planning.
2. Apart from the above, were those planners not aware of the gravity of disrupting the laid-down schedule of the National Assembly, so much so that His Excellency the President had to issue a proclamation to the effect that this Sixth Session of the National Assembly was to be postponed for a week?
3. Are you aware, Right Honourable Prime Minister, that the proclamation was still outstanding at the start of the conference, which raises the question whether, once again, planning on the part of the organisers was so bad that it only occurred to them as an afterthought to approach His Excellency the President about the proclamation?
4. Was the proclamation in fact signed and published as prescribed and if so, on what date was it signed by His Excellency and in which Government Gazette of which date was it published to take effect?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON //GAROËB**

5. Are you aware, Right Honourable Prime Minister, that the delay of the proclamation caused the Secretariat of the National Assembly to withhold public announcement of the postponement of the Sixth Session of the National Assembly, quite correctly I would say, but thereby causing extreme inconvenience and costs to those of us travelling far distances in vein?
6. I wish to know furthermore how the ambiguous remark by yourself, Right Honourable Prime Minister, about the Public Servants attending the conference is to be understood. You reminded them that they are not on holiday. Can you confirm, however, that this does not imply that they did not take official leave from their Public duties? Would you to this effect kindly inform this Assembly how many Civil Servants were attending the SWAPO Party Conference and how many of those did in fact apply for and were granted leave for the duration of their absence from duty?

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Chief //Garoëb.

QUESTION 27:

HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 22nd of September 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the following question:

Is it legal for a Namibian citizen to participate in an international lottery like the:

1. July Handicap of South Africa
 2. German State Lottery?
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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON NYAMU**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

QUESTION 28:

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, in terms of Rule 82 of the Standing Rules and Orders, I would like to ask a Question without Notice. Honourable Speaker, all of us here, Members of Parliament, have vowed to protect and defend the Constitution of this country. In addition to that we have also vowed to defend and protect the symbols of State which bind us together as a Nation.

Honourable Speaker, one of those symbols is the National Flag which is a symbol which binds us together as a generation and those to follow. Now my question is: How is it possible that we have been functioning as a Parliament where this symbol of State is missing? What prevents us from hoisting our own flag, the only symbol which binds us together in the National Assembly? Can the Prime Minister explain to the Nation why we are afraid to hoist our own flag?

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I would like to welcome all the Honourable Members back to this Session which promises to be very business-like and on that note, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 2nd of October 2012, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
RT HON ANGULA / HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

remuneration and other benefits to the President and his or her spouse and to provide for incidental matters.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I further give Notice that on Tuesday, the 2nd of October 2012, I shall Move -

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Former Presidents Pension and Other Benefits Act of 2004 so as to adjust the gratuity and housing benefits payable to former Presidents and their families and to provide for incidental matters.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Prime Minister table the two Motions? Any further Notice of Motions? Honourable Chief Whip.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Speaker, I Move an Unopposed Motion of support for the International Day of Democracy, being the 15th of September each year:

That this House, on behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia:

RECOGNISING the Preamble of the Namibian Constitution that states as follows: “*Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is indispensable for freedom, justice and peace;*

Whereas the said rights include the right of the individual to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, regardless of race, colour, ethnic origin, sex, religion, creed or social or economic status;

Whereas the said rights are most effectively maintained and protected in a

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON PROFF KATJAVIVI**

democratic society where the Government is responsible to freely elected representatives of the people, operating under a sovereign Constitution and a free and independent Judiciary;

Whereas these rights have for so long been denied to the people of Namibia by colonialism, racism and apartheid;

Whereas we, the people of Namibia –

Have finally emerged victorious in our struggle against colonialism, racism and apartheid;

Are determined to adopt a Constitution which expresses for ourselves and our children our resolve to cherish and to protect the gains of our long struggle;

Desire to promote amongst all of us the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Namibian nation among and in association with the Nations of the world;

Will strive to achieve national reconciliation and to foster peace, unity and a common loyalty to a single State;

Committed to these principles, have resolved to constitute the Republic of Namibia as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State securing to all our citizens justice, liberty, equality and fraternity;

Now therefore, we the people of Namibia accept and adopt this Constitution as the fundamental law of our Sovereign and Independent Republic.”

RECOGNISING that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and the full participation in all the aspects of their lives;

RECOGNISING that while democracies share common features, there is

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON PROFF KATJAVIVI**

no single model for democracy;

AWARE that the Namibian people suffered for too long from the oppressive apartheid regime before attaining their Independence;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution A62/7 in 2007 encouraged Governments to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy and also decided that 15 September of each year should be observed as the International Day of Democracy;

CONSCIOUS that it was on 16 September 1997 in Cairo that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted the Universal Declaration on Democracy and that over the years the IPU has helped to developed democratic principles of governance and international standards for free and fair elections to establish parliamentary systems in more than fifty countries and to develop guidelines for good practice in Parliaments and methods assessing parliamentary performance;

RECOGNISING that a democratic Parliament is one that is representative, transparent, accessible, accountable and effective;

RECOGNISING that a democratic Government, among others, ensures basic freedoms, meeting popular needs of the people, Public accountability, for instance parliamentary oversight, rule of law, solving disagreements and conflict through debate, persuasions and compromise an enabling societal renewal;

AWARE that the IPU encourages Parliaments around the world to celebrate the International Day of Democracy by engaging in parliamentary plenary Debate, adopting a parliamentary Motion to support the day, civil education on democracy through competitions, communications with the media and planned discussions, among others;

CALL on Members of the National Assembly to express themselves on the importance of the International Day of Democracy and democracy in general within the context and the theme for 2012, which is “*Dialogue*

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MOONGO**

and Inclusiveness being Central to Democracy which is Essential for a Culture of Democracy”;

CALL on Members of the National Assembly to deepen the culture of dialogue and inclusiveness in the country;

CALL on Members of the National Assembly to place the day on the Legislative Calendar, similarly the Executive to place the day on its calendar of important days and events to find best ways how to celebrate the day;

AFFIRM our support for democracy, the United Nations Declaration on Democracy, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A.62/7 of 2007, the International Day of Democracy, the elements of democratic Government and the elements of a democratic Parliament that our Government and Parliament should be the vehicle to improve the quality of life of the people of Namibia. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: I take it, unless somebody wishes to take the Floor to support the Motion, it is an Unopposed Motion and it is the pleasure of the House to support the Motion. Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? It will be placed on the Order Paper. Honourable Moongo?

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 25th of September 2012, I shall Move –

That this august House *discusses* and *introduces* a law to regulate and register all denominations and churches in Namibia; to disassociate and distance themselves from any form of violence.

HON MOONGO: I further give Notice that on Wednesday, the 26th of

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON A TJONGARERO / HON VON WIETERSHEIM

September 2012, I shall Move –

It is a material fact that the Land of Brave was fought for and blood was shed to own land. The land is now only owned by the Government, municipalities, communal land and held by Government and rich foreigners. Therefore this House must discuss and regulate that the poor can also own free land or special funds should be allocated to poor people also to afford to buy a piece of land in their own country.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion?
Honourable Tjongarero.

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 25th of September 2012, I shall Move –

Considering the performance of our sportswomen and men in national, regional and international competitions –

That this Assembly –

Debates and discusses the status of sport in our country and come up with an acceptable solution for the problem.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion?
Honourable Von Wietersheim.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 20 September, I shall Move that–

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

Whereas there are about 20,000 voluntary community home-based care providers in Namibia who voluntarily assist the Health Sector outside the formal health-care system to care for some of the most vulnerable people in their communities, mainly patients living with HIV/AIDS and other terminally ill patients;

Whereas these voluntary care providers are organised and supported mainly by Community-Based Civil Organisations funded by international donors whose financial contributions have been declining and will largely be discontinued in March 2013;

Whereas there exists a National Policy on Community-Based Health Care since 2008 which has not been practically implemented up to date;

Whereas in terms of the National Policy on Community-Based Health Care voluntary care providers:

- should receive a Standard Home-Based Care Kit from the Ministry of Health and Social Services, replacing those previously provided by the various donors,
- should receive initial training as well as annual refresher courses,
- should be provided an allowance of N\$250 to N\$500 per month as an incentive as well as reimbursement of expenses made on behalf of patients;

and *whereas* all the above policy guidelines are not generally implemented:

That this Assembly therefore requests the Minister of Health and Social Services-

- to effect implementation of the National Policy on Community-Based Health Care at operational level countrywide within the period up to March 2013;
- to negotiate continuation of services by experienced Community-Based Civil Organisations in delivering Community Home-Based Care programmes,

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**ANNOUNCEMENT
HON DR GURIRAB**

- to ensure retaining the services of dedicated Voluntary Care Providers under all circumstances and afford them due recognition for their service; and
- to urgently identify budgetary implications for the various requirements within the policy and submit a timely requested for the respective Budget allocations in order to be fully operational from March 2013.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: I think that is what we have for today. If there are any amongst you who would like to take the Floor and share with us aspiration to become a doctor, we will gladly listen.

I will shortly, after we adjourn for tea break be meeting with our neighbour, the Zimbabwean Chief of Defence Force who is here in town, neither as a guest of the Minister of Foreign Affairs nor as a guest of the Minister of Defence, but as a guest of the Speaker and other people whose brains he wants to challenge on the subject of his Doctorate; “The Predominance of an Ethic on Double Standards in the United Nations Security Council Humanitarian Intervention Missions – a Critical Study Based on the Ethical Theories on Mutual Aid and Equal Recognition.”

HON SPEAKER: We have no business for tomorrow, only for Thursday, I am being advised to adjourn the House until Tuesday, next

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week. The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 25 September 2012.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:42 UNTIL 2012.09.25 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
25 SEPTEMBER 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: The business of the House is called to order. Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Uenga.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 29:

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 4th of October 2012, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following question:

Concerning the veld fires burning in the various parts of the country, destroying many thousands of hectares of grazing land and of forests and our invaluable wildlife, the following:

1. How many fires have been reported to the Office of the Prime Minister or the various Regional Offices?
2. How many fires have been successfully extinguished in the following Regions: Caprivi Region, Otjozondjupa Region, Omaheke Region, Hardap Region, Kavango Region, Ohangwena Region, Oshikoto Region, Kunene Region, Omusati Region, Oshana Region, Erongo and Karas Region?

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**MOTION ON REGISTRATION OF CHURCHES
HON MOONGO**

3. If none, why can the Office of the Prime Minister not do more to ensure timely and successful reporting of fighting and extinguishing of veld fires before they cause so much destruction, as happened last year in Etosha? I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will you table the Question? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

The First Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

**MOTION ON LAW TO REGISTER ALL DENOMINATIONS
AND CHURCHES IN NAMIBIA**

HON MOONGO: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objections? You have the Floor.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, welcome back from the recess. First of all, the aim of the Motion is not to tamper with or abolish the freedom of religion in Namibia but to control the deadly activities and misuse of churches and religions by those who are power-hungry and those who need blood money, suicide bombers. Imagine somebody agreeing to blow himself up as a suicide bomber and run into overcrowded places, willing to die for a course he believes in. Killing himself and destroying the lives of hundreds of people just for the sake of compensation of millions of dollars to the family.

25 October 2012

**MOTION ON REGISTRATION OF CHURCHES
HON IILONGA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope of all you know the aim of the churches and religion. It is to preach the truth faithfully and the clear Gospel of God according to the Ten Commandments and according to the Canon law and according to the Koran principles of God in the Koran's Halaha?

Any good preacher is supposed to preach salvation, reservations and repentance, peace and fraternity also preach against social injustices which touches the bodies, hearts and spirits of communities who are suffering.

Some of the denominations pretend to true preachers of the Gospel and preach in order to earn economical gain and some are preaching falsely, which causes serious damages to all religions in Africa and the world. We have heard of Satanism and things like that.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I feel Namibia as a young country should close the loopholes in the national laws to prohibit and discourage violence and terrorism through the churches. The spread of false and satanic gospel should not enter Namibia. Violence through churches is a threat to peace. These strong antagonistic waves are shaking the peace, freedom and Independence of all African and Arab Nations and we must prevent these nonsensical and dangerous activities. I hope all Members will unconditionally support this Motion unanimously and with this motivation I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. When I listened to Honourable Moongo motivating his Motion on the control of religion, I felt the issue of Satanism is not my concern, but my concern is his reference to religions causing violence, persuading people to be suicide bombers and that he even mentioned the Koran. Currently, Comrade

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MOTION ON REGISTRATION OF CHURCHES
HON DR KAWANA

Speaker, we are in a time when the Muslims are at arms against a film which depicts the Prophet Mohamed. When I read the Motion of Honourable Moongo I feel it does not differ much from that film and, therefore, when asked who objects, I would have objected, but now I want to make use of our Rule which calls for a division, that this Motion should be rejected because it mentions other religions. Satanism is mentioned, but it is really aimed at the Muslims. Those are the people who believe when they die fighting they will go straight to God and he mentioned the Koran. The Koran is the Bible of the Muslim religion and I seriously Move that this Motion must just be ended here and not even taken any further. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY- GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Debate on the Motion. Just to add to the previous Honourable Member who has just spoken, I am really at a loss as to what our senior Colleague, the Vice-President of DTA, wants us to do in this House. He refers to satanic gospel and unless he could clearly explain what is meant by satanic gospel, because to some of us who call ourselves Christians, there is no such thing as satanic gospel. The Gospel is the Holy Book which we believe in.

In terms of our Constitution the Namibian State is a secular State, which is different from religion and in terms of our Constitution freedom of worship is also protected and is part and parcel of Chapter 3 of our Constitution. Therefore, I could really have agreed with my senior Colleague if he addressed certain mischief that is being experienced in Namibia and that try to regulate that mischief by way of legislation.

I would also have gone along with him if he wanted to say all religious denominations, as opposed to churches, be it Muslims, be it Christians, be

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it Hindus, be it animists, must register so that we know the aims and objectives of their religion. That way one could be able to warn some of our citizens to be careful whenever they want to join some of these religious denominations.

Not a long time ago and I am sure the Honourable Members might have read in the newspapers, there was a case before the Court because some of the Christian denominations do not allow blood transfusion and here is a person who had a small child who could easily be saved through blood transfusion, but because of those beliefs, the person is opposed to blood transfusion. I have also experienced that some of the denominations do not allow their members to take part in the democratic process of our country, such as taking part in the polls to vote and I definitely have a very serious problem with that.

Honourable Moongo is referring to the Koran and saying that those who are used in suicide bombings believe that if they do so they go to Heaven. I do not know, I can maybe not differ with him on that one because I do not know whether it is correct, but what I know in terms of Muslims is that when they take part in what they call the Holy War or Jihad, you go straight to Heaven regardless of whether you were a serial killer or a rapist or whatever. As long as you take part in the Holy War and you die, you will go to Heaven. That is an example of some of those religious beliefs.

In Hinduism they regard cattle as holy. When you are in India you see all those cattle are holy to them because it is part of their religion and if you are driving and see a cow standing on the road or crossing the road, it has priority over a driver because it is a holy cow. If you cross before that cow has crossed, you have committed a very serious religious offence to some of those people in the eyes of those people.

However, in a democratic State such as Namibia where freedom of religion is guaranteed, freedom of worship is guaranteed, I think we can only go to a certain extent, beyond which we might be encroaching on the Supreme Law of our land, the Constitution, because those freedoms are part and parcel of Chapter 3 which constitutes the fundamental human rights and freedoms which cannot be amended with a view to diminish the

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enjoyment of those freedoms. On that basis, unless the motivation of my senior Colleague is very clear, some of us will have problems on our account of Chapter 3 of our Constitution which guarantees fundamental human rights and freedoms, which includes the freedom of worship.

Also in terms of Article 1 of our Constitution, the State of Namibia is founded on the principles of democracy, rule of law and justice for all and it is a secular State. On that basis, unless the Honourable Member gives more clarity in his response to the Motion, some of us will have difficulties to understand what he really has in mind, other than to require these denominations or religious organisations in Namibia to be registered. I do not have any problem with the issue of registration, but to go further and to regulate their conduct, might also encroach on the fundamental law of our land, namely the Namibian Constitution. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Mbumba.

MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Like all the previous speakers I find it difficult to understand the Motion. The Motion mentions denominations and churches, yet the Mover of the Motion mentioned specific religions by name. That is a contradiction between the Motion and its motivation. Thus we really need to study and compare the two so that we do not talk about things we do not know, things we do not understand and things that are above our comprehension. Therefore, I Move that the discussion of this Motion be postponed until Tuesday, the 2nd of October 2012. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Point taken, but there are others who also want to contribute. Honourable Shixwameni.

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HON SHIXWAMENI: Honorable Speaker, I wanted to postpone it to tomorrow but the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security postponed it to Tuesday and I do not have any problem.

Thank you Honourable Speaker I am also supporting the postponement of this Motion to Tuesday.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I wanted to speak a bit on the Motion before it is postponed, but I must say that I am finding it a bit difficult to understand what the reasons would be to postpone the Debate on the Motion. I think the Honourable Minister could have explained what should happen in the meantime, how we would study the Motion apart from what has come as a motivation.

Honourable Speaker, I must say it is a little difficult to deal with this Motion, but perhaps the difficulty is not enough reason for us to shy away from the Motion itself. When I listened to Honourable Moongo, we all know him, he has his own particular type of Namlish and if you look at the way the Motion has been formulated here, to register all denominations does not necessarily say religious denominations, but in his introduction we can see he is clearly talking about not only churches, not only denominations, he is actually talking about religions. Therefore, I would like to give him the benefit of the doubt and say that the first part of the Motion, namely discussion, is alright with me. Introducing regulations and registration, I would like to say this road is very narrow and very difficult, because we have a Constitution that respects freedom and commits itself to the freedom of religion.

With regard to the discussions, I must say that in the last few years various church denominations and religions have come to Namibia. That is openly seen by everybody. It is also clear that perhaps because of their newness it is not very clear to everybody what exactly some of the churches do and preach, but one takes it that it is a path of peace, generally speaking.

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I would like to say that whereas we have the freedom to discuss whatever happens in this country and lay bare everything, perhaps we can say that the laws of Namibia will take care of any illegal activities happening anywhere, including inside churches, whether these are Christian churches or religious places of worship belonging to other religions.

I do not have a problem with the Koran being mentioned, because when I listened to the Honourable Moongo, he mentioned both the Ten Commandments, referring to the Christian religion and he mentioned the Koran, referring to the Islamic faith and I think he compared them equally. He could have mentioned more, like other speakers also did. I think all religions taken together seek the same thing, they seek the path of peace and as much as possible those who join these religions are the guardians to make sure that their religions keep to what they preach, namely the path of peace. Of course, there are various interpretations of any faith and you find it even within the Christian faith and that is why there are thousands of the very same denominations in the very same Christian religion. Everybody has their own ways of interpreting what exactly is meant with a particular text, for example from the Bible. However, the general path should remain the same and I think the laws of Namibia will make sure that everybody adheres to this.

Recently there was apparently a case of rape reported when a certain pastor was using religion as a bait, trying to get all the beautiful ladies into this park behind us here and having them there. That kind of thing should of course be taken care of by the laws. Anybody who gets trapped and tricked into such things, even if it is in the name of any religions, should be fully protected by the law.

I feel regulating could be crossing the line a little bit, because there is the freedom of worship and freedom of religion in our country. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Schlettwein.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the Floor. I think I do understand Honourable Mbumba when he says it is a complex matter that if one would want to discuss it in depth, one would want to have some time to look at it in much detail, but I think what is also clear to me is that the Motion is not so much concerned with only regulating and discussing issues of faith, but it is putting an emphasis of disassociating and distancing the Namibian State from certain faiths or religions and that is where I have a problem.

If we are giving effect to the constitutional provision that “*the Republic of Namibia is hereby established as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State founded upon principles of democracy, the rule of law and the justice for all*”, the intention of this provision was in fact the exact opposite, to be inclusive instead of exclusive, to embrace and give the freedom to the people that they can associate with any faith they want to instead of creating a regulatory framework that would prohibit or disallow a certain association.

Therefore, it is very clear to me that the line that the Honourable Attorney-General has taken would be the one I would take and that is not to engage in these negative discussions where one wants to create a framework that in fact does the opposite to what the Constitution is allowing us and wishing us to do. Therefore, I would associate myself with those speakers that say we should not discuss it and not support this Motion. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, religion is something that one believes in, but some people earn money from religion. They do things because they benefit from it, not because they believe in God. People really bluff the Holy One. I am a Christian and where I come from we believe in the Holy Fire, we respect our forefathers in the same manner as

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you believe in the Holy God and you respect the Creator. If you do not do that, you bluff the world but you ought to be punished for that. I cannot tell you when but you know that.

To come back, we believe in God, in God we trust, but you trust human beings like yourselves, you dislike human beings and if you do not love human beings as well as you love your own God, you are disliked by the Holy One. To follow the people who really destroy the world in the name of Jesus Christ, in the name of the Holy Father is wrong. I cannot follow you if you destroy the world in which you and I live. No matter how far you believe in God, but you destroy the whole world because you want things to look like that and you do it in the name of God. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Amen!

HON RIRUAKO: Therefore, I do not an argument with you who said because the Constitution says this. The Constitution can say something right, but the people do not follow the real way of life, but to believe in God is to trust a human being like you, to like him the way you like yourself. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I take it that the House as a whole agrees with the Minister of Safety and Security that further reflection on the Motion is required and, therefore, agrees with the Minister to adjourn the further consideration of this Motion until Tuesday, next week. That is one aspect. The legal aspects, as well articulated by the Attorney-General and further amplified by the Deputy Minister of Finance, that consideration stands. That is, the fate of the Motion when it should come to the point to decide. The further consideration of the Motion is adjourned until next week.

The Second Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Tjongarero. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

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HON A TJONGARERO: I Move the Motion.

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

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to take this opportunity to thank this august House for giving me an opportunity to address you on the subject title, *“Sport- A Strategic Vehicle for Economic Development, a Sector Worth Investing in.”*

Let me begin by embracing an old African proverb that states that: Let us hunt in every forest for there is wisdom in every forest.

Since Namibia attained its political Independence in 1990, we have made a clear statement as a Nation that our lives will never be the same again. As a country we have committed ourselves to be the vanguard of our second struggle, the struggle for economic emancipation, a struggle that we all need to embrace and spearhead in all Sectors of the economy.

In our Vision 2030 we say: *“As required by this Vision, the country will operate a totally integrated, unified, flexible and high quality education and training system that prepares Namibian learners to take advantage of a rapidly changing global environment, including developments in science and technology. This in turn would contribute to the economic and social development of the citizens. There will be equal access to excellent educational and vocational training institutions and quality sport service facilities by all, with basic education placing emphasis on science and mathematics. Public education covering every area of living will be an integral part of the system of continuing education*

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which is free and open to every Namibian.”

In the same document we set ourselves targets for youth and sport. I would like to cite four related targets for sport just to refresh our memories:

- 1. Reduce the number of substance use or abuse related cases by 40% by 2004.*
- 2. Provide basic sport facilities in all 13 Regions by 2006.*
- 3. Win at least four gold medals in international competitions yearly in the sport codes of boxing, cycling, swimming, marathon, etcetera.*
- 4. Win at least three gold medals at the Olympic Summer Games in 2004.”*

We certainly did not meet the set targets to date. The challenge is, where do we go from here? We need to go back to the drawing board and come up with a more structured and focused strategy which will look at sport as an economic and social vehicle for the attainment of our Vision 2030 goals: High and sustainable economic growth, employment creation and increased income equality.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to take the Floor to comprehensively present my Motion by looking at sport as a vehicle for developing the country and thereby bringing about economic emancipation to our citizens.

The concept of sport is a broad one, it is all forms of competitive physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aims to use, maintain or improve physical ability and provide entertainment to participants and the audience. Hundreds of sport activities exist, from those requiring only two participants through to those with hundreds of simultaneous participants, either in teams or competing as individuals.

Having clarified the definition, allow me to proceed: My statement comes

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at a time when our athletes recently participated at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. It was evident from the results that our Olympic team did not perform well. We should, therefore, as a Nation review these performances and contextualise them holistically from an investment point of view. Have we done enough as a country to warrant our disappointment? But in the same vein I would like to join His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the entire Nation in congratulating Johanna Benson for winning gold and silver medals in the 200 T.37 and 100 T.37 at the Paralympic Games, respectively. Her international achievement has placed Namibia on the global map, she is indeed a national heroine.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, our Government has made positive contributions to the development of sport since Independence. Some of these contributions enabled the country to make an impressive entry into the international sporting arena. The country managed to win four silver medals in the Barcelona and Atlanta Olympic Games, respectively, by our own Frankie Fredericks. Sadly, that seems to have been the beginning and the end of Namibia's ascendancy onto the Olympic medallist podium. The country has, however, managed to participate at various international competitions, that is All Africa Games, Commonwealth Games, etcetera.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in 2005 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 2005 as the International Year to help focus worldwide attention on the importance of sport in society and how sport and physical education programmes could be used as tools to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals, ranging from extreme poverty to the alleviation of HIV/AIDS as well as providing primary education by 2015. The question we ought to ask ourselves as a Nation is: Are we on track in meeting the objectives of MDGs?

Recently published statistics indicate that unemployment has reached a staggering rate of 51.2%, while youth unemployment stands at 60%. Furthermore, the country's poverty profile is intensified by the fact that 40% of our population depends on wages and salaries, while more than 20% depend on subsistence farming.

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Living in a society where unemployment is so high, sport can become one of the strategies towards the creation and sustainability of jobs. It is a fact that for too long sport has been played and administered on a voluntary basis, thus allowing for limited time and resources to be invested into sport. In mitigating the challenges that the youth are facing due to unemployment in their midst, we must continue to act without despair.

During the launch of TIPEEG, His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba cautioned the Nation that: *“Prolonged youth unemployment has far-reaching consequences. Youth unemployment results in shattered dreams, the loss of personal and national identity and a general lack of zeal for life.”*

The President further advised that: *“Namibia can no longer underestimate the potential danger that awaits us if we do not find solutions to keep our youth engaged.”*

With the above argument it is evident that sport is definitely one of the developmental springboards in the country that can be used to overcome the challenges we face as a Nation.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a common fact that sport in Africa has played a vital role in providing solutions to various problems and challenges, such as wars, tribal conflicts, national disunity and colonialism. In the Namibian context, the Government has found sport to be useful tool in national reconciliation and development. The UN Secretary-General Ban-ki-Moon stressed in this keynote address during the 13th Olympic Congress in Copenhagen in 2009: *“Sport is an important tool to promote humility and development.”*

It is thus evident that there is now a growing understanding that sport does not have to compete with other national priorities in Africa, but can in fact be a means for addressing societal challenges and development. The United Nations Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace affirmed this notion, concluding in its 2003 Report: *“Sport offers a cost-effective tool to meet any development and peace challenges and helps achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals.”*

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have challenged ourselves with a long-term vision that we have set for ourselves to become an industrialised Nation by 2030. As part of the goals of 2030, Namibia should have a population of healthy, well-educated, skilled, proactive and financially stable people with a broad range of talents and display a positive attitude towards themselves, their fellow citizens and country and global humanity.

The recently launched NDP4 has identified five basic enablers: Reducing extreme poverty, education and skills and health are three that need to be managed in order for the country to realise the overall goal to the National Plan which strives to obtain high and sustained economic growth, employment creation and increased income equality amongst our people. It is our firm belief that sport is that vehicle that will reduce extreme poverty, scale up education and skills development and last by not least, promote healthy lifestyles.

Investment in sport will lead to economic and social upliftment of thousands of Namibians, creation of a healthy Nation that would be empowered to contribution to the sustainable development of our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is evident from the above that as a Nation we need to make sport a priority by extensively investing in it. Allow me to go back to the Vision 2030 and take them one by one. Number one we say: *“Reduce the number substance use or abuse related cases by 40% by 2004.”* This target, Honourable Members, has not been met. By now, eight years after the said date, substance and alcohol use or abuse has become our number one social and economic challenge facing our youth and Nation at large. We need to review the impact of the current separated and disconnected system whereby education and sport are in two different Ministries, not necessarily that they have to be re-matched, but to look at how we could establish legal structural and logistical linkages between the two to strengthen the philosophy of a healthy body and mind will produce the best performers in the field.

If learners, pupils or students are actively engaged in long-term structured sport and physical development programmes, they will have less time to

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spend on anti-social behaviours. The said programme should start as early as early childhood development and go on beyond universities and professional sport. We need to review our Sport Act to become a true biting tool when it comes to sport development and development in general. The roles of various stakeholders, parents included, and partners should be redefined and regulated through a functional monitoring evaluation system driven by results.

Secondly we said: *“Provide basic sport facilities in all thirteen Regions by 2006.”* As Government we are on course with this target, but we did not cover all thirteen Regions. We know that sporting facilities are expensive to erect and maintain, however with the de-linking of education from sport we are seeing with tears in our eyes how sporting infrastructures, which cost millions of dollars, are wasted and vandalised in all corners of the country at some of the school premises. Tennis and netball courts are green with grass and cracks in the concrete foundations. Soccer fields stand in the bushes and I can go on and on. Once again, we need to review our Treasury Regulations in close collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Works and Transport, Ministry of Education, the Private Sector, umbrella sporting bodies, national federations and clubs. We should explore the possibility of leasing and co-sharing the development, upgrading, maintenance and utilisation of these facilities by sporting communities in the immediate surroundings.

For us to promote and strengthen Private-Public and Civil Society Partnership, we need to waive some of the current Treasury Rules and Regulations. We also need to amend some of the income tax and VAT regulations and introduce some corporate social responsibility rebates. This will ensure genuine partnership between sport communities, Public and Private Sector on an equal basis and mutual respect.

The sporting facilities at Public schools and institutions can be outsourced to national federations, clubs and umbrella bodies. Such bodies bring in the Private Sector, which then sponsor the facility development, upgrading and maintenance. Promoting the development of sport in the school system in this way, we should create a culture of young people playing

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sport at an early stage, increasing the opportunity for early talent identification.

By implementing the above, there will be cost-sharing between the Government, Private Sector and the community. Despite our achievements thus far in sport, there is still more that we need to do if we want to win medals at the global sport events and develop our Sport Industry. We must, therefore, bring sport to the centre of our development agenda at the school, university, Constituency and regional levels. That can be achieved if the Nation can progressively transform sport from just being a lesser activity to become a commercial activity. We can only achieve this if we can increase the investment in sport from both the Public and Private Sectors.

Hosting of sport events in various towns, cities and lodges will certainly increase external income for a village or a town. This will not only put the town on the map, but by inviting athletes from neighbouring countries to such events will promote the village, the city or the town.

A third one is: *“Win at least four medals.”* This target, Honourable Members, is very attainable but to date we have only won two gold medals at the Commonwealth Games, one at senior and one at junior. At the Paralympic Games we have won gold this year. Our boxers are doing well, athletes are doing well, rugby is doing well, etcetera. I believe with increased investment in sport we can and will bring more gold medals home. For us to win medals every time we compete at regional, continental and international Commonwealth and Olympic Games, we need to do the following:

We need to have a national sport development and reward system. It should be clear to everyone what our vision is with sport development, talent identification, realisation of dreams, export of sporting talent. Our major challenge: Why do we not perform well? We do not have well-trained coaches, managers, officials, etcetera.

Annually we are seeing around ten thousand to twenty thousand young people not making it through Grade 10 and 12. We can start training these

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young stars to become sport administrators, managers, coaches, medics and so on. We can work with the local higher learning institutions, the National Olympic Committee, the national federations, international federations and international umbrella bodies. Once qualified, we could assign the young people to the respective schools, clubs and federations.

The teachers who are currently doubling with teaching and coaching can then be released to focus on teaching.

National federations should be assisted to scale up their operations into all the thirteen Regions. Sporting competitions should start in the Constituencies, Regions and be concluded at national level.

Through the above system we will be able to ensure increased investment in sport not only by the Central Government but also by the Regional Governments, Private Sector and the communities.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you shall continue with your “*state of the nation address*” in lower case. (Laughter)

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:17

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, through the above system we will be able to ensure increased investment in sport not only by the Central Government, but also by the Regional Government, Private Sector and communities. The primary objective of the above approach is to create more jobs and to broaden the investment base at the community level. Our people have cattle and small livestock, they do already sponsor events in the communal areas and we just have to support them and recognise their contributions.

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With hundreds of qualified coaches, administrators, etcetera, we will have well-trained athletes. Once we have the human resources, facilities and appropriate legal and policy framework in place, we will embark upon the following:

- Programmes of talent identification;
- Coaching;
- Mentoring; and
- Investing in sport equipment and infrastructure as well as the development of sport administrators.

We said we will win these medals but this remains a remote dream for the Land of the Brave. For us to win gold at the Olympic Games we need to raise the bar to the next level. The first step will be to change our mind set from participation to competition. Our qualification criteria to be limited to an A-qualification standard for Olympic Games, world championships and Commonwealth Games.

With the resources at our disposal we should invest in our people, we should be able to stand tall and proud and tell the world that the most valuable resources of the Land of the Brave are its human resources.

Under NDP4 we should strive to become one of the top-three best performing sporting Nations on the African continent through professional and scientific approach to our sport. We should select ten sporting disciplines and for the next ten years invest heavily in these ten disciplines, starting from talent identification, coaching, administration, sport medicine, biokinetics, professionalism, scholarships, competition and psychological support.

The country should create a long-term athlete support system and a plan which should empower elite athletes to prepare in a professional environment for a long period of time. The country should train and upgrade coaches, managers, medical support teams and officials. We certainly need at least two high performance centres to ensure that athletes have access to the latest modern training equipment, professional team of experts, corrective and rehabilitative services for speedy and

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comprehensive recovery from injuries.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is befitting at this juncture to congratulate our Government and Private Sector that have invested in the development of sport both at local and national level over the years. There is a further urgency and a need for greater Public-Private Partnership with regard to the development of sport in our country in order for us to meet our objectives that are enshrined in our National Development Strategies. Now is the time to invest and ensure that we reap the benefits at various international games because sport has become so competitive that only those Nations that are adequately investing in sport are able to reap the dividends.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as our Chinese compatriots will say: *“The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”* We must begin now, one little step, one day at a time. Small successes will build up in momentum and lead to national pride, individual dignity and unparalleled success in nation-building. Perhaps the example of a small island-nation of Jamaica can provide the inspiration we need. To be sure, a lot of the success that Jamaica enjoys in sport could be attributed to a well spring of natural talent, but that factor is also true about other Caribbean islands, Trinidad & Tobago and the Bahamas included. However, it would seem as if Jamaica has made a greater commitment to sport development by having well-organised, properly funded sport programmes throughout its school system. In essence what this means is that Jamaica has its priorities in place when it comes to sport development. That is the key, that is the undeniable truth. A substantial financial and management investment in sport programmes throughout the school system will be the single most important step we have to take. If we do, we would definitely have laid the foundation for nation-building through the engagement of the youth through sport.

Let us be bold enough to accommodate the energy that sport can unleash in the developmental journey of our motherland.

I have share thousands of ideas and possible actions to be taken by us as Namibians, starting in this House and then to the rest of the public service,

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Private Sector and Civil Society. I am prepared to spearhead and facilitate the process that will come up with the golden paper on sport, a strategic vehicle for economic development, a Sector worth investing in.

Let me conclude with the words of our President, His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, who once stated: *“Let our actions be guided by the knowledge that our people, especially the unemployed youth, are counting on us to help them realise their dreams. We cannot and may not let them down.”*

Colleagues, let us explore the richness and resources that can be found in the forest of sport, because indeed, just like the African proverb advises us, *“let us hunt in every forest, for there is wisdom and challenge in every forest.”* Sport is indeed a strategic vehicle for economic development and a Sector worth investing in and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Very good. Honourable Chief Whip.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I take this opportunity of welcoming the discussion on the subject of performance in sports in the country. This is, indeed, a timely Motion.

First of all, I would like to start my remarks by expressing my thanks and appreciation to the overall contribution made by our sportsmen and women in general. In particular I would like to congratulate all those who took part in the recently concluded Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. For me, never mind what position one could have held during the performance, the mere fact that one got the opportunity to qualify and ably participate in the games was an important achievement both for the individual and for the Nation. To all our sportsmen and women we extend respect in high regard.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, secondly, if we are to perform better and excel in the area of sports, we have to do more both at the personal level and to ensure that we develop the necessary infrastructure throughout our country. Such investment in sport will help to address social and economic needs particularly among the youth, taking into account the challenges the country is facing in the area of unemployment among the youth, in particular.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in relation to the above, one major Sector that must be taken into account is the need for adequate funding for our various sporting facilities, with particular emphasis on those where we can perform to our best. We could also consider targeted country joint training sessions for our sportsmen and women to learn from each other. For example, several athletes in the Great Lakes region converged in the Kenyan and Ethiopian Highlands to train together towards the undertaking of major global athletic sporting events so as to climatise by way of conditioning their bodies for the purpose of endurance.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, few interventions of this kind on the Floor of the House in the National Assembly may not be adequate to do justice to the subject matter that was eloquently presented by Honourable Agnes Tjongarero. To adequately address these challenges we should probably consider a forum like an appropriate Parliamentary Standing Committee in liaison with the Line Ministry, of course in this case the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture where the various sport personalities and other experts on the subject can come and give personal accounts as to how they envisage a way forward that could propel Namibia to regional, continental and international excellence in sports.

These are some of the few ideas, but I think an opportunity could be provided so that we could look in-depth at this very important subject matter and come up with implementable recommendations. I thank you.

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HON RIRUAKO**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, I am not here to tell how important sport is. The Americans and Chinese came together because of Ping-Pong. It happened because Ping-Pong went to China several times without anything to achieve. In order to achieve the objective, a manner was followed by Ping-Pong and he went to them and he joined the sports, but the two Nations never met before and this was conducive in order to create a kind of communication. It is sport that brought the big Nations together.

Honourable Tjongarero, this is the habit we have in mind, but in order to achieve it we have to create a conducive atmosphere in order to elevate our people to that stage. If we do not talk and tell the people what is good and what is bad, it is our failure. We are here to endorse what is good, but what is good for the goose is good for the gander too. God made it that way and you cannot bypass Him. If you bypass Him, you create your own confusion, as simple as that.

Mr Speaker, I am here to endorse what Honourable Tjongarero has said. We have enough money to prove to the world that we can do what other people do and we have talented people who can prove to the world that they can do it. Sport creates good business, all the millionaires come from sport. We do not need account what they have done because every day there is proof and evidence and the amount of money donated to sport. This is the kind of sentiment we are supposed to have, but unfortunately not all of us are at the same level to know what is good. It depends on human behaviour, human approach and the human creation that is in him to push him there. We have the people who can do that, we have to push them where they are supposed to go and we have to tell them what to do and how. They have the money to build them to that extent.

Mr Speaker, I have to say here today that that young lady came here as a heroine, but if it is not my kid I am not happy. Why? She gave a kind of impression to the people of Namibia, not to an individual mother, but we

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are supposed to be appreciated and thanked for this kind of performance.

Our money is for that, it is not for useless things to be taken for a ride and not to be put into use. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Simataa.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I am taking the Floor to also make my contribution to the very useful Motion that has been tabled by my Colleague, Honourable Tjongarero and let me start by thanking her for having initiated the tabling of this Motion, a Motion whose tabling, as the Chief Whip indicated a few minutes ago, is timely, coming on the heels of our Nation riding high with pride on the crest of the gallant performance of our national idol, Ms Johanna Benson, who against all odds and in true Olympic spirit mustered the first ever gold medal performance by a Namibian athlete at an Olympic event.

Once again one cannot help, but say congratulations to Ms Benson, members of her extended family Special Olympics Namibia, the Namibia Olympic Committee and, of course, the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture. Your collective efforts made it possible for Namibia's National Anthem to be sung at an Olympic event. What an achievement!

While it is a good idea for us as Parliament to debate this Motion, I would like to sound some advice, namely that the outcome of our discussions should be followed by extensive engagement of all stakeholders in sport, for they too, in my view, must have their say. Therefore, the idea of holding a sport conference, which was mooted by the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture must be resuscitated as a matter of urgency.

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Many times we have heard and I believe we will continue to hear the following expressions being made and the Mover in her motivation touched on some of these expressions: Sport is a vehicle for nation-building, a unifier, a bridge builder. Sport is an enterprise and a very serious enterprise, for that matter. Sport has produced many millionaires, some of them who, taking advantage of available advice, have invested a sizeable amount of their earnings to create successful enterprises, enterprises that have created not only employment, but have also contributed to the economic development of many countries and Namibia cannot be an exception.

The other expression is that sport is good for the proper development of the body and mind. I am sure you have heard the expression that says “*sana mana incorpora sana*”. In English it simply says you can only have a sound mind in a sound body. That can only be achieved through sport.

However, we as a country failed in terms of giving meaning to these and many other expressions. Well, I am afraid to say that we have not done well due to a host of reasons that I will illustrate later. Yes, our ability to compete and not to participate – and I am happy the Mover emphasised this point – has been and will continue to be impaired by a host of factors, key of which are the following and I have picked four such factors:

One is the lack of development programmes or alternatively, where some programmes exist they are often disjointed and as a result, ineffective. I am talking about well-articulated development programmes that are grounded on comprehensive talent identification or scouting and nurturing principles. Structured development programmes whose products will breathe new life in aging teams, thus sustaining their competitiveness.

Development programmes that are in sync with the predicted competitive lifespan of athletes so as to yield capable replacements at the right time. Indeed, development programmes that are premised on forward planning, forward planning in the sense of being able to identify a cohort of athletes and instituting a structured and well-resourced programme which over time will hone their skills and mental capacities while creating opportunities to compete in sub-regional, continental and international

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competitions in preparation for competing in premier global sporting events.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in my view, there is incredible hidden sporting talent all over Namibia. All that needs to be done by all of us is to unearth and nurture such talent to its fullest potential. This can only be achieved through structured, sequenced and well-resourced development programmes at all levels of the targeted sport codes.

The next challenge that we have is the fact that we simply have too many sport codes and these are sport codes that must scavenge for the meagre funding provided by Government because funding is limited. Some of these codes are dwarfed by an insignificant number of participants and as such do not have the muscle to muster additional funds from the limited pool of private sponsors. This shotgun approach will not take us anywhere, hence there is a need to conclude the long overdue re-categorisation of sport codes that was already initiated by the Namibia Sports Commission some time ago. Given the size of our population, Namibia cannot continue to retain the current flotilla of sport codes. Existing sport codes must be rationalised so as to focus development and funding on selected codes which in terms of the criteria - and in here lies my emphasis - still to be developed have the potential to yield improved and sustainable competitive results.

The next challenge that we have which is a serious drawback is intermittent leadership squabbles and lack of accountability in the sports fraternity. Sport, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, is not spared from a disturbing leadership trend where individuals placed in leadership positions want to remain leaders till eternity. Leadership is not about creating cult figures, it is more about ensuring that the organisation one is leading pursues its mandate in an orderly, focused and result-oriented manner, while at every turn accounting to those who placed their trust and confidence in such leadership.

A quick glance at our sport codes reveals that the majority of these codes are imbued in intermittent leadership squabbles, so much that ruthless

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jostling for positions has become the perennial future, almost annually. The result is that valuable resources, both in terms of time, human and financial resources are diverted towards the resolution of leadership disputes at the expense of advancing the interest of athletes to whom these codes and their leadership owe their very existence.

I, therefore, submit, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, that the constitutions of respective codes should be amended to limit the terms of office of office-bearers so as to allow for a new crop of leadership to emerge. That is what sustainable leadership is all about. No one individual will ever accomplish eternal leadership. Even the great Moses in the Bible – and I am talking to other leaders here in Parliament – relinquished his God-given position of leading the people of Israel out of Egypt. The litany of bad leadership in our sport codes should be decisively addressed if we were to achieve sustainable results in international competitions. Our sustained focus must be on the athletes and not on the leaders.

The last point that I wanted to touch on and I think the Mover of the Motion also touched on this point is the adequacy of resourcing of sport. We have set ourselves the lofty goal of saying in over this period we need to achieve so much in terms of winning medals at international level, but I do not know whether we have done our homework to say, if this is what we want to achieve, what is the level of resourcing that we need to provide to sport? At the moment, and I am speaking from the background of having been involved in the area of sport, the current level of resourcing, whether it is physical, financial, human, as the Mover indicated, is grossly inadequate. I, therefore, submit that if we want to improve the current fortunes of Namibia in the sporting arena, time has come that we soberly audit the level of resourcing of sport in our country.

I for one, Honourable Speaker, am looking forward to this Assembly discussing the *Lottery Bill*. Why are some countries advancing in the areas of sport? Do not look any further than South Africa, a given portion of what is generated under the lotteries is dedicated toward sport. I know that some of us will say we are taking money from an evil undertaking to a more credible undertaking. I am therefore really looking forward to

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seeing this Bill finding its way to the Assembly so that we can discuss the Bill seriously, so that we can earmark a portion of the proceeds from the lottery activities for sport. If we mobilise adequate resources, put our house in order, limit the number of sporting codes, have effective leadership in place, have effective development programmes in place, I believe, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, if we do that, then we will stand a better chance in terms of turning the current deplorable level of performance by our sportsmen and women and be able to deliver better results.

With those few contributions, I sincerely support this Motion and I hope the stakeholders in the area of sport will also find time to make their contribution. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Eloquent, but you made me think about lottery because it is as old as the days of the late Comrade Nico Bessinger and we all appeared to have endorsed the idea. What happened? I forgot about it. Honourable Witbooi.

HON WITBOOI: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? None.

Further consideration of the Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow. The Third Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Wietersheim. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

MOTION ON COMMUNITY AND HOME-BASED CARE

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**MOTION ON HOME-BASED CARE
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I Move the Motion, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objections? Agreed to. You have the Floor.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I hope the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services will not feel offended once more and feel that I have a personal vendetta against him. That is not the intention and I have tried to give credit where credit is due. I also criticise, but I try to make it constructive.

Who are the Care-Providers this Motion talks of? There are Community and Home-Based Care-Providers found all over Namibia who are on a voluntary basis carrying out Community and Home-Based Care programmes and provide a wide range of health services to members of their communities who cannot access these services on their own. These Care-Providers are either registered with a Non-Governmental, a Faith-Based or a Community-Based Organisation or with a Government Agency. They should, of course, have received the required training on Home-Based Care and other relevant skills, including regular refresher training.

Community and Home-Based Care is in fact a vital part of the health care system in southern Africa and the Care-Providers are the health system's frontline service providers, playing a key role in the provision of care especially to people living with HIV/AIDS in poor and marginalised communities, filling in serious gaps in many SADC countries.

In Namibia over 20,000 volunteers were identified by NANGOF in 2007, mostly providing health care and support. Care-Providers' primary focus is the fight against HIV/AIDS as they care for bedridden patients, people living with HIV/AIDS and for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Many of them are also involved in the prevention, treatment and care of other

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diseases, such as malaria, TB and cancer and are providing a host of other services incidental to their field of work.

The services undertaken by Care-Providers are essential to the health care of a Nation. Formal Primary Health Care Providers are the local hospitals and clinics who frequently struggle to meet the needs of the diverse communities they serve especially in the rural areas where transportation is often one of the limiting factors. Care-Providers bring these communities, health care services and information where they otherwise would be unable to reach or afford it and in so doing, they act as a bridge between the country's formal health care system and the community.

Furthermore, the Care-Provider services have a direct positive impact on general health programmes which they not only help implement, but also by monitoring and reporting, ensure that health programmes are adhered to.

Now the funding context in Namibia: We know that the country's health situation is heavily burdened by communicable diseases, with one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the world, further being troubled by TB and malaria. Through the Millennium Development Project and the Global Fund, Namibia has received significant international funding to support its fight against HIV/AIDS as well as other communicable diseases. Funding from international organisations has supported many local Faith-Based, Community-Based and Non-Governmental Organisations, allowing them to run various health care programmes, including the national Community and Home-Based Care programme.

However, the funding context changed when in 2010 Namibia was reclassified as an upper-middle income country, which caused many international donors to reduce or discontinue their support to Namibia's development programmes. This has significantly affected the Community and Home-Based Care programmes which are heavily reliant on international donor funds. All the concerned organisations have already experienced a reduction in funding and donations, leaving them as well as the Care-Providers with a sense of uncertainty and insecurity and it is known that a significant drop in funding will occur with the

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discontinuation of a major support programme in March 2013.

The growing importance of Community Based programmes focusing on Primary Health Care alongside the increase in the number of people involved calls for a target-orientated and comprehensive policy on Community-Based Health Care. This was formulated in 2008 as the National Policy on Community-Based Health Care. In February 2009 the guidelines for implementing a National Policy on Community-Based Health Care was created to ensure that the policy is carried out appropriately. Another year later, in March 2010, the Community-Based Health Care Policy was further strengthened by the formulation of the National Community Home-Based Care standards, a guide that provides structured and a common framework for organisations running Community and Home-Based Care programmes.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services explicitly recognises the importance of Care-Providers' work in its policy, acknowledging that providing support to Care-Providers is an important element in ensuring the delivery of quality health care services at community level. It states: *"Community and Home-Based Care-Providers will receive on-going accredited training, resource materials, support, supervision, recognition and reimbursement for cost incurred through their work."*

The emphasis placed on the role of Care-Providers is also echoed in Namibia's National HIV Policy. I quote: *"As of 2006, Community and Home-Based Care-Providers had reached 39,330 people living with HIV, reportedly covering 69% of all patients eligible for ART (Anti-Retroviral Therapy) and other terminally ill patients. Namibia is proud to have one of the highest ART coverage rates in southern Africa at more than 70%. It also has an estimated patient retention rate of 85% for ART patients enrolled in the last twelve months. Care-Providers are the silent pillars on which this success rests. Often they share the little food they have to ensure that their patients will continue to take their ARVs, as most are advised not to take the drugs on an empty stomach."*

Now the current dilemma is no implementation. The majority of Care-Providers are hardly aware of the policy, they do not know details or how

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to follow these on an operational level. The conditions of care-work therefore differs significantly, including variations in reporting, monitoring, administration and in the level of support given to Care-Providers. Following policy guidelines, the standard Home-Based Care Kits provided by the Ministry replaced those previously supplied by various donors. Replacement and replenishment of these kits varies across Regions and it is a huge challenge for the majority of Care-Providers. In four northern Regions training as well as kits were last provided in 2006/2007. Some Care-Providers have not been trained in the last five to seven years, whereas the Policy stipulates at least 20-hours refresher course per year in addition to 120 hours of initial training.

According to the Policy the Government or the Community and Home-Based organisations involved should provide an allowance amounting to N\$250 to N\$500 per month as an incentive to Care-Providers, no Care-Provider receives this amount. The average Care-Provider's allowance is under N\$50 per month though many receive nothing. There is also no mechanism for claiming expenses used for patients, which the Policy also says Care-Providers are entitled to.

Motivation amongst Care-Providers is, nevertheless, very high. Some have been volunteering for over ten years and still want to respond to their communities' cry for help. However, morale is low. Most do not feel enough recognition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

By 2010 Namibia had formulated a comprehensive detailed Policy including the abovementioned guidelines and standards relating to Community and Home-Based Care, becoming the first Nation in the SADC Region to formally address Care-Providers' needs in terms of service delivery and recognition. The formulation of the Policy is very commendable and a huge step forward, but only the actual implementation of the Policy will demonstrate Government's genuine commitment to its policy development and reaffirm Namibia's leadership in providing for Community and Home-Based Care for the Nation.

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HON RIRUAKO**

IT IS, THEREFORE, MOVED:

That the Ministry of Health and Social Services implements the National Policy on Community-Based Health Care including the corresponding guidelines and standards as a matter of urgency in order to be operational countrywide not later than end of March 2013;

Negotiates with those experienced and proven Faith-Based, Community-Based and Non-Governmental Organisations in the field of Community and Home-Based Care programmes to continue managing and supervising the delivery of CHPC programmes as well as being responsible for monitoring and reporting;

Ensures retention of the services of dedicated and proven voluntary Care-Providers under all circumstances and afford them due recognition for their service; and

Urgently identifies budgetary requirements for implementation of all the various policy stipulations, including outsourcing of delivery of Community and Home-Based programmes by abovementioned organisation and urgently submits its request for respective Budget allocations in order to be fully operational from end of March 2013.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Minister Dr Kamwi, although you do not want to listen to what we are saying. Sometimes thanks should be given where it is deserved and this time we are supposed to condone your performance. That is how a Nation ought to be built, by taking care of them. It should not be mere words, it should be deeds, actions and performance. This must be seen by the Nation.

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HON MOONGO / HON DR KAMWI**

I have listened to Honourable Von Wietersheim and this is the way it is, a Government of the people for the people. Although a wheel is damaged on the way, we should patch the wheel and create the kind of atmosphere where we are supposed to go. I thank you for your performance, Honourable Minister. That is the way it is, we belong here and we are here and we are not here for one day, it is for generations to come and we are supposed to take care of ourselves, not someone from Heaven to come and take care of us. He did everything for us and now it is up to our performance. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much. I am happy that our Colleague moved this Motion once again as I have many times said that the volunteers have been serving the communities on empty stomachs. After twenty years they no longer have shoes, they are walking barefoot and our voices were ignored. Therefore I really appreciate this Motion. There may be some on those side who cannot see these volunteers who are working on empty stomachs and walking barefoot and who were only given N\$30 and presently N\$50. Some of us realise those people are serving the community and they also need a remedy to their situation. With this I support the Motion of my Colleague. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:
Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Wednesday, next week.

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HON SPEAKER: The further consideration of the Motion stands adjourned until next week, Wednesday. I ask the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I Move that the House adjourns until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:28 UNTIL 2012.09.26 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
26 SEPTEMBER 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: The business of the day will now commence. Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Office of the President for the year 2011/2012.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Honourable Kaapanda.

**TABLING: UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND SERVICE
POLICY: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY**

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Universal Access and Service Policy for Information and Communication Technology.

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

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Report? Honourable Amweelo.

**TABLING: CONSOLIDATED REPORT:
CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS WITH IT-SECTOR**

HON DR AMWEELO: I lay upon the Table for note-taking, Consolidated Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Communication Technology on the consultative visits and meetings with the stakeholders in the IT-sector.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Report? Honourable Minister of Finance.

**TABLING: GOVERNMENT NOTICE 208
OF GAZETTE NO 5015**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Government Notice No. 208 of 2012 under Gazette No. 5015 of 15 August 2012 in terms of Section 65(8) of the Customs and Excise Act of 1998 to remain on the Table for 28 consecutive days as required by the said Act.

The Notice relates to a taxation proposal that I had tabled in this House on the 18th of April 2012 to introduce an additional duty on the importation of Portland cement, as specified in the table which I had also read out on that day, with effect from that date, being the 18th April 2012. This issue has been the subject of wide debate and, indeed, consultations. I had to go out to consult the Chamber of Commerce and Industry on behalf of the business community in order to consider their concerns and to provide clarification as part of the Government's policy of consultation in policy formulation.

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON ULENGA**

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

ORAL QUESTION

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security whether he can clarify where the problem actually lies with regard to recent events, specifically speaking of the cancellation by the Police of the commemoration of the Red Flag Day in August, seeing that this matters seems to refuse to die and has virtually started to make further rounds in the media recently.

Minister, where is the problem? Is it that the money appropriated to secure protection services to the public on important national events such as the Red Flag Day, which we know has been celebrated since days immemorial and also other events, for example Cassinga Day, Heroes Day, is the money that is appropriated for the protection by the Police Force who are supposedly trained to handle the crowds, sufficient or insufficient in your view or are there perhaps problems with appropriate and sufficient training of the Police Force to control crowds on events such as this?

We know that normally the Police have the capacity to control crowds and we also know that this capacity should be with the Namibian Police. As a matter of fact, I understand that the Police does have a section that is supposed to deal with such events or incidents. Seeing that the Police Force found it necessary to cancel an event such as the Red Flag Day, does it serve the public interest better?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulenga, I gave you the Floor by mistake but you are compounding it. Oral questions are put on Thursday. After the questions on the Question Paper have been exhausted, then oral questions are entertained, but since by mistake I have already given you

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HON MBUMBA**

the Floor, be brief. Oral questions are brief and to the point. You are arguing the issue.

HON ULENGA: The question is clear, Honourable Speaker. Does it serve the public interest better to cancel events such as these or does it serve it more to sufficiently equip the Police to deal with any eventuality in this kind of situation?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I thank the Honourable Member for asking the question albeit a procedural mistake. It is a topical issue, it is worrisome that within our communities there are problems which end up being handled by the Police. There are a number of issues I would like to address:

Firstly, it has nothing to do with the training of the Police Force or the capabilities of the Police Force to handle issues. We have the Reserve Force which can handle crowds and even riots, but that was not the issue in this case. The issue here was an internal problem within the community. Each one would like to do something on the same day at the same place, but is not cooperating with another group. What should the Police do in those cases? If you allow the same community to fight each other internally, what benefit will we get as a country, as a community and, therefore, the Police in their own wisdom and in line with the law decided it is better to avoid conflict, fighting and bloodshed and, therefore, we cancelled the event. One side even took the case to Court at night. They lost that case with costs.

On the issue of money, I have a financial background and Namibians must stop saying the money is not enough. People who have liberated countries have done major things with as little money as they have. The Police receive money, where we need more we negotiate and appeal to the highest level and it should not be an excuse, but we, the leaders who were

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HON MBUMBA**

elected by the majority of the people, want to fight each other. What would we benefit from that? I am accused of siding with one side.

Should I name the people who called me to say that the Police are taking sides? No, I will not do that out of respect for the Honourable Members here who have traditional roots like me. However, now they are politicians during the day, they are politicians when they are in Parliament, they are lawyers when they are practising, but when they are around our communities they want to be the biggest and tallest guy. For what? You are just a citizen like everybody else.

Concerning the SMS that has been making the rounds, I am glad that Advocate Vekuii Rukoro has finally admitted and I quote: *“If they were determined to remove us by force from the commando, then the Namibian Government can become the second Von Trotha.”* It is his own admission. A lawyer, a founding Member of Parliament, a former Attorney-General is comparing the Government of the Republic of Namibia to one former German colonial general.

Whatever training we have, whatever legal background we have, whatever nobility and royalty we have, to compare the Government with one criminal is really uncalled for, as Honourable Kaapanda has said. But let us come back together, what is the future? We expect every Namibian citizen and every community to be law-abiding. It is the only thing that can protect us and can make us survive. We can talk of money and training, but insulting the Government, we are insulting ourselves and we are bringing neither honour, nor respect to our lineage, our community and above all, not to the Republic of Namibia. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Any Notice of Motions? Minister of Veterans Affairs.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 2nd of October 2012, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Veterans Act 2008 so as to amend or insert certain definitions, to provide for veteran status to certain categories of participants in the liberation struggle; to repeal the provisions on establishment of a pension-integrated scheme for veterans and to substitute it by a once-off gratuity; to provide for a token of appreciation for certain categories of persons and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RECONSIDERATION: CONFERMENT OF
NATIONAL HONOURS BILL**

SECRETARY: Reconsideration – *Conferment of National Honours Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Assembly now considers the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE
CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL HONOURS
HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON SPEAKER: It is moved that the Assembly now goes into Committee. Any objection? The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to reconsider the *Conferment of National Honours Bill* [B.17-2011].

Clause 5 put.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: In Clause 5:

- (a) Substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (h) of Sub-clause (1):

“(h) One member appointed from the nominations received from the Council of Churches in Namibia or from any other religious group within Namibia.”

- (b) Substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (m) of Sub-clause (1):

“(m) One member appointed from the nominations received from the National Disability Council, established in terms of Section 2 of the National Disability Council Act 2004(Act26 of 2004).”

I so Move, Honourable Chairperson.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE
CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL HONOURS
HON RIRUAKO**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please table the Amendment, Honourable Minister. Any further discussion on the Amendment? Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, I do know who were the first veterans. This country was defeated by the Germans, hundreds of thousands people died and now we forget them, they are buried and forgotten. Is that fair? Veteran means people who have lost their lives during war. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Riruako, it is Committee Stage, confine your comments to the Amendment forwarded.

HON RIRUAKO: That one is an Amendment but those veterans are forgotten and we said we are fighting for our Independence. This country was not given to us on a silver plate, hundreds of thousands died for it. Soldiers were paid for killing them and now that we are Members of Parliament we forget about them. I am saying they must be remembered. They are alive within us and we have to remember them. We are here to recognise the facts of what had happened and where we are now in our Independence. It must be known where it comes from and that is the way it is supposed to be. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? The Amendment is agreed to.

Clause 9 put.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE
CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL HONOURS
HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable
Chairperson, in Clause 9:

Substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (1):

“Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Namibian Constitution or any other law, the Committee must, where the President intends to confer upon a citizen, resident or friend of Namibia an honour either during such person’s lifetime or posthumously, advise the President as to the suitability of persons for conferment of such honours.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please table the Amendment. Any further discussions on the Amendment? None. The Amendment is agreed to. I shall report the Bill with Amendments.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported with Amendments.

HON SPEAKER: Having considered the Amendments, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill and, therefore, concluded the business on this item. I shall now in terms of Article 75 refer the Bill to the President to deal with it under Articles 56 and 64 of our Constitution. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**MOTION ON DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT
HON WITBOOI**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on status of sports in our country.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, the Question before the House was a Motion by Honourable Tjongarero. Honourable Witbooi adjourned the Debate and I now give her the Floor.

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to contribute to the Motion on sport. Physical education at school level is the most important building block for any successful sporting Nation. Some subjects which are non-promotional subjections, such as physical education, are neglected at school level. Learners are not encouraged to perform in sport activities in schools. At that young age it is important to explore and develop our youth's sport skills for the future.

We have the zonal and regional sport events and some schools do not participate but nothing is done about that, because it is not compulsory. By doing this, learners with sport abilities are discouraged, especially in the rural areas. This situation gives Namibian sports a wrong start and unless we drastically address the situation, we will never perform to our full potential as a Nation.

Honourable Speaker, learners perform very well in the different sport codes, but parents cannot afford to support these learners to continue taking part in sport activities at national level. That basically means that they do not receive the necessary support to grow further.

Honourable Speaker, my other concern is about the development of sport in the Regions. Who is directly responsible for the development of sport

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**MOTION ON DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT
HON MAAMBERUA**

in the Regions? Is it the Namibian School Sports Union, is it the mother bodies or is it the Directorate of Sports. They must come out and bring development in the Regions, especially in the rural areas. Currently the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, through the Directorate of Sports, provide funds to the Namibian Sports Commission which channels those funds to different mother bodies for development purposes, but still there is no development in the Regions, and I said especially in the rural areas.

We have many Johanna Bensons' out there who need to be discovered. I believe there is much unexploited talent hidden in the rural areas and they need to be brought to the limelight for Namibia to join the rank of medal collectors in the sports arena of the world, we need to seriously reconsider our approach towards early childhood development and talent identification. Sports is the main contributor to nation-building and should enhance the pride and self-esteem of this Nation.

In conclusion, the power of sports is to bring people together despite their age, colour, culture and language. Sports knows no social clubs, sports knows no level of education, sports knows no discrimination, sports knows no apartheid. With that I thank you.

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

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The topic we are discussing is actually very critical, multi-disciplinary and very important and I would like to congratulate Honourable Tjongarero for the broad and comprehensive submission that she made yesterday. I would propose that given the broad-base of this matter, this issue be referred to a Committee so that the Committee can consult with the different sport codes, sportsmen and women, society at large and interested parties so that we be provided with comprehensive recommendations as to what the

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**MOTION ON DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT
RT HON ANGULA**

new direction should be in terms of the management and funding of sports.

Therefore, if I am not Out of Order, I request that we refer this matter to the Committee on Human Resources. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am not going to comment on the proposal, I just want to make my small contribution before a decision is made on that proposal.

I would like to sincerely congratulate Honourable Tjongarero for introducing this very important topic and I would like to congratulate her for her commitment to sports as the President of the Namibian Olympic Committee.

In Namibia Sport has not really been accorded its rightful priority although we do have a sector responsible for sport, youth and culture. As a Nation we have not really defined strategically the importance of sport in the life of our Nation. We have not done that. I have not read the National Strategy on Sport Development. It might have been tabled in this House, but I might have missed it.

Sport is everything to a Nation. It is defence, it is wellness, it is economic, it is pride, it is cross-cutting. I think the Greeks who invented the Olympics recognised that fact and in fact, the whole history of Europe is about national defence through sport, in a way. The chariots and the other people who led the charge in defence of their Nations were trained as good sportsmen, skilful in self-defence and they were able to defend their Nations. We seem to have lost this angle and we think that sport development is just something for Agnes Samaria, Frankie Fredericks, my sister Mongudhi and the Sunshine Academy and others, a side event. It is

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RT HON ANGULA**

not. Sport is central to the life of a Nation. Wellness depends on physical fitness, the wellness of an individual and the wellness of the individual is the building block to the wellness of the Nation.

In our slumber we think that national defence is the responsibility of a standing army. It is partially true but national defence is the responsibility of each and every citizen and if we citizens are not fit, not mentally alert and prepared, we will not be in a position to support the professionals in the eventuality of an emergency. We must understand this.

Of course, in terms of health I do not need to convert the converted. Part of our health depends upon our fitness as individuals. The clinical and curative is just an addition to the welfare and wellness of our being and for that reason I think we should not think about competitive sport, we should also think about wellness of the nation and the people.

Then we come to national pride. I know Honourable Kaapanda has a very nice programme on national pride, consisting basically of some slogans and patriotic themes. That is fine, that is a starting block, but as citizens we are supposed to be on the forefront to promote the pride of our Nation through our deeds and actions and sport is one of those areas where we are supposed to do so, especially the talented citizens among us. However, the talented citizens need support and encouragement from all of us. That is why I am talking about the strategy for the development of sports and sport codes. We start from pre-primary to schools and the codes.

In the good old days when I was the Minister of Education, Sport and Culture we had to assign people to schools as sport coordinators to promote sport at school level. Since sport was weaned away from Education, I am not quite sure how it works in terms of coordination, but perhaps there is a way of doing it, but if there is no way of doing it we are supposed to create a structure which recognises that sport is a cross-cutting issue and that sport structure can coordinate, no matter where it is located. It is like dealing with ICT, you need structures to coordinate the development as ICT, probably in the same way you should have a structure coordinating the development of sports in particularly the

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HON SHIFETA**

Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture.

Finally the bottom-line is the resourcing of this Sector, especially for the sport codes to be able to recognise and development talent. I came to know my good friend, Nestor Tobias, through his fundraising campaigns. When he wants to stage big boxing event, he has no reliable source of doing so. He gets sponsorships from here and there and it takes courage to do those kinds of things. I suspect that the same thing is happening in different codes. I see rugby has now been divorced from MTC and I do not know where soccer is, but really, the track and field events are the ones which can reach the village and can easily be done. We even need to empower the Regional Councils to support sport in their own Regions.

Therefore, we have to think out of the box and in support of Honourable Tjongarero, I think this topic needs wider Debate inside this House before it is referred to the public at large. I thank you for your passion and your commitment to sport, Honourable Tjongarero.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:25

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

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until the 3rd of October.

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**ALLOCATION OF LAND TO THE POOR
HON MOONGO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate is adjourned until the 3rd of October. The next item is a Notice of Motion by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON MOONGO: I Move the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to.

MOTION ON ALLOCATION OF LAND TO THE POOR

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to motivate this Motion in the spirit of fellowship in that we all contributed to the liberation of Namibia. Sons and daughters and Cadres waged the war militarily, politically and otherwise and thus we obtained Independence. This Independence was obtained through bloodshed, many Cadres disappeared and many were murdered during the Second World War, during the Herero-Nama war against the Germans when they were forced from their land and up to now they do not have land. Hundreds died in Cassinga and other parts of the frontline States. Their blood was shed to own land and not a mere naked freedom without land.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let the Government either give or reward at least 20 hectares of land to the poor communities who have lived there for decades to give effect to Article 95(g) of the Constitution, which states that: *“Enactment of legislation to ensure that the unemployed, the incapacitated, the indigent and the disadvantaged are accorded such social benefits and amenities as are determined by*

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**ALLOCATION OF LAND TO THE POOR
HON RIRUAKO**

Parliament to be just and affordable with due regard to the resources of the State” and Article 23(2): “That nothing contained in Article 10 hereof shall prevent Parliament from enacting legislation providing directly or indirectly for the advancement of persons within Namibia who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by past discriminatory laws or practices” or (4), “the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at redressing social, economic or educational imbalances in the Namibian society arising out of discriminatory laws or practices or for achieving a balanced structuring especially for the poor and disadvantaged who have been socially discriminated by the past laws.”

I would like to state that freedom and Independence without land is meaningless and it is like a soldier without a gun in a battle or a bishop without a Bible. I appeal to all the Cadres in this House and those outside to support the Motion, as the spirits of the late freedom fighters would also support this Motion. They are with us and listening whether we are taking care of those who were disadvantaged in the past.

With this I have been talking to you as freedom fighters who really know why we fought for Independence. I call upon all Members to support the Motion and I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Deputy Speaker, there was no conniving, I did not even ask him what the contents of his Motion is, but I must say that the way he put it is quite fair. We have to find out how to change that which is wrong and continue with what is right. There is no other way to do it and there is no way we can reject this Motion. If you reject it, you reject your own soul and your own vision and to become blind while having two

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**ALLOCATION OF LAND TO THE POOR
HON ULENGA**

eyes is wrong for a human being. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Ulenka.

HON ULENGA: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion is adjourned until next Tuesday.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, since you are about to say that we do not have business tomorrow, I wanted to kindly request to be granted an opportunity to inform this House that the first political formation in Namibia on the 27th of September 1959 is turning 53 years of age and that is SWANU of Namibia. That will be tomorrow. I thought I would have an opportunity to share with you some of the visions, mission and values of the Party tomorrow, but if we do not have a session tomorrow, that is maybe the notice that I can only give today.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maybe you can do it on Tuesday, although it will be late. The House is adjourned until next Tuesday, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:37 UNTIL 2012.10.02 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
02 OCTOBER 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON SPEAKER: I speak under correction, but we had a minute of silence following the passing on of Mama Betty Kaunda. I was not in the Chair and I just wanted to verify. So many things happened as a consequence of that, the former President was taken to hospital but he is out, the burial has taken place. The Right Honourable Prime Minister and myself signed the book of condolences. It is never too late. She was truly one of the great examples of a mother for those of us who spent years in Zambia and had the opportunity to visit the State House for business with the President, her husband, and were treated as children of the house. It is a great loss to the Zambian people, but we feel the same thing for having known her for such a long period of time and those of us who were lucky enough to have spent some time at the State House will treasure fond memories of her. If we have not done so, may we rise and observe a minute of silence?

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

HON SPEAKER: I want to put on my hat as the founding Foreign Minister, I had a very strict rule on national days of all countries and quite obviously, on national days of friends about whom we sing praises. Yesterday I attended the Nigerian National Day reception; I was the only senior official there. During my days it was a compulsory attendance by a Foreign Minister and in my absence I had standby Foreign Ministers and

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**ANNOUNCEMENT
HON SPEAKER**

in the absence of any standby Foreign Minister, any other Foreign Minister present there would join the host to drink a toast and deliver a speech. But I have noticed that increasingly we have, for whatever reason, abandoned that practice.

All of you have by now seen that when we welcome Ambassadors and High Commissioners designated to Namibia, that letter that they on that ceremony hand over to the President is addressed by the sending Head of State to the receiving Head of State, in our case our President. In most countries the only two people called Excellency are the Heads of States and Ambassadors and in that letter the sending President in so many words, and I am saying this to drive the point home, says that: *“I have finally found the right person, the reason I have not sent this letter earlier is that I have been looking around for the right person I am going to send to your country and for a moment I wanted to go personally to your country to represent my country, but as you know, we are busy people and after a long search I have finally found this person that I am sending for your care, so to speak. Whatever that person thinks, says and does, that person is doing that in my name and on my behalf.”*

Therefore I am issuing kind advice to the Foreign Ministry and the Deputy Minister is listening to me and I was hoping the Minister himself would be here, that we restore the old tradition and attend at the ministerial level the receptions of the countries that we have allowed through the acceptance by the Head of State to be here in our country. It is a treasured tradition, I do not know why we have abandoned it. As Speaker I declined to say anything, that is out of line. It was Nigeria, when it suits us we say Frontline States and Nigeria, but this time we have failed on that score. So much for that.

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

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON MWANINGANGE**

**TABLING: INTERIM STATEMENT ON OBSERVER
MISSION TO ANGOLA**

HON MWANINGANGE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table the SADC Parliamentary Forum Interim Statement on Observer Mission to Angola and before I do so, may I give a very short background on it?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the SADC Parliamentary Forum invited SADC Member Countries to participate in the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections which took place on the 31st of August to the 4th of September. Due to time constraints the only countries that were able to participate in the observation of these elections were as follows: Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.

Honourable Agnes Limbo and I were nominated and participated on behalf of the Namibian Parliament. Today it is my pleasure to table the Interim Statement in this august House for note-taking. The final report will be compiled and issued within the next three months.

Honourable Speaker, therefore, I now lay upon the Table this Interim Statement of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Election Observation Mission to Angola from the 23rd of August to 24 September 2012 for note-taking. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA / HON ESAU

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

- Regional Council of the Hardap Region for the Financial Years ended March 31, 2008 and 2009;
- Regional Council of the Khomas Region for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2010;
- Village Council of Otavi for the Financial Years ended June 30th, 2007 and 2008;
- Town Council of Outapi for the Financial Year ended June 30 2011;
- Town Council of Rundu for the Financial Year ended June 30 2011.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Honourable Esau.

TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources for the year 2010/2011.

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

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON AMATHILA / HON ULENGA**

Ben Amathila.

**MOTION ON EXTENSION OF TIME FOR
COMPILATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT**

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Speaker, I am requesting for an extension of the work of the Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration which was tasked to compile a Report inclusive of all the recommendations by various Motions tabled in the Chamber and to table in this House a Report on the Motion on Water Debts owed to NamWater by poor rural and communal farmers in Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Oshana and Otjozondjupa Regions as tabled by Honourable Tjihiuko on the 1st of March 2012.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I request that this august House grants the Committee additional time to compile a proper Report for tabling in this House on or before the 15th of November 2012. As this Motion could have implications on citizens in those Regions, it is absolutely necessary to ensure that due diligence and care is taken in compiling this Report.

Honourable Speaker, your kind consideration and agreement to this request will be highly appreciated. I thank you.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 4th of October 2012, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MBUMBA**

Acutely aware of the Oath and Affirmation taken by all Members and as contained in Schedule 3 of the Namibian Constitution;

Also equally aware of our functions, duties and powers as stipulated under Articles 60 and 63 of the said Constitution;

Further submitting that, “*all persons shall have the right to education*” as stipulated under Article 20 of the Constitution;

Therefore, debate the state of our education system, especially the free and compulsory provisions as catered for under Sub-articles (2) and (3) of Article 20 of the Namibian Constitution;

Debate earnestly effective ways and means of clearing the many hurdles that lie in the path of realising education as a right; and

Consider pertinent recommendations to the Executive and the Minister of Education.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Minister of Safety and Security.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 9th of October 2012, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Accedes to the Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Offenders between the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

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**PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION AND
OTHER BENEFITS BILL
RT HON ANGULA**

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

The First Notice of Motion is by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move the Motion.

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

SECRETARY: *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill.*

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

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

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**PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION AND
OTHER BENEFITS BILL
RT HON ANGULA**

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? You have the Floor.

**SECOND READING: PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION
AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I rise to motivate the Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill.

Honourable Members, in a caring society leaders address the welfare of their citizens before their own. It is typical of His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia. Honourable Members can recall that in terms of the Public Office-Bearers Remuneration and Benefits Commission Act of 2005, the Commission recommends the remuneration and benefits of Public Office-Bearers to the President. Against this background, the President is excluded from consideration in order to avoid conflict of interest in the framework of that Act.

Principles of natural justice demand that it is now time to address the remuneration of the President after seven years without any increments. Namibia's democracy has grown deep roots, whatever we do in Government must be informed by the principles of transparency and best practices. Therefore, the Bill before this august House is the product of an independent study by a reputable entity. The study was very comprehensive, it referred to best practices elsewhere. Against this background, what the Honourable Members have before them is a product of an independent study.

However, the Bill took into consideration the economic realities of our country. Therefore, there are issues which were left out, for examples

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**PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION AND
OTHER BENEFITS BILL
RT HON ANGULA**

when it comes to scales and a host of other benefits which Namibia cannot afford.

Honourable Speaker, Namibia is a stable and a peaceful country. Today we are proud of this achievement because of the contribution of our citizens, including our leaders. The remuneration of the President has an anchor which is transparent and objective. In terms of Clause 2 of the Bill the remuneration of the person holding the office of the President is fixed at a rate of 15% above the remuneration payable to a Prime Minister of the Republic. Because of the complications regarding benefits, the reference to benefits has been removed from the provisions of the Bill and Amendment will, therefore, be tabled in this regard during the Committee Stage.

Honourable Speaker, a spouse of a President, be it First Lady or First Gentleman, plays an important role in any given country. I am sure you will agree with me that our First Lady is playing an important role not only in Namibia but also on the African continent and beyond. Given the frequency of State and Official visits to Namibia by Heads of State and Government, our First Lady is very busy. Apart from her role at home, she is also an ambassador of peace. Consistent with international best practices, it is therefore only human to appreciate her role by paying her an allowance. This allowance is provided for under Clause 3 of the Bill.

Honourable Speaker, the rest of the Clauses are standard. Clause 4 addresses the issue of medical aid, Clause 5 states that the remuneration, benefits and allowances which are payable under the Bill once it is passed into law will come from the State Revenue Fund out of moneys appropriated by Parliament. Clause 6 covers exemption from income tax, while Clause 7 deals with repeal and savings.

Honourable Speaker, after my explanation it has become clear to the Honourable Members of this august House that the Bill before them is a straightforward one. I, therefore, appeal for the support of all the Honourable Members of this august House to approve the Bill without any further delay. I thank you for your attention and support.

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**PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION AND
OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON MUSHELENGA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Prime Minister. Any further discussion? Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to express my support for the Bill. However, there are a few issues that I would like to query about so that we are clear from the beginning.

This Bill is about the remuneration and benefits of the President and the President's spouse. I know there is an existing Act that the President continues receiving his salary even after the expiry of his term of office. What I would want to know is about the proposed allowance payable to the First Lady, whether this allowance is only payable during the term that the spouse is occupying the office as Head of State or whether after the Head of States leaves the office, the allowance of the First Lady also ceases to exist.

In the event that the First Lady continues receiving the same allowance even if the President has left the office, I would then want to ask that it be made clear whether the same benefits can then be extended to the spouse of the Founding President.

Clause 6 deals with exemption from income tax. Since we are dealing with the Bill and we already know that the President is exempted from income tax, I would want to know if this exemption is also applicable to the First Lady, because I believe there are reasons why they are applicable to the Head of State, because of the position and the role which may not necessarily be the same for the First Lady and I believe that the First Lady or the First Gentleman ideally is supposed to pay income tax. I want that to be made clear. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

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**PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION AND
OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON MOONGO / HON TJIHUIKO**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister.
Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I am standing firm on the point that any pension should be adequate to cater for a decent living standard of pensioners. I stand by that and I do not have any serious objection to that, but I would also like to ask whether the pensions and benefits of those who retired from Parliament also be taken care of or is the law applied selectively? Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the Bill. I am supporting it because there is one thing that one has to understand and that is that the President is the first mirror of the Nation and, therefore, it is indeed very important for the Nation to be proud of the President not only while in office, but even after his retirement. As a result of our democratic system the President is only employed for ten years and it is very important that after those ten years we still have a President that our kids can look at as being exemplary.

Honourable Speaker, the reason why many people are admiring Heads of State is because the system in their respective countries ensure that they continue to receive a kind of respect from their people. Therefore I am in total support of this Bill.

I have two points, one having been touched on by Honourable Mushelenga, namely exemption from income tax. There is reference to the contribution to the Medical Aid Scheme and I am not sure whether I

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**PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION AND
OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON MUHEUA / HON SCHLETTWEIN**

got it right, because if the President and his spouse or her spouse are receiving the same salary that they were receiving, they are not being disadvantaged in one way or the other. In other words, their living standard will not be affected by not being in office, they will continue getting the same benefits, the same salary. Is there any need for them to be exempted from the things that everybody else is paying? I am just thinking aloud on that, but otherwise I support the Bill. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I also rise to support the Bill introduced by the Right Honourable Prime Minister on the Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits. I would beg the House to bear with me as English is not my home language.

In Clause 2, remuneration payable to the President, it says there, “*must be paid to the person holding the Office of the President. Remuneration and benefits which are fixed at a rate 15% above the remuneration and benefits currently payable to the Prime Minister.*” I have a problem with the phrase “*currently payable to the Prime Minister.*” Why currently? Is it fixed on the remuneration paid to the current Prime Minister today and that is it. Then in the last line there is a typo where it says “*Public Service of Namibian*” and it should be “*Namibia.*” I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Deputy Minister of Finance.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the Floor. I also rise to support the Bill wholeheartedly and I think as the Honourable Prime Minister has said, the proposal that is before the House is a very humble proposal and the effect

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of salary or remuneration package that will be paid, in my opinion, is still and underpayment for the work and responsibility that that high office holds, but be that as it may, I still support the Bill. However, I do have two proposals that can improve the Bill:

The first one is in line with what the previous speaker, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour, has said. If I interpret Subsection (2) correctly, it means that the remuneration of His Excellency the President would be fixed against the currently paid remuneration package of the Prime Minister. It is not a sliding scale that would move as the Prime Minister's salary improves or is changed, it would be fixed to the current rate. My proposal is to just delete the word "*currently*" in that Section and I hope that is possible.

In Section 3 where the salary of the President's spouse is determined, it is pegged against the remuneration of a Deputy Permanent Secretary. My query is whether it is the basic salary or is it the remuneration and benefits, as is the wording in the previous Paragraph? I just propose that we clear up that ambiguity so that we know exactly what is meant with the remuneration of a Deputy Permanent Secretary, whether it includes the other benefits that Deputy Permanent Secretaries are enjoying or whether it is pegged to the basic salary. My assumption is that it is the total package that we are talking about. I support the Bill and I hope these proposals will be taken on board.

HON SPEAKER: Any further contributions? Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister wish to reply?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I thank the Honourable Members for their comments and perhaps I should give some background to this Bill.

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Since the passing of the Public Office-Bearers Remuneration and Benefits Commission Act of 2005 the Commissioners have been making recommendations to the President to improve the salaries and benefits of the Public Office-Bearers. Sometimes when the Commission recommends 10%, the President might approve 5%, but something is approved to take care of inflation.

As he was improving our conditions of service, he himself was left behind since 2005 because he is not part of that particular Act. Therefore, we decided that we should conduct a study, which was done by a reputable audit firm, to see what happens in other systems, especially in the Commonwealth. The study indicated that you must have an anchor and the anchor normally is either a Vice-President or a Prime Minister. On the basis of that anchor you now determine the remuneration of the President so that if the remuneration of the Prime Minister improves, the remuneration of the President will automatically improve and perhaps that is what is causing confusion about the word "*current*". It simply means at that point in time. When there is an improvement in the remuneration of the Prime Minister, automatically the remuneration of the President improves by 15%. That is just to address that as we must have a system in place to address the situation whereby you are Head of State, you cannot approve your own conditions of service. In the process of approving others' conditions, you remain behind and that is what has been happening. That is the rationale behind this.

As I have indicated, there is going to be moved an Amendment on Clause 2 of the Bill during the Committee Stage to remove the words "*other benefits*" and only concentrate on remuneration, because the President has many other benefits and it is confusing. That is going to be addressed.

Similarly, we were also faced with the situation of the First Lady. We were particularly faced with the situation whereby the First Lady was elected as Ambassador of Peace and she has to carry out these functions somehow, but there was no Budget for it. We asked the study to also look into how other people treat their own First Ladies and again the practice is that you must have an anchor somewhere in the Public Service. That is

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why it is recommended here that the anchor for the First Lady is the Deputy Permanent Secretary and the conditions applying to a Deputy Permanent Secretary will *ipso facto* apply to the First Lady. That is just to address these situations which we never anticipated, but which arose because of the practice of the office.

With regard to taxation, I think that is explained in Clause 6 and I do not need to say much about that. ***Honourable Mushelenga*** has read the two Bills together. The conditions of service after retirement are contained in another Bill, which I am going to address. It is a question about whether the remuneration is going to continue or not, but that is being addressed in another Bill which I am going to introduce shortly.

Medical aid is very important to all of us, one must have it.

Honourable Moongo is talking about the pension of everybody. Make a recommendation to the Commission on Political Office-Bearers if you think your pension is not being properly taken care of and they can address that.

I thank the Honourable Members for their comments and for their support. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill.*

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:43

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**FIRST READING: PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
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HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:22

HON SPEAKER: The Second Notice of Motion is the one of the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Prime Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:
FORMER PRESIDENTS PENSION AND OTHER
BENEFITS AMENDMENT BILL**

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

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

SECRETARY: *Former Presidents Pension and Other Benefits Amendment Bill.*

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

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**SECOND READING: PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
RT HON ANGULA**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move.

**SECOND READING: FORMER PRESIDENTS PENSION AND
OTHER BENEFITS AMENDMENT BILL**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. This is again one of those Amendments aimed at strengthening our institutions of governance so that they are predictable and seeing that we have here a number of aspiring Presidents, I want to make sure when you get there everything will go smoothly and people will just follow the procedures.

Honourable Members, I rise to motivate the *Former Presidents Pension and Other Benefits Amendment Bill*. Honourable Members will recall that as part of a smooth transition of leadership in our country Parliament passed the Former Presidents Pension and Other Benefits Act (Act 18 of 2004). The Amendment Bill before the Honourable Members is intended to clarify some aspects of the existing provisions as well as adding other provisions with a view to making improvements in light of the national trends.

A pension payment is one of the most important sources of income to most senior citizens. An entitlement to a pension is based on certain principles, some of which are universal. In the context of a President a pension is due only if such President serves one tenure of office. It is, therefore, internationally accepted that just like the term of Members of Parliament, a pension in the form of a gratuity should be paid to a former President for each term served.

In the case of the Bill before you, Clause 1(d) states that a former President is entitled to be paid a gratuity in an amount equal to the annual salary which was payable to such President immediately before ceasing to

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hold office for each term served as President. This Clause recognises the fact that in future it is possible to have a one-term President.

The residential accommodation of a former President is one of the most important aspects which needs to be taken into account. Therefore, in terms of Clause 2 a former President has four options. The first option is a furnished official residence in Windhoek. Such residence remains a State property at all times. The second option is the payment of a housing allowance determined by Cabinet. The third option is for the State to acquire a private residence on his or her behalf. The fourth and last option is a payment by the State of an amount which is equal to the value of a private residence.

In order to minimise cost implications it is important to describe the maximum size of such private residence. In deciding the size, a number of factors have been taken into account, such as staff members who must continue to serve a former President, such as security personnel, domestic staff, drivers and traffic personnel. All these will be expected to use some of the facilities in the residence.

In addition, State property, such as vehicles, will need to be kept in a secure environment, such as closed garages. All these aspects are covered under Clause 2 of the Bill.

As pointed out during the first motivation, we are tasked to build durable institutions with a view to contributing to the growth of democracy. We believe that in democracy viable institutions should be built without regard to individuals. Indeed, individuals come and go, but the institutions must endure for the sake of peace, security, democracy and harmony in our country.

Therefore, this Amendment Bill should not be viewed as an action intending to benefit an individual. Let us build a solid foundation for the sake of the future generation. This exercise is to promote transparency and good practices. I, therefore, Move that Honourable Members favourably consider and adopt the Bill tabled in this august House. I

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**SECOND READING: PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON KAZENAMBO / HON MUHARUKUA**

thank you for your attention and your support.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Kazenambo.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to support the Bill under consideration, I however have a question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister. The motivation was very clear, however Comrade Prime Minister, I want to hear you say it. In future it may be envisaged that a President may serve one term. (Interjection). Yes, I am worried because I do not want to serve one term, I want to serve two terms. Anyway, what would happen in the event that a President does not complete the first term? What if after two months or one year I am out? What would happen in that event where a President does not complete a term? What would be his benefits, etcetera?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Muharukua.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD
WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to support the Bill and to thank the Namibian Cabinet for producing this Amendment Bill. We must all be happy when we have these good things for our Founding President, the founder of the Republic of Namibia.

Comrade Prime Minister, Muharukua has come from the mountains only to stand and show my happiness. I support the Bill.

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**SECOND READING: PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
HON MUSHELENGA / RT HON ANGULA**

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Mushelenga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Kazenambo raised an issue that I have also pondered about, because currently with the existing laws and this one that is being introduced today, one becomes entitled to this presidential pension only after having served a term of office.

However, one might have a situation where you serve as President for four and a half years and you have stroke or something so that you cannot complete your term. These are circumstances beyond your control. Presently pension is not deducted from the President's salary as is done in the case of everyone else so that one could say you can claim your pension. With the current legislation it would mean that you totally lose out. You cease to get remuneration, there is no provision for pension because you have not completed your term of office and it is really due to circumstances beyond your control. This could happen close to the end of your term and I think perhaps the answer is that we look into mechanisms whereby someone who does not complete a term due to understandable reasons does not become prejudiced in the process. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Does the Prime Minister wish to reply

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you. The question of length of service only comes in when calculating gratuity. Otherwise, if you are President for one day and something happens and you are not in a position to exercise the function of being President, the benefits stated in this law will apply. The term only applies to the calculation of gratuity.

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HON DR N IYAMBO**

I did not get *Honourable Muharukua* very well. She supported the Bill, but she said something about the Founding President. I just want to draw her attention to the short title of the original Bill, that; “*this Act is called the Former Presidents Pension and Other Benefits Amendment Act, 2012 and it is deemed to have come into operation on 18 December 2004.*” The original Bill takes care of the concern of Honourable Muharukua with regard to the Founding President. Thank you.

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

SECRETARY: *Former Presidents Pension and Other Benefits Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: The Third Notice of Motion is the one by the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:
VETERANS AMENDMENT BILL**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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VETERANS AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR N IYAMBO

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

SECOND READING:
VETERANS AMENDMENT BILL

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

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The Minister has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I motivate and present to the National Assembly the Veterans Amendment Bill, 2012, to effect certain Amendments to the Veterans Act (Act 2 of 2008), which I refer to as the principal Act.

The background to this motivation, Honourable Speaker, is that the principal Act entered into force on the 3rd of April 2008 to provide, among other things, for the registration of veterans and dependents of veterans of the liberation struggle and for the provisions of assistance to veterans of the liberation struggle. Since its promulgation in 2008 the principal Act has been implemented mainly in the registration of veterans and dependents of veterans by the Veterans Board, the provision of financial

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HON DR N IYAMBO

assistance to the unemployed veterans and those whose annual income is below income tax threshold and funding of veterans projects by the Veterans Fund.

The Amendments being proposed by the Bill are aimed at solving some of the practical problems encountered during the implementation of the principal Act.

Clause 1 of the Bill is a definition Clause, it provides for three major changes to be made to the principal Act as follows: It introduces new definitions of “*once-off gratuity*”, “*Pretoria trial*,” and “*token of appreciation*” in Section 1 of the Act and it removes the definition of a “*veteran*” from Section 1 of the principal Act and introduces a comprehensive definition of “*veteran*” in Clause 27, which replaces the present Section 27 of the principal Act. Clause 27 provides for seven categories of persons who may apply to be registered as veterans:

- Members of the armed forces of the national liberation struggle;
- Persons who consistently and persistently participated in the furtherance of the liberation struggle in political, diplomatic or underground activities;
- Persons convicted and imprisoned for offences connected with the liberation struggle;
- Persons captured, detained and held before or after the Cassinga massacre in 1978;
- Persons captured, detained or held at Vietnam in Angola in 1984;
- Persons captured, detained or held between 1959 and 21 March 1990; and
- Persons captured, detained or held during the Pretoria trial.

Defined persons who momentarily participated in the liberation struggle

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HON DR N IYAMBO

who do not fall within the seven categories enumerated above, these may be registered not as veterans, but as persons who qualify for a token of appreciation, that is persons captured or held before or after Cassinga massacre but did not continue with the liberation struggle after their release or persons captured, detained at Vietnam, but did not continue with the liberation struggle after their release.

This systematic categorisation will make it easier for the Veterans Board to determine the appropriate status of persons who may apply to be registered as veterans or receive a token of appreciation.

In Clause 1 there is a proposed proviso to the definition of “*members of the armed forces of the liberation struggle*” to the effect that the applicant was 18 years of age and over on the 21st of March 1990.

Honourable Speaker, Clause 5 of the Bill is the substantive provision on registration of veterans. It provides for different categories of persons who may apply to be registered as veterans. The Clause provides also for registration of persons who do not qualify as veterans but their contribution to the liberation struggle warrants recognition and payments of a token of appreciation by the Veterans Board.

Honourable Speaker, Clause 6 of the Bill relates to the proposed Amendment of Clause 30 of the Act to limit the period of receipt of assistance from the Veterans Fund by widow or widower of a deceased veteran to ten years from the date of death of the veteran. The assistance ceases in any case when the widow or widower remarries or dies or becomes subject to any other disqualification contemplated in the principal Act.

Honourable Speaker, Clause 9 proposes the repeal of Section 37 of the principal Act. Section 37 of the principal Act provides for the establishment of an integrated pension scheme for veterans. That has proven problematic, hence the proposal that this Section is deleted. In the place of that scheme the Bill proposes that every veteran receives a once-off gratuity payable by the Veterans Fund.

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HON MOONGO

Clause 9(1): The Bill provides for the payment of a once-off gratuity or a token of appreciation to certain categories of veterans.

Clause 10 provides for the categories of beneficiaries who may receive the once-off gratuity or token of appreciation in those cases where the recipient veteran passes away before receiving the money. The Minister responsible for Veterans Affairs prescribes the amount of the once-off gratuity and token of appreciation in consultation with the Minister responsible for Finance.

Honourable Speaker, I now present to this Honourable House the *Veterans Amendment Bill* of 2012 for deliberation and for your kind approval. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am happy with the Amendments proposed by the Honourable Minister, although I still have some concerns here and there. He mentioned those who were detained, released and who did not re-join. They were not taken to Court and released because there was no case against them. There was no proof that they are guilty and they did not leave the liberation struggle on their own, they were forced to do so in that situation. I am happy that he touched on that and I want to see whether it caters for all those who participated and those who did not leave on their own, who were forced to do so.

The Minister can also share information on the registration of the ex-SWATF in the country. I am aware that in other countries all those who participate in a war on both sides are veterans. They are not being selective like us and I want to know when are the registered ex-SWATF members going to be paid. Are they going to be paid through your office

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

or through the South African office? I support the Amendment Bill.
Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I just have two questions while in support of the Bill, of course. The first question is with regard to Section 3(a)(g) which talks about nominations to be received from representatives of organisations of dependents of living or deceased veterans. I am underlining “*dependents of living veterans.*” I do not know whether the Bill actually covers dependents of living veterans in terms of benefits and therefore, what would be their status in terms of this Bill as dependents of veterans who are still living? I thought they would only start to be covered when the veterans are no more, in which case they are entitled to certain benefits, but when the veterans are still living, I thought the benefits accrue to the veterans themselves. If the benefits are to the veterans, then how can there be organisations of dependents of living veterans who can actually be considered to represent the beneficiaries in terms of this law?

That same issue arises under Section 5, qualification for registration as veteran or dependent of living or deceased veteran and also where we talk about funding of projects we also refer to funding of projects of dependents of living veterans. I only need that clarification and with that, I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Shixwameni.

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

HON SHIXWAMENI: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Thursday afternoon.

HON SPEAKER: The further consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Thursday afternoon. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON LAW TO REGISTER ALL DENOMINATIONS
AND CHURCHES IN NAMIBIA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the law to regulate and register all denominations and churches in Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 25th of September 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo. The Honourable Minister of Safety and Security adjourned the Debate and he now has the floor. Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: The Honourable Minister of Safety and Security has requested me to read his contribution on his behalf and I will do so.

Honourable Moongo's Motion to discuss and introduce a law to regulate and register specific religious institutions up to this point, he is within the mandate of a lawmaker. Then the Honourable Member fell into a political swamp. Why? Because he wants to introduce laws that regulate and

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HON UUTONI**

control denominations and churches. Furthermore, these churches and all their denominations must by law disassociate and distance themselves from violent activities.

In his motivation Honourable Moongo was careful to say that he does not intend to tamper with and abolish freedom of religion in Namibia, but “*Strongman Village Headman Moongo*” is bent on controlling the deadly activities and misuse of churches and religions by those who are power-hungry and those who need blood money, suicide bombers, etcetera. Clearly the Honourable Member is speaking about something he has not properly studied, analysed or consulted with his Colleagues on, for example, Honourable Kaura.

As Namibians and especially lawmakers we must attend to the issues close at home, such as crimes and other problems we are facing on a daily basis. To make laws against problems that luckily have not reached our shores is tantamount to inviting those problems to come our ways.

The Honourable Member prides himself for having at one stage in his life participated in the struggle for Independence. Does the Member still remember the countries that initially and consistently supported southern African liberation movements, for example, Egypt, Algeria, Libya, even Tanzania and Nigeria? These are countries with large Muslim populations. Now Namibia is to make laws targeting their citizens not to enter. How do you distinguish violent Muslims from peaceful ones? Are all Christians really peaceful people or do they also do wrong and terrible things? Did some countries with large Christian populations not colonise, humiliate and rob other countries and even killed their citizens? If the basic principle of modern laws is to treat all human beings equally, then those violated the laws will feel the full wrath of the law irrespective of colour, gender, religion, denomination, sex, philosophy, ideology, etcetera.

Targeting specific people because of their religion or denomination is not only unfair but wrong. Let us also keep in mind that Namibian citizens as free people are criss-crossing the world for studies, business and as diplomats. Now we are a Parliament and a country that passes and applies

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discriminatory religious laws. What will we do if our own citizens are targeted by other countries with bigger populations than ours?

In conclusion, let us separate what we read in our daily papers or see on our televisions from the broader responsibility we have to ensure the survival of all our people wherever they find themselves in this tough and unpredictable world. Let us not be amongst the first countries to initiate religious conflict and wars. Those who commit crimes should and will be arrested and prosecuted not on the basis of their beliefs, but on the basis of the crimes they have committed and in line with our Constitution and laws.

Let Honourable Moongo go back to the Uukumwe drawing board, this Motion must be rejected because it does not give us any security, it only opens our country and people to more danger and unwanted repercussion. Therefore, the Motion is dismissed.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? If not, does Honourable Moongo wish to reply

HON MOONGO: I would like to thank those who took part in this Debate although we have different understandings. My purpose is prevention before anything happens, but that side first wants something to happen and then start making laws. I feel one first has to make the rules so that you can prevent chaos being caused by certain churches. However, if you want it first to happen and then rush to this House to introduce a law, then do it that way, but I am concerned about life and I see loopholes within our system. I know Article 21 provides for freedom of religion, but my aim is to prevent what is happening. I do not want twenty people to die first and then we introduce a law. However, if that is your feeling, I am happy, but you must face the consequences. Thank you very much.

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**ALLOCATION OF LAND TO THE POOR
HON ULENGA**

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question that the Motion be adopted.
There is objection and the House is divided.

House divided.

In favour:	1
Against:	28
Abstentions:	6

Motion rejected.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON ALLOCATION OF LAND TO THE POOR**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the allocation of land to the poor.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday 26 September, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo. Honourable Ulena adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, the Debate that is put on the table by Honourable Moongo is asking this House to debate on the allocation of land to the poor. Even though I do not remember the exact words and they are not repeated in this document, I understand Honourable Moongo's Motion to be asking the House to address this very serious issue of landlessness, especially amongst the poor people of Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, the aims of the colonisers by definition is the

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expropriation of land and the dispossession of the former owners of the land. As far as Namibia is concerned, the dispossession of the inhabitants of the country by the German imperialist colonising state has been very successful, as we can see from the landlessness in our country today.

If you can follow up on all the land that is currently “*privately*” owned, you would find that approximately 99% of the land now privately owned has been dispossessed from the original owners by way of German state, first given to German settlers and soldiers who participate in the war of extermination and then registered, so-called legally registered, in the names of these people and from there onwards sold to other occupiers until today. By the way, the heinous crime of dispossession has not yet been corrected or is yet to be corrected in Namibia.

I must say, unfortunately the former organised national liberation movement in Namibia has apparently now also abandoned the dream of giving land to the people, like we have been proclaiming in the past. Instead the Government in Namibia today appeals to the Nation earnestly to endure the pain of landlessness. Not only that, many former freedom fighters have joined the ranks of the big land owners in the very style of the colonial settlers. Today there is no longer any difference whether you were a black or white freedom fighter or not, former coloniser or former colonised, you can get your own huge estate if you have the means.

Comrade Speaker, the general reason for land dispossession is actually to make sure that there is a class of people, a group of people who do not have anything that can prevent them from working for others and as we know, property, especially in the form of land, is one thing that surely can stand in the way of some people working for others. So, in order for us to have people who have only their labour to dispense with in terms of exchange, we have to have some kind of land dispossession.

What we have been experiencing in Namibia recently, the land dispossession by the State against the Namibian citizens, especially in certain municipalities, is therefore also not a surprise, because the State almost by definition is a predatory animal. Sometimes the State, of which we are all servants, pretends to be very kind, very friendly, very peaceful,

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but when push comes to shove, we know that the State is predatory, it usurps, it takes away, it dispossesses, it gives itself powers to kill, to imprison, to dispossess. It derogates to itself some of these powers.

Therefore, we have been dispossessing and the situation that Honourable Moongo wants to be addressed is going to be very difficult to deal with under today's circumstances in Namibia, because land has been removed completely out of reach of poor people. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a small question? Talking about a piece of land, Honourable Ulenka has an (*epya*) mahangu field somewhere near Omkani and this mahangu field has not been cultivated for the last five years. Now he talks about land in Parliament while he has land which is not being used. Is he prepared to give that land to somebody else?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I want to deal with the question the Prime Minister which, as far as I can judge, is generally put across the table. No, I do not have (*epya*) land anywhere near Omkani and I do not own any land at all. I have a homestead on a piece of communal land and I have tried to cultivate it even this year. Therefore, the information you have is very inaccurate, grossly inaccurate.

Comrade Speaker, the State is not necessarily a kind, friendly animal because sometimes it takes upon itself the powers to use force, not only against outsiders but against its own beloved citizens. It can also keep its own citizens completely out of reach of any possession such as land. Therefore, the notion that the State loves us, will look after all of us is a mere dream.

We have been witnessing forced removals of citizens from certain so-called municipal land. This does not mean that those people really do not have the right to stay on that land, it only means that the State almost

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arbitrarily by the stroke of a pen gives itself the powers indeed to dispossess those people and to make use of that land for other purposes, whether it is to use it for building purposes, sell it to business people, including Chinese business people. (Interjection). Yes, that is what happens. Have you seen where people who were cultivating pieces of land have been told to move out and they moved out and the next thing you see there are other owners. This is the work of the State. We are all agents of the State, we pledged ourselves to be loyal to the State but it does not mean that we cannot talk the truth about the State.

The question that we must deal with is, how do we build into our system a possible protection of the individual citizen against the State? Like I said, given the way things are in Namibia today... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Ulenka has been belabouring the fact that apparently the Namibian State is a predatory State and I cannot really reconcile the view of the Honourable Member with the fact that the Namibian State is there to protect the interest of all the citizens, including the poor. For the Honourable Member to characterise the Namibian State as a predatory State, I am not quite sure whether the Honourable Member is still in order.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, once again the Right Honourable Prime Minister has it wrong, unfortunately. I am not describing the Namibian State, I am describing the State in general. I am talking about the State in general and, indeed, if it comes to the question of the Namibian State, what you can ask yourself is....(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? If the Honourable Member is not describing a predatory State, then my understanding of his argument is

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that the State in fact unlawfully removed those people from their possessions. If that is so, then the question is, does the Honourable Member as a Member of this House renegade on the oath taken that the law is to be protected by the Member? I understand that if there is an unlawful action by the State, there is recourse to the Courts by those people that were unlawfully treated. The question is, is the Honourable Member really saying that the State did something unlawfully and that these poor people had no recourse to any Court to correct that, as provided for by the democratic system we are living in?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I am very easy with those kinds of questions because it is not the first time I started to think about it. I was just about to answer the Honourable Prime Minister when the last question came in, however about the last speaker's question, no, I am trying to make a difference between legality and unlawfulness. If you followed, I did not actually use either of the two, but now I am going to clearly state to you that the State always acts legally, but I am not talking about unlawfulness. I am not accusing any State of having done anything illegally, because most of the time the State, knowing how to look after itself, makes sure that everything it does will be done under the law. The State, as you know, consists amongst other parties of the Legislature. So the Legislature is there to make laws. The laws are proposed to take care of the situation on the ground and it is very unlikely that the State would take steps which are not taken care of by the law in the first place.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulenga, actually the separation that you are making between illegality and unlawfulness is an issue that bedevilled the UN Security Council. One of the permanent members, following the declaration of South Africa's presence in Namibia as being illegal, held onto the idea that it was unlawful, one of the permanent members, actually the mother of the English language in the Security Council. But you seem also to find a difference, which I do not. What is illegal is unlawful, what is unlawful is illegal. Why do I think that I am right and you are wrong?

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HON ULENGA: No, Honourable Speaker, I do not want to get into that. As you noticed, I actually did not start using the terms. I touched on them because the Honourable Member touched on them. I did not use any of the two but what I want to say, I understand in certain uses there is a slight difference. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: What?

HON ULENGA: I do not have a dictionary here now, but like I say, I am not talking about those two, I am talking about the State and the dispossession of land here. I am not talking about legality or illegality, I did not introduce those terms.

The question, Honourable Speaker, that we can really look into is: How do we protect poor people in Namibia when it becomes so hard that they do not have any way of owning land, when it becomes completely out of their reach? There is no way a person who earns, for example, two thousand dollars or a thousand dollars per month can buy any piece of land because any land whatsoever in Namibia is way beyond that kind of earning. Even though I cannot really say that they must be given land completely free, I would go for that idea that there should be another way for people to have access to the use of land throughout their lives, irrespective of their economic means.

Many Namibians, whether perhaps cleverly or perhaps stupidly so, but many Namibians whose arguments I listen to are saying that actually every Namibian should have the right to a piece of land. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I heard the Honourable Member saying that one cannot buy any land with one or two thousand dollars in Namibia. I am concerned about the “*any land*” or does he mean any land in commercial areas? If I go to the

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Honourable Chief and ask for land to cultivate, I am sure I can get it within that amount. He said “*any land*” and I have a problem with that. If he is referring to commercial land, then he is right, but he says “*any land*”.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, when I referred to the amount of one thousand dollars I really meant to buy land. I know there is a system whereby one can acquire land for leasing. In the area where I have my small little plot I lease the plot, it does not belong to me. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: What is the difference?

HON ULENGA: The difference? You know very well what the difference is between something that belongs to you and something that does not. Everybody in this room knows you cannot even use it as collateral. You cannot actually do much about it. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Speaker, I would like to ask Honourable Ulenga a question. Honourable Ulenga, President of the CoD, you are implying that you are much cleverer than the Government of the Republic of Namibia, so you are a good sympathiser with the Government of the Republic of Namibia by saying you care more than the Government. Are you really saying that the Government is doing nothing? From the point of view you are talking about that you cannot use your land in the communal area as collateral area to get a loan from the bank; that should not be the way. If we were to enact that each of us in the communal area own this land and use that for collateral, we will have no land in less than five years, because when you

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forfeit to pay the bank, the bank will repossess that portion of land and sell it to anybody who has money. (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: And the bank belongs to South Africa.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Whether it is from Asia, whether from America, whether from anywhere in the world, they would buy that piece of land and in actual fact, the route you are arguing is moving to a dead-end. The reasoning of you being more clever than the Government of the Republic of Namibia is a useless argument.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I think the best way to respond to what my Comrade that side is saying is to say nothing, not to comment at all on what Chief Ankama has said.

Honourable Speaker, I was saying that the argument that I hear from many Namibians on the street is that, by virtue of being Namibian, they should have the right to land at least for residential purposes. Whether you like this argument or not or whether it sounds so sophisticated and clever or more clever than the Government, that is what people are saying out there. They are saying that because I am Namibian and there is so much land, why can each of us not have a piece of land where we have the right to stay and where nobody can come and say, *“look, shove off, move out of here, this is somebody’s land.”* My belief is that there should be a way of people having the right to stay on land without having to buy it or without having to paying anything, they should just have the right to stay there. It does not have to belong to them forever, but I think the system that they are using in the communal areas where you can have the permission to

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occupy without owning this land is good. Mind you, I am not proposing to trade my piece of land in because it does not belong to me. I am not saying I do not like that, I am saying that is the situation, it does not belong to me, I am just leasing it, so I am not proposing to trade it in at all.

The people need some protection and perhaps a way of protecting them is to come with a rule that says.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Speaker, I had no intention to interrupt my friend, Ulenga, I actually wanted to sit and listen and pick up some useful tips for us to assist one another to jointly administer the very sensitive and crucial question of land reform in our country, but I must admit that you are hypothesising too much, you are not really addressing the situation that confronts our people on a daily basis. You probably have your own reasons why you have decided to take that route, but at the same time it is also very confusing when you juxtapose it to the efforts of our Government since day one. You can probably recall that we had a landmark Land Conference barely two years after Independence in 1991 where we had all the stakeholders and where we have taken deliberate steps and based on the resolutions emanating from that conference, we have developed both the policy and the legal framework that currently guides us as a Nation to deal with land reform. The vibe that you are now sending out to the Nation is tantamount to telling them that nothing has been done, about which I, with all respect, have very strong reservations about.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, the Minister is my friend, so I will not fire back like he is doing. What I will say is; let us as a Nation, not necessarily Government or non-government and let us talk about the State not necessarily Government, I said we are all agents of the State and I am not talking about Government. Please do not be sensitive, I

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am not talking about Government. Let us have a system which is not so-called market-related when it comes to the use of land both for economic and social or residential purposes. Let us not have a situation where, when it comes to poor people, land is completely out of reach and therefore, have nowhere to stay.

I am saying that the system that is used in the communal areas, which was not the invention of this particular Government, it has been there for decades, could be one that could be used over the whole country. Why should I buy land in Windhoek to put up a building if I do not buy land in Ontanga to put up a building? Why does a Namibian who stays in Ondangwa have better access to land? (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: You will have an opportunity, Honourable Ulenga, to continue. The House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.10.03 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
03 OCTOBER 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- Municipality of Walvis Bay for the Financial Year ended June 30 2011;
 - Town Council of Okakarara for the Financial Year ended June 30 2011;
 - Regional Council of the Erongo Region for the Financial Years ended March 31 2009 and 2010;
 - Regional Council of the Omaheke Region for the Financial Years ended March 31 2008, 2009 and 2010; and
 - Regional Council of the Karas Region for the Financial Year ended March 31 2010.
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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON VAN DER WALT**

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. Honourable Van Der Walt.

**TABLING: ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENT**

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, I would like to inform the National Assembly and the Nation at large about the situation on the Economic Partnership Agreement between the ACP countries and the European Union.

Honourable Speaker, first of all, I want to thank you for the opportunity. First allow me to thank our President and his Cabinet for their direction and *status quo* on the EPA negotiations with the European Union. Honourable Speaker, thank you as our visionary leader in this august House and I believe that one swallow cannot make a summer on its own, therefore I would like to recognise the effort of our Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Hage Geingob, our Permanent Secretary, Dr Malan Lindeque and our Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Utoni Nujoma and our Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Nghiwete. Then I would also like to recognise our Embassy in Belgium, Ambassador Hanno Rumpf, Bonny Haufiku, Elina Ndadi and Sylvester.

Honourable Speaker, then I want to thank the Namibian delegation who supported and encouraged me: Honourable Arnold Tjihiuko, Peter Naholo, Protasius and Elizabeth from our Secretariat. But Honourable Speaker, last but very important for me is my Chairman, Honourable Ben Amathila, for his trust, leadership and wisdom. I am a very privileged young man to have a man with his qualities to guide me and show me the direction. Thank you, Honourable Amathila.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to inform this House, on the position of SADC, I would like to inform this House that we really reached the goal post, but before that I would like to inform the House that the SADC-EPA Member States, SACU countries plus Angola and Mozambique and the

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EC are engaged in negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements. The interim Economic Partnership Agreement between the SADC and EPA countries and the European Union was initiated in November and December 2007 by SADC-EPA countries with the exception of Angola and South Africa. The interim EPA subsequently signed by the European Commission and four of the SADC-EPA Member States, namely Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, in June 2009 in line with Article 105 of the interim EPA, Namibia, Angola and South Africa however did not sign the interim agreement.

Honourable Speaker, the final Report will be finalised by the Secretariat and presented to this National Assembly, so I am going to cut it short, but I would like to inform the House that during 2011/2012 the EC and the SADC-EPA group only met three times with the aim to find consensus on all issues that remained unresolved during the interim EPA negotiations and the next engagement is scheduled for the end of September 2012.

Honourable Speaker, given the fact that SADC and EPA Member States are busy lobbying against the adoption of the Amendment of the Council Regulation 15.28 of 2007, Namibia may also use this opportunity to lobby and we have already done it. The negotiation process should be allowed to continue, that was what we wanted from them, without undue pressure. The outcome should be mutually beneficial and the European Commission proposal to amend Council Regulation 15.28 of 2007 in its current form should be rejected.

Honourable Speaker, I am very pleased to inform this House and very honoured that when I arrived in Belgium I was informed that the Honourable Chair of Senegal, who was the president of our Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade was not present, so I had to chair the ACP on Economic Development and Finance and Trade and also the Joint Parliamentary Assembly Youth on Economic Development and Finance Trade Committee.

Honourable Speaker, we were very privileged that during the vote of the European Parliament we gained two-third majority for the extension of the

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Economic Partnership Agreement from the 1st of January 2014 to the 1st of January 2016.

The Report of the first meeting: Under this item the secretary gave a presentation on the state of the negotiations and the implementation of EPAs. The presentation focused on recent developments in this situation. The Secretariat informed the Committee of the vote in the European Parliament to grant an additional period of two years un 2016, therefore the ratification of the EPAs before any decision could be taken to deprive the ACP countries of free access to the European market, this is basically a moratorium on EPA negotiations that the ACP Group and the EU need to capitalise on to find solutions to the continuous issues which have been hindering the negotiations and preventing ratification of the EPAs.

During the exchange of views the Committee Members applauded the vote by the European Parliament as a step in the right direction and reaffirmed their commitment. Alongside the traditional North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation in Public-Private Partnership can constitute sources of financing for ICT development in the ACP countries.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to share our final statement with the National Assembly, which was done in conjunction with our Ambassador and all other people. Permit me to begin by complimenting you on your efficiency in the conduct of the proceedings of this august Assembly thus far. Permit me also to extend on behalf of my delegation our sincere appreciation to our European Colleagues for supporting our request for an extension of the EU market access regulation cut-off date for a further two-year period to 1 January 2016. Allow me to thank the ACP and the ACP Secretary-General for supporting our lobbying efforts. Allow me also to express gratitude to various ACP regional groupings that put their efforts and weight behind this endeavour and last but not least, I wish to congratulate the SADC-EPA Group for spearheading this effort.

Honourable Speaker, the purpose why the ACP, Africa and SADC in particular have insisted that the deadline for market access Regulation 15.28/2007 be extended is for one reason only, namely so that the European Commission and different ACP-EPA negotiations regions in

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general and SADC, in particular, have sufficient time to exhaustively negotiate all the outstanding constituent issues that the European Commission introduced on the negotiation table during the process.

Honourable Speaker, in order for the two-year extension to be meaningful and effective, we are of the view that the European Commission should be willing to begin negotiations on the unresolved negotiation issues. The unresolved negotiation issues were recognised as important and valid negotiations issues of the SADC-EPA countries by Baroness Ashton when she was Commissioner. We take note that Commissioner De Gucht continues to state that the Commission is flexible, yet on the unresolved issues he has as yet not engaged us. I am referring to numerous issues, such as the Most Favourite Nation Clause, Export Taxes and others. These, distinguished Colleagues, are all issues which are of concern not only of SADC-EPA countries, but numerous other countries as well. We do not know why the Commission is attempting to force us to agree to these demands since they are not at all required to make this EPA Agreement WTO compliant. We are calling at the negotiations level for a working group to be established to start negotiating on these unresolved issues.

Specifically what happened, Honourable Speaker, during the last meeting in Denmark we had huge discussions in Parliament and the President of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Louis Marcel, is a very difficult customer to work with and we had our hands full, but through negotiations he made a mistake by saying that there must be a commission appointed to help us to sort out our Economic Partnership Agreements before the 1st of January 2014, but what he did not realise was that it normally takes fourteen to sixteen months to rectify an EPA Agreement. So, then I asked him and his colleagues, but how long will it take him to form a council to make sure we have a timeframe to finish all these negotiations and finalise the final EPA.

In conclusion I wish to reiterate our appreciation to our colleagues in the European Parliament for supporting us by voting for the extension of the EU market access cut-off date to the 1st of January 2016. Allow me to call upon our European counterparts to continue to support us in concluding

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HON //GOWASES**

this important agreement. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you, Honourable Member. I thank the Chairman of your Committee, I thank all the others that helped you to achieve this milestone. Congratulations. The work continues, obviously, now and in the future. Once again congratulations.

Any further Reports and Papers? Honourable //Gowases.

HON //GOWASES: Honourable Speaker, I just rise to congratulate you and your team with the new look in the House, our flag, our country, our pride. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I should have been the one noticing that first. It was your initiative, it was approved, I think it makes us look official. Thank you very much. Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you, Comrade Speaker, for giving me the Floor. I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 9th of October 2012, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment, constitution, powers and functions of the Namibian Veterinary Council, to regulate the registration of persons practising veterinary professions and

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HON SPEAKER

veterinary para-professions; to specify the education and training and qualifications of persons practising such professions; to provide for control over the practising of veterinary professions and veterinary para-professions; to prohibit the practising of any such profession without being registered; to repeal the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Proclamation of 1984; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions?

BILLS CONSIDERED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL

HON SPEAKER: I have been informed by the Chairman of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution considered and confirmed the:

(a) *Correctional Service Bill* [B11-2012] without Amendments.

I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3) refer the Bill to the President to take action on it.

(b) *National Planning Commission Bill* [B.5-2012] with Amendments.

This Bill will be placed on the Order Paper for reconsideration by this Assembly as soon as possible.

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
RT HON ANGULA**

**COMMITTEE STAGE: PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION
AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage – *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister Move that the Assembly goes into Committee?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to. I call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill*.

Clause 1 put and agreed to.

Clause 2 put.

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**THIRD READING: PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
RT HON ANGULA**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move an Amendment, that in Clause 2: Delete the words “*and benefits*” wherever they occur in the second sentence and in the second sentence substitute the word “*is*” for the word “*are*”. I so Move.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining Clauses and Title put and agreed to.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported with Amendment.

**THIRD READING: PRESIDENTIAL REMUNERATION AND
OTHER BENEFITS BILL**

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

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move.

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**THIRD READING: PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
RT HON ANGULA**

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Any further discussion? Does the Prime Minister wish to reply?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I would only like to thank the Honourable Members for their understanding, cooperation and, indeed, support. This Bill is meant to strengthen our institution of governance and I think it is in the interest of all of us and I thank you for your support.

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Third Time.

SECRETARY: *Presidential Remuneration and Other Benefits Bill.*

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

**COMMITTEE STAGE: FORMER PRESIDENTS PENSION AND
OTHER BENEFITS AMENDMENT BILL**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage - *Former Presidents Pension and Other Benefits Amendment Bill.*

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REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
RT HON ANGULA**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister Move that the Assembly goes into Committee?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to. I call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the *Former Presidents Pension and Other Benefits Amendment Bill*.

Clauses and the Title put and agreed to.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported without Amendment.

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**THIRD READING: FORMER PRESIDENTIAL
REMUNERATION AND OTHER BENEFITS BILL
RT HON ANGULA**

**THIRD READING FORMER PRESIDENTS PENSION AND
OTHER BENEFITS AMENDMENT BILL**

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

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Any further discussion? None. Does the Prime Minister wish to say something?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Once again I would like to thank the Honourable Members for their cooperation, understanding and support. This Bill is just to make sure that our institutions are well oiled to take care in case you become a former President. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Bill be read a Third Time. Any objection? None. The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

SECRETARY: *Former Presidents Pension and Other Benefits Amendment Bill.*

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

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON
ALLOCATION OF LAND TO THE POOR**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the allocation of land to the poor.

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 2nd of October, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo. Honourable Ulenga had the Floor and he may now continue.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Yesterday I was about to conclude before I was rudely interrupted by the clock and we all had to go home. Just to summarise again the main points of my intervention, generally speaking, States are not friendly animals, they need to be watched closely and interventions need to come from the citizens.

This applies mainly with regard to ownership of land and the plight of the poor.

Namibia is no exception. In the country today we have a situation where the price of land has run away far beyond any reach of the poor, the ordinary Namibians. Therefore, as Honourable Moongo is saying, something should be done by the representatives of the people to make sure that poor people also who cannot afford to have land otherwise, have a chance to settle on the land and to make use of the land in an affordable way. Other countries have dealt with land reform, it is true there is also a

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kind of a programme in Namibia, but I must say it is represented more by things remaining the same the more they change than things changing at all. It has now been almost a quarter of a century since Independence and this situation is still more or less as it used to be before Independence. That is exactly what you are going to hear if you talk to the people out there on the street.

I was looking at an interesting letter that some members of the community wrote to one of the Committees and it was just saying exactly that. Some of the Members will know what I am talking about, a letter that comes from all over the country, people from the small settlements who say, "*we hear about rumours of resettlement but what about us?*"

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I think there is definitely a need to hasten up, to move quickly. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I pose a question? Honourable Ulenga, you said that you received letters from the community, saying that this was not the same as during the colonial time. Did the people during the colonial time have the right to even erect a zinc room in the yard? What advice would you give them taking into consideration the land price, which is a concern? Do you want to agree that it is true that things are the same as in the colonial times while people from the homelands were not even allowed to enter Olympia? During the night no one was even allowed to enter the so-called white town. What is your advice to those who wrote that letter to you?

HON ULENGA: Unfortunately you did not hear what I said, that is not what I said. Some of the Members on both sides of the House are aware of the letter that I referred to and I simply referred to a letter which members of the community have written to Members of Parliament, just asking for the opportunity to be resettled. There was no comparison

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between now and the past. What I said with regard to the period before Independence was simply that not much has changed with regard to land reform since 1990 and I am saying that we are now nearly at a quarter of a century. Therefore, we need to carry out large scale transfers of land. We need to change the existing system, there is no doubt about that.

The other day I heard on the NBC the pressures that are on people in Ovitoto and Otjimbingwe, for example, and I was alarmed to hear mention of the purchasing of an additional two farms or so. That kind of action does not relieve the situation at all. Government should consider making available land on large scale so that we do not necessarily reform the old Bantustan system, but transform the whole land ownership and land tenure system where people enter into new relationships with regard to land within the communities.

Interesting, for example, is the situation where the existing farmers, mostly white, be included in a cluster of neo farmers and an exchange of ideas and skills can then start within that community, which will be a new set-up with land re-divided into smaller portions. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Ulenga a small question for clarity? It is painful to listen to a very dear friend creating the impression that since the 1991 Land Conference no steps have been taken as a Nation. We all agree that it is probably not going at the desired speed, but given the circumstances, given the resources at our disposal as a Nation, it would not be entirely true to want to create the impression that the land reform process in our country has stagnated. It cannot be true. When we talk about emotional issues which have the potential to lead to certain actions within our communities, which in some instances are threatening due to pronouncements that some leaders are making to create an atmosphere and it takes that direction, it might not be very easy for us as a Nation to deal with the situation. (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: I did not want a Ministerial Statement on this. There should be a standing Rule that issues of land, unemployment should require relevant Ministers to, on a monthly basis come and update us. You have done that in the past, but these questions will keep on coming and they might be reacted to along the lines that you are suggesting. But I think it would require more than just simply a question to a Member.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. On this one the dear friend that you are referring to is very clear and I think in this case we just have to agree to disagree, my dear friend, because there is no doubt that with regard to land reform in Namibia there is more rumours about land reform than the actual land reform itself. It is more rumours of land reform than land reform.

I happened to travel one day up to Gam where people have been living in a kind of a camp for almost twenty years. They are still waiting for land. I have already given other examples. I was in Warmbad with Colleagues a few months back, that small little “*hokkie*” called a “*reservaat*” where the people are saying is still the size it used to be.

Here it is definitely a question of moving faster. It is not a question of resources because resources are prioritised. What we should be doing, we should prioritise resources. There are certain things that we do, there are other things we do not do. It is a question of what do you want to do first and what do you want to do most urgently.

We should definitely make more resources available. If land is too expensive, it must be subsidised, especially for residential purposes if people cannot have a house simply because they cannot afford land. In other countries Governments have provided subsidisation of land. Hear what Hugo Chavez is doing right now in his country. On that particular score at least many people agree with Chavez. I am mentioning him because he is far enough not to hear me. I will not take examples closer to home.

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Honourable Speaker, dealing with land reform does not mean acting against a certain community, it is not a white versus black thing and this thing of talking about raised emotions must stop, with all due respect my dear friend. Emotions are not raised by Members of Parliament or leaders and nobody really wants to deal with raised emotions, we want to deal with the land issue, make sure that we all correct it. Let us have a form of land tenure that opens up the land to more and more of those who want to use it.

The question of staying with those who have been resettled until they succeed is very important, because there is this attitude now in the country that it does not help, even if you give them land they will just mess up. You do not normally assist a person, give him money and then turn your back. When you turn around later you find that they have messed up because you have not... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulenga, I was under the impression that you were wrapping up.

HON ULENGA: I was, but I was interrupted.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask Honourable Ulenga question? Honourable Ulenga, you are saying that those who have been resettled should be enough for now so that you see how they are progressing. Are you implying that the resettlement should stop and those who have not yet been resettled and need land must just wait?

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HON SPEAKER: No, I would never have allowed that to stand because I want to be resettled myself. It cannot end at this stage. I understood him not to be saying that, but he implied, so maybe the Minister is not entirely incorrect.

HON ULENGA: Comrade Speaker, I am wrapping up. I am not saying that resettlement should stop, I am saying it should actually happen. There must not only be rumours of resettlement, there must also be resettlement, much of it, but I am saying, let us not give Katali a piece of land and some money and turn around, go do some other things at Swakopmund or whatever and when we come back, all the fencing material has been used by Katali as firewood. This happens because we gave Katali some money and such a responsible place as a farm and we do not stay with them. When we come back they have messed up because we did not stay with them. You do not give people Public money and then not monitor it. That is what we need to do. We need to stay with those who have been resettled. Only then will they succeed.

The message generally is; let us make land available to everybody, even the poorest and let there be access to land irrespective of what is in the pocket of the individual farmer and we shall harvest fruits if we stay with those projects where we have given out Public money to people to work on the land. I am not only talking about land for agricultural purposes, land should also be made available for residential purposes. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I am not entirely convinced that making land available to everybody necessarily means that everybody would have the capacity. There are a lot of things we could have done with what is available. As I was suggesting earlier, to give me a farm and my circumstances would by implication automatically change is not necessarily true. The idea of making land available was up to Independence probably a political weapon. We are now more than twenty

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years past that, so we need to be selective about the people that need to have land available to them to make a difference in their own lives and to contribute to the economic growth of the country. With that wisdom, shall we break for tea?

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Let me start by saying that it is not the first time for us in this Honourable Chamber to discuss the issue of land. It is always coming in different shapes and it is interesting to look at it again.

The Motion by Honourable Moongo is looking at allocation of land to the poor. When Honourable Moongo was motivating I was trying to understand what he means by the poor. How do we define the people who are to benefit from this Motion once it is passed through the Chamber? How do we define “*poor*”? I was asking myself this question because of the fact that we are always referring to ourselves as the previously disadvantaged, as being poor and I am not sure about that. I think a number of us who have graduated to the level where we will not be justified to be grouped into a group of poor people, just to benefit from whatever is being given to those who are at the beginning of the ladder. I think we need to define the term “*poor*” so that we exactly know that among us, the blacks, there are people who cannot be regarded as poor, they have already graduated. They should be benefiting from different

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structures, from AgriBank, but not land that is meant for the poor.

Therefore, I have a problem but I think what we need to do is to be more specific and say that people in this category should be considered to be given land free.

The second question is that when you give land free to the people, it must be serviced. It must be a piece of land that can be useful and we need to look at the cost of providing those services on the land. That is the first thing that I was actually trying to educate myself on.

Secondly, Honourable Speaker, land is being seen in different categories. There are people in the cities who would say they must be given free land so that they can build houses. I think we have passed a law here which was brought by the Minister of Lands, called the *Flexible Land Tenure Bill*. That has been passed and we need to look at the implementation of this Act rather than bringing in a new idea of giving land to the poor. We have gone through it here, we have discussed and we have agreed that it should go through and it has done so.

I call upon the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement to see to it that this piece of legislation that we have passed here must be implemented so that people can start benefiting from it. That would help us not to repeat discussions on the same issue in a different colour.

I started by saying that we need to define what we mean by land. If you look at the *Veterans Amendment Bill* that was motivated yesterday by the Honourable Minister, a veteran is clearly defined. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, I heard you are organising a land conference as an a member of the Opposition Party and now you are discussing the same issue here. What will you be discussing in your land conference?

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, let me continue because from here to November those who have aspirations of becoming the SWAPO Vice-President will always come up with some of these things.

Honourable Speaker, I was saying that when I was looking at this *Amendment Bill*, you could sit back and see where we want to go. The categories of beneficiaries are clearly defined and you can easily see yourself fitting into the appropriate level. I think that is what we need to do when it comes to the land issue, we need to clearly define who are the people who need land and why. Let us divide these people into categories: Those who lost land because of the war, those who need land because of overcrowding and those who need land just because they want more land. There are people with two or three commercial farms, we have land-grabbing in communal areas, we have those categories, so let us define the categories and then we move on. We have a category of people who lost land because of what happened to their forefathers during the yesteryear wars. We have people who need land because they are overcrowded, then we have those who need land because they need to have more land. Then we can start talking about land. The way we are talking about land now does not make any sense.

If somebody wants to be resettled, you look at the category of the person who wants to be resettled – three goats, two donkeys – and then the purpose of the Government resettling people is for these people to become self-sufficient and to look after themselves. Now you give a piece of productive land to TjiHuiko who has two goats and a donkey and the next day I am coming back to the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, saying that I need to eat because I cannot survive from this and I cannot lease this land to Honourable Kaura who has four goats as it is not allowed. How do you expect this person to survive?

We take a productive land out of the market and make it unproductive and then we are talking about unemployment and poverty. Obviously it is our creation. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, you are saying the poor people should not be resettled, yet they need land. You are implying that the people who have fifty to hundred livestock should be the ones to be resettled. Those people who have those livestock are the Directors, the Chief Executive Officers, the Ministers, the Members of Parliament. Those are the categories of people who can have those numbers of livestock. If you only concentrate on those for resettlement, will you not be criticised for leaving out the poor?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, it is a good question, the point is that land is a productive asset, it is not something that one needs to sit on and then go back to Government and ask to be given money. There are people who are not Ministers and Parliamentarians with a good number of cattle that can turn that piece of land given to them into a contributing factor to the economy. You have people sitting in Gam with thousands of cattle and people are suffering because there is this poisonous plant in Gam. Why do we not resettle those people? These are the productive citizens that could have added value to the land.

If you give three thousand hectares to somebody with three goats, it does not mean that you have helped the person, but in fact you have done an injustice to that person. That person does not need a farm. Perhaps what person was looking for was a piece of land where he can build a house somewhere in Windhoek so that he can continue with economic activities to support his or her family, not land. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Build a house with three goats?

HON TJIHUIKO: There are people in this country without goats who have houses and as much as we wish that everybody in this country have a

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piece of land, we will not be able to do that. That is a reality of life. The majority of us have to buy assets, houses, so that we can rely on the income of the investment that we put there. If all of us want to go to the land, it is not on. That is the point I am trying to make and my point is that when we look at the categories of resettling the landless, we should consider people who have lost land because of the war, category number one. Category number two, the people whose parents have lost land because of those circumstances, for instance the Gam and Eiseb Blok people. Then you go on as we have done with the other Act we have all supported.

Honourable Speaker, coming back to my point before I conclude, the last point I want to make on this land issue and giving land to the poor is that I have been going around, I have seen all these shanty towns around the country. One could stand up and start criticising the Ministry of Local Government that Minister Jerry is not doing enough. If you look at the conditions on the ground, if you go there yourself and see the way they expand, we need to make a concerted effort to make sure that our people have roofs over their heads, not one Ministry and, therefore, we need to have a system. I do not like conferences, I do not like all these things, but we need to have a system where Namibia can develop structures that can provide cheap houses to our people. The cost of building one house is too much. Buying land in Windhoek will be even twice the price of the house itself. We need to bring in laws that would make it easier for our people to access land. Maybe the Bill we have passed could be the answer and we need to see this being implemented, it should not be on the shelves of the Ministry of Lands. That is not what we meant when we passed that law, Honourable Minister. I am looking forward to seeing us as leaders implementing the laws that we have passed. It is our responsibility as backbenchers to exercise our oversight function and it is also the responsibility of the Executive to ensure that the laws we have passed must be implemented.

Honourable Speaker, with those sound comments I support the Motion. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Tjihuiko. Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, first of all I would like to extend appreciation to the Motivator of this Motion for having raised a very crucial national issue, the cry for land. I also want to thank my Colleague who has just spoken because he mentioned many things I could have said myself. In fact, I thought that birds of the same feather flock together. I missed other arguments or submissions by other Members of Parliament regarding this very important topic.

I am now speaking not only as a Member of Parliament but as a son from a peasant family, also as an individual who has served in the Government when this policy was drawn up, but most importantly I am speaking now as somebody who is out of the box, who has observed this policy out of the box and what I have discovered is very amazing. I have realised that this Government policy is unworkable, it was a total failure from the outset. I am also speaking as somebody who has benefited from the policy on affirmative action, I got a farm. (Interjection). Yes, anybody can fail, but the problem is, if you see your failure and you do not want to correct it, then something is totally wrong. Anybody can fail, but do not repeat it or do not repeat the failure of others.

In the first instance, this policy does not have clear objectives and I think my Colleague has stated the same. It does not seem to have a clear objective.

Let me relate to you my background. I grew up in a peasant family, we had a piece of land, given by the Traditional Authority, on which we used to produce food to live on as a family. That was the objective of peasants having plots of land, to produce food and to keep a number of animals.

You have people who have commercial farms, the aim is to produce for commercial purposes, to sell and buy on large scale. Now we have created resettled farmers and I do not know whether they are communal or

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commercial, I do not know how to define them. They are dangling in-between, you do not know which category they belong to.

Colleagues, I want us to put our heads together and look at this policy and I am glad that my brother there for whom I have great respect is heading a Ministry which does not seem to have any direction, frankly speaking, and I do not see the end of the road where we will achieve tangible objectives. I declare, and nobody can challenge it, that the whole policy is a failure. People who are so-called resettled are poorer than they were before they were resettled and anybody can witness that. Why continue to impoverish people who are already poor? What is the objective? The reason is because you settle people whom you have not trained, most of them know nothing about agriculture and people who have no capital and you expect them to survive. How? They are not trained, they are not prepared, they have no capital to maintain the infrastructure. What kind of policy is that? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. I know Honourable Nyamu as a majored person, I also know that he is a politician, but when you are making a contribution to a theme like land, it is not useful to generalise. Yes, it is true that there are some people who were resettled and they did not make it, but it is also true and I have many neighbours myself who were resettled and they are making a living out of that. It is therefore not helpful to generalise. Yes, there are problems here and there such as the one you are talking about and I do not think that when you went to apply for the Affirmative Action Loan at AgriBank that AgriBank asked you whether you are trained as a farmer. I do not think they asked you that question. They just saw that you are previously disadvantaged, we are going to subsidise your interest and Eureka, Honourable Nyamu is a land baron, 7,000 hectare of land in his hands. Please, let us not generalise, let us improve where we can improve, but we cannot say the whole resettlement is a failure, it is not.

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HON NYAMU: I would like to thank the Prime Minister for sensitising me towards the importance of this subject, but I mentioned earlier that I am also speaking as a person who has a farm and it is on the basis of my experience that I see where we have made mistakes, even to allow people to get these farms through the Affirmative Action Loans without training, without backing. I am speaking from my own experience. For five years I did not know what farming actually means and I spent a lot of money doing wrong things because I was never prepared for that and I am sure many of you have gone through the same.

Let me give you the example of Finland. In Finland, whether you have a million in your pocket, you do not get a farm until you are trained, you do not get farmland. You have to be trained on the land for not less than a year. I think we ourselves must look back and try to make some changes, even for Affirmative Action, even for those who have their own money, do not seem to have any direction; they should be trained first if you want success and productivity. If you just want land ownership for the sake of it, go ahead. If I were trained I could have done much better than what happened and it is unfortunate, but why do we repeat the mistakes we have made in the past? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question to Honourable Nyamu? Comrade Nyamu, the failure and training you are speaking about and saying that everybody realised there are mistakes and we are not doing anything about it, are you aware that about a year ago the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement purchased land, resettled people and the Ministry of Agriculture now has the responsibility to mentor the people on the land. Obviously, the difference between Namibia and Finland is that the Finnish people are trained before they go on the land, but our people needing the land and circumstances being different, unfortunately are already on the land and they are being trained. Are you not aware of that information, that people are being trained, assisted and mentored on the land as we speak?

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HON NYAMU: I think if there is such a programme it is ineffective. We are known to make good policies, but implementation is where we fail all the time. This Government is known for good policies but look at the record of implementation. It is a dismal one. The same goes for this mentorship programme. I am a farmer, I do not see any effective mentorship you are referring to, it is only on paper.

One aspect where we have not really defined what we want to achieve with the land, first of all, Namibia has sufficient land, more than we need. If you travel through this country, you find that this country is blessed with land. What is lacking is infrastructure, especially water infrastructure. Go to the Omaheke Region, there is enough fertile land, but there is no water. We have sufficient land for this population, more than we need. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable Nyamu a question? Honourable Nyamu, talking is easy. You left SWAPO only six years ago. Were the policies being implemented during your time with SWAPO and it is only after you left that nothing is being done? You promise people a tap from which cooking oil and milk will run, but when are you going to implement that? If you are a champion of implementation, when are you going to do it in Omuthiya and Ohangwena?

HON NYAMU: On a Point of Correction, Honourable Speaker. First I want to correct the Honourable Prime Minister that I own 7,000 hectares of land, it is not true. If you go to the bank you will find out how much I have in my name. Just do your own research and the statement that is accredited to me of giving people free oil, free milk is incorrect. Nyamu is not the kind to make such loose statements which everybody can laugh at. I do not believe that there will ever be a Government which will be in a position to do all those kinds of things, what about an individual or a Political Party, for that matter.

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In Namibia we are crying and we are inciting a cry for land because we are failing to provide our people with employment opportunities. Now we think that the scapegoat is the land, so that our people, since there are no jobs, are all looking at having land. Where have you seen a country where the majority of the people are on the land? Even in China the population on the land is very small. In the United States less than 10% of the population work on and own the land. Now I do not understand, but here in Namibia people want to move to the urban areas where they have a choice of job opportunities, they would not want to stay on the land forever, but we are creating the impression that land is the solution to our unemployment problem. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: On a Point of Information. Honourable Nyamu, I think we must choose our language properly, because when you say the people do not need land or they do not want to live on the land and they come to the urban areas, I think that is confusing. You must distinguish between people who need land for farming or people who need land for housing or different needs, then people will understand. But if you say they leave the land and then they come to the urban areas, as if the urban area is in the air or the sea, it is a bit confusing. Choose the correct language so that you inform the people correctly.

HON NYAMU: I think the question raised earlier by the next Vice-President is valid here, because I think you rise to show your face. I am literally saying that the whole trend in the world today is that with development people move from the rural to urban areas. However, it appears that because our Government cannot provide employment, it is stuck in the mud and it is now using the land as an alternative to employment.

As I mentioned in passing, you can resettle as many people as you want, but are you sure that their standard of living will improve simply because

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they are on the land? You have not defined the purpose of this resettlement scheme and it is now becoming confusing. It is not properly defined and that Department should be abolished or come up with a new policy. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. The Honourable is now just embarking on belittling the land redistribution and the land reform as an instrument for redressing the imbalances of the past and actually promoting accelerated growth and poverty reduction. It is so difficult to accept that given the fact that the Honourable Member himself has seen it appropriate to take his own savings and invest in land, bought a farm, he is farming, but he now wants us to believe that farming cannot be a solution to the problems that we face. If it is so, then what is the reason that the Honourable Member is himself farming and accepting subsidies from the State by acquiring a loan from AgriBank? What is the reason that he is doing that? If he is honest and truly believes that land reform is not contributing to a solution to the problems that we face, then he should just be honourable and return the subsidies of the State that are provided through the interest subsidies of the AgriBank.

HON NYAMU: I have contributed directly or indirectly being a Member of Parliament that time toward the policy, but after 22 years I am now convinced that the policy is not working. I am out of the box, my friend. The problem with you is that you cannot see outside the box. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Nyamu, I recall that at a certain point we used to regurgitate the dialectics of materialism and we used to say that the land is the source of all wealth. Regardless of that, 76% of the Namibian population are living in rural areas and you say they must move to the cities. What are

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we going to do with those 76% of the Namibian people who are living in rural areas?

HON NYAMU: First of all, I have reviewed my stand on the principle regarding the dialectics of materialism. As I age and with the experience behind me, I do now question the validity of the statement of Marx and Lenin and I am not going back.

Regarding the population, I think the 75% figure is too high, it may be 60% or 50% in the rural areas. They are moving to the urban areas and that is why you see informal settlements all over the place here. They do not want to be on the land anymore, they want to go to urban areas and that is the trend globally. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I want to give information to the Honourable Nyamu. He says that as far as the ideology of Marxism and Socialism is concerned he has become a revisionist, meaning he has prescribed his ideology now to neo-liberalism and neo-liberalism which is the motive force of capitalism. Is that now the ideology of RDP, unfettered capitalism? Is that now your gospel as a Party?

HON NYAMU: How can you define Nyamu who was a member of Government, which is a capitalist Government plus corruption? How do you define yourself under those circumstances? Yes, your Government is capitalist plus corruption, nothing else. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: It is your Government as well.

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HON NYAMU: Your Government, you say it is your Government, you do not say it is the Namibian Government, you say the SWAPO Government. So it is capitalist plus corruption, that is the definition of your Government.

Comrade Speaker, I urge all of us to look back at the policy in place today regarding land. It is not properly defined, the objectives are not laid down, the result is a mess and we should not continue with the present policy. It does not serve anybody well. It does not serve people we think we are going to help. As I said, we have made some of them poorer than they were before we granted land to them without implements, without knowledge. What is the problem? Let us reconsider this policy completely and overhaul it. Even the Ministry concerned should be abolished because I think it is a Ministry implementing wrong policies, nothing good there. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Bezuidenhoudt.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I think the issue that we are discussing and debating is very important and very crucial to the well-being of Namibia and I would hope that we will focus on that and really look at possible solutions. If we have defined it as a problem, then jointly we have to look at a possible solution, because it is our responsibility under Article 45 of the Constitution that we must do our work in the public interest, plus our conscience plus the Constitution.

Therefore this Debate is very important, also to assist the Ministry responsible to find ways and means to answer to this very important issue. Otherwise, if it is not important, crucial and critical, then we can just sit down and carry on with the next item. However, if we agree that it is important, then we should really try and do justice to the topic because we have challenges within the administration of land resettlement, we have challenges of urbanisation, we have challenges of people's wishes and

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people's wants and jointly as a Parliament we need to answer those questions to the citizens and the Nation to solve the issue.

I also want to declare my interest, Honourable Speaker, that I am not a land owner, the only land I own is my stand in Dorado Park where my house is. That is the only piece of land I have. I do not have any farm and even if the Minister would resettle me, I have no interest in it because I do not have the skills, I do not have the knowledge to do it.

This brings me back to one issue that was raised in deciding who needs to be considered and what criteria do we use so that we choose the people who need and who want land and resettle them and not those that cannot be resettled. Do not resettle Bezuidenhoudt because he will be useless, he will be unproductive on that piece of land. He will just gobble up the interest paid.

Having said that, the answers that we seek collectively requires that we reconsider the policy framework. If that is a challenge, let us reconsider that and formulate a framework under which we can deal with this issue.

A serious article appeared in the paper this week or last week under the heading of, "*Threatening Land Grabs.*" We do not want that in this country, we do not want anarchy, we do not want indiscipline when it comes to the management of land and the sooner we as an organisation, as a Parliament, as a Government can come up with the right solutions, improve and adjust until we get to the objectives, the better for this country. Otherwise land grabs will just destabilise the whole country.

We also need to create a proper framework to address the relevant issues attached to land, for example training, how to make the land so allocated productive, how to survive on that land and how to build an asset portfolio in terms of investments from that. Those are the related issues and we probably need to consider such a framework. That would call for us to really be innovative and daring in finding a solution.

One item, if one can make an example, is to say if the land issue is as challenging, as urgent and important as education and health, we would

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probably need to allocate a reasonable amount of financial resources to assist the Minister to implement the programme within our own limited means. I am not blaming or trying to get to the Minister of Finance, but within the framework of a solution one may look at that and say for two or three or ten Financial Years we will allocate this percentage to enhance the solution to resettlement and acquisition of land.

I have touched on the selection of beneficiaries, not everybody can be resettled, not everybody may have an interest, not everybody may have the skills and the support services needed to make the operations of that individual a reasonable success would go a long way in addressing this issue. I am not claiming to be knowledgeable about land, I am not, but I would want to make a suggestion to see how we can assist the Minister of Lands and Resettlement to accelerate the progress if the problem we are discussing is a real problem. If we define it like that, then we probably have to look at various innovative ways of addressing the question of land. I thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Limbo.

HON LIMBO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I feel we have a very serious problem when it comes to land issue in Namibia. Honourable Moongo is saying we must give land to the poor, but maybe we must first understand who these people are in order to give the land to the right people. Are we really focussing on the poor in the urban areas or are we talking about the poor in the communal areas? We have to understand who the people are we are talking about. By so doing we will be able to give land to the people who really need land.

What is happening at the moment is that people who lost land during the war are being resettled and those who really need land are still waiting and that is a problem.

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In the urban areas we need to focus on the medium to the low-income groups. These are the people who are mostly affected in the urban areas. These are the domestic workers, the clerks, the middle-class groups. These are the people who are now crying that they cannot afford to buy land in Windhoek or any other town in our country.

Last time Honourable Ekandjo mentioned about bringing in some civil engineers from Cuba to service the land to make it a bit cheaper. If we take that route it might be better, because this is the biggest problem when it comes to land allocation in our towns.

When it comes to land allocation in communal areas, the most affected people are women. We have been told we must apply to be resettled, however if one looks at the statistics, I am talking under correction Honourable Minister of Lands, the majority of people who are resettled are men. The women are still far behind. (Interjections). Honourable Speaker, can I be protected? (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: I am getting curious, is somebody disputing that women are left far behind? Is somebody saying that is not true that women are left far behind in society? Is the Prime Minister's side saying that that is a lie? I think it is a true statement that women are left far behind in society. I sincerely want whoever is saying that to rise and confirm that that is not true.

HON LIMBO: Yes, you can say the women are married, but let us look at the divorce rate in this country, which is very high. We cannot say, "*my husband acquired land, therefore I do not have to apply.*" We have to ensure that whether married or not, every Namibian who wants land must have access to land. That is what I am trying to say here.

The Namibian people in communal areas are still struggling because the majority do not have access to the land we want. What is presently

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happening in the communal areas is that when you want to build a house somewhere, you are told the land belongs to somebody else. There are many problems and some people have become landless while there is land which is not occupied because it is not clearly defined who is supposed to do what with that land. Honourable Nyamu or Honourable Tjihuiko said we have a lot of land in this country, but somehow we need to look at how we are going to redistribute the land so each and every Namibian can have a piece of land not only for a house but also for your goats. Even if you have two goats, you must have a piece of land to live on.

When Honourable Moongo mentioned the poor, I was more thinking about the people in the urban areas, because these are the people who are really affected. Every time the municipality wants to expand their border, the people are told to move. With these few words I think I support Honourable Moongo, but I want us to define who these people are that we are looking at, so that at the end of the day we will be able to say which categories are covered and which categories are the people who are still far behind. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Mines and Energy.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I think Honourable Moongo did not categorically and clearly state his case. He spoke of allocation of land to the poor and that is why the Debate is going from left to right, forward and backwards, simply because it is not really clearly stated as to what is it we are required to discuss here and you can see people are talking of resettlement, people are talking of Affirmative Action and all sorts of things.

When Honourable Limbo said that Honourable Moongo had in mind the urban areas, I tended to agree with her and not just land in general.

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I made an interjection and said that when a man who has a wife has been resettled, he does not leave the wife behind to go and benefit from the resettlement farm. I was in the Ministry of Lands and likewise a wife being resettled does not go alone and benefit from the resettlement farm, they go together and therefore, this notion of saying when a man has been resettled it excludes the woman, I do not agree with that. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, what Honourable Limbo meant is that my husband can acquire land, but the day my husband dies the family will come and live on the land and tell me to get out. The women are suffering and that is happening. (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: Why are we denying things that we know are happening? It is happening in the African traditional societies.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: It is only when we jointly own that land that I will have a right. Otherwise it is only the man who acquired that land.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: That is why I say Honourable Moongo's Motion brought confusion. We are not talking about inheritance of land here, I thought we were talking about the allocation of land for resettlement. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I want to ask Honourable Katali a question on the basis of what he said just now, that women are indeed empowered because their spouses are resettled. Is the Honourable

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Member then saying that women who are aspiring to be empowered should do nothing else but just look for a spouse? Is that what the Honourable Member is saying? Secondly, when youngsters are graduating from tertiary institutions, what happens to the single females if there is not going to be a special focus on women as a group that has been marginalised since she does not have a spouse?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Let us put the discussions into the right context, because when the statement that was made to say women are not benefiting from resettlement, I interjected to say they are benefiting because they are also being resettled together with their husbands. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, what is the percentage of unmarried women in Namibia? Do you have the statistics of unmarried women in Namibia?

When you are emphasising married women going with their husbands, what is the percentage of unmarried women in Namibia and how are those unmarried women going to benefit from this land issue?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: That is why I am saying we should put things in perspective. Who said women who are not married should not be resettled? If you look at the records of the Ministry of Lands you would see they are being resettled. How can those who are not married go with their husbands? I talked about those who are married that is why I said we should listen and put things in the right perspective.

On the issue of land allocation to the poor, the Government is aware of the prices of land especially in the urban areas and that the poor people find it

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difficult to acquire land. It is not only the poor people, even the middle-income people are suffering. Therefore, the Minister of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development has made statements and that is probably why Honourable Moongo has found some grounds to bring the Motion to the House. It is undeniable that land is expensive, it is undeniable that the poor people need land and they are not able to get it. Even those who have money are not supposed to use their money for land, there are other uses. It is a fact that there is a need to address the prices of land, not only for the poor people, but all the land-users in Namibia. This can then spill over to the farms and other land.

The Minister's statements are on record and it is not to say that it is the DTA that is coming up with a beautiful Motion for people to discuss about land. No, the Minister himself has said the allocation of land especially in urban areas needs to be addressed. However, to say the Government has failed to address the issue is far-fetched. The programmes are there and will be there and Honourable Nyamu knows about them. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: The Honourable Member wants to glorify the new policy of providing cheaper land to urban dwellers. May I ask him a question? If you provide land to urban dwellers who are not employed, who have no income, how are they going to pay for the services?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Nyamu, you almost ate me up alive here when I once said that if you take a person from Goreangab Dam, bring him or her to Ludwigsdorf and give him or her a six-bedroom house, you would not have done well. I was almost eaten up alive here. It was said that I do not want people to come from Goreangab Dam to town.

I have been saying and I continue to say that once you give a person a piece of land, maybe it is a single-headed household with two or three kids, they will go to school, start working and then definitely they will

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develop the land for the parents. This is how development takes place, not to say you give the land and people must immediately start constructing. Development takes place gradually. If you think the Government must give land and all of a sudden there are houses, that will not happen, but let us give access to the land to the people, they can put up small shacks and extend it until it becomes a beautiful house. If we just cling onto the land, thinking that the person must first start working, when will we start developing? Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. The subject matter we are discussing, although casually, is the basis of our existence and, therefore I thought we were going to address this issue with the seriousness it deserves.

Comrade Speaker, I consider myself to be one of the luckiest amongst those who have served the Namibian Government because in one of my assignments I served as the Minister of Lands at a very critical time in the history of our new Nation. I remember very well at the time I was assigned this responsibility we were faced with serious problems of the various categories of our citizens who did not have a place of abode, leave alone now choosing between farmland or town-land or whatever. Many of us who were there that time will remember that we had categories of Namibian citizens who did not have anywhere to live. First the category of former fighters, I want us to remember genuinely and honestly and not to politicise this matter, former fighters, then we had those Namibians who were left in the barracks by the South African soldiers when they left from here. Then we had a category of farm workers who were dumped on the roadsides. Do we remember those categories as I am talking about them? (Intervention)

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HON MEMBER: They are still there.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am not saying they are not there, I am just stating a fact. Therefore, the Policy on Land Reform and Resettlement(Interjection). The rehabilitation aspect of that Ministry was to take care of those whom we found in such situations of helplessness.

I remember very well the number of farms that this Government purchased just to solve that social problem faced by our people. Whether they became productive or not, land that time also served the purpose of social upliftment and served to rehabilitate the former fighters. They were resettled all over. I did it, those who preceded me did it and those who came after me also did it. That was the focus of resettlement.

Since we have now more or less addressed the urgency of these categories, the Ministry moved on to resettle those who at least have the financial means. When we talk in our political mind-set about this Government having done nothing, I do not know whether we also recall where we come from. I am not here glorifying the history, but I am saying, let us also make sense out of what we are saying. It is true that land has currently become very scarce, not scarce in the sense of availability, but affordability. How much is land today per hectare? It is over N\$2,000 per hectare. How many people who earn a salary can afford to buy land at N\$2,000 per hectare? I am not attributing blame here, the land issue has become a national problem and I would like us to discuss it as nationals who have Party Members on both sides, those who have successfully acquired land and the landless. That issue does not have Party colours. Those that have successfully acquired land do not have Party colours.

Therefore, I was thinking that the time has probably come that we hold another land conference. I know we had one in 1991, but we can organise another land conference so that we address all these categories of the land needs in the country. The land in town has become equally expensive. Young people who leave university and find a job cannot afford to buy

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land or even to buy a house. The price of land in towns has become unaffordable and the other day I was saying that if you go around, wanting to know the ownership patterns of land particularly here in Windhoek, most of the houses we see are owned by foreigners because they can afford it. They come here with dollars and Euros and they are the ones who can afford land.

It is a policy of capitalism, free for all, but it is unfair that we allow foreigners to buy land whether in towns or in the commercial areas, even in communal areas. Therefore we should organise a land conference, let us all participate in that land conference and straighten out our issues. These are our bread and butter issues we are talking about and they are not separate from the land issue.

Comrade Speaker, I only intervened to say that we should not blame each other, this is our own situation and let us see what we can do to turn the situation in our favour. Currently it is not in our favour. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you. It was not my intention to take part in this Debate, however the Honourable Member here made a very disturbing statement which I want to correct.

Honourable Nyamu claimed that the current Government is capitalist and corrupt. This statement cannot go unchallenged. The SWAPO Government is following the prescriptions of the Constitution. Chapter 11 of the Constitution says we will have a mixed economy and in a mixed economy there are different ways of ownership.

Every year we come to this House to approve a National Budget and that National Budget has two components. One component is to run the country and another component is to develop the country. The

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Development Budget is the vehicle of the Government to invest in what can be called the public good, things which cannot be done by private people, such as roads, railways, harbours, schools, hospitals, defence and security. Government makes an investment every year to develop this country because the Government knows that it is a partner in development in our mixed economy.

If there are individuals who are distorting the economy through greed or corruption, obviously we have the Anti-Corruption Commission where you can report, however cynical you might be. The institutions are there, we have the Courts, we have the Police. Corruption is defined as a crime in Namibia and if you as a good citizen see corruption, go and report to the institutions of governance that are in place. Yes, there might be individuals who are distorting the governance through greed, who might be corrupt, who are known by Honourable Nyamu, but in human society not everybody is an angel, I accept that, but to characterise the Government of Namibia as capitalist and corrupt is the highest form of lunatic thinking. Really, it does not reflect well on the Government.

Having set the record straight, the Motion of Honourable Moongo is pertinent in the sense that there is a correlation between poverty and lack of land as a resource. I do accept that correlation. However, Honourable Moongo cast his Motion in political terms, which is unfortunate. He is a politician, he is entitled to do so. I only have my faith in my Colleagues who are responsible for land. I think Comrade Ekandjo who is responsible for urban land will be in a position to put the case of the Government to this House, what Government is doing, realising that poor people have difficulty to access land. I think there are programmes and for the urban areas I am quite sure Comrade Ekandjo is capable of putting that case across. For the land outside the urban areas, I think Comrade !Naruseb is also capable of putting across the case of the Government.

Having said that, let me end here and say, let us not jokes about issues which are so serious, namely poverty and land. We have to deal with that as a country and as I said, my Colleagues are in a position to put the case of the Government on our behalf. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. That does it for today. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:50 UNTIL 2012.10.04 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
04 OCTOBER 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: I have an announcement to make and that is to invite all the Members to the official launch ceremony of the Parliament Support Programme of the European Union being implemented by the Conrad Adenauer Stiftung and Transtec which will take place during the tea-break in the courtyard of the Parliament.

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

**TABLING: REPORTS ON DEPUTY SPEAKER'S
FAMILIARISATION VISITS TO REGIONS**

HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table for discussion, on behalf of the Deputy Speaker:

1. The Report on the Deputy Speaker's Familiarisation Visit to the Oshikoto Region from 2 – 13 May 2012;

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

2. The Report on the Deputy Speaker's Familiarisation Visit to the Omusati Region from 30 July 2012 to 11 August 2012.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

A Summary Report on the Government of Namibia Land Acquisition and Development Fund, Fisheries Observer Fund, Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision and National Arts Council, all for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2011.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Reports? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Question 24 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 24:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

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HON NGHIMTINA

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The question by Honourable Moongo is whether Air Namibia is going to buy some buses to ferry passengers from the terminal to the plane and vice versa. This is something on which the Cabinet has already taken a decision and I do not know whether the Honourable Member got some information somewhere else, but we are waiting for the Budget and then we will provide for these buses. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 25 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 25:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I appreciate this opportunity to respond to this question. We are rehabilitating that section of road at Onethindi. Only recently the blacktop has been removed and the bypass is now being arranged and then we can repair that section. The reason is that that section is regularly under water and we have to do it properly to minimise the occurrence of what happened in the past. This is the reason why we have removed the cover and it will be completed within two or three months. Thank you very much.

HON MOONGO: I would like to thank the Minister for a proper answer. It is a good example to the other Honourable Minister and they should answer in the same way.

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RT HON N ANGULA

HON SPEAKER: Question 26 is by Honourable Von Wietersheim.
Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 26:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I put the Question.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The content of the question is directed at the wrong office. The Office of the Prime Minister has nothing to do with the organisation of this event, its timing, the postponement of Parliament, etcetera. I ask the Honourable Member to direct the question to the right authority. Thank you.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, in a way I expected this detour by the Right Honourable Prime Minister as I suppose this question is not easy to answer, but there is one that is definitely directed at the right office and that is the question about the Public Servants. I asked how many Public Servants were present at the conference, because the Right Honourable Prime Minister addressed them directly and how many of them actually took leave from their Public office to attend that conference during working hours. I would say that that is definitely a question directed to the Prime Minister. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I beg the Honourable Member to put that question separately.

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I do not understand that, Honourable Speaker.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am advising the Honourable Member to put that question independently from other related questions. Then I can answer it in its own context.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Von Wietersheim, you yourself said that a particular question was relevant to the Office of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is saying you should ask that question on its own, not linked to other questions.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I understood that now, Honourable Speaker. On a Point of Order, I am surprised that this part of the question is not contained in the Question Paper. Point no. 7 of my question which was tabled in writing is missing from the Question Paper. However, I will gladly put that question again to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, the Prime Minister will be here, you will be here, I will be here, so just put that particular question on its own merit and the Prime Minister will respond to it. Question 27 is by Honourable Chief Justus //Garoëb. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 27:

HON //GARÖEB: I put the Question.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I am a bit unclear about the legal framework that is perceived to regulate these kinds of activities from the sector of Finance. I am not aware of any of the laws that are administered by the Minister of Finance that regulate the participation in lotteries. I have tried to familiarise myself, but I am just not able to find any such law. If the Chief has any specific law in mind, it would assist me greatly if he makes reference to that and then I will do my investigation and advise him accordingly.

HON //GARÖEB: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I put these two questions in relation to the Gambling Act in terms of which one is free to participate in lotteries outside the country. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: The Ministry of Finance is not administering any law that governs gambling. I do not know whether that instrument is in the form of an Act already or whether it is still a Bill, but whatever stage it is in, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism would probably be the relevant Ministry to deal with any question related to that matter.

HON SPEAKER: Question 29 is by Honourable Ulenga. Does Honourable Ulenga put the Question?

QUESTION 29:

HON ULENGA: I put the Question.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Ulenga, veld-fires are a threat to our environment. They have been burning throughout the length and breadth of our Republic, destroying vegetation and grazing and also the environment. Now you are asking how many fires are burning somewhere and I am afraid I am one of those people who do not want to count fires because they can start burning on my farm any time. The fact of the matter is that it has become a hazard in our country. Sometimes they are caused by lightning, sometimes they are caused by hunters, people looking around for honey, sometimes by charcoal producers and sometimes by the recklessness of smokers. I am happy that there is only one smoker in our place here who remains unnamed and he is very careful, he will not throw a cigarette around.

Actually the right question would have been what could be done to fight this hazard. That is really the question, what could be done to fight the hazard in terms of disaster management. We are organising the Regional Authorities to beef up their disaster management teams and equip them to be able to deal with these disasters, these fire hazards.

At the same time I want to thank the patriotic Namibians, especially the farmers. There is a great solidarity among the farmers. When they see a fire burning, all of them, without being invited, come with whatever equipment they have to put down the fires. That is a spirit we must encourage among our people, to protect the environment and to assist each other as neighbours, because today the fire is on my farm, tomorrow it might be on yours if the lightning strikes.

Therefore, we do recognise that we have a challenge of fire hazards in our country and we have not found a viable way to deal with these fires, Mr Ulenga, I must admit. I thank you for your question.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I must say I am a little taken aback by the response that comes from the Prime Minister. Being the Leader of Government Business in the House, it sounds like the Prime Minister is taking this question as a joke. Indeed, if the Prime Minister

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RT HON ANGULA**

reads the question like I know how he would read it, both on the lines and between the lines, the concern is about the possible absence of proper liaison and cooperation between your office as the office wherein these emergencies are being controlled and handled and the other institutions out there.

The reason why I am asking how many, I want to trace how much coordination exists and what reports come to the Prime Minister, because from that I would know that there is indeed some care being taken. (Interjection). Shut up, shut up. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Let us listen to one another.

HON ULENGA: You are used to interrupting people, who interrupts you when you talk?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulena continue. Are you done?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I just sat down because you used the hammer.

HON SPEAKER: No, I wanted order in the House, you have the Floor.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Right Honourable Prime Minister, like I was saying before there was an interruption, there is

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RT HON ANGULA**

great concern with regard to these fires. As you may have seen, there have been fires burning almost all over the whole country. There was an incident where people burnt to death in the exercise of trying to put out these fires. So, my question is really seeking to know how much control is there from the Office of the Prime Minister in dealing with these hazards that are occurring all over the country and how much action is taken against all these incidents or eventualities caused, besides lightning, by man-made incidents like smoking and bee hunting.

There where I have my goats the posts burnt out completely. When I was driving from Katima the other day, elephants have burnt in Western Caprivi. Last year there was a fire in Etosha, this year there was again a fire, I do not know how many assets and how many game were lost. Therefore, what I am seeking in this is to hear from the Prime Minister exactly how much reporting is coming into your office, how much are you forewarned about these fires and what possible action is taking place from your office.

I think the question is well-directed and if you say the right question should have been something else, I still insist this is the right kind of question. I thank you.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I think Honourable Ulenga misunderstood me, I did state the seriousness of the veld-fires in our country. I acknowledge that and I fail to understand why he is saying that I am treating this as a trivial question. No, it is a very serious question.

What I am saying is that the drawback is that we are not equipped to deal with these veld-fires as a disaster management institution, but we are investigating possibilities of how to form intra-sectoral partnerships, for example, with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, because they are the ones who are supposed to protect the forests, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Defence and the Police. We do not actually have proper equipment to respond to a veld-fire and we are

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now investigating whether we can actually have equipment which can be located in the Regions.

Normally when people call my office, they want me to tell the army somewhere to go and help them, but the army is equally ill-equipped, it does not have equipment to put down the fires. I recognise it is a serious hazard to the environment and to the economy of the country and also to the safety of our people. Unfortunately we are not yet there to be able to respond to these hazards effectively. That is all what I am saying. Thank you.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HON MOONGO: I would like to put an Oral Question to the Minister of Education: Is the Minister aware of the noise caused by the trade fair near Mweshipandeka Primary School during examination time? If he is aware of it, can I accept that some other Ministry motivated these people to hold trade fairs next to schools and make a noise to increase the failure rate so that they can again blame the Ministry of Education. During the examinations they had a trade fair next to the school.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, I am not aware of the situation but I undertake to find out.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ulenga.

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON ULENGA**

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, a short, sweet question to the Minister of Education: I would like to pose the following question to Dr Abraham Iyambo, Minister of Education: Can the Minister confirm or deny the reports that a certain teacher and principal of Omutwe gwomuntu School called Ms Ndamanomhata, had been transferred and if the Minister can confirm that, I would like to know whether this transfer has been politically motivated or otherwise. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: For the future, we try not to speak about people who are not represented in the House, so maybe just reference to a particular school and the issue could have sufficed without mentioning her name.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I would like to answer if the question is complete. Transferred where to? Then I will be able to answer.

HON SPEAKER: Let us continue. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
VETERANS AMENDMENT BILL**

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

04 October 2012 **SECOND READING: VETERANS AMENDMENT
BILL
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Honourable Shixwameni adjourned the Debate. In his absence, any further discussion? Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. To start with I would like to congratulate the Minister responsible for Veterans Affairs, given the centrality and the importance of these Amendments to improve on the current Act. I have a few observations and maybe I should go page by page, but before I do that, let me perhaps first look at those areas that I think are important that should have been included in the Act.

The first one is that I do not see within the frame of the Amendments benefits or specific reference to Comrades who have passed away before they were registered or recognised, because we have many incidences of people who, either the Political Party, relatives or friends, Comrades and others would have positively testified that such a person would otherwise have qualified as a veteran had the person had the opportunity to apply and to be interviewed. I think the Amendment should actually make provision for such circumstances because such people actually do exist, some are still alive who did not have the opportunity to apply maybe because they are late and yet nothing would have accrued in their favour and there are quite a number of them. My proposal is that we should craft the Act in such a way to empower the Minister, at least in the Section dealing with tokens or appreciation, that the Minister has that power to be able to posthumously recognise such veterans within the ambit of the Act.

Secondly I would want to refer to Page 7, particularly the Section that deals with the cut-off dates, when the liberation struggle started. In terms of the Act and these Amendments the liberation struggle started in 1959 and I think we have a problem there. I would want us to go a step backwards so that we redefine when the struggle actually started. I would submit that the struggle for liberation, that is the second phase after the

04 October 2012 **SECOND READING: VETERANS AMENDMENT**
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genocide, started in the 1940's when the first petition to the UN was submitted. Those mothers and fathers who actually initiated the petition to the United Nations in order for the UN to intervene and get rid of the illegitimate South African occupation of Namibia are the ones who influenced partly the subsequent political thinking that culminated into the formation of liberation movements, specifically the first one, SWANU. I say partly because there were student movements and other formations which were not necessarily Political Parties, but this category of petitioners, among them people like Bertholdt Himumuine, Kambanderu Kandjeu Kauta. Actually the first person to have signed the petition that went to the UN, but then the petition was returned to be signed by Chief Hosea Kutako, but even if we have to take Chief Hosea Kutako himself, the greatest petitioner, this Act may not have taken him on board. You have others like our dear Reverend Hatumbangela and others who would perhaps not qualify under this Act particularly on the basis of the petition.

Therefore, I would suggest that we include that period before 1959 as part of the liberation struggle period so that many of such people could actually be included. Of course, many of them are late now, but again posthumously, some are still alive. I recall that about two months ago I attended a funeral in Aminuis Onderombapa of a lady who was one of those petitioners. People are there and I think we should try to be as inclusive as possible. I know it is not going to be a heavy financial burden because after all, that category of people are not that many.

The 1959, 10th of December massacres should actually also be recognised as a special category in the Act, much as we have recognised the Pretoria trial events, the Cassinga event, the Vietnam and others, for the reason that some of those who were injured are still alive. That category should also be recognised in the Act.

Secondly, many of those people from the Old Location who had to suffer that incident of the 10th December 1959 were actually banished to the rural areas and had to endure suffering in those communal areas. They were actually banned and we have many examples. Therefore, those incidents

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in our historical epoch are important.

I would want to illustrate the period before 1959, not only in terms of the petitioners, but let me illustrate with another example which is also pertinent, because many people who were politically active, who were fighting by all means necessary, as defined in the Act, started that revolution before 1959. For example, it is given that in 1958 Ya Toivo succeeded in sending a petition, protesting against the migrant labour system and South African occupation of Namibia inside a copy of Treasure Island to the United Nations with the assistance of Mburumba Kerina and Michael Scott. This cost him to be deported from South Africa when the South Africans traced the tape to its source. He arrived in Keetmanshoop and Windhoek and later to Ovamboland where he was placed under house arrest in his home village, Oniipa. That is just an example. Of course, he was not alone, there were many people who were already fully engaged in this struggle some time before 1959. Therefore, it is important that we take that into account and allow such people to actually be included.

Coming to the technicalities of the Act and I want to refer you to Page 6, Section 6(b), it says that, "*Section 30 of the principal Act is amended by substitution for Paragraph (b) of Subsection (2) of the following Paragraphs: In terms of widow and widower who is a widow or widower of such a veteran is entitled to receive assistance only until such date as he or she for a period of one year, but the assistance ceases if the widow or widower remarries.*" The question is, why should assistance cease if the widow or widower remarries? Suppose this widower remarries a spouse who is unemployed? What if the widower marries a poor person? We cannot just stop the assistance to a widow or widower just because that person remarried. Then I think we are defeating the intention of this Act because we want to assist those who were left behind by the recognised veterans.

Let us refer to Section 27 on Page 4 and this one is very critical. Section 27(2) reads: "*A veteran is a person who was a member of the liberation*

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forces, provided the person was above 18 years of age on the 21st of March 1990.” (b) of that: “A veteran is a person who consistently and persistently participated or engaged in any political, diplomatic or underground activity in furtherance of the liberation struggle up to the date of Independence or owing to his or her participation in the liberation struggle was convicted whether in Namibia or elsewhere of any offence closely connected to the struggle and sentenced to imprisonment, provided the person continued with the liberation struggle activities after being released.”

The problems with these provisions are the following because Section 3 says: *“For purposes of Subsection (2)(b), the following persons are considered to be veterans.”* (a) talks about those who survived Cassinga, (b), those who survived Vietnam. (Intervention)

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:24

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me restate the latter portion of my intervention because I see some inconsistency in this Amendment and that is Section 27 on Page 4 that reads that a veteran is a person who consistently and persistently contributed to the liberation struggle. However, when you turn to Page 5, Subsection (3) says: *“For purposes of Subsection (2)(b) the following persons are considered to be veterans”* and it talks about Cassinga, Vietnam, persons who were captured or detained or held by the colonial forces between 1959 and the 21st of March, people who were captured, detained or held as accused during the Pretoria trial, persons who were captured or detained and tortured by the colonial forces, etcetera. The contradiction is here:

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Section 2(b) says a veteran is a person who consistently and persistently participated or engaged in any political, diplomatic or underground activity in the furtherance of the liberation struggle up to the date of Independence, however the next Section is now specific to say a veteran is a person who in terms of Section 2(b) is considered to be a veteran following Cassinga, Vietnam and so that they talked about. It means now Section 3(a) to (e) is negating the general purpose of Section 2(b), because now it excludes a person who has participated and contributed to the struggle diplomatically, politically and so on. I think the Amendment should be amended to say that for the purposes of Section 2(b) or in addition. These things should actually be added to the general purpose or the general description as provided for in 2(b). Otherwise it will exclude and negate the original purpose as given in Section 2(b). My proposal is that we should say in addition to Section 2(b). Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Just for record-keeping, the birthday of these petitions going to the United States is 24 October 1945. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. We are looking at a very important Act and Amendments. The previous speaker has touched on a number of issues that I also want to touch on and therefore, I will try to be very brief.

Honourable Speaker, when we are talking about veterans we need to look at what the word “*veteran*” means and then on the basis of that we develop our argument around the exact meaning of the word “*veteran*”.

When we look at the categories of veterans, I find it a bit tricky in the sense that the moment you start pinning down an Act to certain specifics, it will definitely exclude those who were not included in that list of the

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identified veterans. I am saying this because if you look at the list of those who will be regarded as veterans, it is completely out of the definition itself and secondly, it also excludes certain categories of people who by definition could have benefited from this Act.

If one looks at the categories that were mentioned here and go back to 1974, 1975, there was a group of workers and students who have taken the struggle inside the country up to a certain point, a process that has helped to get people out to join the liberation struggle outside. There were people outside who did not participate militarily and I do not know where they belong because it is not possible to know almost everybody, people should come to you themselves and not you identifying them. I find this category not to be considered, unless you have been outside, you joined the armed struggle and you are known to have been a soldier. (Interjection). The Minister will respond, unless you are trying to tell me that the Minister is not capable of responding. I am sure he will respond.

Then, Honourable Minister, looking at this definition, I have been thinking, where do we place the children of the fighters, the survivors of the war of genocide, people living in Gam and Eiseb Block right now? If you look at this definition, they are not included in one way or another and I have not seen for a moment a concerted effort from the Government's side to even try to develop a specific intervention programme to address the issue of these returnees and look at this Act, they are not there, unless somebody will come and say they will be covered under this Section. Whether they are not being regarded as having contributed to the struggle is a question to be answered and I hope the Minister will be able to shed light on that, because there are a lot of complaints about where are we in the process of Government looking at us and doing what for us. Minister, you definitely need to look at that. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** May I ask Honourable Tjihiuko a question? Within the same premises of the children of the fighters or the people who are in

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Gam, where do you place the children of the people who were in the concentration camps in Namibia? Where do you place the children of the people who were in the concentration camps and after they were released from the concentration camps were dumped in the reserves and started working on the farms?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, that was actually my next point and in fact, I just wanted to remind us when I was talking about that issue, that on the 3rd of October 2011, yesterday a year ago, Honourable Kazenambo together with the Traditional Leaders brought skulls, human remains back from Germany. I do not know how they got there, I do not know whether the children of these people will qualify according to these categories.

I want us to look at this Act as a unifying Act, I want us to look at this Act as the Act that would seriously consider our traverse communities' contributions to the liberation struggle. I want us to go beyond the thinking of Political Parties. There are communities that have contributed immensely to the liberation of this country. Half of the Nama's were wiped out because they were resisting, 85% of the Herero's were wiped out. Where do we place them? Why should we count down to 1959? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Continue with the list of those who were wiped out, do not stop.

HON TJIHUIKO: Obviously there were the Damara's, the San and the list goes on, but the point is that I am a bit concerned when we start looking at a cut-off line. What are we trying to say? Are we only recognising the time when we actively started participating in the struggle and forget about what the others have done? It is a bit risky, it gives a

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wrong impression to those who have contributed. Let us look at that, Honourable Minister.

As leaders we need to talk about things which we may not like to talk about, but it is an issue that is there. I want us to consider those SWAPO members who, unfortunately, were detained and released shortly before Independence. Obviously these people have not abandoned the struggle, they are assets, they have contributed to the economic development of this country. I wish to could name their names but obviously I cannot do that.

When the Minister responds I want him to touch on some of these issues because they are critical issues that the public wants to know. Some of us who are representing the voiceless in the community will raise these things so that the Honourable Minister can answer.

Lastly, I want us to listen to this carefully. Honourable Speaker, I am busy reading a very interesting book and this book is about The Covert War, the Koevoet and SWATF from 1979 to 1989. I will not be surprised to see tears when Jerry Ekandjo and Ngatjizeko read this book, but the fact of the matter is that the Koevoet and SWATF, black people who were participating, were tools. We know that they were forced into this war. We know that there was a situation where they could not have done it. I am not saying that they should be part of this, but let us look at these young people who were misled and used by the South Africans to fight our own people. That is where the question of national reconciliation comes in. It is a sensitive issue, but let us talk about it. We are the leaders and we are here to solve problems. We cannot continue ignoring the issue of the Koevoet. I do not want to see a situation where fellow Namibians, our brothers and sisters, are running to South Africa for help. They are running to South Africa, they are registering in South Africa because they have started losing confidence in our own Government. That is not good.

Let us take the bull by the horns and address the issue. Whether we look at it from this Amendment's point of view or whether we have another system, my point is that we cannot continue pretending that there is no problem. We have trained, frustrated people roaming the streets and I call

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upon us as leaders to seriously sit back and think about that. Sooner than later we must address that issue. With this, Honourable Speaker, I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to make my contribution to this very important Amendment Bill, the *Veterans Amendment Bill*.

Before I come to the specifics, I want to refer to the long title where it states: *“To repeal the provision on the establishment of the pension integrated scheme for veterans and to substitute it by any once-off gratuity.”* I just want this to be made clear, whether we mean there are some veterans who currently receive a monthly pension of N\$2,000 and then the once-off grant is the N\$50,000. Is the N\$2,000 now being repealed and if that is the case, how will we remedy the reality we have already created that there are people who already receive the N\$2,000 per month. I am sure the Minister will explain whether the N\$2,000 is now removed. If it is to be integrated, will it be integrated into the N\$550 which is now given to all the elder people and Orphans and Vulnerable Children?

To come to the specifics, Honourable Maamberua and Tjihuiko referred to Section 27, but there are no contradictions in the two Subsections. This indicates the qualification for somebody to register as a veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran. It indicates that you must have those qualifications for you to be recognised. For a young person to be recognised as a veteran, he or she should have been 18 years of age by 21 March 1990. Then under (b) it says *“consistently and persistently participated or engaged in any political, diplomatic or underground*

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activity in furthering of the liberation struggle up to the date of Independence”, which is 21 March 1990.

Honourable Tjihuiko’s concern is covered, the unions participated in political activities, the students participated in politics and everything is included here. Therefore, I do not know why we want to bring in even Koevoet.

We in Namibia can feel proud that we are the only country in the whole world who managed to unite the two forces that were physically fighting each other. I know this one was Koevoet, this one was SWATF, this one was chasing me with a Casspir, I know them, but we reconciled with them. We have them in our army and they are even decorated, but you cannot recognise that person as a veteran of the liberation. Even if you want to please them to get their votes, you cannot do that. A hero just like a veteran has its own dynamics, because your hero is not my hero and similarly your veteran of the liberation struggle is not my veteran. There is a clear distinction between your interpretation and mine. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Deputy Minister Iilonga, would you be happy to see a section of your community, your citizens, being financially assisted by a foreign country? Would you be happy to see the day when these people are being financially supported by a foreign country? Just a simple Yes or No.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: One never just says yes or no, you make a statement. Honourable Tjihuiko, I cannot be happy. How can I be happy if these people you defend were supported financially by those people to kill me, to kill many of my Comrades and how can I now have sympathy when they did not have sympathy when they chased us with the Casspirs? (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I think what he missed is the interpretation of law. It should be actual, not just ordinary words, actual and not just ordinary interpretation.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Moongo, you are as you are and you will remain Honourable Moongo. The question here is only that there is definitely no way we can say our people in Gam are excluded and they are even registered. They registered with the Veterans Ministry. Those who participated sent their children and they were accommodated by our peace-loving neighbours. They contributed and that is why we say those who contributed through any means, whether political, diplomatic or underground. It includes those who were in Botswana and those who were in this country.

Under 3(b) it says: “*a person who was captured, detained or held by the colonial forces at Vietnam.*” Nobody was held at Vietnam, they were only captured from Vietnam and held at Kaichanachab and this should be amended. The same goes for Section 4(b)(ii). Also what is important for Honourable Tjihiuko to follow is; a person who was captured, detained or held by the colonial forces before or after the Cassinga massacre in 1978 and who after their release did not continue with the liberation struggle, that person can still be in the category of being given a token and a condition is attached to it, “*provided that such person did not join the enemy forces.*” That is clear and we cannot try to please people who did not participate. Even up to now there are still those who are still trying to undermine this Government, but we have an Honourable Member who wants this group to be recognised. Up to now we have not heard that the South African Government is going to give money. Their masters are no longer there, the ANC is in charge and I do not think the ANC will not contact their Comrades with whom they were fighting and suffered under those Koevoet and SWATF. (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO: I think you will maybe not understand the point, but the Minister will probably understand that interpretation of a law cannot be contradictory. There you say persistently and here you say those who did not re-join. It is contradictory.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Moongo wants to pretend that he is a lawyer. The “*consistently and persistently*” refer to those who were captured and never wavered. They still persisted with the struggle whether on Robben Island, whether in Osire or Dordabis. They stood firm and there is no contradiction here.

With those few comments on the Bill I thank the Comrade Minister for bringing this important Bill. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a last question? Honourable Deputy Minister, when you have an Act of Parliament it should be inclusive. Parliament cannot make a law which targets a specific group of people, it will be discriminatory.

Therefore, when you have a law that is more specific on supporting specific names, then it is wrong and not only that it is wrong, it is unconstitutional. Before you answer, take your answer together with Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution, because the moment you say that the people who should benefit from this Act should be Herero’s from Okakarara and you are trying to justify that this is for everybody, people are not blind.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Tjihuiko suffers from a tribal syndrome and you even want to misquote the Constitution. Those who were captured

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and killed in Cassinga were not from the same tribe only, neither those who were detained. Bring an example of what is wrong in the law. This law does not exclude anybody, it tells you that a person who consistently and persistently participated or engaged in any political, diplomatic or underground activities in the furtherance of the liberation struggle up to the end at Independence. Which other tribes is excluded here? I am done, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Uutoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:
Comrade Speaker, I also want to look at Page 4 under Amendment of Section 22 of Act 2 of 2008. I do not know whether this Amendment is addressing what I am trying to say here now. This one is talking about the funding of projects. Comrade Minister of Veterans Affairs, I think in the principal Act nothing is provided for veterans to come up with joint ventures when it comes to projects and this is a problem.

Let us say I came up with a business proposal and I look at the estimation of a given project and when I look at that estimation on my project, it gives me round about five to seven hundred thousand. Let us say I want to build a restaurant and it costs me that amount and I know very well that the money that I should receive from Veterans Affairs is only N\$200,000. I cannot go to a fellow veteran who also qualified and then say we should join hands and build that restaurant. The Act does not provide for that. Even if couples have a project, they cannot come together. Your wife has to initiate a different project, you have to initiate a different project, yet you want to come up with a project that is sustainable and will sustain you for years and years to come.

If this Amendment does not address this situation, it would be good if this can be addressed, for veterans to join hands. What is currently taking

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place is that you are not given money in the form of cash. If you want to build a Restaurant the Veterans Affairs Ministry has to supply you with materials, therefore it is also difficult to enter into joint ventures. Maybe an Amendment here is very important. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I feel as if the Honourable Minister has really opened up a can of worms with this Amendment Bill and I do not know how one is going to deal with this situation because there would be no end in sight of people claiming benefits from this Veterans Bill.

I want to refer the Minister to Page 4, Section 27(c) which states: “*No person qualifies for registration as a veteran or dependent of a living or deceased veteran unless that person, owing to his or her participation in the liberation struggle was convicted whether in Namibia or elsewhere of any offence closely connected to the struggle and sentenced to imprisonment, provided the person continued with the liberation struggle activities after being released.*”

We are all aware of the fact that there are people who ended up in prison in exile like Andreas Shipanga, Philemon Moongo, Uapanda Kaura Joseph Karuihe and many others. Where they would fall in this definition I do not know. Whether they would be regarded as not having continued with the struggle after they were released from prison or not, where they would be placed I do not know. Two are alive and two are no more.

The fact that we are dealing with the deceased persons, Honourable Minister, I have two lists for you here that I am going to present to you so that you can decide what to do with these lists. One of them is a list of people who disappeared during the liberation struggle as PLAN fighters.

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They were PLAN fighters and I have a long list here of these names, people from the Eastern Caprivi. Do you want me to read the names or what? Like Chaka Elvis or Joba Progress from Motikila, Muyako and so forth, Lennox Muiyiwa, people from Epukiro, Simon Hange, if you want me to go through the list just to give you a taste of it. People from Gibeon, like Abraham Basson, Jonathan Fredericks, people from Gobabis, Jeffy Kambato, Mushosho Greys, Ndlovu Ludwig, people from Grootfontein, Isak Damaseb, Gabes Gabriel, Professor Trougot Gurirab, his nickname Kaokoland, Martin Kavari, Epton Tjikotoke, Kavango, Haingura Katroli, Haikale Gabriel, Keetmanshoop – Daniel Fritz, Edward Goliat and so forth. Khorixas for example, Ismael Goraseb, Levy Nunuseb and many others. Lüderitz – Walter Snyman, Kallie Walter Snyman. Mariental – Motinga Gowaseb. Okahandja – Simon Afrikaner, Okalongo Mathew Haipinge and so forth. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Can I ask the Honourable Member a question? You have a list of certain people you said disappeared, but are you aware that we have a book of all those people who sacrificed in the struggle. Are they not part of that list?

HON KAURA: You have the list, I do not have the list, I have my list and I am saying I am going to give this to the Honourable Minister so that he can decide what to do with this because these are children of parents that need to benefit from the loss of the lives of their children. Are you saying that you do not consider these people as veterans? Are you not considering them as veterans or what? (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask a question?

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Honourable Kaura, from 1884 up to 1915, thirty-one years of German rule people were killed. From 1915 up to the 1st of April 1989 people were killed, 75 years under South African rule. Do you intend to read the names of all Namibians who died at the hands of colonisers for 106 years? Do you want to read to us the whole month of when are you going to finish? During that period people died, it was war. Are you now going to count all the Namibians throughout the 106 years, 31 years under the Germans and 75 years under racist South Africa? Are you now going to read all those names to this House or what is the purpose of reading those?

HON KAURA: I am asking the question, what are you going to do with the names of these former PLAN fighters? SWAPO was responsible for these people and they have parents that also want to benefit from the Veterans Bill. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, just for information, I know I will have the final say to respond, but I think there are a few things that need to be corrected straightaway. This law that we are dealing with is for the living veterans, number one. Secondly, there will be a separate law for those who have sacrificed. When that law comes and when the registration starts, Honourable Kaura, if those names you have on the list are names of PLAN fighters, as you claim, bring that list the and we can contrast what you have with the list that we have in SWAPO for PLAN fighters, because SWAPO Party has a list of people who sacrificed under SWAPO's care. When that time comes, please bring your list and let us see whether there are those that we know of.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Before the Honourable Minister responsible concludes, I just want to ask a question for clarity and rationality in the Debate. I want to believe that we want to improve this

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Amendment so that it reads as we would like it to be. I have serious doubts whether the intention of Honourable Kaura, knowing his background, his historical background and I hate to dig into people's backgrounds but sometimes it apparently becomes necessary, knowing that background and knowing what he is attempting to do, the list he is claiming to have, what type of list is that? I am so suspicious, very suspicious that the Minister is sort of agreeing with him that he is going to bring a law. I am saying the background of the gentleman is not clean and, therefore, that list cannot be a clean list. Why should we agree that he should provide that list? That is my comment.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Since the names of the people who have sacrificed has also been referred to earlier by some of the Honourable Members, I only wanted to attempt to say there will be a law that will deal with those departed Comrades and if the names that are being said are the names of people that we know, yes, they will be accommodated, but if this is a hatched list, it will also become obvious that this is your own list which we do not know and you yourself should know where you got it from and what that means.

HON KAURA: I wonder who has a clean background in this House, I wonder with the dungeons of Lubango behind you, do you really have a clean list and the 1st of April and what happened to those three hundred young people that were pushed into this country to come and die? Who has a clean list in this country? If we go to that, everyone has a skeleton in his closet.

Honourable Minister, I appreciate your answer and I am going to give you this list. If it is fake you will be able to identify whether it is fake or it is correct, I will give you that list. So thank you for that answer.

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Secondly, we have this other list of the hundred and fifty-four....
(Intervention)

HON ULENGA: I would like to pose a question. Honourable Speaker, I would not have liked to interrupt my neighbour, Honourable Kaura, but listening to the topic that he is dealing with now and especially hearing the Minister saying a few things in reaction to his speech, I was just wondering, Honourable Kaura, whether you think perhaps there is a possibility of an independent bystander who can pass a verdict that would not be biased and would be independent in all this that you are talking about or are we going to be caught up into this push-and-pull which is very much like everybody dealing with its own list and it is only their list which is the genuine list. Can we get off and beyond our and their list? Can we not just have a list?

HON KAURA: I think after 22 years in this House we ought to have just a list because these are our fellow Namibians and they have parents and when we are dealing with this veteran issue where under Section 27 it deals with those living or deceased veterans, and this is the list of deceased veterans, that is why I brought it here and I want to present it to the Minister.

The other one is a list of 154 members and it was sent to the Honourable Minister by those who were NUDO members in 1964 that left this country and went into exile and some of them ended up in prison. They consider themselves as veterans and they feel qualified to be considered as such and they gave me this list to also present to the Minister. So, in good time as we are adjourning I am going to give two lists to the Minister so that you can have a look at it. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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HON KAZENAMBO**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Before I come to the specifics of the Amendment of Section 36 of Act 2 of 2008, I would like to follow-up on the interesting version that was mentioned by Honourable Maamberua about the period of the petition and the affected people which also the Speaker mentioned. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The UN was founded on the 24th of October 1945.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** The armed liberation struggle was from 1969 onwards after Ongulumbashe or 1959 if we take the massacre in the Old Location, no problem, but the movement of petitioning the United Nations dates back beyond 1948, because before Michael Scott came to Namibia he arrived in Botswana. He got in touch with the leadership of the Namibians who lived in the Diaspora, who were refugees, and it was Chief Frederick Maharero, not Samuel Maharero, who referred the person called Reverend Scott to Hosea Kutako, that yes, meet the Namibians back home and also hear their opinion and we do the petitioning. So, the petitioning for the Independence of Namibia goes way beyond 1948. The movement started with the refugees, the descendants of Namibians who were in Botswana, in the Diaspora. That is just to amplify on the historical facts.

Some of the people who played a very critical role during that period will be found in Gam as we are talking. They played a role in the forties and they are still living in Gam. It is through this movement that this list of 150 emanated from, that is why there could be grounds and understanding

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for the people who were living in the Diaspora to accommodate the generation of Namibian freedom fighters who were the likes of the Founding President, Sam Nujoma, followed by the likes of Theo-Ben Gurirab, Peter Katjavivi, Maxton Mutongolumbe who, for those who do not know....(Interjections)

If we were to put history in perspective as it is and to claim ownership of the liberation struggle, Maxton Mutongolumbe Joseph is one of those people who were recruited in Botswana, who used to work in the mines in South Africa. Some were recruited from Francistown by Peter Nayemba, Dr Hage Geingob way back in the sixties. It is a group of them. Some were recruited in Shakawe. When they came from wenela, they arrived there as contract labourers from the mines, they will visit the villages, they will integrate with their brothers and sisters in the form of Herero's who were born in exile in Shakawe and then the spirit of the liberation struggle was that some of them will remain there and some of them will stay in Gam. So these things did not start yesterday. That category also needs to be considered.

That is why when Honourable Kaura, the late Kozonguizi, Riruako, Theo-Ben Gurirab, Hage Geingob and Nayemba's arrived there, the consciousness was already built. That is why you hear of the Munamava's. Kazenambo was a Civil Servant in a colonial administration, a British one, so as a Civil Servant he could not openly participate, but he was sponsoring the liberation struggle through underground activities and there are many of them in Gam who supported this movement. It is not SWAPO and SWANU, some of them went there under the Herero Council through Michael Scott, Frederick Maharero and even Hosea Kutako and for those who do not know, that is where the struggle is coming from.

At one point when Botswana became a protectorate, there was a choice for then South West Africa, German South West Africa during the time of mandate, whether it must be reunion with the Union of South Africa and that is when Michael Scott played a critical role and that is where Maharero and Hosea Kutako and other leaders said no, Namibia cannot

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become part of the Union of South Africa. That is where we are coming from. It was way beyond 1959 and the struggle was there in the Diaspora. Mahalapye, Maun, etc, this was the theatre of the struggle.

That is why I am saying that when we are to interpret it and put it in perspective, the political one was not a Namibian question alone, it was the Namibian one even in the Diaspora and some of these Namibians you will find them in Gam as we are talking.

Moving further before I come to the specifics, we were born into it whether we like it or not, it was not imposed on us, we were born into it. We used to sing a song when we were kids, "*Muhona tupao South West Africa, kondoroka nomikuma via South West Africa,.....* " (Song) meaning this country, way back as a kid. It is not something we are fantasising about, it has roots and background and it encompasses all Namibians irrespective of colour. In fact, for those who do not know, Michael Scott was not the only white miracle, there were white British liberals who were supporting the liberation struggle with connections with the ANC and the Communist Party. So, it is not the Von Wietersheim that we saw yesterday in SWAPO, it dates back to the fifties and sixties. There were progressive white Namibians here.

Coming to my point on the issue of the beneficiaries and the lumping of issues which we like to do for political purposes, nothing wrong with politicising, I thought that this law was debated here in this Parliament and it was passed here and really, there is no point in mixing the laws as if issues do not stand on their own merits and I will repeat that. This law is a specific law addressing a specific issue and if we realise that there are equally issues that are similar to this one, that has the potential for maintaining peace and stability in this country, let us introduce them in this House, debate them on their own merit, consider them without confusing this law. We may amplify and debate it as competently as Honourable Maamberua has done it, but if we drift in the manner as Honourable Tjihiuko did, it is a pity and we should not do it that way. Can we become nationalists and progressive as we preach for once? If we are to look into the manner that Tjihiuko was presenting it (interjection).

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No listen to me, I have the Floor, let me also be respected. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: I will ensure that the Minister is.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** Apparently I do not deserve to be respected. Anyway, the point that I was going to belabour and that I was driving to, if we are to speak the truth, I listened to Comrade Tjiuiko and that is why I asked him what about the children of the people who were thrown in the concentration camps and then they were thrown into very overcrowded reserves where there is no life, because I was trying to make a point to say that, *“please let us not politicise it for political votes.”*

Yes, the children of the fighters of 1904-1907, some of whom are settled in Gam, will qualify and I am not trying to mix issues here. If we are to take that premise, it may sound convenient, but there is no stopping it, because all of us sitting here, all Namibians, are the children of fighters.

Who was not fighting in this country? Who is that child? Who is not a child or a grandchild of a fighter? Colonialism affected all of us, these massacres affected all of us and I am not saying that there was no war of genocide, but the war of genocide should be seen from a Namibian perspective although it affected certain communities. That is why I am saying, where do we leave the children of the people who were released from the concentration camps? Many of them are here. Where do you leave the children of the fighters of Mandume? Where do you leave the children of the fighters of Ipumbu ya Shilongo? Where do you leave the children of the fighters of Hendrik Witbooi? Where do you leave the children of the Damara's themselves that were killed? It will entangle us. It sounds convenient but if we are not careful, it will entangle us.

Therefore, let us deal with this law as it is and if we are talking about issues of resettlement of the people of Gam and Eiseb and their situation

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as returnees and say that Government has done nothing for them, then it is an understatement.

Yesterday, Comrade Nyamu of RDP was talking to me, he used to be my Comrade and my SWAPO leader and I asked him a question in that line. He came to me, congratulating me, saying that "*Kazenambo, you have developed Gam*" and I am not from Gam. To start with, I do not believe in the resettlement mentality, it was a colonial arrangement. I arrived in this country in 1989 as a refugee from Angola. In 1990 Namibia got Independence, I was living here in Windhoek, I had no association either by design or by reality with any reserve in Namibia. Therefore, I am not from Gam because the mentalities of those who are living in Bantustan reserves associate me with Gam because there are people who are resettled from Botswana, but I arrived in Döbra, a returnee from Angola. How can I become part of the returnees from Botswana?

However, Honourable Nyamu was trying to associate me with them because I went there to invest as a businessman. Yes, my grandmother was there, but he was saying that "*your Government of SWAPO is neglecting Gam, it is only you who are doing something.*" I said, "*Comrade Nyamu, you have been a Minister in this very same Government for more than fifteen years, is it only now that you are seeing the neglect, if there is a neglect?*" He started saying that I was speaking politics. He was a Minister of Mines.

I am trying to say that let us not mix issues. There are Namibian citizens, irrespective of where they find themselves, who are in unique situations and this is my point, there are Regions in this country and communities with unique backgrounds. Therefore, Comrade Tjihuiko, let us not confuse issues. It is not true that some of the people of Gam do not qualify. My own biological brother registered because our horses transported arms and they are in Gam, the horses which guerrillas used to ride on and there are many guides in Gam who used to guide guerrillas who used to penetrate through Kavango. They are there and they are registering.

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HON NGHIDINWA**

If we are talking about the entire community of Gam as returnees who are in a situation that needs to be addressed, then it is true that they need that just like the Tsumkwe community who are equally children of the fighters. Let us deal with those issues separately rather than linking the needs of special situations of communities, because I wonder where will we leave the people in Aminuis, in Otjinene, in Okakarara. Even in Onehanga deep in the bush in the Congo area there are children of the fighters of Mandume. Where do you leave them? Where do you leave the children in Caprivi?

Please let us address the situations as they are and I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to support the *Veterans Amendment Bill*, but I only have a small question to the Honourable Minister at Page 6, Clause 7(a), (b) and (c) which deal with the establishment of projects.

My question is based on the elder citizens. How are they going to manage those projects? I am asking this question because I learnt that in some villages most of them opted for tractors. If it is not tractors then it is these threshing machines, but some of them are not using these implements because the project proposals were all similar. How are we going to address this situation of especially the elder citizens? Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Shifeta.

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HON SHIFETA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** Comrade Speaker, I was trying to find a way of assisting some of the Honourable Members here. Our Veterans Act is very specific, it addresses a specific matter. The definition of “*veteran*” in the principal Act defines a veteran and our intention is clearly stipulated in the objective of the Act. Therefore, I feel we have to be careful. I am sure we want to solve every problem through the Veterans Act, but it cannot be done.

Even if you consult the dictionary, the word “*veteran*” is generic, it is somebody who has experience in different services. Ours is very specific and it is not good for us to start deviating from that and then widen the net. Eventually we will talk about people who have no housing, etcetera. Our Veterans Act is very clear and very specific and if there is anything else you want to include here, we can then talk about other legislation to be brought here. We have identified another section of people who cannot be part of this Veterans Act, but then what can we do to ensure that they also benefit? However, not under this Act, otherwise we will dilute this Act.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 9 October 2012 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.10.09 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
09 OCTOBER 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: I have the honour to announce to you, Honourable Colleagues, the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of a delegation from the sister Republic of Malawi, Members of Parliament, Members of the Business Committee of the National Assembly of Malawi. They are Honourable John Tembo, MP, a name that is well-known to many of us, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the delegation, Honourable Grace Maseko, MP, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development and Deputy Government Chief Whip; Honourable Lingson Belekanyama, Member of Parliament, Deputy Chief Whip for the Malawi Congress Party. The staff members accompanying them are Mr Joseph Unti, Personal Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Lawson Chitseko, Secretary of the delegation. You are most welcome colleagues. They have been with us, engaging the Committee the Speaker chairs, the Standing Committee on Rules and Orders and other Committees. We have kept them very busy and I urge them to visit Namibia again. This is not the first time for all of them, some have been here before in other capacities. I will myself be going back to Malawi starting tomorrow for some business there. It was not planned that way, but by happy coincidence that is the case. Therefore, I shall, as I threatened them, revenge. Once again welcome, feel at home.

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

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- Social Security Commission;
 - Employees Compensation Fund;
 - Maternity Sick Leave and Death Benefit Fund; and
 - Development Fund
- for the Financial Year ended 28 February 2011.
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Deputy Minister table the Reports. Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 30:

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on the 18th of October 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry:

It is a fact that moneys are always appropriated in this House to facilitate development in all thirteen Regions. What is the good reason that the main water pipeline from Omuthiya ended in Omutse Gwonime after more than twenty years? We expected it to be extended to reach Casablanca. Will the Minister explain why the money allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry was underspent and millions of dollars were returned to the Ministry of Finance before other services were accomplished? Was it done deliberately or intentionally so that SWAPO can cause more suffering to the poor people?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAURA**

QUESTION 31:

HON MOONGO: I further give Notice that on the 18th October 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Safety and Security the following:

1. Is the Minister of Safety and Security and the so-called SWAPO Party think-tank aware but ignoring or are you condoning the persistent on-going national outcry on the merciless dumping of babies, which I regard as the ruthless killing of women by men and men by women and parents by their biological children?
2. Is it not high time for the Minister to acknowledge the practical marshal plan to allocate money in the forthcoming Budget and establish committees in all 13 Regions and village committees in every village with experts to educate the community to understand the quality of life and social problems and solve social problems by peaceful means?
3. What practical plan does the Minister have in mind to cater for and solve this problem? Can the Minister explain?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kaura.

QUESTION 32:

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of October 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

Honourable Minister, when you travel on B.1 road from Windhoek to Keetmanshoop or Oshivelo, you see people with green garbage bags collecting bottles and plastic along the road, thus keeping Namibia clean.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

1. When last have you been to Katutura or the Central Hospital, because the surrounding areas of those two health institutions are littered with plastic and litter.
2. Do you not have the personnel to collect those plastics to keep the surrounding areas of those two health facilities clean?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni.

QUESTION 33:

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday next week I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

Noting with concern the situation of our country's declining ratings in almost all major aspects of our competitiveness in the world over the past three years, *inter alia* as indicated in:

1. The Rand Merchants Bank's latest ladder for the best African countries to invest in;
2. The Global Competitive Index (GCI) of the World Economic Forum;
3. Index of Economic Freedom; and
4. The Human Development Index;

I shall ask the Prime Minister as to what exact plans and strategies is Government putting in place to reverse our fortunes amongst the Nations of the world and make us once again competitive, as was the case in the 1990s, in order to prevent us from slipping further down the world's

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

competitive rankings and ratings before we become a Banana Republic.

QUESTION 34:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I further give Notice that on Thursday, 18 October 2012, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General the following questions:

Considering the unnecessary delays in the release of the 2008 National Labour Force Survey Report and later on the controversy and denials which characterised the release of the said Report which led to Cabinet having to ask the World Bank to re-analyse the data of the Survey just to almost reaffirm the same findings:

1. What steps have been taken and measures put in place this time around to avoid the unnecessary cost and repetition of the last Survey, hence avoiding further waste of Public expenditure?
 2. How well have the field personnel this time around contracted by the Statistics Commission in all Regions been trained and prepared to ensure that at the end of the day we get reliable labour force statistical data?
 3. Can the Minister assure us that the results of the 2012 Survey will not be delayed as was the case with the 2008 Survey which was only released after three years?
 4. Can the Minister assure this House and the nation at large that it will not be a statistical political exercise merely trying to politically repudiate the last Survey statistics for the convenience of the forthcoming 2014 election?
-

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

QUESTION 35:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of October 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following questions:

Noting the pathetic situation of our citizens in most squatter camps around the country, christened by the Government as “*informal settlements*”, I would like to ask about the particular situation around Tsumeb’s Kuvuki Land:

1. Is the Kuvuki Land informal settlement a legal or illegal settlement?
2. If it is illegal, why did the Tsumeb Municipality in the first place install water meters and taps and then thereafter decided to close the same?
3. Is it healthy to have people fetch water from the public toilet in Soweto whilst the public water points in Kuvuki Land remain closed by the municipality’s design?
4. When will the water points in Kuvuki Land be reopened to allow people easy access to safe drinking water?

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON KAURA / HON SHIXWAMENI

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 11th of October 2012, I shall Move –

That this august House –

Discusses the controversial dispensing regulation by Namibian Medicines and Related Substances Council related to the implementation of the Ministry of Health's Act 23 of 2003, with a view to unconditionally rescind its instruction to Medical Aid schemes to stop paying medicines dispensed by doctors and further instruct Medical Aids to continue paying doctors until all the doctors' licences have been processed for the sake of patient care.

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

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 16th of October 2012, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Debates the need to –

1. Put up a moratorium on the sudden rampant and haphazard wave of renaming of streets, schools, other Government institutions and public places to living personalities and propose the need for a national policy framework which will regulate the naming and renaming process of places and institutions countrywide;
2. That Parliament puts up a joint committee of both Houses, to be assisted by professionals, to research on the best practices of how naming and renaming of streets, schools and other public institutions as handled in other countries and to make recommendations on the

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON TWEYA**

matter for consideration and approval by the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 10th of October 2012, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Considers and approves Namibia's Industrial Policy by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Honourable Kaura, I am advised that the Motion you have moved is before the Court at present, as reported in today's newspaper. Therefore it will remain standing without any action until I come back and advise otherwise. Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I am rising, Comrade Speaker, to make a Ministerial Statement on passion killing which is taking its toll in the country.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SIOKA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, passion killing is becoming an issue of serious concern in Namibia as more women and girls continue to be brutalised and killed by their partners.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is deeply aggrieved by the continuous incidents of passion killing. The community of Oshana Region and the Namibian society at large are still reeling in shock following the coldblooded murder of two young women who were killed on the same day by their supposed lover. The suspect attempted suicide by drinking poison after committing the crimes.

In the same month in the Omusati Region a 35-year old female was brutally killed by the alleged fiancée after the victim threatened to end their relationship. The fiancée also committed suicide.

Earlier in June 2012, a 22-year old student from the Polytechnic of Namibia was strangled to death with a tie by her alleged ex-boyfriend after ending the relationship. The suspect has been arrested and has been remanded after a brief appearance in Court.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the brutal murder in Ohangwena of a 35-year old business woman whose fate was sealed when her husband hacked her numerous times on the head with a panga at her cuca shop in the presence of her four children, with the latest reported incident being the murder of a 23-year old woman allegedly shot by her 43-year old lover, who committed suicide after the murder. The crime of passion or commonly referred to as passion killing is a crime in which the perpetrator commits a crime against someone because of a sudden strong impulse, such as sudden rage or heartbreak rather than a premeditated crime.

Honourable Speaker, there are different root causes of the crime, including social changes, the general laws of inheritance, inherent culture as a society, the disappointment in dealing with rejection by a loved one, investment of money in a partner or loved one, individual behavioural and family problems.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SIOKA**

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, as the lead agency in Namibia advocating gender equality, has a mandate to ensure that gender equality in Namibia is achieved. The Namibian Constitution in Article 6 states that “*the right to life shall be respected and protected.*” Therefore, we strongly condemn the self-granted right of perpetrators to take the lives of their victims. The Ministry strongly calls upon the public to adhere to the Constitution and respect and protect the right to life of their fellow citizens.

The Constitution upholds the right of all citizens and actively promotes legal protection for them through progressive laws and policies. Government intervention through the Ministry has an on-going active campaign on zero tolerance for Gender-Based Violence, which focuses on human trafficking, Gender-Based Violence and passion killing. This is done through print and electronic media. The campaign was launched in 2009 in Oshana Region. Besides the campaign, the Ministry has also implemented informative ministerial programmes, such as Legal Literacy through informing different interested parties on the rights of women, men and children. This programme targets all the members of the society, including the Defence Force, life skills teachers, Traditional Leaders and church leaders.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, another programme implemented by the Ministry is motivational talks for school learners from Grade 7 to Grade 12. This programme focuses on their human rights, sexual reproductive health and Gender-Based Violence, using legislation and different training materials, including the Male Involvement Training Manual. This programme is conducted in all thirteen Regions by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare in partnership with stakeholders. The campaign is headed on the notion of Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution that all persons shall be equal before the law. No person may be discriminated against on the ground of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status.

Gender-Based Violence includes, *inter alia*, domestic violence, rape and other forms of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, human trafficking, forced prostitution and early marriage. I believe you have heard what has

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SIOKA**

happened in the Erongo Region concerning forced prostitution.

The Namibian Government enacted various laws to enrich gender equality in Namibia. These include the Combating of Domestic Violence Act, making domestic violence a specific crime and it has a broad definition of domestic violence which includes physical, sexual and economic abuse, intimidation, etcetera.

Secondly, the Combating of Rape Act gives great protection to young girls and boys against rape. It provides for more stringent minimum sentences for rapists and defines marital rape as an offence in the eyes of the law.

Thirdly, the Married Persons Equality Act does away with the legal definition of the man as the head of the household. It provides for women married in community of property to have equal access to bank loans and equal power to administer the joint property.

Fourthly, the adoption and implementation of International Conventions such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights of Women in Africa and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, these laws have far-reaching effects on gender relations. They created a legal basis for gender equality and provide formal recourse to justice. Therefore, the Ministry implores the public not to tolerate passion killing, but to regain the inherent culture of society where life is respected and protected by all.

The Ministry further urges all community members who are facing challenges of any kind related to social or economic nature which amounts to bringing about misunderstanding between the two people in a relationship or not in a relationship to report it to the relevant authorities, such as the Police, Woman and Child Protection Unit, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, the Traditional Authorities, the Office of the Councillors, the Faith-Based Organisation, Civil Society

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OF SENTENCED OFFENDERS
HON MBUMBA**

Organisations or to any person of their own choice whom they think can help them.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, we call upon every citizen to remember that every problem in society has a solution and that solution of the problem can never be the termination of your own life or someone else's life. The solution must be to nurture the life of everyone for a brilliant future whereby every citizen lives in peace and harmony in our beloved Namibia.

With these few remarks, Comrade Speaker, I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The President has spoken on the subject and so many of us have done likewise. It is a real challenge to the rule of law, to the letter and spirit of the Constitution stressing equality, but it is happening more than words could articulate at this stage, but it is a concern that we must confront with the urgency that it demands from all of us as citizens and particularly those of us who are leaders at different levels of the country. That brings us to the business scheduled for today. The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security. Does the Minister Move the Motion?

**RATIFICATION: AGREEMENT ON
TRANSFER OF SENTENCED OFFENDERS**

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I Move the Motion, Honourable Speaker.

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**AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER
OF SENTENCED OFFENDERS
HON MBUMBA**

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? You have the floor, Minister.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I have the honour to motivate before this august House the ratification of an Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Offenders between the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Zambia, which Namibia and Zambia signed on the 29th of March 2012.

Namibia has a law on transfer of offenders, the Transfer of Convicted Offenders Act (Act 9 of 2005) whereby Section 20 of the Act mandates the Minister responsible for Correctional Services to enter into agreements on the Transfer of Sentenced Offenders.

During the meeting of the Namibia-Zambia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security that took place in Zambia in June 2009, the Namibian Correctional Services indicated to the Zambian Prison Service the need to have a mechanism to regulate and facilitate the process of Transfer of Sentenced Offenders between the two countries and presented a Draft Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Offenders.

The presentation of the Draft Agreement was reported to the Joint Permanent Commission and it was resolved that the two Services jointly consider the draft and report back to the next Joint Permanent Commission meeting.

Honourable Speaker, the two Services, that is the Namibian Correctional Services and the Zambian Prisons Service worked on the Agreement and the final draft was presented to the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security during its meeting that took place in Swakopmund in June 2011. The Joint Permanent Commission in principle adopted the Draft Agreement and directed for internal consultation processes to take place in each country. This was successfully done and the Agreement was

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signed in Lusaka on the 29th of March 2012. The Agreement is subject to ratification before entering into force.

The Ministry of Safety and Security submitted the Agreement to Cabinet on June 2012 where it was considered and luckily the Cabinet approved its tabling before this august House for Ratification.

Honourable Speaker, the Ratification of this Agreement will enable for a number of Zambian offenders who are in our prisons and are serving their sentences here, especially for immigration and other petty property offences to be considered for transfer to their mother country. This will ease overcrowding in some of our prison institutions and will also save Government funds that could have been used by those offenders. Currently there are about 70 Zambian nationals in our correctional institutions, the majority of whom could be transferred to Zambia as they meet the conditions for transfer. Likewise, if there are Namibian nationals who are in prisons in Zambia, they can be considered for transfer to Namibia to continue serving their sentences at home.

The Ratification of this Agreement will also see for the first time the implementation of our abovementioned Act, that is the Transfer of Convicted Offenders Act 9 of 2005, which for more than seven years since its promulgation has not seen practical implementation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, in conclusion, I am now submitting to this august House the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Offenders between the Republic of Zambia and Republic of Namibia for approval and Ratification. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his motivation. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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**AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER
OF SENTENCED OFFENDERS
HON MUSHELENGA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Offenders between the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Namibia as moved by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security.

Agreements of this nature stand to benefit both the public and the Government. The public stands to benefit as follows: If you have relatives who are imprisoned in Zambia, you as their relative need to go and visit them regularly because it does not mean somebody in prison should be abandoned by the relatives. Therefore it will cut the cost of having to travel to Zambia once or twice a year to visit the relatives.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs receives numerous queries from people whose relatives are serving prison sentences outside the country. Time and again they come and ask what is it that the Government can do, we want to go and visit our relatives, we do not have enough money and obviously, Government cannot pay for the costs to visit their relatives. However, if those Namibians serving sentences in Zambian prisons are transferred to Namibia, it will make it easier for their families to have access to them.

Equally if somebody dies while in a foreign prison, it is the responsibility of your family to transport you back home, which is another burden on the public, but should the person die here, the family would not have to bear the cost of transporting the body from outside the country.

As the Minister just said, it means the population of prisoners is going to become less and Government will have fewer prisoners to feed. It means taxpayers' money can be used for other more useful and productive projects. Therefore, I feel this is a straightforward agreement and I do not know why Honourable Moongo indicates he wants to contribute. It is something that we should support without delay.

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**AGREEMENT ON TRANSFER
OF SENTENCED OFFENDERS
HON MOONGO / HON MBUMBA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Minister. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much. I feel this is a good agreement, but I only want to know whether it will not violate the international law which provides for political opponents to be harboured by any country in the world. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Does the Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Members for their support and in particular to thank the *Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs* for supporting the Ratification. To answer *Honourable Moongo's* question, I specifically said that this agreement is to facilitate those cases that are very clear, immigration issues, somebody who overstayed who can be transferred.

We know the economic situation of our region, people come here, a young person commits housebreaking and those are the cases we are talking about.

Since you have experience in terms of political imprisonment, we are not talking about those things, those are regulated by other international agreements and even if we decide to host a political leader in our country who is under our protection, why do we want to hand him over? We are not talking about those things. Within the region we are neighbours, anything can happen to you in Zambia and if you did something wrong of a minor nature, we want you to come and serve your sentence here so that your family members can visit you at a reasonable cost. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**VETERINARY PROFESSIONS BILL
HON MUTORWA**

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

The second Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Does the Minister Move the Motion?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: VETERINARY AND
PARA-VETERINARY PROFESSIONS BILL**

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

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

SECRETARY: *Veterinary and Veterinary Para-Professions Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister Move that the Bill be now read a second time

**SECOND READING: VETERINARY AND
PARA-VETERINARY PROFESSIONS BILL**

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VETERINARY PROFESSIONS BILL
HON MUTORWA

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to. You have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker, for giving me the Floor to motivate the *Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Bill* of 2012.

The Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Proclamation AG No. 14 of 1984 is in dire need of revision and should be replaced by an updated modern legislation reflecting the situation in an independent Namibia. We should remember that the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professional experts play a very significant and vital role in the Livestock Industry, in Public Health, in export of animal and animal products and the welfare of animals generally. These professionals require registration with the Veterinary Council of Namibia, a statutory body which advises the Minister responsible for Agriculture in any matter affecting the standards of professional conduct, integrity and responsibility to the public and members of the veterinary profession.

Our country is also a signatory to the World Organisation of Animal Health, the OIE, which has conducted comprehensive audits concerning the veterinary profession in Namibia. I am proud to state that the current Veterinary Council of Namibia is amongst the most highly rated Councils on our continent and, indeed, in the world with a score of four out of five and I am confident that with the proposed legislation in place, the new Namibian Veterinary Council will most probably achieve a perfect score of five out of five.

In addition, our trading partners, both the current ones and the prospective ones, have confidence that the veterinarians registered by our Council have the required competence and professional judgment to certify the

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HON MUTORWA

export of animal products, including live animals, meat, hides and trophies, of the highest required veterinary health standard.

What are the objectives of the Bill in front of us? The objectives of this Bill are to provide for the establishment, the constitution, the powers and functions of the Namibian Veterinary Council; to regulate the registration of persons practising veterinary professions and Veterinary Para-Professions; to specify the education, the training and qualifications of persons practising such professions, also to provide for control over the practising of veterinary professions and para-veterinary professions. Furthermore, the objective of the Bill is to prohibit the practising of any such professions without being professionally registered. It is also the objective of this Bill to repeal the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Proclamation of 1984 and obviously, to provide for matters incidental thereto.

There are some significant additions that we have added in this Bill that do not exist in the proclamation that we are going to repeal. This one will provide for comprehensive registration of Veterinary Para-Professionals which do not exist in the proclamation. Included in this category will be animal health technicians, wildlife para-professionals, veterinary nurses, veterinary laboratory diagnosticians and equine dental technicians. The Veterinary Para-Professionals render very valuable services supplementing the services of the veterinarians and work under direction of a registered veterinarian.

Also there is a very important provision in the new Bill that will require compulsory continuing professional development. It is expected of any professional to keep him or herself informed of new developments in the field, world trends in the profession and to be conversant with current thinking and practice. The Bill makes provision for all registered veterinarians to submit continuing professional development points annually to be considered in granting maintenance of registration.
(Intervention)

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**VETERINARY PROFESSIONS BILL
HON MUTORWA**

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:26

HON SPEAKER: We are lucky given our constitutional set-up and otherwise that we are not here by Constituencies. When the parliamentary bell is rung, it means you do not finish your last sentence; you rush to come and take your seat. Here we can do it and get away with it. I come because you were here, the quorum is there, but I left behind some Honourable Members in the Restaurant, not minding that even the Speaker has left. I am just reminding you. Bad habits sometimes are what they are.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you Honourable Speaker, when we adjourned for tea I was pointing out some of the provisions that are included in this new Bill, but which do not appear in the proclamation that we are repealing. I talked about compulsory continuing professional development. The other one is the education and qualification requirements. For any veterinarian wishing to be registered to practise his or her profession in Namibia will be regulated using the newly published minimum requirements of the OIE for day-one competency of a veterinary graduate. To this end, the Veterinary Council of Namibia is actively involved with the University of Namibia in planning and endorsing the curricula and facilities of the proposed School of Veterinary Medicine that will be housed at the University of Namibia. This will ensure that our future Namibian veterinary graduates will possess the required competencies to be unconditionally registered immediately upon graduation.

The Council is also compliant with requirements of the National Qualifications Authority of Namibia. When it comes to the composition

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of the proposed Council in the new Bill, Comrade Speaker, I may state here that the composition of the Council has been altered or changed to reflect the objectives of the Council and to include both appointed and elected Namibian veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals as well as a legal person and a chief veterinary officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

When it comes to the main provisions of the Bill, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, suffice to say it is quite a lengthy Bill consisting of 76 Clauses. You will have the time to go through those Clauses and what they provide and then during the Debate, particularly during the Committee Stage we would welcome your improvements and/or acceptance of the provisions as they are.

Suffice for me, Comrade Speaker, to conclude by stating that the *Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Bill, 2012* was drafted after extensive consultations between the Veterinary Council of Namibia, the Directorate of Veterinary Services, the practising veterinarians in Namibia and other stakeholders, taking into consideration the requirements of the World Organisation of Animal Health and this particular Bill went through Cabinet and was approved by the Cabinet through decisions that was taken on the 10th of May last year. The Cabinet obviously authorised the Bill to go to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation and this Committee went through the Bill comprehensively in March of this year and it was then approved by the Cabinet Committee on Legislation and subsequently referred to the Directorate of Legislative Drafting.

The legal drafters have scrutinised and redrafted the Bill where necessary to conform to the existing legislation. I confirm, Comrade Speaker, that this Bill surely meets the requirements of both the Veterinary Council of Namibia and the Veterinary Profession and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and, therefore, is ready now to be debated and scrutinised by the lawmakers and I so Move. Thank you.

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

HON SPEAKER: Consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Third Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

MOTION ON FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION

HON ULENGA: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: You have the Floor, Honourable Member.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, you will remember that this is not the first time that I introduce this Motion to the House. I first proposed to Move it in January or February, but because of the business of the year it had to lapse.

Anyhow, Honourable Speaker, the issues that I propose to discuss in this Motion are not new to our society, they are ancient things, they did not arise recently. These are challenges that have been with us right from the start.

In a few months' time Namibia will be commemorating 23 years of Independence. The Namibian Constitution, to which each of us has taken an oath or pledged ourselves and which guides us both individually and collectively, proclaims in Article 20 thus: "*All persons shall have the right to education.*"

Comrade Speaker, let us look at what is a right. A right is something to which one has a just claim. It is a privilege vested in a person by law to demand action at the hand of, in this case, the State. It is that kind of capacity to assert a legally recognised claim.

The authors of the Namibian Constitution are most of them still here with us. When they decided to include Article 20 in the Constitution, they were not trying to do the present and the future Namibians a favour, nor did they come upon this idea just by chance. Many amongst the authors of that Constitution, whom I said are still here amongst us, are or were themselves products of an education that was offered to them free of charge. I will wonder if any of the Comrades seated here can stand up and tell me that they had to pay for their own education. That is, in other words, they got education that was provided through Public funds, taxpayers' money provided by the State. They knew very well that it is a social duty for every State to ensure that members of society are educated and well informed.

However, Honourable Speaker, education is above all a developmental imperative. The Nation and society will not be able to make any progress without a well thought out education system and any developmental goals such as our own Vision 2030 would be mere dreams without education. So it is also from that perspective, Honourable Speaker, that I would like to approach this issue of a compulsory education that is offered free of charge.

Comrade Speaker, we all know that rights in the abstract are not of much consequence until they are rendered practical and alive by effective dynamic action, in this case by practical and relevant legislation. If you again look at Article 20(2) of the Constitution: "*Primary education shall be compulsory and the State shall provide reasonable facilities to render*

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effective this right for every resident within Namibia by establishing and maintaining State schools at which primary education will be provided free of charge.”

Honourable Speaker, the concept of a free and compulsory education is by no means a new notion. Let me give you the following quotation from Wikipedia on the Internet: *“From antiquity, that is ancient times, we find that although Plato’s republic is often accredited with having popular rights, the concept of compulsory education in Western intellectual thought, every parent in Judea of old since ancient times was required to teach their children at least informally. Over the centuries as cities, towns and villages developed, a class of teachers called Rabbis evolved. According to the Talmud....”* The Talmud is that document that contains basic Jewish tradition. *“According to the Talmud, someone called Joshua Ben Gamla instituted formal Jewish education to be compulsory from the age of 6 or 7. It is also rumoured that the Aztecs of Central and South America had one of the first compulsory educational systems of the world perhaps.”*

There is, therefore, nothing new about free and compulsory education. What is problematic, however, is that despite the article cited above in our Constitution, there is actually no such thing as free and compulsory education in Namibia today. Practically speaking, Honourable Speaker, education in Namibia has come to be quite a burden on the shoulders of the average individual Namibian citizen. To many parents and guardians education has become very expensive and even unaffordable, so much so that they are starting to consider it a luxury and a privilege unattainable except by the elite and the well-born few.

In 2001 we passed the Education Act here and I hope the Colleagues are not going to say I am criticising a law that I am not prepared to propose changes to. The Education Act (Act 16 of 2001) has, in my belief, much to do with some of the obstacles and the difficulties in the way to a compulsory education provided for free of charge.

Let us briefly look at this law that we passed in this House. Though Section 38(1) of that Act declares that, *“all tuition provided for primary*

and special education at State schools, including all school books, educational materials and other related requisites must be provided free of charge to all learners until the seventh grade or until the age of sixteen, whichever occurs first”, though that is the situation with regard to the law, today parents are made to pay on a regular basis for the very school books, education materials and other related requisites as quoted above. They pay out of their own pockets and amongst the things the parents must dock up for are the following: For example, when kids come back from school on the first day in January, they will come with a piece of paper where the teacher has listed the following: flip files, a dictionary, drawing books, reading books for kids, pencils, pens, rubber eraser, colouring books, plastic files, crayons, cellotape, a pair of scissors, a sharpener, etcetera.

This practice seems to be in direct contravention of the law I cited above, which proclaims that all these things should be for free.

However, the greatest obstacle to a compulsory education provided free of charge comes with Section 25 of the same Act, which sounds to be contradictory because under Section 1 it says the school board may – and it does not use the word “*shall*” or “*must*” – which means that Clause is not mandatory and, therefore, it is not a binding requirement for schools. However, this very same Section 25 has come to be the cornerstone of obligatory funding at State schools. This is the Section that talks about the school education fund. This may be considered the tightest legal ambush of the century because it looks like the law says it is going to be like this and then it comes in an unforeseen way with something completely contrary.

It states under Subsection (12) as follows: “*If a parent refuses or fails to pay the school development fund contribution, a school board may exclude the learner of such parent from taking part in any activity financed with the school development fund contributions.*” Not only this, Honourable Speaker, on many occasions I have seen with my own eyes learners sent back from school without receiving their certificates and reports because they have not paid their dues. This is a way of twisting the arms of the parents or coercing the parents to pay what is supposed to be non-mandatory.

I cannot understand how come a practice that may or may not be instituted, because it is not mandatory, has become the most momentous of all institutions within the educational system today.

Honourable Speaker, in practice the payment of the school development fund by parents has become obligatory, let us face the fact. The majority of parents in this country do not even know the source of the school development fund or the decisions made in relation thereto. They do not even know how the amount payable is reached at, they just know that they have to pay the school development fund. Of course, it is also true that ignorance of the law cannot be an excuse, however as the law says that it is the parents who must decide, they should be properly consulted and they should know that they have the right to refuse.

Honourable Speaker, I want briefly to talk about another important part of the educational life and that is educational tours. I was talking right now during tea with one Comrade, we talked about the complexity and the gigantity of our country considering that there is only two million people here and we talked about the variations there are between, for example, Impalila Island in summer with all the water and the dunes of the Namib. I remember that a young lady who travelled with me was from the Caprivi and from Rehoboth to Keetmanshoop there were so many rivers on the way and she kept on looking at these rivers and keeping quiet, but eventually she exclaimed: *"They indicate that there are rivers, but I do not see any river. Do you mean there are rivers without water or when is the water going to appear?"* To this person a river means water, it does not make a lot of sense to call it a river where there is no water. Is it a river of sand or what kind of river is it? But that is indeed the reality in Namibia, a river is some hollow thing. That kind of situation is a reality in Namibia because we do not only have a large, wide big country, we also have a history of isolation.

If you happened to be born on the other side of Outapi or on the other side of Bukalo, you will grow up virtually under a neo-feudal kind of situation. You may be bright, you may be in a school of the 21st century, but you go to school under the shadow of the *Kuta* and the *Ngambela* and it is almost like it used to be perhaps five hundred years ago. If you are taught about

society and you are told this is a modern capitalist country, you will not know anything what is being talked unless and until you undertake and educational tour that takes you from the other side of Bukalo to Rössing Uranium in Walvis Bay. It is altogether about 1,500 kilometres.

In today's Namibia and according to the educational system, if learners want to undertake that kind of tour, their parents have to pay themselves. Some of these tours are so essential to the method of study that if a learner misses that kind of tour, when they are asked to write about the train, the railway station or an opencast uranium mine, the sea, the ocean, the ocean trailers and the tankers versus smaller fishing boats, none of these would make sense however bright she may be if she lived for her whole life under the *Kuta* in Bukalo. This means such a tour is actually an essential ingredient in any child's education

The problem, and it is not a problem that I am blaming on anybody and of course, there are certain things which can be directly blamed on the Government, for example, but this one can perhaps be blamed on the gods, that this child just does not have any chance of understanding her country, the times that she is living in, because it is so different from her own physical situation.

Therefore, the Namibian reality is such that the vast majority of our school-going children live in the remote rural areas of the north, of the east and of the south. Conditions there are virtually quasi-feudal and learners must learn and grow under the dark shadow of the *Kuta*, the *Ngambela* or *Elenga* or a *Kaptein*.

Educational tours are there for essential tools to show the children conditions elsewhere in their country under the 21st century capitalist conditions. For them to have a proper idea of a mine, the learners of Grade 7 class from a school anywhere in the north have to travel to Rössing Uranium Mine in Swakopmund or to Langerheinrich and so forth, which is a journey most of the times more than a thousand kilometres and if they are lucky, they may encounter on their way a train perhaps or they may pass an airport or an airstrip and see some aeroplanes parked on the ground, because normally they only see these small little dots flying in the

air. They may then see the sea, they may see ocean tankers and fishing boats and whether they do this during primary school or secondary school, such a trip is always an eye-opener, a *sine qua non* of basic education in Namibia. Yet such a trip can only be undertaken with money collected additional to the school development fund and as many children's parents are not always in a position to pay for all that is required for such a trip, they are often excluded. This is a most humiliating and hurting practice. It, above all else, discriminates against the children from poorer backgrounds and it puts a lot of pressure on both the children and their parents.

Comrade Speaker, I know personally of a child who dropped out of school because on three consecutive occasions the teacher had told her point-blank that, "*your mother has not paid your school development fund contribution.*" This girl, being in her puberty years, fourteen, fifteen, just becoming aware of herself, just could not bear it because she felt everybody was hearing when it is said that her mother did not pay. She felt so self-conscious and so self-aware and embarrassed and, therefore, could not stand it any longer and dropped out of school.

Comrade Speaker, it would be a better practice, to perhaps set up a fund that does not target individuals in a competitive fashion for contributions, but would allow each to contribute according to their capacity.

I will touch briefly on the feeding schemes which are going on in Namibian schools. This is one of the rare improvements to our education system. Actually it reminds me of the situation in the 1960s when I went to school and there was some kind of a famine in my part of the country and school was not mandatory, it was not compulsory, but because the authorities started to distribute maize-meal at school, the school enrolment jumped and some parents even collected some of their nephews and nieces to make use of the opportunity because it was a scale of one litre per child at school. I remember we carried such a huge bag every day. Every day you came to school you got maize-meal. When I look at the feeding schemes it reminds me of those old days.

Of course, food and issues around nutrition are very important in the lives

of school-going children as learning minds must be provided regularly with a well-balanced nutritious diet. Many families are not in a position to meet all the feeding requirements of their learning and growing children, therefore it is important that the State steps in to ensure sufficient feeding for all learners.

The current school feeding scheme is a very good one, but insufficient. It should be extended to cover all schools and it should be extended to cover all grades, both primary and secondary.

Comrade Speaker, in certain countries,— and many of us here know about this fact — learners and students receive not food but a school allowance that may cover not only lunches and snacks, but also school uniform, school shoes in addition to lunch and a snack and, of course, other related expenses.

I will touch briefly and not comprehensively on the issue of transportation. Many schools in Namibia, especially in rural Namibia, are more than five kilometres away from the pupil's home. Some are even as far as ten kilometres or more. It is a common sight in rural Namibia to see children straddled along the tar road with heavy school bags, hiking the occasional bakkie to get to school. In towns the situation of transportation seems to be even worse. Many learners have to walk from Katutura, from Wanaheda, from Otjomuise, Havana or Greenwell to attend at Centaurus, Concordia, St Paul's, Academia, Windhoek High School, Dawid Bezuidenhout and all these other schools. Of course, the slightly well-off and the rich will transport their children in their big SUVs, Mercedes Benzes and the like, but children from poorer households have to walk, passing all kinds of dark alleys and risking dangers and, of course, the fate of the late Magdalena Stoffels comes to mind here.

Why is there no Public transportation in Namibia and specifically, why is there no school transport in this country? We are still living according to the old apartheid times when almost all those who mattered had their own vehicles, they did not quite belong, they lived with one of their legs here and another one in Pretoria, so they did not care about a transport system.

However, today, 23 years after Independence and we have an occasional municipality bus, is not a very beautiful picture.

Comrade Speaker, parents with more than one or two children at primary or secondary school will spend up to N\$1,000 per month on school taxi fees alone. There is absolutely no reason why a municipality as the City of Windhoek, that seems to be so rich, cannot organise and operate a school transportation system. Municipal buses must make special provision for school-going children, dropping them as near to the schools as possible and charging them a special diminutive transportation fee.

In other countries, Comrade Speaker, the children have special cards and everybody knows about them because we all travelled so well. They have special cards and that is a system that should have been mandatory even in our situation, because when that school girl or boy gets that seasonal card for about five pounds, she can use it from January to June. Alternatively, there should be a school transportation allowance given to parents to relieve parents regarding this high school transportation cost.

Let me give you a picture of a single working mother employed at Government Stores somewhere here in Windhoek who has two boys at school, one ten years old and the other eight years old. She lives in Katutura, the kids go to school in Khomasdal. Taxi fares per annum, N\$15,000, School Development Fund, N\$1,500 per annum for the two of them, computer classes that her kids must attend, N\$4,000 per annum, N\$200 per month for each boy, other contingencies, N\$2,000 per annum. It comes to about N\$25,000 per annum, more than half her annual salary.

Let me talk about the compulsory side. Honourable Speaker, the Education Act 16 of 2001 fails dismally to meet the requirements for compulsory primary education as provided for in the Constitution. Under Section 53(5) the Act provides for the following: *“If the parent of the child referred to in under Subsection (3) fails or refuses to comply with Subsection (3), the Minister must issue a notice in writing to the parent, requesting the parent to comply with that Subsection within the period specified in the notice.”* This is a very meek request coming from the Minister indeed.

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Apart from this meek request from the Minister, that the Minister is asked to direct to the defaulting party, there are no other measures to be taken according to the Act. There are neither special law enforcement agents appointed in terms of the Act, nor any punitive regime created in the Education Act 2001.

Honourable Speaker, the term “*compulsory*” means mandatory or enforceable in terms of the law. Therefore, the Minister cannot be required to request the defaulting parent to comply when the said Minister was supposed to have been the whip-end in the implementation of the Constitution and the law.

Honourable Speaker, in similar situations elsewhere, and I am so quoting within the Commonwealth of Nations, the law that similarly talks about compulsory education makes provision for an elaborate system of enforcement of compulsory school attendance. In the case of St Lucia, for example, a small Nation in the Caribbean area, there are eleven paragraphs dealing with this topic alone. I want to give you a picture:

1. deals with the duty of parents to enforce attendance
2. valid excuses for non-attendance, if any
3. school attendance counsellors specially appointed
4. the responsibility of these counsellors
5. the power of these counsellors to enter premises and to question children as to why they are not at school
6. deals with the offences against school attendance counsellors
7. deals with the duties of school attendance counsellors
8. is about reports that they may submit or that may be submitted by principals
9. deals with the power to arrange and to deliver students
10. deals with liability of parents
11. deals with compulsory school age and offences related thereto and number 12 deals with possible legal proceedings.

Clearly, Honourable Speaker, there is a need for a complete compulsory school attendance enforcement regime with us, which may even culminate in legal proceedings but we lack that.

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It is a fact, Honourable Speaker, that many Namibians under the age of 15 do not attend school for one reason or another. You meet them everywhere. They will give you reasons ranging from poverty, they say their parents do not have the School Development Fund fees, they will say there is no school availability or there was no proper parental supervision. In some of the investigations that we have conducted, especially in Otjozondjupa, Kavango, Ohangwena, Kunene and partly also in Omaheke and Oshikoto you find so many children who just do not go to school.

In the farming areas of Grootfontein, for example, you find a whole farm full of young children, there is no single school in the vicinity. Most of these children are from the San community. The other people from other communities may know some people in town, so they take their kids to their acquaintances in town and ask these acquaintances to keep the children until they are through with school. The San community tends to be very much excluded and they may not know anybody and there is just nobody at all taking care of that kind of situation.

Recently I had an accident on the road between Rundu and Mururani at a place where there was just a small little school in the form of a hut and in the early morning when the *juffrou* was going to school she passed me there where I had hit a cow. It is now the third time I hit a cow in the last twelve years, I think somebody needs to be arrested there, seventy kilometres south of Rundu. (Interjections). I drive fast, I do not have much time.

Honourable Speaker, what I wanted to say is that on that spot there were several boys who were about 13, 14 and of course, I always like to talk about school and I asked them, "*are you going to school, what grade are you in*" and no, they have all dropped out of school. Why? They said the school is too far. I thought I saw so many schools on the road, seventy kilos from Rundu they said the school is too far, it is about ten kilos from there. Therefore, they just do not attend school because they feel they cannot get to school.

However, that is not the point, the point is that nobody takes on these kids. They may be lying, they may just have dropped out, but the issue is that

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there is no police who are policing the parents and the kids, because in similar situations there is a special law enforcement regime that is put in place. If you say education is compulsory, it must really be compulsory, there must be a law that has teeth, not just one tooth. It is preferable that there are as many teeth as possible to make sure that this law is adhered to.

Comrade Speaker, it is also a fact that these kids who abandon school are never forced to return to school. This is a clear contravention of the Constitution which needs immediate correction and it is this House where the buck stops, because we are the people who make laws and we are the people who must change them if they do not work. If that law does not have teeth, it is high time that we give it teeth, the more the better.

Honourable Speaker, truly free and compulsory education is not only an essential requirement for young Namibians attending primary schools, it should also be extended to cover secondary and higher education up to at least a first degree or diploma. The chaotic situation that we see at the beginning of every enrolment every year at UNAM and the Polytechnic just shows that much still needs to be done to ensure there is enough space and capacity at our learning institutions as well as enough bursaries and study grants to satisfy our upcoming students. This year alone it is about ten students and prospective students who have approached me personally, asking for me to pay for their higher education. Perhaps that is actually a minimum, I am sure some of you have even had more than that. When people take recourse to individuals, even poor individuals like me, hoping that one could pay for their secondary or higher education, then definitely things are not right, we need to step in and correct the situation. (Interjections). Presidents are not rich, I do not think even the president with the capital P is rich or perhaps he is.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, the fact that education gets the biggest share of our Budget does not mean that it is enough, nor does it mean that those amounts are appropriately utilised. Hence there is a need to debate this crucial issue, point out the loopholes and the gaps within the law and there is a need, after everything has happened and perhaps after we have referred this Motion to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee,

that we come back here and formulate the proper recommendations that we must put in front of the desk of the Minister of Education for relevant attention and action. I would like to Move and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. While agreeing with everything the Honourable Member said, I just want to make a small correction and then I want to ask a few questions to the Honourable Member and it is on the question of payment, that the schools were not paid for in the past especially during the days of our senior citizens. I want to make a correction that when Waterberg Primary School was opened in 1941, every parent was required to donate a goat so that these goats could provide meat to the children. They were slaughtered twice a month to provide meat for the children. Then they were also required to donate a cow and those cows were used to provide milk to the children. Maybe that is a different experience in that situation and our parents, emerging out of the Von Trotha era and having been settled in reservations with virtually nothing, when that primary school was opened they were required to donate a goat and to me that was a form of payment.

Besides that I would like to ask a question. For example, if one says that the schools were not paid for in the past, I want to ask the Honourable Member whether our parents that contributed so much to the wealth of this country and were not paid for that labour, when they worked in the diamond industry, those diamonds were sold in London and Paris, bringing a lot of money for the owners of those diamond mines and our parents that worked in those diamond mines were paid peanuts. For those children that went to school, could one not say that our parents paid for the education of their children because they were not paid for their labour which enriched those other people that ultimately contributed tax which built those primary schools?

Our parents worked at Tsumeb, making millions for that company and it is still happening and they were not paid and by virtue of the fact that they were not paid, did they not pay for the education of their children in this process, because their labour which produced millions of wealth was not paid for. Of course, the Government of the day collected taxes from the wealth which emanated from their labour and is that not a form of payment? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:

Comrade Speaker, I would like to ask my senior Colleague a question. Senior Colleague, you said that in 1941 the parents donated goats and even cows to give milk to schools. Are you now trying to tell the Mover of the Motion that education was not necessarily free *per se*, as he thinks? You are saying that the parents of the time were really serious about their children's education and the Mover of the Motion is saying no to the contribution by the parents. Are you, therefore, correcting him?

HON KAURA: I would like to confirm the question that it is true, our parents were very serious about the education of their children and they made a contribution. Directly and indirectly they made a contribution to the education of their children because they enriched other people who paid taxes and then when those schools were built, it came out of their labour. I feel that they made a contribution.

I want to ask the question: How many Government schools were there at that point in time? Some of the original high schools which we attended, like myself, the Honourable Speaker, Honourable Hage Geingob and Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya, were originally missionary schools, like St Mary's in the North and even in the Kavango and all over. Finnish Missions put up these schools. Augustineum was a missionary school, it was not a Government school originally. Only later did the Government step in. How many high schools were there for black people here in central Namibia? It was only the Augustineum. The Government

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contributed nothing to the education of our people. Even for that little that was there, how could it have been expected for people to contribute to that education?

When I read the Namibian Industrial Policy of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, I read a very nice little thing here which says the following: *“While this is a worthy achievement, it should be noted that per capita hides a considerable level of inequality in Namibia.”* It is a fact that Namibia is classified as upper middle-income. *“According to the latest available gini-coefficient which measures distribution of income, about 70% of wealth in Namibia is concentrated among 10% of the population.”*

Well and good, but while that is the case, Honourable Member, I see some black Namibians driving Maseratis in Namibia, N\$1.5 million per car. A person who is driving a Maserati worth N\$1.5 million, can that person really not contribute to the education of his child? (Interjections). In that 10 percent there are some Namibians that can contribute to the education of their children regardless of what the Constitution states that education must be free and compulsory.

I am asking those questions to the Honourable Member, that in the case of those millionaires that are driving those expensive cars, do you not think they should also make a little contribution to the education of their children, regardless of all the school buses with which I agree. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Mines and Energy.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to contribute to the Motion on the table. I do not agree with everything that he said though, but before I start I would like to remind the Honourable Members to fill up their cars before 24:00 tonight to at least save a few cents.

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Honourable Speaker, the Motion is asking us to discuss the state of the education system and then specifically free and compulsory provision of education.

When I was listening to the motivation, apart from the compulsory and free education that the Honourable Member dealt with, he never touched on the state of the education system and, therefore, I will limit myself to the motivation that he has made which is full of contradictions which I will point out later in my statement.

Before we go to free education we maybe need to understand what is encompassed in education itself, what are the issues that we call education, for example.

In education there must be books and other learning materials. You need a teacher, you need a classroom and you also need the children and time. When those children come to school, they obviously must not come late, they must be clothed, they must also come with sufficient nutrition in order for them to function. All these issues are what we call education.

When we are now saying there is no free education, it is when all these issues that I have narrated are being paid for by the parents of the learners or by the learners themselves. If we look at the system in Namibia, obviously the learners do not pay the teachers who teach them, they do not construct the classrooms that they are being taught in or even the shacks. They do not pay for the chairs and tables, they do not pay for textbooks and, therefore, I cannot really understand when it is said that education in Namibia is not free. (Intervention)

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Honourable Member. Those issues that he has enumerated that are being paid for, I want to ask him who paid for those things.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: The State constructed the classrooms, paid for the tables and textbooks. Therefore, it is not being paid for by the parents themselves, nor by the learners.

The aspect the Honourable Member spent more time on is the development fund. The development fund is not to pay for the education.(Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy a question? Honourable Katali, are you aware of the resolutions of the National Education Conference that took place last year which admitted that indeed for the past 22 years we have basically been violating the constitutional provision on free and compulsory education and are you aware of the Cabinet directive that directed the Ministry of Education to implement the recommendations made at the Safari Hotel in the Educational Conference? Are you aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: I am not really aware of the conference resolutions, I am in this country, I have attended schools, I know what is going on in the schools and I am a teacher. I was the principal of a school and I know exactly that there is no request for any parent to pay for the chairs on which their children are sitting, nor the classrooms. All these are being provided for.

I was saying the Honourable Member spent more time on the development fund and I think he feels that the development fund is to pay for the education, which is not true. Of course, there are other issues of denying a learner a certificate because the learner did not pay the development fund. Those are anomalies and they are not happening everywhere.

You are saying education in Namibia is not free because we have the development fund. The development fund is determined by the parents and you were saying the parents do not know how this is being

determined. If you are a parent and you do not attend the parents meetings where these decisions are being taken, and you correctly said that ignorance is not an excuse, it means if that parent did not attend the parents meetings where other parents took those decisions, he can only blame himself. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: It is a shock to hear of the increase in the price of petrol but I would like to know who determines the agenda of the school board? It is the principal. Those innocent parents do not know anything, they have never put anything on the list of topics to be discussed and the principal brings the school fund and they only endorse because they do not know the consequences.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Let us forgive him, his children have left school already, so he does not know. The contradiction is that the Honourable Member is complaining about the development fund but at the same time the Honourable Member is proposing a fund to which parents will contribute according to what they can afford. You have to look at that contradiction very carefully, Honourable Ulena, because you said the fund should not be there because parents cannot afford, but then you say it must be a voluntary fund. A fund is just a fund, whether it is voluntary or whether it is compulsory.

Then the Honourable Member is saying the parents must contribute a transport fee. All these contradictions mean that there is really a need for the parents to contribute, not to pay for the education but to contribute towards the education of their children in different ways, for instance as Honourable Kaura was saying, by giving a goat, a chicken, whatever material or money is needed to contribute to education.

I talked about the clothes, for example. When parents are buying school uniforms, they are contributing to the school, but that is not to say they are

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paying for the education of their children. Let us differentiate between a contribution and a payment.

It is said education must be compulsory. That is the ideal situation that the Government wants, but then the enforcement thereof is a different issue. When the Honourable Speaker came in here today he said we are supposed to start at 16:00, but some of you came very late and he said when the bell rings we are all supposed to rush to the Assembly. Now Honourable Ulenga wants the children who do not attend school to be policed, but I left him there in the restaurant while the bell is ringing. Does it mean the Honourable Member also needed the Police Force to come here and make sure that the ideal situation that we want happens? (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I think the Honourable Member is going too far with personal issues, but I would like to ask him a pertinent question. What is wrong with the Government buying sewing machines and materials for uniforms for the whole country and they train people to sew, the same as is being done with the uniforms of the Army and the Police? Why can it not be done for the schools in order to enforce compulsory and free education? What is so complicated about that?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: If Honourable Ulenga is suggesting that parents must be arrested for not sending their children to school, will we really have enough prisons to keep those parents?

When it comes to transportation, Honourable Ulenga, you are from a village and you know the set-up of some of our villages. Is it really possible for you to have a bus picking up the children from Ondangwa, Ontanga, Ompumbu? Is it really possible, Honourable Ulenga? I think some of those proposals are really unrealistic. If this is the policy of the CoD, Honourable Ulenga please apologise to those who have been listening to you. This policy is not practically possible in the current

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Namibia and let us not fool ourselves.

When it comes to feeding, he is saying everybody from primary to secondary schools to higher education must receive free food. That means children must just be eating at school free of charge. What is our role as parents, why are we working, why do we have mahangu fields if we cannot feed our children when they go to school? Honourable Kaura also mentioned those affluent people who can afford a car of 1.5 million and you want their children to be fed by the State. What type of Nation are we building? Is it a Nation caring for their children? Why are we raising our children that we are not able to cater for their needs? As a Member of Parliament I do not feel that my child must be fed at school. On that note, Honourable Speaker, I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Tomorrow's meeting appears to be under threat. The President of our country is going to welcome his counterpart around the time that the House will be convening. I do not see the possibility of the House meeting tomorrow afternoon. We are not likely to have a quorum, that much is obvious. The system that we have is that the Ministers and Deputy Ministers are Members of this House by law. That is the directive of the Constitution and if we adhere to that law scrupulously, quite obviously we are not going to have a quorum. All that said, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.10.16 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
23 OCTOBER 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- Regional Council for the Kavango Region for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2010;
- Regional Council for the Kunene Region for the Financial Years ended March 31, 2009 and 2010; and
- Municipality of Keetmanshoop for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2011.

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

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 36:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1st of November 2012, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following question:

The Right Honourable Prime Minister was reported as reminding Public Servants attending the SWAPO Party Policy Conference in early September during official working hours that they are not on holiday. Can the Right Honourable Prime Minister please explain in which context he made that remark and can he confirm that his remark did not imply that there was no need for Public Servants to take official leave from their public duties for attending such Political Party activity? To this effect, I would like the Right Honourable Prime Minister to inform this Assembly how many Civil Servants were attending the SWAPO Party conference and how many of those did in fact apply for and were granted leave for their absence from duty.

QUESTION 37:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1st of November 2011, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General the following question:

1. I wish to know why the organisers of the SWAPO Party Policy Conference were not instructed to schedule the conference some time during the two-months long recess of the National Assembly.
2. Were those responsible not aware of the gravity of disrupting the laid-down schedule of the National Assembly, so much so that His

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Excellency the President had to issue an proclamation to that effect, that this Sixth Session of the National Assembly was to be postponed for a week?

3. For that matter, I wish to know what grave arguments convinced His Excellency the President to agree to issuing such proclamation in order to accommodate party-political event of one of the nine Political Parties represented in this Assembly.
4. The concerned proclamation was still outstanding at the start of the conference, which raises the question whether, once again, planning on the part of the organisers was so bad that it only occurred to them as an afterthought to approach His Excellency the President about the proclamation.
5. Can the Honourable Minister inform this Assembly whether the proclamation was in fact signed and published as prescribed and if so, on what date it was signed by His Excellency and in which Government Gazette of which date it was published to take effect?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table your Questions, please. I recognise Honourable Moongo.

QUESTION 38:

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 25th of October 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry:

We appreciate and also disappointed by the fact that the State-established boreholes for communities since Independence are still closed in many Regions.

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HON MOONGO**

1. Is the Minister aware that Uutele Wa Nakale borehole number 201213 and others, one at the bridge at Omuthiya near Oshivelo, number 307662 are still closed for more than twenty years while some community farmers are using expensive tap water? What is the good reason?
2. Is this the fact that the Ministry is not capable to establish community committees and officers to administer those boreholes professionally so that all community farmers share and benefit equally?
3. Is the Minister aware that those boreholes owned by individuals are generating their own money and causes malpractices and chaos? Can the Minister please explain?

QUESTION 39:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, 25 October 2012, I shall ask the Prime Minister:

It is a fact that SWAPO Party Government makes a mockery of the principle of true democracy, distributive justice and rule of law and failed dismally to uphold Article 10 of the Constitution which stipulates that all people are equal before the law and all people must benefit equally in the country.

1. Can the Prime Minister agree or deny that SWAPO Party officers issue approval letters to its *bona fide* members. Only those who participate fully in SWAPO activities can get farms, projects or tenders. What about members of other Political Parties and other members of the community?
2. Can the Prime Minister explain why the SWAPO Party Government is acting contrary in favour of a one-party State or can the SWAPO

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HON MAAMBERUA**

Party Government step down now? They failed to obey the law.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

QUESTION 40:

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1st of November 2012, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General the following question:

Much as we acknowledge the historical visit by the Togolese President, His Excellency Faure Gnassingbe, we are left with the following questions considering the following historical reality and I quote from Olussogua and Erikson 2010: *“In January 1904, eighty Witboois were arrested and deported to the German colony of Togo where half of them died of tropical diseases and forced labour. Their suffering was so extreme that the German authorities in Togo refused to take responsibility for their deaths and eventually returned 42 of them to South West Africa.”*

1. Did President Pohamba express gratitude to the Togolese Government for its support to Namibia to host the Green Climate Fund only, or did President Pohamba also seek Togolese support for the Namibian quest for the reparation for genocide from the German State?
2. Was the genocide issue ever discussed between the two Presidents during the State visit? If yes, what understanding was reached in that regard? If not, why was it not discussed?
3. Would the Namibian State, as represented by the Head of State, President Pohamba, soon seek support from other former German colonies, including Cameroon, Togo, Tanzania and Rwanda in its

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demand for reparations for genocide committed against Namibian people?

4. Apart from the loss of human lives, what in the understanding of the State House or Government of Namibia is the loss in value for which Namibia ought to seek reparations? Has the Government of Namibia made any calculations in this regard?
5. If it is not the State of Namibia or the State House that is directly to engage the German State in this matter, which office, Ministry or Agency is assigned to deal with this matter and what is the latest information regarding the reparations demand from the German State?
6. Countries all over the world where genocide has taken place have erected either monuments or memorials directly in memory of such events. For example, Berlin in Germany has the Holocaust Memorial, Kigali in Rwanda has the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre. In view of this, what is the position of the State House *vis-à-vis* Namibia to have its own dedicated genocide memorial?

QUESTION 41:

HON MAAMBERUA: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1st of November 2012, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

Recalling that the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona's mission to Namibia from the 1st to 8th October this year it was noted as follows: *"That while the GDP has increased considerably, the poorest sectors of Namibian society have not benefited in the way they should. Inequality and poverty levels are still at unacceptable levels, the gini-coefficient remains extremely high, 0,58 in 2009-2010, indicating very small progress since Independence when the gini coefficient was 0,67."*

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

In the same vein, New Era newspaper of the 10th of October this year noted the following: *“Hundreds of people living in formal settlements around Oshakati are living in deep poverty. Inhabitants of Oshakati West, the area known as Eentokele do not have access to basic necessities such as clean drinking water and sanitation or even adequate food.”*

1. Right Honourable Prime Minister, do you agree with both these above quoted observations and if so, what urgent, drastic and targeted measures is Government putting in place to address the situation in Oshakati or is Government pinning its hopes on TIPEEG?
2. Has Government declared the extreme poverty situation in Eentokele an emergency or is Government of the opinion that it is not an emergency?
3. Are there situations of similar magnitude in terms of poverty elsewhere in Namibia and if so, what is Government doing about that as a matter of urgency?

QUESTION 42:

HON MAAMBERUA: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1st of November 2012, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement the following question:

A report about the Hochfeld evictees was compiled and sent to your office through our Deputy Minister's office during November 2011. In the same vein the media, notably the Namibian newspaper of the 4th of November and the 5th of December 2011 carried extensive reporting about the situation:

1. What has been done so far with this situation?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

2. Families of about 200 people were moved on the 30th of November 2011 from Hochfeld Farm No. 131 in Otjozondjupa Region to a resettlement farm Okepau in the Omatako Constituency of the same Region to literally squat on a 5-hectare camp.
3. In an open plea for President Pohamba to intervene, a letter drafted and sent to the Head of State on the 7th of December 2011, that is by myself, I stated about these people as follows: *“This group has now been left homeless, destitute, penniless, desperate and without any means of subsistence as they are dumped under brutal Police actions along the road near the farm Okepau, Omatako Constituency, Otjozondjupa Region after their only small shacks were destroyed. Worse still is that they have been lumped together with those other folks who recently were resettled without any further assistance. These previously resettled people at Okepau have been in need of seeds, ploughs and any other means to adapt to their new environment, but because of lack of agricultural inputs they are eking out a poor, desperate living condition.”* Honourable Minister, are you aware of this situation as I then described? What have you done about it so far?
4. Are you aware that amongst these people there are desperate elderly people, children and the destitute?
5. When are you likely to resettle these desperate people?
6. Would you agree with me that if these people have to be left there during this coming rainy season, some lives could be lost or severe conditions could set in?

QUESTION 43:

HON MAAMBERUA: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1st of November 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture the following question:

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON TWEYA**

The 10th of December 1959 goes down in the history of Namibia as the Old Location Massacre. Many Namibians were shot, wounded and killed. When the shooting stopped twelve people were killed.

1. Can the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture explain to this august House why these fallen heroes and heroines names are not engraved at the Old Location Cemetery on the mass grave tombstone? Is it because the Ministry does not know the exact names of these people and if you do know, could you provide this august House with the full names of all the twelve people who perished on that fateful day?
2. Would the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture ensure that their names will be engraved on a plaque and displayed on a tombstone before the next 10 December anniversary this year?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Questions. Any Notice of Motions? Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:
Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on the 30th of October I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Considers and approves the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) and EU Agreement, Second Revision by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I give Notice that tomorrow, the 24th of October, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Financial Intelligence Centre as the National Centre responsible for collecting, requesting, receiving and analysing suspicious transaction reports and suspicious activity reports which may relate to possible money-laundering or the financing of terrorism; to provide for the objects powers and functions of the Centre; to provide for the combating of money-laundering and financing of terrorism activities; to provide for the establishment of the Anti-Money-Laundering and Combating of the Financing of Terrorism Council and for its functions; to provide for the registration of accountable and reporting institutions; to provide for the powers and functions of the supervisory bodies; to empower the Minister to appoint an Appeals Board to hear and decide appeals against decisions of the Centre or supervisory bodies; and to provide for incidental matters. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to share

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

some important information on communicable and non-communicable diseases in Namibia.

Honourable Members may be fully aware of the many communicable diseases which we are faced with as a Nation. The top killers continue to be HIV/AIDS, TB and, to a lesser extent, imported malaria, but it is clear that we also remain confronted with major child killers, such as measles, gastroenteritis and pneumonia. While we have made great strides in tackling all of the above, there remains much work to be done in this area. For example to reduce the number of new HIV-infections to zero infections, zero discrimination and, finally, zero deaths calls for more work to be done in the area of prevention and this will not be cheap.

Similarly, we have been selected as one of only eight countries in SADC who now should move towards malaria elimination. Again this requires that we gear up our surveillance systems as well as community-based tracing of malaria cases and focused mosquito eradication activities in affected communities. In the same vein, we need to still further stake up our immunisation campaign in order to ensure we will markedly decrease the number of child deaths. This will require not the introduction of new vaccines but also that we increase the coverage of children successfully immunised from a current level of around 75% to that of about 95%.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, you will agree with me that these are formidable challenges, however we need to tackle them head-on in order to make progress. The message should be loud and clear and that is: “*we can*”, but it calls for more resources to be in place and with resources I am in reference to financial and skilled personnel to be in place.

Therefore, considerable further investment is required in the Health Sector, that is on top of what we have invested to this end. In fact, as any learned economist will advise, the marginal cost will be high to move from 75% to 95% vaccination coverage since it is the most difficult to reach on top of those coming for routine vaccination that we have to find and immunise.

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Similarly, to eliminate malaria the marginal cost will be high until we eventually reach elimination. Only thereafter can we afford to relax on control measures.

I am saying all this to clarify that there is a major investment case to be made for the Health Sector at this point in time. But this is not the end of the story, in fact all the diseases I have referred to above are communicable diseases but Namibia, just like many other countries, is faced not only by communicable diseases, but also by non-communicable diseases.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, macro-economists say that developing countries are now faced by a double burden of diseases and some even talk of a triple burden where injuries due to violence, motor vehicle accidents and fights are added as an additional major group. I would like to specifically refer to the NCDs, that is the Non-Communicable Diseases in this country. They are on the increase and are becoming a major burden on the health sector. NCDs are killing Namibians. What then?

You will recall that in March 2012 we had a Wellness Workplace Services here at Parliament with the assistance of First National Bank of Namibia to whose management and staff of the Wellness Group I am immensely grateful. I have proved that following the Wellness Workplace screening that was implemented here for both Honourable Members as well as staff members, results suggest that we have much work to be done. When we talk about Non-Communicable Diseases, we talk about high blood pressure, diabetes, overweight and high fat levels in the blood circulation measured by blood cholesterol.

In the Wellness screening done by FNB here at Parliament the following results were found to be a bit worrisome and that collectively we need to look at it and to re-examine ourselves and find assistance and fortunately the Ministry is able to address some of these challenges.

For hypertension it was revealed that 43,8% of some Honourable Members and 39.1% of some staff members of Parliament have challenges related to hypertension.

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Secondly, on cholesterol: Cholesterol is fat that you find in the blood system. Accordingly, 33.3% of some Honourable Members and 40.6% of some staff members have borderline to high-risk blood cholesterol levels and that needs some attention.

Thirdly, diabetes is measured by blood glucose. The exercise revealed that 18.8% of some Honourable Members and 15.6% of some staff members are affected and need some correction.

On overweight, 46.9% of some Honourable Members and 37.5% of some staff members are overweight or obese. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, where does the confidentiality and public interest come in when you give such information to the public?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: The serious confidentiality is there, no name is mentioned, no name was taken. This is in the best interest of us all and we must take heed. By the way, I am equally a candidate to risk, I must make it categorically clear. We must change our lifestyle. Members are overweight or obese or extremely obese. I have written it here, I am not an exception, we are all candidates. As leaders we need to take care of ourselves because we are needed out there.

Honourable Members, you will appreciate that we have work to do in the Health Sector, but individually there is much to be done by all of us collectively. The fact of the matter is that what we see here in Parliament is only the tip of the iceberg. Imagine what is out there in the Parastatals, for example, the Private Sector and the country at large - the beginning of a Non-Communicable Disease tsunami that will hit Namibia in ten to twenty years unless we invest now in prevention and health promotion is unimaginable. Non-Communicable Diseases are lifestyle diseases, they

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need lifestyle changes for those who indulge in unhealthy habits and they need strong prevention measures for those people who have not yet taken on those unhealthy ways of living.

But what is most important is that we need to engage these challenges now. Time is of the essence. Clearly the Ministry of Health and Social Services will need more human and financial resources to get on top of these challenges. Here in Parliament it is relatively easy for my Ministry to really talk, but in order for us to walk the talk, we need more resources to get into the rural area. More resources for community-based activities, more resources to improve our prevention and promotion efforts, more resources to train health workers, including community-based extension workers as well as nurses, pharmacists, social workers and medical doctors and more resources to upgrade our management systems, administrative support systems and our governance systems.

I want to appeal to all of us in this august House to take more responsibility for our own health, but it is the poor in the rural sectors who matter most, the homeless, those that do not have private medical aid who need the Ministry's services most. They make up to 80% of the Namibian population. Therefore, I can only say, let us do our best, give us the same level of resources as before and we will only be able to deliver the same results as before. Let us try our best. My team, the health workers and managers, are ready to go out in the rural areas. Give them, the foot soldiers of our Health Sector, the right weapons and enough ammunition and we shall deliver results. Thank you, very much indeed.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for the information. I hope the Honourable Members have heard and will act on it. Any further Ministerial Statements? I recognise the Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just wanted to remind the Members of the House that we have issued them

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with an invitation to a consultative workshop to be held next week, Monday, by the Ministry of Finance and NAMFISA on the set of Amendment Bills for a range of financial market laws that we are seeking to amend. I want to implore the Honourable Members to ensure that Monday remains open so that it would be dedicated to those consultations. We are busy with the finalisation of the documents, we wanted to have them ready for distribution already by today but unfortunately we could not achieve that, but we are doing everything to make sure that they are being distributed between tomorrow and Thursday.

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

RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:
VETERANS AMENDMENT BILL

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Thursday, the 4th of October 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture had the Floor and he may now continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I

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was about to conclude and I was just saying that this piece of legislation in the form of an Amendment is specific and not generic, therefore I think it will be fit that we take it as it is now and if we want to cover other matters, it would be better if that be done by another piece of legislation. Members have alluded to very important matters here, but that could be seen as an abrogation of the current Act if we are not careful and it could overshadow the specification of this Act.

Lastly I want to touch on Section 5(4)(c). This Section is welcomed but we need to consider other people who have been part of the liberation struggle and contributed, but at Independence in 1990 were below the age of 18 years. We had young people who were part of the Youth League and part of the students' struggle and many of them have been complaining that they are being left out although they have contributed to the liberation struggle. I think it is a welcome Amendment, that these people who could not qualify as veterans due to the fact that they were below 18 years of age at Independence can now qualify as beneficiaries. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, this Amendment Bill mentions the people who were beaten by then and the beaters. Are those who were beaten included in this Amendment Bill?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Muharukua, if I understood your question well, you meant people who were part of the apartheid machineries. We cannot bring them in here because this is not a general legislation, this is a specific one. Our rules make provision for private Bills and such a Bill can be tested here to make provision for Koevet also to qualify. Nobody is prevented from doing so. With these few remarks I support the Amendment Bill.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I have gone through the Bill about five times and I think the Amendment that recognises the people who were captured at Cassinga is a very progressive move as well as the people involved in the Pretoria trial. This also goes for the Amendment in Section 6(b). When one moves on with life certain benefits should be terminated.

However, I have a serious problem and I disagree with the Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, because this Amendment Bill disqualifies those people who were not older than 18 years at the date of Independence and I have a serious problem with that. I was a youth leader then in the SWAPO Youth League, I was the President of the Namibia National Students Organisation and I do not see how people, including Honourable Kavetuna and Honourable !Nawases Taeyele and the very Deputy Minister of Youth, could not qualify as a veteran. I think it is very important that the youth and students, the activists of those years, be recognised as veterans. I think the whole reason for the age limitation in the Bill is to avoid the accusation that we used child soldiers. We need to recognise the youth that participated in the struggle as veterans. Why should we exclude them? (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Shixwameni, you touched on a very serious issue, talking about the exclusion of those who were actually facing the Boers' bullets. This should not be a surprise to you because that is the culture of the Ruling SWAPO Party to discriminate against certain people. Are you aware that last week the Prime Minister openly stated that the SWAPO Party-led Government has intentionally been breaking the law and the Constitution by discriminating against certain people? Why are you

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surprised about this discrimination, because it is a known fact, that is what they are good at?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I was in fact going to come to that, because it is apartheid that is being practised by the Ruling Party against people that were inside the country. I cannot call it anything else than apartheid. The forty-two thousand people who came from exile dominate and control the country.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20

HON SHIXWAMENI: I was on the point of neo-apartheid, apartheid that is being supported here by no other than the SWAPO Party Government, where people who have come from exile are treated differently from the people who were inside the country. That is completely unacceptable and cannot be forgiven in an independent country for which all of us fought.

I am speaking as a youth leader in this country who never ran away from the Casspirs, who never ran away from the Buffels, but I was prepared to face the Boers around here with stones, nothing else but stones and there is no way that we can allow this Amendment to stand. If young people participated in the struggle, what disqualifies them from becoming veterans? I need to be told, what is the point that is being made? We mobilised all communities. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable Shixwameni a question? I do not think you need to become emotional, not all the elders are regarded as veterans, only those who participated. The same goes for the youth. We have those who were even younger than 10 years old who used to bring food to the guerrillas. Therefore, I want to advise you not to become angry and bring division. Let us identify the youth who participated. We know them and they are not excluded. I advise Honourable Shixwameni to look at this in the same way we looked at the elders. Not all elders who were inside the country are regarded as veterans, but there are those who participated and they are recognised and the same should go for the youth. When we were on Robben Island we had South African children who were imprisoned because they participated and the oldest of them was only 16, the rest just 11, 12, 13 years old. That is why I say we should not become emotional.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I fully agree with the Honourable Deputy Minister, but I am not emotional, I am speaking about it because it is an issue that is close to my heart. It is people that I led, it is people that I spoke for, it is people that I stood and fought with in the struggle. Some of them went into exile, some of them never returned. Therefore, there is no way I would allow a law to stand which discriminates against the people that I led. With some of them I was personally responsible for putting them in combis and taking them into exile and their parents are asking me up until today as to what had happened to their children. I cannot allow an item that is discriminatory against that generation of activists to stand. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask a question? Honourable Shixwameni, you must articulate the point you are making in such a way that it becomes clear. Do not listen to those who shed crocodile tears. How would you justify pure discrimination against those who were inside the country and even if it is the youth against the youth? Even when it comes to the

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nomination of representatives for the youth, a retired general is nominated to represent the youth, and this is discrimination and that cannot be allowed. Articulate your point as you are doing, do not listen to those remarks.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: While I agree that you must proceed with your argument, let it not be interpreted as incitement.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Here we have a newspaper and the Prime Minister's Memorandum to the Public Service, which basically emphasises that point of discrimination. It says, "*Cabinet reserves jobs for Struggle Kids.*" How do we take it? Why is a certain category of people made more special than those ones who were born of us who were inside the country? This is nothing else but neo-apartheid! The last time that I heard about job reservation was during the apartheid era where certain jobs were only reserved for whites and that is what we are today doing here today. We are saying that those ones who came from exile are more special than those ones that were inside the country. I feel we should reject this with the contempt it deserves. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. Firstly, in general terms I will agree with Honourable Shixwameni that this Bill is silent about the youth of whatever age who participated in various categories and I do not know where the discrimination is, but I see on Page 4, Section 5(a) says that a veteran is a person who was a member of the liberation forces. I am talking to you as a person who was a PLAN *kommissar* in the field. (Interjections). This is the way I talk, I do not know why people panic. Look at the wording, "*the liberation forces, provided the person was above 18 years of age on 21 March.*" PLAN had a code, it was a standing rule that we were not recruiting or training anybody below that age. Even

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those who are across that side and their former *kommissar* of PLAN, the first one is sitting here in front of me, will know that PLAN was not training anybody at Hainyeko who was younger than 18. You had to be 18. There is a difference between SWAPO in general and here it is talking about the liberation forces. SWAPO was fighting at the diplomatic level, the political level, at which you were involved and at the liberation force level, which was PLAN. You could not join PLAN if you were below 18 years.

I agree with you that the people you were leading should qualify in general terms, but when it comes to a liberation force, it is the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I think the Honourable Minister knows well what I am talking about. When you talk about liberation forces, you are not only talking about the people who were fighting in the army. That would be a lie, it is not true. Liberation force refers to people that were participating in the activities of the liberation struggle, as simple as that. You can go to your political dictionaries and see that this definition here is not true.

I know of people that I have sent outside the country who were even 16 years old and who were trained at the same Hainyeko you are referring to. They are back here, they are alive and they can testify about that themselves. Therefore, we should not use the convention now that we are being pressurised by the international community that we might have used child soldiers, now we want to make the thing retroactive to those people. I know many people that went into exile, that were trained as combatants and that were below 18 years. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you proceed now to the second set of arguments?

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HON SHIXWAMENI: All I am saying, Honourable Deputy Speaker, is that we need to recognise everybody's contribution. We cannot make a law that applies twenty years retroactively. (Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: May I ask a question? Honourable Shixwameni, are you aware that people who were fighting for the Independence of this country, either militarily or otherwise, did not just belong to one particular Political Party? A Political Party such as SWANU also had their own liberation forces. (Interjections). Yes, we did. The first people who were trained to liberate this country were sent by SWANU in 1962. Therefore, let us not use one particular Political Party as a yardstick for the liberation of this country. (Interjections).

HON SHIXWAMENI: I was about to conclude, but the fact of the matter is that we need to be truthful to our history. We should not distort history, because once we start distorting history by applying laws retroactively to disqualify some people, we are making a very big historical error. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. It is a question of terminology and interpretation. I have no problem if we say the liberation movement involved SWANU or whoever, I am not disputing that, but in the terminology that I know, the "*liberation forces*" include the armed liberation forces.

HON SHIXWAMENI: The Minister knows that he is at pains to explain away something that is a reality of this country. Whether we like it or not, it is a reality of the country that there are people who were younger than

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18 years who participated in the struggle, whom we led, who fought battles across the country. The Minister cannot explain away that particular point and that there are other people other than SWAPO who waged the struggle. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Can I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, in what liberation struggle did Honourable Muharukua carry a gun and does she qualify as a veteran or not? In which liberation struggle was she involved, carrying a gun?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I will ignore the question because the Honourable Member is not here. (Intervention)

HON DR KAIYAMO: On a Point of Information. Honourable Muharukua was part and parcel of the struggle of this country, according to the Act.

HON MEMBER: Where? (Interjections).

HON SHIXWAMENI: Since there is insistence on Honourable Muharukua, I must say that as a student leader and a youth leader, Honourable Muharukua was part of the liberation forces. I know it, so I will not denounce somebody who participated in the struggle. Yes, she was part of the liberation struggle.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think there is a problem with the definition of the words. There is a difference between liberation struggle, which is inclusive of everybody, and the liberation forces. According to the definition in the Act, “*liberation forces*” includes only those who underwent military training.

HON SHIXWAMENI: The problem we have here is the neo-colonialism and neo-apartheid mentality. People want to continue to differentiate and discriminate against others. That is the problem we have here and we can try to define or redefine, where is the *fuerzas de liberation national*, *Camerada Tommy por favor?*”(Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: On a Point of Information. When we are talking about liberation forces, then we cannot exclude SWANU, because before the establishment of the OAU in 1963 SWANU had already trained Cadres in China since 1962. The Tanga Group will bear witness to that, they are here and all of them can tell you the Political Party that first sent Cadres for military training was SWANU. (Interjection). Of course we were fighting underground like everybody else.

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information and I want everybody to listen. I remember during the apartheid era those whites who were discriminating, because it was not all the whites who were discriminating, those ones who believed in that philosophy were always justifying it by saying that, “*no, it is not apartheid, it is separate development*”. We are not discriminating against you, we are discriminating against those people in Katutura. That was the argument. The argument we are now seeing in neo-discrimination after Independence is that the terminology being used is “*liberation forces*”, knowing that it is going to exclude certain people. Therefore, discrimination can be practised in many ways. What is really

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happening now is that the Ruling Party has perfected the process of discriminating against a certain section of the community.

HON SHIXWAMENI: In the process of registration of veterans the people in the Regions are being discriminated, because a member of mine was at a meeting where the SWAPO Regional Councillor for Rundu Rural East was told that no, the process of registering veterans is only applicable to those NANSO people who are still in SWAPO today. That is discrimination because the Act says you are a veteran if you fought consistently and firmly until at Independence. Where does this thing come in that you only get veteran status if you still belong to SWAPO? Is that not discrimination? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the allegations by the Honourable Member cannot be left unchallenged, because this Government operates on the basis of law and order and this process of recognising and integrating veterans of our liberation struggle is undertaken in terms of an Act of Parliament. If the Honourable Member truly believes that there are actions being undertaken by the Ministry that are not in the spirit of the law that we have passed in this House, then I challenge the Honourable Member to bring that before a Court of law. I have no doubt that the Honourable Member actually does not believe what he is saying and he is deliberately misleading the public because we have members of Opposition Parties who are sitting in this House as I am speaking who have already received a part of their benefits, yet they have left SWAPO and even himself probably. For him to try and make people believe that those who have contributed through NANSO are denied their fair benefits under this programme on account of the fact that they are no longer SWAPO members, does not hold water if he himself as a member of an Opposition Party in Parliament is able to access his benefits despite the fact that he has left the SWAPO Party. Therefore, let it be known that the Honourable Member is not telling the truth.

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HON SHIXWAMENI: When I stand up in this Chamber I stand by the oath that we take every day. I would not say something which is not true. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: You are registered.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Who told you that? Go and check your register.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you conclude?

HON SHIXWAMENI: No, I have to respond to the allegations of the Minister, because the Minister's allegations cannot be left unchallenged. He speaks an untruth here and wants to run away. It is not true. People have complained to me that they were told by the Councillors that this process is only applicable to people who are still in SWAPO. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Can I provide some Information to the Honourable Member? The Honourable Member is a student of Social Science and knows that the interpretation of laws is actually a subject for the Courts. When you say what you are saying, Honourable Member, I could put it to you that probably your members were not telling you under oath and the same doubt you cast on the assertions made from this side could apply to what you were told by your members, which should be taken with a pinch of salt. You would also know that the interpretation of any law, any given concept is actually as per the given Act and not in general. Therefore, that concept could only

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come in that specific context and that is why they say “*may*” in this law means this. It is not in general as you find it in the Oxford Dictionary or whatever. Therefore, the definition of whatever forces is to be as per the Act that we are talking about. We may make ourselves the laughing stock if we do not even know what we have passed here and what we have defined. Therefore, it is very important for us to put that in context and actually refine, define and limit what we are talking about here.

When it comes to the age of participation in the struggle, I do not think we would be doing justice to the subject if we do not research properly. I think my Deputy Secretary-General here will not take it kindly that we partake in things that we did not research. I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you round up now?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, when people challenge me with something, why should I not have the right to respond?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why I give you the chance to respond.

HON SHIXWAMENI: When the Deputy Minister of Justice is trying to give a new definition, he is basically trying to confuse and cloud the matter. I am very specific about this issue. The Bill as it stands in Section 5(2) says “*a veteran is a person who was a member of the liberation forces, provided the person was above 18 years of age on 21 March 1990.*” My own wife would not qualify according to this definition.

To conclude, Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is discriminatory, this must

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be rejected by all Namibians with the contempt it deserves. All Namibians must be given jobs on an equal footing. We cannot select particular Namibians for jobs because they were born in exile. Unemployment is hurting every Namibian, we cannot have job reservation and job discrimination. This is nothing else, but apartheid. I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Let us talk about what had happened. I look at the Honourable SWANU member and I want to know how many of them you have trained. (Interjections). I cannot be an Aminuis Chief although I know Kawana and Kaapanda want to say that. Those are the people who really bring all this confusion in this country. I am not like you who are going around the bush.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who is bringing confusion, Honourable Member?

HON RIRUAKO: Why I am saying this is that they have created a kind of theme and do not follow the constitutional way of doing things. This is a fact and it is a pity that the Government of the people are taken for a ride.

The other thing I have to look at is where SWAPO members or soldiers were trained. They found a place where my people were trained. Go and ask the secretary of the veterans, he will tell you. You do not have all the knowledge of the thing you are talking about, you are talking about something irrelevant.

We cannot throw a stone where it is going to cause confusion. The point

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is this, I have trained people whom I have reported to the Founding Father of this Nation in Lusaka. He agreed, let our forces train one another. This is not hearsay, he said yes. The next morning I found them in jail in Tanzania. Who did not want to take them? Is it me or the Founding Father? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: It is you.

HON RIRUAKO: No, do not ever say an apple is an orange. That is a fact of life, I want to be direct and to the point. And now the point is that people do not qualify as veterans because they are not members of SWAPO and this is a fact. This is pure, pure discrimination. Koevoet members are Generals in our Army, should they qualify or not?

HON MEMBER: We do not want Koevoet.

HON RIRUAKO: No, you can understand it the way you want to, it remains a fact, some of those Generals were members of Koevoet and I know them. They are Generals in the Army here and that is a fact. Do they qualify because they are members of a certain tribe? Some are in Parliament here, former Koevoet sitting here among our Members. They are around there. (Interjections).

I wanted to say this and I am not going to apologise for what I am saying, it is a fact. The facts have to come out and we have to tell the truth. Are we really telling the Nation the truth or are we leading the Nation towards a destination of no law? Who is that owner of the hotel in Opuwo?

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I will not mention his name. One day I went to jail to look for Koevoet, the people who were arrested and they were naked and I said, "*if I were you and I arrest some of your members and I look at them naked*"(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I ask the Chief a question?

HON RIRUAKO: What kind of question do you have? It is the half truth. Let me finish my theme first before I am going to allow you. What I want to say is that this one is a Koevoet General and he arrested the former PLAN and I asked him, "*why are the people naked here, what do you want to do with him?*" (Interjection). You know him, he is the owner of the hotel in the centre of Opuwo. He said they have been arrested. I asked, "*for what and what are your qualifications?*" He said he is Sociologist with two degrees. "*And you fail to respect a human like you? One of you did not even question the Boers in that way.*" I know why I am saying this.

HON MEMBER: Chief, your time is up.

HON RIRUAKO: No, my time is not up, I want to bring you back to the normal way of life. This is the way you are treating the people.

One morning he came over, he wanted to talk to me, I put it at eight o'clock. I came out of the house and I said it is not eight o'clock, it is seven o'clock, you better sit there until eight o'clock and he had to sit there until eight o'clock.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chief, how is it relevant to the Amendment Bill?

HON RIRUAKO: It is relevant, I am speaking about these people from Koevoet. I know Koevoet and I ask them questions and those people told me they are in our Army and they were given high-ranking positions. Now why not us? Why do you discriminate against other people who are not from the North?

HON MEMBER: Summarise Chief.

I will not summarise, I am still busy. This is the way it is, let us call a spade a spade and I apologise that I have to say that the honour lawyer, Kawana, advised the people wrongly, in a lost direction. You are advising the President and you need to do this normally every day.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Where does he fit into your argument, Honourable Chief?

HON MEMBER: Is he a lawyer?

HON RIRUAKO: He is a lawyer but I have to say he is an adviser to the President.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, how does the question of Honourable Kawana fit into your argument and the relevancy?

HON RIRUAKO: I know what I am saying.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, explain to us.

HON RIRUAKO: No, I am not finished yet, he is advising the President, he cannot take action or decisions without him. I am told at the President's office, "*I must be here, you cannot talk to the President without me.*"

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: What does that have to do with this Bill?

HON RIRUAKO: We are talking about the principle of law. This is a fact. (Laughter)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Can I still ask my Question to the Honourable Chief? (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO

HON RIRUAKO: What kind of Question are you asking?

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Information...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: What kind of Information do you have?

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Information. Please, Chief, there is a Policy of National Reconciliation which was introduced by the SWAPO Party at Independence and that is working towards peace and stability.

HON RIRUAKO: Please sit down. You are breaking the rules of reconciliation yourself. If you are really creating a kind of forum of understanding and come up with a reconciliation law I will agree with that, but now you are deviating from the theme of the Government and this is not your fault, it is some of the Ministers in the Government who are doing this. It is not only one person, all the Departments are deviating from the rule of law and do what they want.

I am not talking about reconciliation because it is not respected and you have to know this. Let us go back where we started with reconciliation and do it the way it is supposed to be done and accept it the way it is and if you deviate, we are going to question you. That is why we are questioning you now. This is a fact of life, face it and come up with something tangible.

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: In Clause 4(a) it says: *“In the case of a veteran who meets the requirement of a veteran set out in Subsection (2), in the case of a dependent of a living veteran, a veteran himself or herself meets the requirement of a veteran set up in Subsection (2) or in the case of a dependent of a deceased veteran, the deceased veteran himself or herself during his or her lifetime meet the requirement of a veteran set out in Subsection (2).”* This is the basis of my enquiry and what I am going to say.

Honourable Kaura and Honourable Riruako have been talking in this House about a group trained in Tanganyika or wherever and I was not there where they met with the President, but this matter is a very serious one and we should share information because Namibia is so vast and some of the people who played a critical role may be left out the same as throwing out the baby with the bathwater. The group which Honourable Kaura referred to is a reality. There were people whom I can mention. When I was a young person my late father and a gentleman called Karipose and the late Munamava...(Interjection) You were a SWANU member in Botswana. I am talking about a serious issue here. They would spend sleepless nights talking about the liberation struggle of this country. We heard them talking about the liberation struggle during the night and I wonder whether the children of Karipose are applicable here or not. This is what I want to enquire. When you are talking about that group...(Intervention).

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. He mentioned Karipose who was under me and he does not know who was Karipose and who was I. Some of these people we have in this august House are new to politics and our politic is quite old and we have done a lot and we know what we have done. Those who are old know what had happened. Those people of Gam are veterans, the first fighters. They did not get everything on a silver plate, they died for it, they came after their deaths. (Interjection). And you who are saying that, young girl, what have you contributed to the liberation? Just a mouth talking, talking and talking, no action.

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HON KAZENAMBO

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:

I want to continue with this point because the other day I was interrupted. They were in this category and I will challenge the Members who are here. The brother of Honourable Katuutire Kaura is still alive, he is on a farm in Outjo. When Kaura arrived in Botswana neither SWAPO, nor NUDO was formed, the only existing Party was SWANU and he was not a member of SWANU. He arrived in Botswana as a member of the Herero Chiefs Council and the Herero Chiefs Council, for those who do not know, included... (Interjections). When he arrived in Botswana he was not a member of SWANU, he was not a member of OPO, which later became SWAPO, he was a member of the Herero Council and the Herero Council was not only driven by Katjukurume alone, it also included the Nama Chiefs, it included leaders who were here, church leaders from Kavango, including the father of Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya sitting here. He was part of that. These are the people who were driving the petition of the liberation struggle.

SWAPO was later formed, SWANU were in conflict with the Herero Council because of its radicalism and SWAPO was later born. I am wondering about many of these veterans. In Botswana there was a man called Kaamukoro Tjetjoo, who used to crisscross between Botswana and Namibia. In Botswana there were two groups: “*Okambumba*” no “*Tjimbumba*” when NUDO and SWAPO were formed, these groups split. At that stage they were all belonging to the Herero Council, but they split. Tjautumaha Tjetjoo, Kapuraije Kutaa, Kandunga Maekopo including my father, and were the first group that formed SWAPO and they were known as the “*Okambumba*”. There is a man in Gam now called Nyerere Kandjii... (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Minister, it is all that history that makes you what you are. What do you make of the Youth League telling you that you are a nobody and must be fired?

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HON NGATJIZEKO

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:

In conclusion, we have the case of people like Nyerere Kandji who is in Botswana, like Tjautumaha Tjetjo0, Kapuraije Kandji, like Theopilus Kaura and a number of them and there are many factors, I can speak to this the whole night, there were many factors that made people to return. Let us investigate it carefully when we are dealing with this matter and I could see the sensitivity when Shixwameni was talking and we only differed on semantics. There were many, many people including white people here. Let us investigate and hear their stories because some of the people who returned from Tanzania even before 1990 can be labelled as people who have wavered but they have not. They have never participated in any Government structure, they returned here and they were just here. You will not prove that they have participated in any structure.

There was the group of the Kaura, Dr Geingob, Riruako, there were many factors and someone said jokingly, I will not complete it, they used to say I think some of you guys will not make it to Tanzania and Europe, you can find your way back and slaughter a cattle. This were the Kozonguizi and Ngavirue who were talking. These people's kids will be found in Okakarara and Aminius, let us listen to them and consider their case on their own merit. They qualify as veterans. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: The Honourable Minister has requested me to adjourn the Debate until Tuesday.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON UNIVERSAL
ACCESS AND SERVICE POLICY FOR ICT**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Policy on the Universal Access and Service Policy for ICT.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology Move that the Policy be considered?

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY:** I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, it is my profound pleasure to be given this opportunity once again to introduce another milestone my Ministry has achieved towards our endeavour to realise Vision 2030. I am sure that you are

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aware that in terms of NDP4 my Ministry has to make sure that by 2017 there must be adequate ICT infrastructure in place to facilitate economic development and competitiveness through innovation, research and development.

The key strategy to attain the mentioned outcomes is to ensure that all Namibians have access to affordable, modern and reliable ICT infrastructure to promote business efficiency and that there is deeper penetration of broadband Internet in rural communities in order to minimise the digital divide and improve efficient and effective service delivery.

Fellow Members, amongst others, one of the indispensable vehicles to realise our key strategy is by means of creating a fund, as provided by the Section 56 of the Communication Act of 2009, which will cater for the ICT Universal Access and Service in Namibia.

Prior to the establishment of the Fund, to be known as the Universal Access and Service Fund, we took the liberty to develop the policy that will guide the *modus operandi* of the stakeholders and the Fund itself. Hence my aim is to present what we conveniently call the ICT Universal Access and Service Policy to this august House.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, this policy addresses widespread availability, affordability and accessibility of a full range of Information and Communication Technology networks and services from fixed and mobile voice through radio and television broadcasting and Internet to full range of broadband-enabled services. It requires on-going skills development to support and enable full utilisation and digital inclusion.

Furthermore, it requires an environment in which both devices and services are affordable, where the necessary communication infrastructure is widespread, readily accessible and affordably priced and thus where wide-ranging choices of voice data and broadcasting services is freely available, providing a range of content relevant to all the

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Namibian people.

The Universal Access and Service Policy will, therefore, pave the way for adequate ICT infrastructure and improved service delivery.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I pray that you will take special note of this Policy since its publication henceforth will have life-quality changing effects on the population of Namibia and that it will cause the creation of a Fund that will enable the roll-out of ICT infrastructure for effective service delivery to the most remote areas in Namibia.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, with these few words I present the Universal Access and Service Policy for Information and Communication Technology of Namibia for your consideration and approval. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are not here to merely criticise, because what is right is right and what is wrong is wrong and the fact remains that once it is applied, it will be applicable to the Nation as a whole and once it is well done according to the rules, nobody is going to object to it. For instance, television is chosen for one section, sometimes here, sometimes there and you are responsible for that. Change that kind of mind-set. That is not a comfortable way of doing things. I am not here only to criticise you, but after something has been done well I say thank you, but I am not here to applaud you while it is not something which is not acceptable to the whole Nation. The direction must be there and we are not here to play games, we are here to talk about

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how the Nation should be built, the whole Nation and not a section of the Nation.

With these few words, I hope they are going to bear some things in mind and after that the right directions are going to be taken. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Policy on the Universal Access Fund. I think it is important that it must be mentioned that indeed ICT today is a must for Nations who are striving for development and the Policy and the Fund that are going to be established would allow Namibians to access at least the best of ICT in the world and to make sure that even somebody in the village out there is able to communicate, is able to acquire a gadget that links him to the world. It is indeed important that we all support the Fund and that the stakeholders contribute according to their market share to the Fund in order to make ICT accessible throughout the Nation, because developing Nations can leapfrog in terms of development if we make use of the opportunity that ICT presents to our people. Therefore, I really welcome the tabling of the Policy on the Universal Access Fund in this House, because we should not reinvent the wheel, but leapfrog other Nations so that we can develop our Nation. I thank you and I support the Policy.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:**

Thank you very much. I rise to wholeheartedly support this instrument. If we are talking about Universal Access 22 years into Independence and we are creating a policy instrument, let us match our actions to our words of Universal Access to ICT. I beg my Government, I beg the Honourable House that we match our actions to our words.

I am standing here in support of this document and crying and not joking, because...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: You can tell the Government to do things and not to beg. You do not have to beg the Government, they are there to do the job properly.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:**

It is a humble way of doing that. Maybe people will laugh when I am using the word "*humble*". I may be aggressive, but I humbly aggressive and I am a humble person by nature, but if you push me you will regret.

Universal Access to ICT is very critical. If you go into the area of Tsumkwe and also many areas, these are occupied by vulnerable communities such as the San, the returnees from Botswana and people who are escaping from poverty in the Kavango and the North, trying to make a living. If you drive there during the night, you find people on that gravel road trying to get access to their cell phones.

Comrades, let us be serious, calling each other names will get us nowhere. These citizens I am referring to can be found in other parts of Namibia, but I am giving the example of Tsumkwe. In the Omatako area people die on the road and then you find ICT companies sponsoring events with

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millions of dollars. I have no problem, there should be no contradiction, I am from a Ministry which is striving for more sponsorships, but please, if millions are spent by these companies, sometimes even on congratulating people on birthdays... (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Whose birthdays?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: It may be a Minister's birthday or a Member of Parliament's birthday, I could not care less, my own birthday or a Chief's birthday. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? I would like to ask Honourable Kazenambo, these congratulatory messages that go for birthdays that fill all the pages, is this a kind of psychopathism or what is it and whose money is being involved? Can you confirm that this is Public money that goes around like this?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: In my own interpretation it is backwardness, nothing more. Some of the birthday messages do not even have the age of the person, no age mentioned. It is Public money while people are eating from dustbins. It is just backwardness. Who cares about your age or birthday? It is a question of friends and it should have a category, who cares about your birthday? (Intervention)

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HON NADNDI-NDAITWAH**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also want this House to take note that the Head of State has also pronounced himself on this.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Yes, the Head of State has clearly said this money must be donated to charities. It is just backwardness, it is too much and I do not entertain it. I condemn it, it is abhorrent to use State money for birthday adverts in a country with poor people.

Therefore, I am saying we must match our policies and I can go and eat from the dustbin, but I will keep on saying it, but I know I will not eat from any dustbin anywhere. I am saying that it is about time that the corporate entities in Namibia that are in the ICT Industry take their social responsibility seriously. They must go to the area between Okotjituuo and Rooidag at Omatako as a matter of emergency and erect a tower there. That is when we can talk about Universal Access to ICT. How will those people access it? How will the people in the bushes of Okongo along the borders of Angola and Namibia access ICT if we do not erect towers? What about the people in Koës, the people in deep rural areas across the country? Please, the companies that are using our millions to curry favours on birthdays must not gamble with our money. Our policies should match our realities on the ground. I support the Policy.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to support the Universal Access Service Policy for Information and Communication Technology which was presented by my neighbour and also because of the importance of this Policy.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

We are living in a world of technology and universal access and service is a must if we have to realise our dream of Vision 2030 and beyond. We have seen the improvements now that people have access to technology, particularly to communication technology, i.e. cell phones.

We know a policy is a broad framework and sometimes difficult to implement if there is no tool with teeth. In this Policy I am encouraged to find that the Policy is talking about green electronic communication. This is very important because those infrastructures, if not well-planned and if advanced technology is not incorporated, could have a negative environmental footprint which can even be detrimental to the health of the people.

It is also important that we encourage the providers to work as a team and to share these facilities. If we allow these facilities to be all over the place simply because the providers do not want to work together, it will have a negative impact on our environment, not only site pollution but also damage the environment in general.

Another issue that we need to look at seriously because of this Universal Access and Service which is available is that many of our people, if not all, are going to make use of those gadgets. Therefore, we need a law following this Policy to address a way of disposing those electronic devices people are using. I know in some countries there are laws in place on how to dispose electronic devices and they are guided by communication technology laws. In some instances a supplier has to be ready that when a broken cell phone or computer is brought in for disposal, then a person given some money in return. This is simply to discourage pollution and allowing this electronic equipment lying all over the place.

When we adopt the Policy it might be easy for the Ministry to develop an appropriate law for the implementation of this Policy. Experience tells us that having a policy alone without an implementing law makes it difficult for the intended goal to be achieved.

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HON NAMBAHU**

Finally, I want to thank the service providers who are working very hard to make this service accessible. Currently most parts of Namibia are covered, particularly when it comes to cell phone connectivity and that is a commendable job done in a very short period in a small country like Namibia. Even in big capitals such as New York you still have some places which are not covered by cell phone services. Try phoning your own Ambassador to the UN, you may not be connected to him or her simply because the area is not covered. Therefore, our service providers have done well. I support the Policy and would like to see its efficient implementation. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate is adjourned until tomorrow. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.10.24 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
24 OCTOBER 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to acknowledge with appreciation the delegation from the Parliament of Botswana, Members of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice, Security and Government Assurance in the gallery. Feel welcome, Honourable Members.

Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Ngatjizeko.

**TABLING: REPORT ON 101ST SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE**

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Report on the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June this year.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I rise to brief this Honourable House on the important mission that I undertook to attend the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva, Switzerland from the 30th of May until the 14th of June 2012 together with a tripartite delegation composed of Government, employers and workers delegations.

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HON NGATJIZEKO**

I have the pleasure in reporting to this august House that the most notable achievement of the Conference was the adoption of a new International Labour Standard, the ILO Recommendation concerning the National Floor of Social Protection. Social Protection Floors are nationally defined as sets of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. With more than five billion people lacking adequate social security worldwide, the recommendation adopted by the International Labour Conference provides basic social security guarantees to all in need, as defined by the individual countries' finance through the given country's national resources.

The recommendation stipulates that the basic social security guarantee should consist of the following:

1. Access to a nationally defined set of goods and services constituting essential health care, including maternity care and meets the criteria of availability, acceptability and of quality.
2. Basic income security for children at least at a nationally defined minimum level, providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services.
3. Basic income security at least at a nationally defined minimum level for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability.
4. Basic income security at least at a nationally defined minimum level for older persons.

What was reassuring and critical in this instance was the fact that the new recommendation includes both the informal and formal economy. While efforts to include Informal Sector workers are encouraged within the ambit of the social protection provisions, member countries are obligated to advocate and support the growth of formal employment and the reduction of informality. To this end, countries are encouraged to

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establish Social Protection Floors as a fundamental element of their national social security systems and as part of their social economic and environmental development plans.

Furthermore, the recommendation encourages countries to implement their Social Protection Floors as early as possible in their national development processes. While some countries maintain that there seems to be no longer sufficient fiscal space to implement the said protection Floors, many positive examples in Latin America, Asia and even Africa where countries successfully implemented the entire Floor or at least major elements of which were also presented.

On the basis of the mentioned examples, delegates and representatives of the Conference were apprised that some forms of universal social protection is affordable nearly everywhere.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the following: The adoption of a new recommendation by the International Labour Conference, one of the most fundamental obligations imposed on Government by the ILO Constitution as Article 19 of that Constitution, is that within twelve months the Government must submit recommendations to the authorities within whose competencies the matter lies for the enactment of legislation or any other action. Therefore, this august House should take note that when Government places a recommendation before the competent legislative authority, it is expected to indicate what action it considers desirable.

Based on the set standard and procedures of the ILO, the following options applied: For the Government to indicate whether the instrument is already fully applied within a national law and practice and can, therefore, be ratified or be accepted, or recommending the enactment of legislation to give full effect to the instrument then followed, in this case of a convention by ratification. Once the submission procedure has been completed and the steps taken have been communicated to the International Labour Office, the Government's immediate obligations

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON NGATJIZEKO**

arising from the adoption of a new instrument by the Conference would have been fulfilled.

In the case of Namibia, may I assure the Honourable Members that we meet most of the required basic social security guarantees. However, as I submitted to the august House during the Budget discussion process last year, Namibia has embarked upon a complete social expenditure review process. This activity is undertaken in consultation with the ILO. A request to this instance was submitted to the ILO and a competent team of experts were appointed by the ILO to assist Namibia to undertake this immense process. The actual assessment process will commence in November and will continue for a period of six months. The findings of this review will inform the Nation as to the mapping of the existing social protection schemes, including social assistance programmes, social insurance, etcetera, producing an inventory and description of existing and planned social protection provisions and programmes.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to appraise the House that the Ministry's position currently is that ratification should not be considered at this stage to allow time for proper consultation, research and study, that the conclusive information that we will receive from the mentioned undertaking will enlighten us as a Nation as to the possible route we could follow. I thank you very much for your attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Please table the Report. Any other Reports and Papers? I recognise the Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

**TABLING: NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY**

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, HUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the National Rural Development Policy of March 2012 was under consideration during the last Session but lapsed. I now, in terms of Rule 24(b) lay upon the Table the said Policy for consideration and adoption.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? I recognise Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 44:

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1st of November 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services:

1. Is the Minister aware that there are some people who work under the malaria sections countrywide that are still not permanently employed after forty years?
2. If yes, how many workers are still temporary employed so far?
3. Why is the Minister ignoring the Labour Act which prohibits the unfair treatment, victimisation and exploitation of workers in Oshakati in particular?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

4. Is it also true that those temporary workers are underpaid and only receive their monthly salary after two months or after they have gone on recess?
5. When will the salaries be adjusted or be increased?
6. Is it also true that the usage of DDT chemical is harmful and endangering the health of the workers? Can the Honourable Minister explain?

QUESTION 45:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1st of November 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Defence:

1. It is a fact that the Ministry of Defence was given money to renovate military installations and military camps countrywide, Oshakati Sector 10 in particular. Why did the Ministry only renovate the kitchen of Sector 10 while the NDF members are living in colonial prefabricated barracks which are full of holes where they can be bitten by snakes?
2. Is the Minister aware that there are persistent complaints that the old members of NDF are sent to work far away from their homes for many years, which disrupts their relations with their families, while young NDF members work near their cities and towns.
3. Is it also true that some NDF members wear torn uniforms and also flip-flops while on duty? When will the Minister provide the NDF members with proper boots so that they can execute their duty properly?

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

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON MAAMBERUA**

ORAL QUESTION

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I have an Oral Question to the Minister of Information and Communication Technology emanating from Page 54 of this bulletin we have just been given.

Firstly, what is the purpose of publishing birthdays of national leaders in a Government bulletin?

Secondly, why are the birthdays of national leaders belonging to the Government-in-waiting or in your own parlance, Opposition Parties, not also published as they are also national leaders? Thank you.

RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The information contained in the Government Bulletin is for public consumption. You are a public figures, a national leader for that matter and the public needs to know you, including your birthday, so that when you celebrate your birthday they could extend to you their best wishes and good luck in your endeavour to take this country forward. There is no other purpose other than to know who you are and when you were born. (Interjections).

There is another publication, a poster where everybody is included. Maybe it is a matter of space, but next time we can enlarge it and include everybody. Thank you.

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RATIFICATION: INDUSTRIAL POLICY
HON TWEYA

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statement? The First Notice of Motion is by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry.

RATIFICATION: INDUSTRIAL POLICY

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:
Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you for the Floor to motivate the Industrial Policy for the consideration and subsequent Ratification by this august House.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Industrial Policy for Namibia is needed to outline the broad principles and parameters that will guide our industrialisation efforts over the next two decades or so. Namibia's industrial ambition is firmly articulated in Vision 2030 which stipulates that the country should be an industrialised Nation with a high income by the year 2030. The core objective of the Policy Statement is to articulate Government's thinking on and approach towards industrialisation and how it intends to support the alignment of all stakeholders, policies and programmes to that effect.

The Industrial Policy would set clear guidelines for the role of the State in industrialisation as well as the expected role of other stakeholders, including the Private Sector, organised labour and Civil Society in our pursuit to become an industrialised Nation by 2030.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, notwithstanding the absence of a clear industrial policy, Namibia's economic performance since Independence has been laudable and we have much to celebrate about. Our economic performance has been underpinned by visionary leadership, strong Public institutions and prudent fiscal and monetary policies. Since Independence, the annual average real economic growth rate has settled at a higher equilibrium level of about 4% compared to a

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Pre-independence average of about 2% only. Consequently, there was a steady increase in the real per capital income of Namibians and by 2008, Namibia propelled into the league of the so-called upper middle-income countries, as classified by the World Bank.

Although we do not concur with the classification, it nevertheless represents a significant milestone on our economic development. Going forward, we shall adopt our own Namibian definition of economic development which shall include, in addition to income based on purchasing power parity, also a measure of equity and reduction in the income disparity.

Steady progress was also made in the diversification of our economic and export structure. For instance, between 1990 and 2010 the contribution of the secondary industry, which includes manufacturing, electricity and water and construction, increased from 14.4 percent to 20.4% of our GDP, while manufactured exports accounted for close to 60% of total exports by the end of 2010.

While we have much to celebrate about, it is of concern that the structure of the Namibian economy remains relatively narrow, thereby making it vulnerable to exogenous shocks. This vulnerability to external shocks was evident during the 2008/2009 global economic crisis that led to a sharp contraction of Namibia's Mineral Sector and hence, an overall contraction of the economy in 2009. The shallow economic structure also poses a challenge for the creation of sustainable job opportunities. It is against this background and in accordance with our common vision, Vision 2030, that the Ministry of Trade and Industry decided to prioritise development of an industrial policy to guide our industrial development process.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as part of the Government's policy of participatory democracy, the Ministry has conducted extensive consultation with all stakeholders who provided invaluable input into the Industrial Policy during the development phase. The stakeholders who were consulted during the drafting process include, Members of the Cabinet, like the Ministers of Finance; Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Mines and Energy; Labour and Social Welfare; Education;

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Fisheries and Marine Resources and the National Planning Commission as well as the Trade Unions, Industry Associations and representatives of leader companies in the different Sectors, from manufacturing, etcetera, and it was followed by a stakeholders workshop which was also conducted to look at the Draft Policy before it was finalised.

In order to realise the Industrial Policy objectives and targets, as outlined in the policy document, as well as the strategies currently under formulation, there are inevitable financial implications associated with the implementation and monitoring of this Industrial Policy for Namibia. The Government would, therefore, be required to provide resources, both human and financial, towards the implementation of the Policy under discussion.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me, therefore, at this juncture to table the Industrial Policy for Namibia for your consideration and Ratification. Your positive consideration and Ratification of this Policy, Honourable Members, will reinforce and grant momentum for the speedy implementation of the National Development Plans which would resultantly bring about the realisation of Vision 2030 aspirations. I am counting on your usual and continuous support and I thank you, Honourable Members.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do agree with the proposals by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, but the land is distributed in the wrong way. The accumulated land from those who were here is owned by individuals and they sell this land every day out of this town of Windhoek to go to Kapps Farm, houses and houses and houses. Why should these things be done and you do not even question it?

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HON MEMBER: The Industrial Policy.

HON RIRUAKO: That was industrial land but it was given to certain individuals without it being questioned. To me that is industrial land who owns that land? Why is the Government so soft and does not question why they are behaving this way? Give the land back to the people and divide it among the people who live here, but not those who come over here and own everything. This is not fair.

It is time we have to wake up and tell the truth in this House. What are they doing with that land which belongs to the Nation as a whole? Now individuals have taken it for granted and you tell me that is a land issue, that is the way you provided the land of this country. I query that. Why are you not bringing this issue to this Parliament for discussions? That is the way it is supposed to be. You cannot allow one person to take everything for granted. He did not buy that land, it was just grabbed and you allowed it to be grabbed. If I grab a white man's land where he is now, am I going to be put in jail for that? What is that? What are you trying to tell us? Is it a monopoly for certain individuals? It is not my policy. Somebody pushed me out of that constitution conference deliberately and all of you were taken for a ride. No one protected the land of this country and they made sure I cannot be there. (Interjections) No, the Minister of Trade and Industry is a newcomer and you were there before.

I cannot fight for nothing, there must be protection for those who fought for it. We cannot tolerate this anymore. You must wake up and listen to us.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, a Point of Order.

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HON RIRUAKO: Who has a Point of Order? That man mistreat people here in this House, he must sit down. I am here to tell the truth, you are here to connive. You had better sit down. This is the time to tell you to sit down. Wait until I have finished, then you take the message further.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: Sit down! We cannot tolerate this anymore. If somebody else is given something behind the scenes, he must tell me. Are you really used by any individual?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you are Out of Order.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** Here I know I have immunity but when we are outside there at the Holy Fire at Okahandja you can tell me to sit down. May I ask the Chief a question?

HON RIRUAKO: If you are really correct and honest you have to, if you are not, sit down.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** Honourable Chief, I agree with you that the Minister of Trade is new. That time when the policy was conceived, the Chief

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Whip of NUDU, Honourable Tjiuiko, was the mastermind. Can Tjiuiko explain?

HON RIRUAKO: If I want to go further or beyond that. That conference was taken away from the Nation and certain people put themselves somewhere else and they connived everything and they agreed to it without our consent. What do you call it?

Honourable Deputy Minister of Trade, I thank you for bringing this issue here for us to wake up from our sleep. We were put to sleep not to mention anything, to look like baboons that can jump over from there, not seeing what is going on here. Now we discovered this is not fair and I really appreciate that you really brought it to light for this Nation, to discuss about this issue and to find out what is right and what is wrong and to correct it into the right direction. That is the name of the game. We cannot tolerate this nonsense anymore and we cannot allow that to happen anymore. One person cannot own Namibia, 25 kilometres just for his operations, it is an empire and you allow that to happen and we have to shut up. It is an empire of a certain individual who puts himself above other human beings. Why can they not donate a certain area back to the Government and back to the people? What belongs to the Government has to be given back. I cannot tolerate this anymore. There must be a limit to everything. I am not a tribalist or racist but if you become the owner of everything and you are not ashamed that the public sees this, that is a monopoly and you allow monopoly to be practised in this House. This is the House where the public has to ask you about the wrongdoings. This is the national House to see where is the wrong and the right and we are supposed to correct what is wrong and condone what is right. It is our right to say what we think is not right.

The Minister must wake up and look into this matter very, very carefully and report back to us. I thank you.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I just have a question on Page 3. “*While manufactured exports accounted for close to 60 percent of total the exports by the end of 2010*”, that second-last Paragraph, I just want to find out from the Deputy Minister what are we manufacturing in Namibia which accounts for 60 percent of exports?

HON TJIHUIKO: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The second Notice of Motion is by Honourable Shixwameni. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I beg your indulgence to Move my Motion to tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Third Notice of Motion is one by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:
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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Please table the Bill, Honourable Minister. The Secretary will read the Bill a First Time.

SECRETARY: *Financial Intelligence Bill.*

**SECOND READING:
FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE BILL:**

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Minister, you now have the Floor.

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the House. I have the pleasure to introduce in this House the *Financial Intelligence Centre Bill*.

This House in 2007 passed the Financial Intelligence Act of 2007 (Act 3 of 2007). The main purpose of this law, as articulated in the headnote is, “*to combat money-laundering, establish an anti-Money-laundering Advisory Council, provide the Bank of Namibia with the necessary powers to collect, assess and analyse financial intelligence data which may lead or relate to money-laundering, impose certain duties on institutions which and other persons may be used for money-laundering and provide for incidental matters.*”

At the same time during that year Namibia also enacted the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, which law introduced, amongst others, criminalisation of money-laundering.

During 2005, Namibia had, like all other countries that ratified the United Nations Convention against Trans-National Organised Crime, undergone an evaluation to establish whether the country complies with international standards and best practices relating to anti-money-laundering and combating the financing of terrorism.

Because we had not at that time enacted all the laws which criminalise money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, the outcome of the evaluation was that we were not compliant. The enactment of the Financial Intelligence Act and the Prevention of Organised Crime helped the country to create an appropriate framework for safeguarding our system from being used for illicit dealings, such as money-laundering and terrorism financing. It also moved us forward towards meeting our international obligations under the various conventions, including the one that I have alluded to earlier, and protocols. However, although we have achieved notable progress in that regard, we still have to address other important aspects in order to achieve full compliance with the commitments that our country made internationally.

Therefore, following a *prima facie* audit and a targeted audit carried out

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by FATF in 2010 and 2011, respectively, Cabinet approved an action plan for addressing the existing deficiencies in our system for dealing with money-laundering and financing of terrorism. The main actions for the Ministry of Finance, as contained in the action plan, were:

- To enact and implement Amendments to the Financial Intelligence Centre Act to ensure sufficient operational independence and autonomy of the National Intelligence Unit, that is the Centre that is at the Central Bank, by December of this year;
- To provide for secure protection of information held by the Financial Intelligence Unit and that was to have been completed by December 2011; and
- To implement legislative Amendments to enable the Financial Intelligence Centre, the Bank of Namibia and supervisory bodies to use administrative fines and penalties to sanction non-compliance with the Financial Intelligence Centre Act by December of this year.

It is important that Namibia addresses these deficiencies as were highlighted in the evaluations I have alluded to, in order to:

- Ensure that our financial systems are not used for money-laundering and financing of terrorism as this would pose a risk to the stability of our systems; and
- To safeguard the integrity of our financial systems in order to avoid being listed as a non-cooperative jurisdiction and a jurisdiction whose financial systems pose a risk to the international financial systems. Such listing may result in Namibia being subjected to a variety of sanctions which may affect the stability of our economy, especially as it relates to our trade relations with other countries, our banking relations with other systems, investments in our country by foreign investors and even our ability to transmit funding to our embassies abroad.

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The *Financial Intelligence Bill* is intended to repeal the Financial Intelligence Act of 2007. This Bill provides for the establishment of a Financial Intelligence Centre as the National Centre for receiving, requesting and analysing suspicious transaction reports and suspicious activity reports which may relate to possible money-laundering or the financing of terrorism in line with international standards and best practices. The improvement over the existing Act is the provision for the Centre to facilitate the receipt of suspicious activity reports pertaining to possible financing of terrorism, because previously it was just about money-laundering. A definition of “financing of terrorism” was also inserted under Section 1.

The Bill also provides for the objects, powers and functions of the Financial Intelligence Centre, the combating of money-laundering and financing of terrorism activities, the establishment of the Anti-Money-laundering and Combating of the Financing of Terrorism Council and for its functions, the registration of accountable and reporting institutions, the powers and functions of the supervisory body, the power of the Minister of Finance to appoint an appeals board to hear and decide on appeals against decisions of the Centre or supervisory bodies and other matters incidental thereto.

In addressing the deficiencies identified during Namibia’s targeted audit, your attention is especially drawn to the following provisions:

With regard to the operational independence and autonomy of the Financial Intelligence Unit, that is now the Financial Intelligence Centre at the Bank of Namibia, the current Act does not create a National Centre for receiving, requesting and analysing suspicious transactions or activity reports pertaining to possible money-laundering and financing of terrorism, but rather it assigns that function to the Bank of Namibia. The Bank, in turn, established a separate department on its organisational structure to carry out these functions. In order to establish the operational independence and autonomy of the country’s Financial Intelligence Unit, Section 7 of the Bill establishes the Financial Intelligence Centre as a legal person within the Bank of Namibia as Namibia’s National Centre responsible for receiving, requesting and analysing suspicious transaction

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reports and activity reports pertaining to possible money-laundering and financing of terrorism and dissemination of intelligence reports to competent authorities and for monitoring supervision and enforcement of the provisions of the Bill on accountable institutions or the Act, when it is passed, in consultation with supervisory bodies and regulators.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would continue from where I ended by proceeding to the second aspect of the Amendment that is introduced and that is the establishment of the Anti-Money-Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism Advisory Council where the proposed Amendments are proposed to the name of the Anti-Money-Laundering Advisory Council in order to cover the new aspect of financing of terrorism that they will be expected to advise the Minister on.

The membership of the Council is further expanded to include representatives from Government Ministries not previously included, including Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Safety and Security and the powers of the Council have been strengthened to recommend the Budget, human resources as well as the appointment and removal of the Director of the Centre to the Minister of Finance.

To address the deficiencies in the Anti-Money-Laundering Supervisory and sanction regime, the duty to supervise and monitor Anti-Money-Laundering and combating the financing of terrorism compliance has now been expressly given to the supervisory bodies in terms of Section 35, which duty may be conducted on a risk-based approach. Furthermore, the authority to enforce such compliance is also expressly given to supervisory bodies, while a duty is placed on such bodies to report all

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supervision, monitoring and enforcements to the Financial Intelligence Centre and the supervising body and regulators are required to coordinate their approaches in exercising their powers and performing their functions in terms of the law.

In line with international standards the Bill in Part 5 creates a compliance and administrative sanction regime. Section 53 provides the Centre and supervisory bodies with a compliance tool in the form of inspections, while Section 54 and 55 provide the Centre and supervisory bodies with the necessary enforcement tools to enforce the provisions of the Act on regulated institutions.

Currently any non-compliance with the Act calls for a criminal charge or sanction. This is regarded as being not in line with international standards. As such, Section 56 provides for administrative sanctions as an alternative to criminal charges. Criminal sanctions will be reserved for those instances where an accountable or reporting institution willingly assists and participates in a money-laundering terrorist financing scheme or where an accountable or reporting institution without reasonable excuse persistently and consistently fails to comply with the compliance instruction by the Centre or supervisory body and fails to remedy identified compliance breaches under Section 59.

With regard to introduction of the risk-based approach to Anti-Money-Laundering and combating the financing of terrorism, the Act is currently rule-based, which is considered to be costly for institutions that have to comply. Under Section 23, 24, 25 and 39(1) of the Bill these provisions form the basis of the risk-based approach to Anti-Money-Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism compliance that the proposed Bill seeks to introduce. The idea is for accountable institutions to identify the money-laundering and terrorism financing risks that are high and to focus their efforts and resources on mitigating these risks.

There is also, as I have indicated, an appeals board being established in terms of the Bill, which did not exist under the current Act.

With regard to application of the Act to the Registrar of Companies and

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Close Corporations, while companies and Close Corporations have internationally been identified as favourite vehicles for money-laundering and financing of terrorism, beneficial ownership information of such companies and Close Corporations are currently not readily available since it is not kept by the Registrar of Companies and Close Corporations or at any other central depository. As such, accountable institutions find it difficult to comply with the identification obligation as far as shareholder and beneficial ownership is concerned. It also hampers the Centre in other competent authorities in carrying out their respective mandates as far as combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism is concerned. Therefore, Section 4 was created in order to create a central depository for such information.

On application of the Act to the Master of the High Court, although trusts are currently registered with the Master of the High Court, trusts are not regulated by any authority. As such, it has become a comfortable vehicle to hide illegal assets. Internationally trusts have also been found to be a comfortable vehicle for hiding proceeds of crime. Therefore, Section 5 was created to give the Master more power over such trusts and to further enhance the availability of beneficial ownership information.

The rest of the current provisions in the Act were carried over to the Financial Intelligence Bill, but we decided rather to come with a Bill that repeals the previous Act because the Amendments were quite a lot and it is considered more appropriate to have a repeal.

With this motivation, I hope I have been able to highlight to the Members the importance of indeed considering the proposals that are made here and passing them into law in an expedited manner. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussions on the Bill? I recognise Dr Kawana.

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY

GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the introduction of this very important piece of legislation. Indeed, in terms of certain decisions of the United Nations Security Council aimed at combating terrorism, Member States, including non-member States, are obliged to ensure that they come up with legislation, one of them being Financial Intelligence, the other one to combat terrorist activities and financing of terrorism.

As the Honourable Minister explained, the consequences of non-compliance is blacklisting and blacklisting is very severe for a country which does not comply. It means that the Central Bank will not be in a position to send money outside Namibia, nor to receive money from outside Namibia and that will cripple our trade. We will not be able to send funds to our Embassies and High Commissions for their administrative activities.

I hope this universal requirement, particularly combating money-laundering, will also assist in some way to enable Africa to retain financial resources for the benefit of our continent, because in the past rich tycoons in some of these countries who got their money through corruption used to send that money to Switzerland and other tax haven regimes at the expense of the development of Africa, at the expense of the common man and woman in the street who are making a hand-to-mouth existence.

Therefore, it is not only beneficial for money-laundering on the African continent but also for all the developing countries, because we experience that economies of countries outside the developing countries are being sustained by this ill-gotten money and they are very rich because of this money. I hope this problem will be addressed inasmuch as the main objective is to combat terrorism, but will also go a long to ensure that the financial resources of the continent of Africa are used for our own benefit. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask my senior Colleague a question? Comrade Dr Kawana, you mentioned money-laundering havens, countries where you sometimes keep money that is siphoned from countries through dubious transactions. What would you say would probably happen with an Act like this one? Will this only be useful for us or will it be applicable in those types of countries where they keep money stolen or siphoned through dubious transactions? What would you say about this?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL: Honourable Member, as I said, this is a requirement of the United Nations Security Council measures taken under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which means all the countries are obliged to pass legislation to counter money-laundering. Perhaps it is a blessing in disguise for Africa and developing countries because for so long they have been victims as money has been shipped away from these countries in order to enrich already rich countries. In fact, some of those countries' economies were based on some of this ill-gotten money and I hope this problem will be solved by this kind of legislation. We hope those countries will now really comply with this obligation as per the UN Security Council resolution which was taken under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which is obligatory.

With these few remarks, I once again wholeheartedly support the Bill and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Before I give the Floor to the next speaker, I would like to, with much appreciation recognise the most important visitors, Professors from the Stellenbosch University who came to assist in the training of senior management at our institution, NIPAM. They are Dr Karel Van Der Molen, Dr Dirk Brand and Mr Petrus Van Niekerk. You are most welcome. Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I rise to support the Financial Intelligence Bill and concur with what Dr Kawana said. However, I know that there are UN Security Council Resolutions agreed to by those powerful countries which are privileged to dictate world affairs and what they say is apparently international law and obligatory. That is why there have been demands for the reform of the UN Security Council so that we have better balanced kind of approach to international issues, to peace and security in the world, including these aspects of money-laundering and terrorism.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, as you are aware, when we were fighting for the Independence of Namibia we were labelled as terrorists. Possibly some freedom fighters of this country may still be on the statute of the US Congress, including a former terrorist like Honourable Ulenka. We could probably still be listed there.

HON ULENGA: I do not know.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: The point I am trying to drive home here is that the resolution was passed, it is obligatory and we have to implement it. We have no choice with regard to that. However, what I want to emphasise is that the super powers have a tendency to dictate and to bully the smaller Nations as to what must be done because what they say is law. I have here in mind countries which have been classified by the American Government as terrorist States. Some of these countries were supportive of our Independence struggle and we know those countries, yet today the powerful countries have imposed sanctions on those countries. Sanctions are still on the statute books of these big countries and year in, year out Namibia is vocal for example on Cuba. We say this embargo is unfair, it is unjust, it is hurting the Cuban people, but nobody listens.

The point I want to drive home is that a country like Iran was one of the

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first countries to offer diplomatic status to Namibia and Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya knows it. They offered us a fully-fledged office, the only country in the Middle East and today Iran is being branded as a terrorist State.

I have spoken about Cuba, I have spoken about Iran, maybe that applies to other countries. Today we are enjoying excellent diplomatic relations with these two countries and we are told we must not trade with these people, we must not have any trade relations with them and we are saying no, Cuba is a friend of Namibia. We do not see terrorism there. Cuba has been exporting peace to the world, it has been exporting education. They say education is the biggest equaliser. Cuba has offered study opportunities to hundreds and thousands to Namibian students. When our camps were attacked our children went to Cuba.

I want to ask the Minister whether we will have some reservations with regard to some of these countries and I will be glad if the Minister could give us assurances that this Financial Intelligence Bill will not hamper our excellent relations that exist between Namibia and Cuba and other friendly countries. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Doreen Sioka.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, for the Floor.

My concern is on Page 18, the Constitution of the Anti-Money-Laundering and the Combating of the Financing of Terrorism Council. Comrade Deputy Speaker, you will see that most of the people appointed to this Council are male, namely the Permanent Secretaries. Firstly it is the Governor or his or her delegate. We already know the Governor is a man. Then the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, who is a

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woman. Then we come to the Inspector-General and we know that is a male. Permanent Secretary for the Ministry responsible for Trade is also a man. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for Justice...(Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Question declined. Looking at the Permanent Secretary, we can see that out of fourteen there are only two females. Therefore, I am requesting the Minister of Finance to at least nominate two women under Sub-clauses (k) and (l) so that we have four women. That is my request I wanted to put to the Minister of Finance for her consideration.

Women are being used in money-laundering and these women will be our voice so that we can reduce these criminal activities seeing that we have to respect those who are commanding us that we have to abide by their laws. With these few remarks, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: A very objective and reasonable request. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I thank the Minister and her staff for this Bill, which is a very good document although I am sometimes worried by the fact that we simply import documents from outside and fail to domesticate it. If the Bill is only imported without being thoroughly checked, it will have loopholes in Namibia and that is my concern. Sometimes we do receive very good

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documents, but in the end there are many loopholes which are being used by the implementers. When you have N\$300,000, they say it is money-laundering. I appeal to the Minister to close all technical loopholes so that we do not suffer any longer, because we have been accused of being terrorists. We want tighter control over terrorism in Namibia and with this I support the Bill.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: I do not want us to fool ourselves, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The point is we cannot be a member of that committee and we cannot express our views. We are there to serve the country and we are there to query some of the Ministers before our Committee. This is a fact.

HON MEMBER: Which committee?

HON RIRUAKO: This committee. If you do not know the committee, you must ask someone next to you. This committee has served this country for quite long and how many intelligence offices have we opened throughout the country? Now you know the committee. You must serve this country with honesty and honesty is the best policy. Not only honesty towards another person or country, honesty to this country, honesty to this Government. I do not want people to speak behind the scenes as if they do not accept what has been said here. (Interjection). I am not here to explain to you, you heard my voice and everything I put.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my point is this: The members of the Intelligence Committee has already scrutinised this Bill and there are

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some who have run away from the Intelligence Committee. There are those who have been absent for quite long, but we have to serve the country all the way. Do not serve the country half-heartedly, do so until the end and where something is wrong you have to correct it yourself. If the Minister makes a mistake, call him before you. I do not want to argue with you, we have the privilege to invite the Ministers to Report when they have done wrong.

HON MOONGO: May I ask a question? Chief, is it true that you suffered in Pretoria as a result of intelligence and now you are praising intelligence as if they are angels.

HON RIRUAKO: I suffered because of intelligence, I know that, and I have done a lot, but what they are going to read from my diary is quite clear and what they are going to read from the diaries of other people will not be quite clear because you twist it and do not tell the truth.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we do not have to beat around the bush, this is the time for us to express ourselves and tell the people the way it is. This is the time for us to know who is who. Some of them appeared before my Committee, I can see two or three here, the others ran away from me. Please express the truth, all of us were in the same Committee and some wanted to be taken care of. How? You must serve yourself, do not expect another person to serve you.

When it comes to money-laundering, we have to count our chicken eggs and we have to know how much we have and how much another country has. We are here to serve ourselves and we are here to express how we feel about what we have done. (Intervention)

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HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, is it allowed for the Honourable Member to speak in general while we have a specific Bill on the table?

HON RIRUAKO: I will come to the Bill. Is it allowed for a Member to sit while we are talking about the safety of the country and she does not even express herself?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Come to the subject matter.

HON RIRUAKO: I want to train you to come up front instead of being behind and express yourself. Money-laundering is something we are supposed to watch and we are not here to allow any money without our knowledge, even money from another country to a Political Party. You have to express yourself on how much you earned, what you received for what purpose. That code will come in the future. (Interjection). Never mind political money or NGOs money, then the election is not well expressed. That is how we call it money-laundering. You must also express what kind of money you have, what is the purpose. (Interjection). I do not want to answer your question, I am here to express what is behind the scenes. Money is something all of us want, but for a good purpose. That is the first one and if it is for a bad purpose, explain why you want that money.

Therefore, we appeal to all of us to keep our country clean and to save our Nation accordingly. We cannot do things behind the scenes. What happened is that everybody got money from somewhere but it is in the newspaper. Even if it is wrong or good, it is in the newspaper, we read where it comes from. Sometimes it is good, sometimes it is not that good. Where does that money come from? That is the query.

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HON MEMBER: It is money-laundering.

HON RIRUAKO: Money-laundering, that is the name. One has to bear in mind this is what you are saying.

HON MEMBER: Slush funds!

HON RIRUAKO: Slush funds, the purpose for the slush funds must be there, you cannot get slush funds from anywhere without an explanation to the Nation.

That is why I want to say this openly, if I need to have money, I will tell everybody where the money comes from and I am not going to hide it, I will tell my Colleagues and I will tell whoever are in those positions to know why I have the money and you are also required to do that. It should not be one-sided, there is a law to which we are supposed to abide as we have already endorsed that law. Therefore, we have to follow the direction of that law and this is a fact. I am not saying you are not supposed to get money from abroad, you only need to tell the truth to those who are enquiring. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I also want to support this piece of legislation.

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Initially I did not want to take the Floor, but I have been prompted by others to add my voice.

Obviously the trend is to come up with these kinds of instruments and we have the concerns which have been raised by my Learned Colleagues there, Honourable Kawana and Honourable Nujoma regarding the aspects covered in here. However, the problem I have identified is that we are complaining about these instruments but we lack coordination. The problems are faced by us as countries. As the SADC Region we all have the same problem, for example. We have the same backgrounds, we were terrorists yesterday, we are today governing parties, but all of a sudden we are being subjected to these kinds of issues and I do not see much coordination at policy level. As individuals we resist, we resist as isolated entities and yet those who impose these instruments on us are very much coordinated, they are very much calculated and for the most part we see the coordination and consultation at technical level, but we should never allow the technocrats to become policy-makers. In the absence of policy on these issues we will continue going the way we are going.

There is an African saying that you should not blame a big fish for eating small fish, it is the responsibility of the small fish to grow bigger so that it cannot be swallowed by the big fish. Growing big can be done through coordination, organisation and consultation.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Deputy Minister of Justice a small question? Honourable Deputy Minister, I think this analogy of the big and the small fish is very interesting. We have information that Government was busy buying big cars. Is this because some Ministers are big and some are small? Is this what you are referring to?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: There is a saying in my language and maybe someone can translate this, that if you use a proverb, somebody may take it literally. “*Growing big*” in this context means that

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you have to coordinate, to plan better, to be able to research. That is the context in which you have to grow bigger.

There is a book titled, “*Instruments of Global Governance*” and I feel each one of us should read that book, because these are the instruments through which we are governed – by peer pressure, by applying poor ratings and all these kinds of things and if we debate without seeing the underlying reasons of why these instruments come our way, we will not be able to grow bigger and will continue to be swallowed as has been the practice all the time.

Therefore, inasmuch as I want to appreciate this instrument, my point is that we have to come up with policies to address these issues so that we grow bigger at the regional and continental level so that we do not continue to be swallowed.

It is true that this will contribute to transparency, money coming into the country and going to whoever, but the fact of the matter is that this money that has gone from Africa to other continents were deposited without questions being asked, but it is very hard to recover that money. You are being asked whether you have exhausted this law, have you done that? Why were these questions not asked in the first place when this money was being brought in here?

The legislation in those countries has not been able to prevent that bank in the United States from banking the fourteen billion from Iran. Sometimes you just have to ask yourself what are the underlying reasons and that will actually make you grow bigger and coordinate. This legislation is water under the bridge, but in future I would want us to be more calculated and come up with a position at the regional level in order to resist.

HON RIRUAKO: Can I ask you a very tiny question? After all those commotions there must be precautions and we are talking about that. That is the remedy to what we are talking about. I thank you.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Could I beg the Honourable Chief to put this in Namlish because I did not understand?

HON RIRUAKO: To scrutinise what you are talking about, there must be precautions and those precautions will guide us on what is to be done and how. There must be a direction of the precautions.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Obviously my precaution is for you to coordinate, is for you to build capacity. I am very happy that you are saying there are some professors behind me here. Invest in research, invest in capacitation of your institutions in order to be able to have the capacity to offset the others. I have always been saying in this Parliament do not drive the cars that others drive, also know what others know and that is the cut-off point. If the others know more than you do and you only aspire to drive a Hummer like they do, then I can tell you that Africa will not be able to get far with that kind of disparity. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise Honourable Maamberua.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate on this Bill is postponed until next week, Tuesday. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING:
VETERINARY AND PARA-VETERINARY PROFESSIONS BILL**

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VETERINARY PROFESSIONS BILL
HON SHIXWAMENI

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Bill*.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned on Tuesday, the 9th of October 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Shixwameni adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I must say right from the start that the Bill is straightforward and technical and serves to strengthen the veterinary institutions in the country. I have very few issues to raise in the Bill which relate to veterinary services in the country.

One is Part 3, Section 24 of the Bill on Page 26 and 27. I must say that I welcome the harmonisation of the veterinary services and the profession so that we have people properly registered to ensure that the veterinary standards in the country are indeed upheld. I also welcome the fact that we would be building capacity to ensure that we build a strong profession and an institution that would be able to regulate this important area of our economy. As we are all aware, Namibia being an agricultural economy with its meat exports, need to up the veterinary side of that.

However, I would like to put a bit of a caveat there in terms of the qualifications. The Bill talks about degrees and diplomas obtained from abroad. The Ministry of Education is doing good work by sending Namibians to other countries, but the problem we have been experiencing is that these people return and then their diplomas and degrees are not on par with the diplomas and degrees obtained in Namibia. Mostly they are told that the veterinary standards of the countries in which they studied are not better than those in South Africa. I think we are basically shooting ourselves in the foot unless we are saying we want to depend perpetually

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and forever on South Africa, which we cannot do as a country. That is why I look forward to the establishment of a Veterinary Institute inside the country so that we have our own standards and recognise those who have studied in Cuba and Russia. I cannot see how the standards of Cuba and Russia can be said to be lower than the standards of the Republic of South Africa and I have a serious problem with that. However, I think the Bill is trying to address that particular situation.

If were to concede and say that the standards of South Africa are better, than our standards and the standards of friendly countries such as Cuba, Russia, the former Eastern Bloc countries, then we should ask ourselves why do we in the first instance send our people to be trained in those countries, wasting our resources that we could have used inside the country to ensure that we build capacity. Therefore, either we decide to send our students to countries that supported us during the liberation struggle whose standards our NQA doubt...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? What do you expect when the market itself is in control and you hear of market reservation and these kinds of things? If I am a youth in this country, I will talk about youth empowerment, if I am a woman I will talk about women empowerment, but no one really speaks of State's empowerment and who is the State going to empower if itself in turn is not empowered?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I was just laughing at myself when people are talking about the powerful dictating the less powerful, because what we fail to understand is the economics and politics of neo-liberalism. These things that we are complaining about are informed by ideology, it is informed by political positions. They are not made in Heaven where all of us are supposed to go and live equally, they are made in Washington, they are made in New York, they are made on Wall Street and Main Street and we basically simply consume that.

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HON RIRUAKO: The Germans came here with the Simmenthaler and that was in 1890, only one bull. Our cattle were familiarised with the kind of topography we had and when the Simmenthaler came over here, they had to change the way of these cattle of ours, but they were swallowed by the topography of this country until they adjusted to the conditions. That is what happened, but by then there were experts in certain directions. But you cannot compare Cuba to South Africa. Why? The methods of education is not the same, the parameters are not the same and you are a highly sophisticated person, you ought to nurture this kind of approach. Firstly we had the education of the Germans, and then we had the education of the English and then the French, because these people were here before. Read your history and after that adjust to the conditions how the situation developed. This is the way how you can catch up with what is happening today.

Now we are here to witness how far we have gone and what we have achieved. That is the way it is. Now I leave it up to you to come up with a direct method of accepting the momentum. I do not say the Cubans are stupid, but ideologies will tell you.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I got lost in the middle of the Chief's speech. All that I was trying to emphasise at that point is that if we as Namibians feel that the education of our friends who supported us all over the years is inferior, why do we waste money to send these people there to get inferior education? That is a decision that we need to take as a Nation, because we cannot waste resources by sending people to countries and then when they return they have to do two or three extra years to be on par with the South African standards.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Shixwameni, there are times when I do not follow what you are saying but today I am following and it seems I am starting to understand a little bit. Are you aware that we have technical experts from Cuba and former Socialist

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countries who work for this Government either as doctors, nurses, etcetera? Are you aware that they come here to help us with these very valuable skills which we do not have? Do you know that after a person has worked here for a number of years, we accept them in our institutions, they work for us? For example, if a Cuban lady, a qualified doctor, comes from Cuba and work in our institutions, no problem, but the moment she marries a Namibian those qualifications cease to be recognised. This is the problem I have and I do not understand. We have dentist technologists who work here, but the moment she marries she is referred to the NQA which will again determine the standards. What a contradiction. I think something is wrong with our system and I agree with you that these things are not determined here, they are just being imposed on us and we fail to recognise these important things. Dr Abraham Iyambo is here, he is a doctor, trained in Cuba, but he was moving around the streets there, nobody wanted to recognise his qualifications. Today he is a doctor in a very critical field. I think something is wrong with us.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I fully agree with you, Honourable Minister. It is at Government level that we have to interrogate this question. Why do we allow the people who colonised us to dictate and determine our standards? It is us as a Government that must interrogate that question.

HON DINGARA: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? The truth is something else. When someone is right, it is just right, so he is truly right. I fully support what he is saying and if I had the power I would have changed it immediately after this meeting, that those things must not happen again, but the power does not lie with us. Comrade Shixwameni, I was in Estonia a week ago which is adjacent to Russia and was formerly part of Russia when the relationship between Russia and Cuba was very strong. During that time some students used to go to Cuba for studies while others used to study in Russia. When they got their Independence in 1991 they started to revamp their education system. The Estonian people did not want the old Russian system, but they say that the

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one thing they cannot ignore is that the education they received that time cannot be compared with education anywhere in the world. What we are now seeing is that Germany and many countries are copying the education system of Estonia because they have a strong educational foundation. However, here in Africa that particular educational system is not considered to be strong.

HON MEMBER: It is the SWAPO Party Government.

HON DINGARA: It is not SWAPO, everywhere they are saying Cuba's education is not up to standard, but as Honourable Nujoma was saying, when you become a Namibian things start going wrong. When you are not a Namibian you can practise your skills and expertise, but as soon as you become a Namibian, recognition becomes a problem. I want you to give us your views on that type of stereotype behaviour that we got from somewhere.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I think he has made himself very clear and we do not need to get into that Debate. I think the Soviet system and the system being practised in Cuba have their own weakness but they also have their own very strong points, (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I keep on pleading with my Government that we repeal all those South African laws but you refuse. I did appeal to you to repeal them and come up with straightforward laws and we did not do that. We are today controlled by South Africa, they can tell us not to give to that person, give to this person. It is decided in Pretoria and you know this. You cannot get all the money you want, it is controlled by South Africa and the Honourable Deputy Minister of

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Finance knows that and he does not open his mouth and tell you that we are controlled by South Africa. You can query him and find out where the problem lies, he is there.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I said Honourable Dingara explained the situation very clearly, there is no doubt about it that these issues are ideological and political, but the onus is upon our Government to take those decisions. We need to take some of these tough decisions. We have sent our students all over the place and we cannot have them discriminated in the labour market. That is a decision we need to take.

However, I am happy that we are building capacity inside the country where our students can go and get the education that nobody else will be able to question.

Our rural areas do not have many veterinarians, they are only found in towns and the State will have to do something drastic because our people in the rural areas in most cases do not have access to veterinary services and what is called the Veterinary Para-Professionals. They are there but they are only a few and we need to help our communities in the rural areas by attending to their cattle and small stock. That is one challenge that is facing us as a Nation and I hope we can overcome it by making more and more extension officers available in the rural areas. I will tell you what the problem is with the ones who are there. They do not reach out, they sit in their offices and only now and then do they go out. I do not know whether it is as a result of motivation, but the Ministry of Agriculture should see to it that extension officers are active in the field with the people.

Another aspect is one of continuous education, which is also a welcome move, that people who deal with medicine should continue to update themselves and on that one the Minister must be congratulated.

I have serious problems with the Veterinary Cordon Fence, that almost 24 years after Independence we are still locking out the majority of our

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people from the market, but also from them getting foodstuff from the communal land. I think this is very unfair towards the majority of our people. What is wrong with me going to my village, slaughtering a cattle, loading it on my car frozen for personal and my family's consumption? Meat is so expensive in the central areas and when, as is the tradition in Ovamboland and Kavango, you are given a piece of meat after a wedding, you cannot bring it across here. The Veterinary Cordon Fence put by the Boers is still there.

HON MEMBER: It is the SWAPO Party Government!

HON SHIXWAMENI: We should make an arrangement that food for personal consumption is not subjected to the restrictions. Who will be infected by my meat brought from Kavango or Ovamboland to my house in Olympia to be eaten by my children? Whose cattle will be infected? I can tell you that meat is cheaper in the northern communal areas than this meat we are buying at Hartlief and Meatco.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. I agree with many points raised by Honourable Shixwameni, but I beg to differ on this one. Comrade Shixwameni is a very informed man, to be honest, and we are aware that at the moment efforts are on their way to systematically address the issue of the cordon fence. However, Comrade Shixwameni is saying it in the manner that he is saying it as one of the most informed persons in this Parliament cannot go unchallenged. It is a law of economics, it is a law of demand and supply. Unfortunately many of the products that we produce are not consumed by us, we consume those that we do not manufacture here. Namibia is zoned in terms of livestock. We have the commercial area and the meat produced here is marketed abroad and we earn foreign currency. If we start speaking indiscriminately, we are doing

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a disservice to nobody else than ourselves, because if I slaughter a cow or a goat in Gam or Tsumkwe which has not been tested and transport it and the meat happens to be infected, what damage is that going to cause to the economy of this country? Let us follow the strict regimes that are there and then address it. Therefore you are wrong or being hypocritical.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I am not being hypocritical, Honourable Kazenambo, I am speaking from practical experience. What you are explaining is the law of demand and supply. The London Stock Exchange is the law of Wall Street, that is what you are trying to defend whether you like it or not. It is neo-liberal economics that you are trying to advance in the name of protecting the market. Whose market are you protecting? I am aware that there are efforts to address the situation, but let us speed those efforts up to also involve the majority of our people. Why should they be excluded from the market? This is their country and the market is their market, why should they be excluded? (Interjection). No, let me conclude, you can take the Floor, the Bill is still under discussion. You can take the Floor and make your statement.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. On the law of the London Stock Exchange being neo-liberalism, I cannot come and address it here in this House, I will be told that I am not doing it according to the protocol and code of this House. The Honourable Member cannot wear traditional clothes and go to a certain event. Because of set standards he will be told that the dress is formal. Let us not be hypocritical.

HON SHIXWAMENI: That is at best the embrace of neo-liberalism. Because I wear a suit does not mean that I must take orders from London. Because I wear a suit does not mean that I must take orders from Wall Street. We must be our own masters here and we must to a certain extent

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do things for the majority of our people who live from Kunene down to Oshakati, down to Caprivi. They are more than 60 percent of the Namibian population who are excluded by the cordon fence, whether we like it or not and we should be able to say to ourselves that as a Government we must be determined to take the necessary steps that would include our people in the meat market in this country. I must emphasise the fact that taking meat from my own house in Rundu to my fridge in Olympia, who will get infected along the road?

While efforts are being made to address the question of the movement of the cordon fence, Government should for now exempt people to carry meat from the northern areas for personal consumption. Let us work towards including the majority of our people.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Leave it for campaigning next year.

HON SHIXWAMENI: It is not campaigning, it is the reality that the majority of the people are excluded. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Can I ask Honourable Shixwameni a question? I do think that we are confusing matters here and I think it should be made clear that there are some phyto-sanitary regulations that you have to adhere to if you want to protect the health of the national herds and veterinary status that it is consumable for human purpose. However, there are political issues around the cordon fence which are the other side of the coin. Therefore, I do not think it is correct to say that there is no risk with a piece of raw meat being transported from an area that is infected to an area that is not infected and there is no risk of a general transfer of the disease from one to the other. The question,

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therefore is, are you aware that diseases like foot-and-mouth are travelling across borders and that borders are closed to protect certain areas from that specific disease? Are you aware that it is also true for other phyto-sanitary issues, not only foot-and-mouth but lung disease and others? If you answer that question you will probably also be aware that there is some sense in establishing phyto-sanitary issues and I think that is the purpose of this Act. The issue of how the fence should be undone to do away with that artificial barrier, that political barrier, I think Honourable Kazenambo has indicated that that is underway, but that is underway in a systematic way so that we do not put other things at risk. I just wanted to know whether you are aware that there are these different issues that we have to address.

HON SHIXWAMENI: The Bill is still under discussion, I am the first person to speak on it. People can still take the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Just a follow-up on the question by the Deputy Minister of Finance on the issue of the meat. I would want to bring that meat from my village to Windhoek, but I want to find out from you, knowing human behaviour, what guarantee do you have that that meat will end up in your fridge and in your mouth and not on any of the farms where the bones will be thrown around and creating trouble? Let us not try to mislead people by making it so simple while we are dealing with human behaviour.

HON SHIXWAMENI: In fact, I know that some Ministers transport meat in their VIP cars from the northern border post to here. (Interjections).

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HON ULENGA: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is a vital Point of Order and I would like to ask Honourable Shixwameni a small but very important question. Honourable Shixwameni, are you aware of the fact that after 23 years the only explanation to this kind of situation that you are talking about is that the whole Nation is being blackmailed, is being intimidated falsely on an issue that is nicely and purposely mixed up. The points that Honourable Kazenambo is raising are true and wrong also, because they are mixed up with the politics.

Right now you cannot do this because of bones being thrown around on farms. Why should we be blackmailed by things which should have been resolved long ago and till now we are being told we cannot? That is not clear. You are being scared off by foot-and-mouth while foot-and-mouth can be dealt with and resolved. (Interjections). No, Honourable Kaura, I know where your farm is. Go and change the cordon fence to put Honourable Kaura to the north of the fence so that he can understand.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I have two points left, therefore I will continue tomorrow.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, something was said by Honourable Ignatius Shixwameni here, that certain people are violating the laws of Namibia by crossing veterinary lines with contraband goods and if somebody is doing that, do not be surprised the day our Police Officers check your cars. We will embarrass you because you are disgracing us. This is a courtesy for you as Honourable Members that we do not check your cars or we do not interfere with your movements, but if somebody is doing it and Honourable Shixwameni knows it, please tell me.

HON SHIXWAMENI: That cannot go unchallenged. My car does not

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even carry a VIP sticker. I drive myself freely around this country.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time is over, but before we go, I would like to make this announcement: Yesterday the Honourable Minister of Finance told us that on the 29th of October there will be a workshop. That workshop has been deferred to Wednesday, the 14th of November 2012. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.10.26 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
25 OCTOBER 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

TABLING: REPORTS ON STUDY VISITS

HON UEITELE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Report of the Study Visit to the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security from the 2nd to the 6th September 2012 for note-taking.

Honourable Speaker, I also lay upon the Table the Report of the Study Visit to the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security from the 5th to the 9th of March 2012 for note-taking.

I also lay upon the Table the Report on the Study Visit to the Parliament of Ghana by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security from the 5th to the 9th of March 2012 for note-taking.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Reports? Any further Reports of Standing or Select Committee? Other Reports and

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Minister of Justice.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament. I rise to congratulate the SWAPO Party and the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the victory they scored this morning and at the same time offer condolences to the eight Opposition Parties represented in Parliament.

On a serious note, Comrade Speaker, I rise to inform this House and the Nation at large that the cloud of disinformation and character assassination that has been hovering over Namibia for the last, almost three years has been lifted. The case, the electoral challenge by the eight Opposition Parties represented in Parliament against the Electoral Commission of Namibia and the SWAPO Party, alleging fraudulent winning of the National Assembly election 2010 has been overturned. They alleged that SWAPO did not win the elections because according to them there was stuffing of ballot boxes with papers in order to boost the number of votes for SWAPO Party. That was proved impossible to have happened under the circumstances that the Judge analysed chronologically and justly. All the facts were placed on the table, that the ballot boxes, wherever they had been, were under the care of the Police and they were overseen by the Party Agents and it would be unfair for a Party to allege that there was stuffing when they themselves had Party Agents who at times left these ballot boxes and went to sleep. Whose fault was it? Why did you allow sleeping on duty, if at all it had happened? No opportunity arose to allow those circumstances that these Opposition Parties alleged to have happened.

Therefore, I stand here to congratulate our judicial system for the independence of thought and practice. We must congratulate them because the allegations made were going to put Namibia's name amongst

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those countries in which elections are tampered with. Our democracy is working and those who were defeated were defeated clearly and squarely. They must accept the defeat and I am sorry for those who denied themselves the opportunity to be here as they were supposed to be. They absented themselves and in the middle of the term realised they were going to lose in any case, so they came and re-joined us. Welcome to the House now you are authentically here. You are told there was nothing untoward and, therefore, you belong here.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, let us uphold our democracy, let us trust our institutions, let us live by the rules we have established ourselves. I congratulate Namibia, I congratulate the people of this country for the trust they have in the Ruling Party, SWAPO. I know there were those who were instigating people to go on the streets and start demonstrating and our people refused to heed their instigation. Therefore, I would like to tell them and reinforce their belief that the system we have in this country is truly worth trusting. The mistakes that the Court has identified were mistakes that ECN has itself also identified and all of us have accepted the fact that not everything was done correctly, but whatever was done incorrectly did not have the impact to affect the outcome of those elections and that is what the Judge said this morning.

Therefore, Honourable Members, let us trust our institutions and where we think there is an improvement to be made, let us do so as nationals of this country. Demonstrations will not take us anywhere.

Comrade Speaker, with these few words I would like to congratulate Namibia, congratulate our Judiciary, congratulate the SWAPO Party and the ECN, even to congratulate the other Colleagues who were patient enough to wait for the outcome of the Court challenge. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister and the Secretary-General of the SWAPO Party. Honourable Riruako.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON RIRUAKO**

HON RIRUAKO: I have been watching all this on television, I was not in Court, but if you listen I will explain to you what happened.

The fact is quite clear that if you catch a thief, you catch it on the spot. That is why you have lost and I have told you a hundred times you are going to lose. Catch a thief on the spot, but you left them to go away and even the Court said today that unfortunately you did not catch them properly.

It was SWAPO members who decided to do all this, it is from your corner, not from our corner. You created your own commotion in this august House. To try and obtain certain support these things happen. It is obvious that somewhere somebody had this opinion and I told my Colleagues they are not going to win because they left the thief at the spot. You could have caught them there and not come and tell us you do not have the evidence.

Let us try again, but if you want to catch a thief, be at the spot.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. The Judge did not say the Opposition Parties did not catch SWAPO properly, the Judge said there was no evidence that anything was done that affected the outcome of the elections. That is what he said. I just wanted to correct the Chief because I am sure he does not have the intention to convey a different message.

HON RIRUAKO: It is the kind of technicalities the Judges use, it is technical notes, the thief ought to be caught at the spot but it did not happen that way.

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask the Chief a question? Do you know that even the Police sometimes do not catch the thief at the spot, they have to go and investigate in order to catch the thief?

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON RIRUAKO: There are many ways to kill a cat and now the facts remain neutral on that point. They said you left the boxes on its own and whoever wanted to take something out of it was at liberty to do so. You did this and that is a fact.

HON SPEAKER: It is difficult for me, Chief, because I have to rule at some point, but I do not quite follow.

HON RIRUAKO: Now everything is over let us start the job in the normal way. Forget the past, let us face the future but do not repeat your own mistakes and blame others. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am not sure to what extent this is related to the case, but actually I wanted to extend a word of thanks and congratulations to the Government of the Republic of Namibia through the Minister of Veterans Affairs for a very patriotic gesture that was extended to the revolutionary sons and daughters of this country by giving them houses yesterday and even some months before. SWANU would like to take this opportunity to underscore its strong support for that type of measure and gesture, even if in a token form, because as we all know, that is not actually payment for what these revolutionaries have contributed to the liberation of this country.

The Comrades who yesterday received the four houses stood steadfast, unwavering towards the liberation of this country and on whose shoulders we all stand proud as we are today to nurture the democracy that all of us cherish in this era. “*Patji ngarikotoke,*” give the land back to the people.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MOONGO / HON RIRUAKO**

I just wanted to go on record to thank the Government of the Republic of Namibia for that gesture and we hope that the one revolutionary member of SWANU who was given that token shall not be the first and the last because we also have many other revolutionaries, heroes and heroines in SWANU of Namibia who equally deserve that. We hope that gesture will continue. Thank you very much.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First of all I would like to congratulate our Nation which has been waiting for quite long for the Judgment and did not lose patience and cause commotion. I am really happy that in this process democracy is growing. However, to those who think they have won I would only like to say that according to the law it does not mean that if somebody is not caught red-handed that he did not commit the crime. We have a long way to go to reach true justice and I appeal to the SWAPO Party also to learn a lesson and not to repeat the same mistake again. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I do not know what that means. The case was before the Court and the Court ruled on the basis of evidence and that is what makes it something to celebrate as a Republic and to uphold the impartiality of Namibia's Judiciary. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: I stand up to thank the Government for that, but I will let my Colleagues know that the gentleman, Gerson Vei, was half-naked when I was in jail and I had to take my clothes to go and dress him. He is a jail graduate like me. He went there with a small shirt and it was winter. I had to take my jersey(Intervention)

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: It is a good thing you did. It is a good schoolmate of mine and a Comrade.

HON RIRUAKO: And after that, that Comrade of mine solved the problem of the cold in that jail, not just like you who are just enjoying from what we have done. Honourable Speaker, what we have suffered for, some of us are enjoying, but it is not because we have been favourites out of our pain and suffering. Now we have to thank those who see what had happened. That man was in jail but he was not alone, he was taken care of and you know that from your own history books. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Would you like to reply, Honourable Maamberua?

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I just wanted to put the record straight that as a young radical revolutionary student I left this country in 1978 to fight to liberate this country and in 1990 I saw the country liberated through partly also my own efforts. I would thank the Chief if he had given some assistance to Comrade Veii, but I would have hoped that he would have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Comrade Veii and others up to the logical conclusion of the revolution.

HON SPEAKER: Today is Thursday and I have to give you the opportunity to interact through questions. Question 30 is by Honourable Moongo addressed to the Minister of Safety and Security. Does the Honourable Member Move the Question?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON MOOGO
HON MBUMBA**

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 30:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, my good neighbour, Philemon Moongo, wants me to...(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Did you call him your neighbour?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Yes, he is a neighbour of mine.

HON SPEAKER: You are my neighbour, how come he is also your neighbour?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: He has shops in many villages. Firstly, the Ministry of Safety and Security has nothing to do with the SWAPO Party think-tank. Equally, the SWAPO think-tank has no responsibility on security and safety matters in this country. I do not know how somebody can associate the Ministry of Safety and Security with the think-tank. That is the first response.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON MOOGO
HON MBUMBA**

Whether we are aware, whether we are condoning the persistent outcry, firstly, the Police Force is responsible for maintenance of law and order irrespective of anything else. Whether you belong to the think-tank or not, whether you like the think-tank or not, whether you are jealous of the think-tank or not, the Police Force of Namibia will protect your life, your property, protect you on the road and at home.

What can the Force do? People do certain things in their own homes, I do not know of any Police Force in the world which is so smart and strong that they can smell things before they happen and can prevent somebody from committing suicide or killing their unborn babies. To come to the ruthless killing of women; who are killing women? Men at home in their *kambashus* or their villages. Do we now need a Police Officer for every couple in every home, in front of the house, in front of the bedroom, in front of the kitchen and if something happens in Namibia, then you must blame the Police Force?

What is necessary for all of us is to build our Nation on the basis of peace, stability and on the basis of doing to our neighbours what we want our neighbours to do to us and who is closer to you than your neighbour other than your husband, your wife or your children? If you do that we can have stability and, therefore, we cannot talk about ruthless killing of women by men and men by women, men by other men and parents by their biological children. Of course, all your children are your biological children, there are also adopted children. There are two things in this world, one is blood; that is your biological child, and the other one is law. Once you adopt a child by law, forget about biological, it becomes your child and you have the responsibility to send that child to school, to care for that child like all other children and to advise them on how to behave.

Honourable Speaker, some of these questions are not really meant to solicit answers but to provoke and start blaming a certain portion of the community or certain Ministers for no good reason. We are all trying to do what needs to be done to protect our people, to live in a peaceful country. However, in any country there are always those who want to steal from others, who do not know how to behave, but we cannot judge our society on the basis of that. However, we should do everything we

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HON MBUMBA**

can as leaders and as parents to make sure that everybody understands that those who do not behave according to the laws of the Republic of Namibia will be arrested and prosecuted. Some people think they will get hotel food, but when you get there you will start screaming. There was one guy who moved from place to place, pretending to be this and that, getting money from people. Now he is crying to get out of prison. Why? He has found it is tough to be in prison. Anyone who has seen the inside of a prison will know it is not the best place to be in.

Honourable Speaker, once again, I hope the next time my neighbour, Honourable Moongo, puts a question to me, he really wants an answer and not to confuse the Ministry of Safety and Security people with people who are doing their work in line with their Political Parties. Thank you very much.

HON MOONGO: I would like to thank the Minister for the answer though he did not respond to the question. Of course we have the social problems he mentioned, but I asked whether it is not high time that we Budget for Committees to be established to educate the communities not to kill each other and dump babies. However, he dodged the question and did not want to say anything about a marshal plan. Should we ignore this situation where people are slaughtering each other?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Why do we as Members of Parliament and leaders have to wait for the Budget to get money? We have a Parliamentary Budget and Ministerial Budgets, why do we need an extra Budget to address the problems of our own communities?

Secondly, are you sure of what you are talking about when you mention a marshal plan? You cannot have a marshal plan to address one particular social issue. Europe had a marshal plan to develop Europe so that it can recover from a devastating war in which buildings were bombed from the air and by tanks. Now you want a marshal plan to train your children and

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HON DR KAWANA**

to protect your women. You want a marshal plan to build a road, to build a dam in the south, to rebuild Uukumwe. Please let us not use these big words out of context. We have community policing where we want everybody to be involved. If women see a crime in their neighbourhood, they should report that criminal to the Police Force. Those are the programmes we want, but when we go to the Ministry of Finance for a Budget, we want the Parliament to support us. We have many needs. The Field Force needs accommodation at the borders, we need transport, but we are not going to have a marshal for one item. What will happen to the other programmes? Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Question 34 is by Honourable Shixwameni. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 34:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY
GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I should have contacted my learned Colleague because this question is indeed misdirected. I should have linked up with the Honourable Member. The line function of labour is with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the senior Minister is the one responsible for labour surveys. Inasmuch as some entities from the National Planning Commission may have been involved, the lead Ministry in terms of direction and control is the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. I would like to encourage my Colleague to redirect the question to the relevant Ministry. I so submit, Comrade Speaker.

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HON NGATJIZEKO**

HON SPEAKER: The question was well-meant, but if the Line Minister wishes to help out, I would ask him to do so.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, if the question is directed to my Ministry, I would eagerly respond to that at an appropriate time. Quite a number of issues have been raised in the question and I cannot respond immediately.

HON SPEAKER: Question 35 is by Honourable Shixwameni to the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 35:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I have received a response from the respective Local Authority, but unfortunately there are some issues we want to look at and I am in the process of sending somebody to investigate in order to provide a comprehensive response. I ask the indulgence of the House that this question stands over until next week so that I will be in a position to give the relevant answers to the questions.

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

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**FAMILIARISATION VISITS TO REGIONS
HON DINGARA**

**CONSIDERATION: REPORTS ON DEPUTY SPEAKER'S
FAMILIARISATION VISITS**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Reports on the Deputy Speaker's Familiarisation Visits to the Regions of Oshikoto and Omusati.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I do and I delegated the responsibility to Honourable Dingara.

HON DINGARA: Comrade Speaker, I have the motivation speech by Honourable Professor Loide Kasingo on her Familiarisation Visit to the Oshikoto and Omusati Regions.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my honour to motivate to this august House the Reports about my Familiarisation Visit that I undertook to Oshikoto Region from 2 – 13 May 2012, followed by the same visit to Omusati Region from 30 July to 11 August 2012. This time on the one for Omusati I was accompanied by Honourable Dr Amweelo and Honourable Dingara.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our Parliament should not be seen as a distant institution which is far removed from the daily struggles of the ordinary Namibians. Rather it should always be positioned as a relevant and visible reality in the lives of the Namibian people. Thus, the purpose of my visit was to introduce Parliament to the vast majority of the Namibian population who live in the rural areas, villages, settlements and

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**FAMILIARISATION VISITS TO REGIONS
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towns far away from Windhoek where Parliament is located by explaining to them the functions of the Legislature and how it interacts with other organs of the State, namely the Executive and the Judiciary. This is necessary to create a well-informed Nation where citizens are equipped with the right information, such as to enable them to increase their understanding of the democratic process and matters that affect their lives.

All in all it starts with the Namibian Constitution which gives us both the right and obligation to represent the people who elected us. Article 45 states: *“The Members of the National Assembly shall be the representatives of all Namibian people.”*

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, except for representation, Parliamentarians are lawmakers and have oversight functions. It is because of these functions that Members of Parliament are mandated to visit their electorate and share their views. Once more, Article 60(1)(b) of the Constitution states the following: *“All Members of the National Assembly shall regard themselves as servants of the people of Namibia.”* As a servant of the people of Namibia we are accountable to them in everything we do. We have no other choice but to ensure that the policies that we are putting in place, the laws that we enact and all the decisions that we take in our respective areas of responsibilities are aimed at enhancing the well-being of our Nation. Hence, I believe that in-depth or comprehensive insight into the issues concerning the welfare and development of the people could only be achieved by undertaking visits to those areas and in turn, for them to utilise Parliament to have their concerns acted upon.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall adjourn for tea.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

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ADJOURNMENT

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:32

HON SPEAKER: In the absence of a quorum and in terms of Rule 17(b) the House stands adjourned until Tuesday at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:32 UNTIL 2012.10.29 AT 14:30