

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Prof Loide Kasingo (Ms)

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

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

Dr G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Mr N Angula	<i>(Defence)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential Affairs & Attorney-General)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Dr D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Labour & Social Welfare)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information & Communication Technology)</i>
Mr U Herunga	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands & Resettlement)</i>

Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Trade and Industry)</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>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr P Ilonga	<i>(Defence)</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>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport & Culture)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Information and Communication Technology)</i>
Dr E Kaiyamo (Mr)	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr K Nguvauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Vacant	<i>(Finance)</i>
Ms S Makgone	<i>(Education)</i>

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr K Ngauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr T Diergaar	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Ms H Nicanor	<i>(Veterans)</i>

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

Mr I Shixwameni	<i>(Chief Whip and Party Leader)</i>
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CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Mr B Ulenga	<i>(Chief Whip and Party Leader)</i>
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DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr K Kaura	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr P Moongo	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

Mr K Riruako	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr A Tjihuiko	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

Mr S Bezuidenhout	
Mr Hidipo Hamutenya	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Ms A Limbo	
Mr H Lucks	
Mr P Naholo	
Mr K Nehova	
Mr J Nyamu	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr A Von Wietersheim	

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Ms C //Gowases

(Chief Whip)

SWANU

Mr U Maamberua

(Chief Whip and Party Leader)

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Ms S Kuugongelwa– Amadhila

(Minister)

Mr B Amathila

Dr M Amweelo (Mr)

(Deputy Chief Whip)

Mr N Angula

(Minister)

Dr H Geingob (Mr)

(Prime Minister)

Dr S C Ankama (Mr)

(Deputy Minister)

Ms P Beukes

(Deputy Minister)

Mr E Dingara

Mr J Ekandjo

(Minister)

Mr B Esau

(Minister)

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

(Speaker)

Ms P Haingura

(Deputy Minister)

Mr M Hausiku

(Deputy Prime Minister)

Mr U Herunga

(Minister)

Mr P Iilonga

(Deputy Minister)

Mr W Isaacks

(Deputy Minister)

Ms P Iivula-Ithana

(Minister)

Dr N Iyambo (Mr)

(Minister)

Mr J Kaapanda

(Minister)

Dr E Kaiyamo (Mr)

(Deputy Minister)

Dr R Kamwi (Mr)

(Minister)

Mr P Kapia

Prof L Kasingo (Ms)

(Deputy Speaker)

Mr I Katali

(Minister)

Ms J Kavetuna

(Deputy Minister)

Dr A Kawana (Mr)

(Minister)

Mr K Kazenambo

Ms L Lucas

(Deputy Minister)

Ms S Makgone

(Deputy Minister)

Ms A Manombe-Ncube

Mr N Mbumba	
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	
Mr B Mwaningange	
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(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 P 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>(Chief Whip and 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
19 APRIL 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: The SWAPO Party celebrates its 53rd birthday today. We extend best wishes to the majority Party on this day and all the good things necessary for it to continue its service to its members, but as the Ruling Party of the country to serve the interest of all.

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

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the year 2012/2013.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, please table the Report. Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions?

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON KAURA**

ORAL QUESTION

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that today, Friday, the 19th of April 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Speaker:-

Where is the SWAPO Party birthday cake here in Parliament? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I think I second that Motion, I agree with Honourable Kaura. The person responsible for the treasury of the SWAPO Party should actually respond. Notice of Motions? Chief Whip.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 21, 22 and 31 of the *Appropriation Bill* be, in terms of Rule 90(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration by 12:30. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member, please table the Motion?

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1 – 2013]**

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGENGLWA-AMADHILA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Committee Stage – *Appropriation Bill*
[B.1 – 2013]

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objection? Agreed to. The Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B.1. – 2013]. When progress was reported yesterday, Thursday, 18 April 2013, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 21, 22 and 31 had been introduced.

Vote 21 – “**CORRECCTIONAL SERVICES**”, put for Discussion.
Honourable Shixwameni.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 21
HON SHIXWAMENI

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, for the opportunity. I just have a few little things that I want the Deputy Minister to clear.

I must say, it was quite impressive to go to Farm Scott and to Oluno Prisons for the things that you are doing there in terms of food production; Oluno for the piggery that you have there and Farm Scott for the cattle, goats and everything that they keep there. We need to congratulate the management of these two Prison facilities for the job that they are really doing good.

On Page 7, **Staff Development:** I must of course also congratulate the Ministry for providing scholarships for officers in the Prison Service to upgrade their education, but we have noted this widespread provision of scholarships with concern at the Public Accounts Committee. Each Ministry is providing scholarships to their staffers, however, when they graduate at the end of the day, they easily go out of the service which sent them for education. I would like to know what your conditions of providing these scholarships are and whether you have a retention mechanism for when they graduate because the security officers are being poached a lot by other Financial Institutions that needs them for the skills that they have acquired. Can the Deputy Minister perhaps give a little explanation about the conditions around the giving of these particular scholarships and if possible the retention rate of these graduates?

The other issue is on Page 11, **Manpower** or should I say “**Human Power**”, maybe just a misnomer there. You are saying that you have an establishment of 4,402, but you only have 1,958 and 2,444 positions are vacant, then you continue to explain further that you are unable to recruit as funds are not provided for and as the result you are experiencing an acute shortage of staff which is 55% short. As you say on the next page, this is a very serious issue because we talk of unemployment but here we have more than 2,000 positions that are waiting to be filled. I do not know whether this has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Finance. I think we need to seriously look at this situation because we cannot have 55% staff shortage, that is completely unacceptable and I think the Honourable Minister and Deputy Minister have to take this

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HON SHIXWAMENI

matter up seriously with the Head of State together with my sister, Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. Bring them around the table and tell them that “*Parliament and the National Assembly do not want to see this situation reported on again during the next Financial Year.*” Money should be provided so that people are recruited in order to ensure (interjection).

HON MEMBER: Do you pay your taxes?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Yes, I do pay. You are the one responsible for deducting taxes, unless if you are telling me that you are doing me a favour. (Intervention)

HON BEZUIDENTHOUDT: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I normally do not do this, but may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Shixwameni, do you not think it will be better to look into other Ministerial Departments where there are excess individuals who may be trained or retrained to fill at least some of the positions so that we do not bring in new people onto the payroll. That is what I would think of, do you agree with that?

HON SHIXWAMENI: That is probably an option, I did not think about it. However, if the establishment needs more than 4,000 and you only have 1,000, that is a problem because this is what they are saying; “*we need so many people in order to be able to perform efficiently and effectively*”, therefore, the establishment just need to be filled. When you look into the Budget itself, you see that there are quite a lot of positions in the Public Service that are actually budgeted for but are not filled and some of them have been budgeted for yearly, for the past five years while

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HON //GOWASES

here you have a situation where vacancies are not filled. You, therefore, ask yourself a question; “*why do you budget for vacancies you are unable to fill?*” and in this particular case, you have more than 2,000 vacancies in addition to the ones that are budgeted for in other Ministries, why can we not transfer the money of the vacancies that have not been filled for the past two to three years to Correctional Services to enable them handle their situation by filling those particular vacancies? I think it is a matter of looking at our overall Budget and say; “*this and that Ministry have not been filling their vacancies for the past three years, why can we not take that money and transfer it to those who are in need?*” That is also an option that can be explored.

That was my last point, I rest my case. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. The point is well taken. Honourable //Gowases.

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. As a Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I feel very comfortable with this Vote.

Honourable Deputy Minister, allow me to ask you a very small question on Vote 21. Mine is on the challenges on Page 9. Last year, 2012, you also mentioned a few challenges, like Honourable Shixwameni was saying, you also mentioned a lack of the right human resources, both in numbers and in the right kinds of skill sets. Secondly, the continuous strain on financial resources which forces the Namibian Correctional Services to sometimes cut on the already limited supplies and materials and the bureaucracy involved in the tender procedure. I want to know; do you still face the same challenges of 2012 or has there been any improvement? I thank you and support the Vote.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 21
HON LIMBO / HON UTONI

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Limbo.

HON LIMBO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I also want to talk about the **Manpower** problem on Page 10. As a Member of the Committee responsible for Correctional Services we tend to visit quite a lot of these facilities. The reason why offenders go to these facilities, come out and commit crimes again could partly be because we do not have enough staff to appropriately rehabilitate them during their incarceration in Prison. If you go there, you will find that the colleagues are overworked simply because they are few and it is not a secret that their salaries are also very low. To make it worse, if you give them extra work, they will get frustrated and at the end of the day we will be saying that our Civil Servants are not friendly which is partly because of these problems. I know that we do not have much in terms of funds, but let us try to slowly help the Colleagues in this Ministry to fill some of these vacancies as soon as possible.

At 55%, how many offenders does one officer deal with? Therefore, let us try to look for funds somewhere as one of the Colleagues was saying here, so that offenders are given enough attention in terms of rehabilitation so that they come out as normal citizens. Otherwise we will just keep them, feed them and when they come out, they are still the same. With that, I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Having exhausted my list, I call upon the Deputy Minister to respond to those questions.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 21
HON UUTONI

you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me try to respond to the questions that were posed.

Question 1, came from *Honourable Shixwameni*; I want to thank you for appreciating what we are doing in the Ministry of Safety and Security when it comes to the Department of Correctional Services. You have mentioned what we are doing at Farm Scott and Oluno Prison and you have also mentioned about a number of other things, which is an indication that we are trying our best despite the challenges we are facing.

I would like to invite the Honourable Members to make an effort and visit some of our correctional facilities, more especially Farm Scott and Divundu, you have maybe visited Oluno already, so that you are able to see what the Department of Correctional Services is doing. Thank you for appreciating and noticing the work of the Department of Correctional Services.

When it comes to the staff development and whether we are retaining them; the answer is in the affirmative. The Department of Correctional Services have noticed quite a number of challenges when it comes to the knowledge and skills of our staff which led us to the decision of signing agreements with some of our staff members to send them to some of the tertiary institutions like the Polytechnic and the University of Namibia. The agreement is to assist them financially to complete their education upon which they come and plough back their acquired skills in the Department of Correctional Services under the Ministry of Safety and Security. However, human beings are just human beings after all and one cannot force people, but we negotiate with them. As the result, those that we have assisted with training within the last few years return to us and I am pleased with what has been going on. We did, therefore, not experience any problems so far.

You have mentioned about the 55% shortage of manpower. Yes, this is also one of the challenges we are facing, however, we have learned that the Ministry of Safety and Security, particularly the Department of Correctional Services, is not the only one facing challenges, challenges are all over. We, therefore, decided to make do with the little funds that were

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HON UUTONI

allocated to us. If you have regard to Page 1, we requested an addition N\$224 million for the 2013/2014 Financial Year and we only received N\$63,791,000.00. We have made some efforts, however, the problem might be with the Ministry that is distributing the cake as the house is too big and we have accepted the little we have received and are moving forward. Notwithstanding the fact that we still need that number of staff members, the problem is manageable.

Rome was not build in one day; when I came to Windhoek in 1989, there were not as many suburbs as there are today, showing how it has grown so significantly to a city comparable to other cities in Africa.

Honorable //Gowases, thank you for being comfortable with the Vote and for appreciating what we are doing. You wanted to know whether we are still faced with the challenges of the previous year. As I have already indicated, challenges will always be there, but we are gradually improving with the meagre resources at our disposal. Considering the progress that we have made; I have also stated in the Motivation of my Vote that we are busy constructing an open Prison like the one at Farm Scott. This also added to our list of challenges because we do not have enough space to house the inmates, however, the completion of Farm Scott allowed us to somehow alleviate the problem of overcrowding in Prisons.

Honourable Limbo, on habitual offenders; this could be intensified by the fact that we lack sufficient staff to set up appropriate Programmes to educate these offenders. I have already indicated that the challenges when it comes to shortage of staff are there, however, the Ministry through the Department of Correctional Services has managed to put together some Programmes like; the rehabilitation, reintegration and risk management Programmes which assist offenders to change into law-abiding citizens and useful Members of the community. A reasonable number of offenders who were released have been reintegrated into society as good citizens because of these Programmes that we have introduced. Despite the shortage of staff, we are trying our best. I hope I have answered all your questions. Thank you.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON UEITELE**

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any Objections? Agreed to.

Vote 31 – “**VETERANS AFFAIRS**” put for Discussion. Honourable Ueitele.

HON UEITELE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Veterans Affairs.

Honourable Minister, I honestly want to congratulate you with the progress that the Ministry is making. I would also like to inform you about Activity 5 and Activity 6 that deals with Education and Training Grants to the veterans, dependants of veterans and the Funeral Grants on Page 3, that most of the veterans in the Regions are not aware of these Grants, particularly the Funeral Grants. I would, therefore, advise that this information be communicated up to the Constituency level so that the veterans are aware of the benefits from this Ministry. I wholeheartedly Support the Vote. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on a Point of Information, it is the duty of the Members of the Namibian Parliament to take this message to the Nation. I, therefore, do not think it is a good thing to ask the Ministry to do that because the Ministry is there to create opportunities and we can help the Ministry to take the message to the community. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ueitele, you may continue.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON SHIXWAMENI

HON UEITELE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I think the Honourable Deputy Minister is partly correct that the Ministry of Veterans Affairs will not succeed to disseminate information on its own. I thought that it will be in the best interest of the veterans if the Ministry of Veterans Affairs could spearhead this effort and then the Members can join in. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I also rise to support the Vote of the Veterans. Before I go there, I see some people wearing scarves and others not, are some diehards and some liberals? I would like to congratulate you for the 53 years of existence. You are getting too old now and must leave it for the young and upcoming Parties. (Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: I stood up on a different Point of Order, but with that provocation from Chief (interjections), can I be protected from Honourable Chief? Comrade Shixwameni, you are talking about the Comrades in SWAPO or rather the Party itself getting too old, however, there is one Party that is actually older than SWAPO, what do you think about the fact that *wisdom comes with age*? Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, with all due respect, SWANU will never accept a provocation from somebody, particularly in the historical context in which the Chief finds himself, asking about the liberation credentials of SWANU. SWANU will never allow itself to be questioned (intervention).

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Absolutely. Let us confine ourselves to the Debate before us. May I please ask Honourable Shixwameni to continue.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON SHIXWAMENI

HON SHIXWAMENI: I was going to Page 1 - **Activity 1**, for clarification. The Minister is saying that the registration is ongoing, but I made an inquiry sometime ago and I was informed that the registration in the Khomas Region has been put on hold. Is it ongoing in the other Regions except for the Khomas Region?

Activity 2; Support Packages to Veterans (Payments of Monthly Financial Assistance and Certain Support Services), when you move around the Regions, you meet quite a lot of people that you have worked with in the struggle who have submitted their applications long time ago, some three years ago and other four years ago. However, these applications have not been processed up to now. The question is; what is holding up the processing of this particular applications? Some of our veterans are really suffering, they do not have employment and they are seeing others receiving N\$2,200.00 while they are not receiving this. You know the mentality of people; *“I was longer in the struggle than the one who just came in”* and he is now getting N\$2, 200.00. I think there is a need to speed up the payment and to speed up the registration of veterans throughout the country.

Secondly, I want to ask about the Education and Training Grants to veterans and dependants of veterans; is it only applicable to institutions within Namibia? What if a person wants to go and study abroad, whether in the SADC region or just abroad for a course of choice that one wants to pursue?

Finally, on the Funeral Grant; I would like to know; how much is it per person when he/she passes on? Otherwise I would also like to join Honourable Ueitele in saying that the Programmes of the veterans need to be disseminated; maybe the Ministry need to be more regular on the radio to tell people about the benefits that are due so that they are able to apply for those benefits. They should create awareness in the community so that no veteran is left out. I support the Vote. Thank you.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON TJIHUIKO

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister, I only have one point on Page 2, **Activity 3**. Honourable Minister, I just want to congratulate you on your effort in trying to address the issues of the veterans. The assistance to psychological counselling is very important, especially if you look at the younger veterans that we now call *kids of the liberation struggle*.

Honourable Minister, I was looking at the newspaper today and I have seen young people who were saying that they are prepared to go to jail. I understand the situation the Minister finds himself in. Apart from trying to help them with scholarships and jobs, I think we need to look at the possibility of increasing psychological counselling, by involving social workers and churches to talk to them and try to reassure them that they are part of this big family. I, therefore, think this is one Programme that we need to support, not only the Ministry, but all of us as parents and leaders through trying to engage whoever we come across among these young people to reassure them that they are part of us. Imagine someone who have not had the opportunity to be with a family all along and finding themselves in a group. It is also not really easy to leave a group and start being on your own. I think that is the help that they need.

With that said, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Minister, I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Moongo.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON MOONGO

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. First of all, I would like to congratulate the SWAPO Party for reaching a mature age. It sounds to me like the older you become the more experience you have. When one is mature, you are not afraid to face anything and the President now has an open door policy for talks.

Whenever you register as a veteran, you are not informed whether you qualify or do not. This alone disqualifies SWAPO from being mature enough. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and happy birthday.

May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, you are a veteran Member of Parliament, you passed the Law that governs veterans and there is a detailed definition, what does that definition says?

HON MOONGO: As I said, there must be a policy of openness and transparency. You cannot hide all the time by not informing someone whether a person qualifies or not based on the lies and political blackmail. I appeal to the Minister, since he is mature now, to open up the door for those who were denied (intervention).

HON KAPIA: I am sorry, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. May I ask Honourable Moongo a question?

HON MOONGO: Oh yes, you are welcome. I even taught you how to sing liberation songs. You must give back to me in return!

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON AMATHILA

HON KAPIA: Honourable Moongo, is the *Veterans Act* implemented by the SWAPO Party or by the Government? Can you tell me who is responsible for the implementation of the *Veterans Act* in Namibia?

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much. I do not want to talk very long because the Deputy Chairperson wants to squeeze me not to speak, but do you now see the provocation? The Honourable Member knows that you use to say; “*the SWAPO Party Government*” and are those Laws now for the SWAPO Party Government? We do not have such a thing and it is unconstitutional to say; “*the SWAPO Party Government*”, this is the Namibian Government and the Laws are for the Namibian Government, there is not even one Law of the SWAPO Party Government, it is unconstitutional and uncalled for. If you provoke me, I will enlighten you!

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I just want to be fair to everyone as long as we are keeping within the time we agreed upon. Honourable Amathila.

HON AMATHILA: Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I thought the five minutes we agreed upon were for that particular day and not today.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am assuming that we are sticking to it, unless if we decide otherwise, I am continuing on that basis.

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HON AMATHILA: Thank you very much. I am just trying to have a quick one. I am rising to support this very important Vote, especially when we are discussing it on the 19th of April. This is a date that is so significant in the history of this country. It is a pity that we did not make a provision for someone to enlighten us all why the date 26 August rather than the 19th of April is so significant.

I would like to appeal that in the future, that is where the Ministry of Veterans Affairs will come in very handy, we have to prepare at least a note to share information why this date is so significant. There are quite a number of days on our calendars, some are official calendars days and some are not. Like the 4th of May is a very important day. You have the days like the 26th of August which to the Red Flag activities, it is a very significant day, but that is the day which became the Namibia Day. Those who were abroad will possibly recognise what Namibia Day actually meant, when we were trying to get identity, we mobilised the whole world to recognise us and to recognise us through that particular day, Namibia Day.

We have the 10th of December, there are, therefore, many days. We thus, have to plan our activities in the House in such a way that we can shed more light on some of these activities. I think the Ministry of Veterans Affairs has a greater opportunity to help us with information to celebrate a particular day.

Comrade Minister, on Page 4 of your Statement, you shared some information that you are going to acquire two farms, maybe for N\$30 million or whatever the price will be. It was not clear what the purpose was of acquiring those farms with such a responsibility that you have. If I am allowed to make a suggestion, in the work that you have, you made it possible for the veterans to plan for projects worth N\$200,000.00. If you could possibly consider the possibility of buying a farm in the area of Mariental, where the sun is so beautiful and enough for the members of veterans who want to invest their N\$200,000.00 into a solar electricity generation project. The project could be theirs, but they could be sitting in Windhoek or any other place, generating electricity which will accrue income to them which is a very safe investment with a very safe income. I

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would think that that is one area where the veterans could find it very easy to make a project of having power generation from the sun in an area like Mariental and not Walvis Bay which is cloudy and windy most of the time. This is just a suggestion.

On Page 6, **Programme 2: The Liberation Struggle Heritage**, that is actually what I first started with. Your Ministry is definitely engulfed by all these information because you collect all these information from veterans and we do not know what happens to this information. Maybe you may like to consider a situation where every year, given the deposit of information that you get from those veterans, you either create a platform where people can come and talk around a particular issue on the basis of the information you have got or publish something that will be circulated among the members of the public here so that we do not forget our history. I am trying to suggest that because very soon a new generation will emerge that will possibly not like to know anything about the past. The struggle that cost the lives of so many will not mean anything to them and it is only if we start sharing all these information to keep this history alive that we keep and bequeath the young generation to be with us all the time that the gains of the liberation will not be lost.

This is a very serious appeal, Comrade Minister. I hope your staff will look into this very seriously. I thank you and support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Can I consult the House? It is almost tea time and I want your concurrence whether we should continue rather than having a tea break. Can we do that? Agreed to. Thank you. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support our Vote of the veterans.

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Firstly, I start with **Activity 7**, I just want to say thank you very much to my namesake here. I am one of the beneficiaries and if it was not for the drought, I was going to plough and make sure that the food security is maintained by **Activity 7**.

My other point, Comrade Minister, is on **Programme 2: The Liberation Struggle Heritage**. I do not know what this exactly means. In order to preserve our history for the scholars, we have functional libraries, but these libraries are not really visited. Even though you may find professors in Namibia, we Namibians are not writers; that is why you find that the history of our liberation struggle is not fully captured. I suggest that we start with this Programme now; we do not need to write, but start by recording interviews using a Dictaphone or even a cell phone to later come up with the history. It is true about our youngsters, even the ones here in Parliament, unfortunately Honourable Lucks is not here, he is the one who said; "*we are not interested in the past*", these are the type of people we should share our past with because if we do not tell our children or youngsters about our past, they will never know where they come from, where they are and where they want to go. Therefore, under Programme 2, let us initiate that Programme of interviewing and have a biographer (intervention).

HON MOONGO: Honourable Minister, you are saying that the past must be carried over every year. Do you imply that I have to tell the Nation that I was victimised, illegally imprisoned and I was discriminated against because of propaganda, is it what you want me to say every time? I think, those years are over now, we are over 20 years of maturity, we need to talk and bury the past of agony.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Deputy Chairperson, reactionaries always want to hide the history because they do not want their bad history to be known. What we want people to know is that Honourable Moongo was once a freedom fighter and at the same

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time he run away. That must be known.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Let us come back to the issue before us, which is the Budget. Please continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I will follow the Rules. What is important is that we need our history because we need to know about our past, which is under Programme 2, I am not Out of Order, like Honourable Moongo, but I left him.

You will find that we are taught everything about Jan Van Riebeeck up to this day. Even the western powers are meeting and you find those who were involved in the First and Second World War always come together to inform and remind their youngsters that they are there because of their victory.

Therefore, let us implement **Programme 2**; they can even hire someone to interview us in order to capture our history which can become part of our subjects in the classroom. With that, I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I would also like to join the Colleagues who congratulated the SWAPO Party on its 53rd birthday. In the same vein, I would like to encourage the youth to learn from the veterans' example and

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lead the struggle for economic independence and nation-building.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate the Minister, his Deputy, the Permanent Secretary and the entire staff for a job well done as well as the good work being carried out in their Ministry, especially the open door policy which makes us, the veterans feel comfortable to be there all the time.

I would like to underline **Activity 3: Veterans Sensitisation**, I could not believe my eyes when I saw the allocation to this Activity because I was under the impression that it was N\$6 million, but N\$600,000.00 is so little. This money will only cover two trips to one Region, I think we need to consider this because it is very important for people to have information because up to now, you will find people coming to some of us telling us; *“no, I did not register because I was told the veterans’ benefits are only for those people who were in exile”* or *“I was told it is only for those people who are not working”*. This means that there is a need for information to be shared.

Comrade Minister, my last question is; do you have some challenges for these opportunistic veterans? We all know that some people did not want to join the struggle then, but now everybody wants to benefit from the veterans funds. I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: The liberation struggle has a heritage, but I did not know some of the people here, I am just seeing them now that they became vigilant. However, some people died while others were imprisoned and only Veii found me in jail not you. (Interjections) You were not even born by then. The other one is Ya Toivo.

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HON MEMBER: Page?

HON RIRUAKO: I do not need your page, if I ask the page about what I am talking about, you will not tell me anything.

I will raise a question on the 10th of December now. One day I asked the former President of this country, His Excellency, President Nujoma; *“where were you when I was fighting in front of you there?”* (Interjections) I do not want to argue with you, you were not even there. He said; *“we were lying on our bellies”* and I asked; *“you and who?”* and he answered; *“It was Chief Kapuuo, Ngavirue and I. We saw you but the bullets would not allow us to raise our heads”*, here you are questioning me and talking too much, but you were not even there, you did not even know Kakurukaze Mungunda, you came to me and asked if she was the one. I took the person who was lying next to her and carried him on my shoulders. We are talking about heritage.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Sorry my Chief. Can I ask my ask my Chief a small question? Is my Chief already registered as a veteran?

HON RIRUAKO: You better ask the Minister concerned; they have taken too long to digest who I am. I cannot imagine that it was this person who was asking me. Everybody has a mouth to talk, he whispered to me and said; *“I can accept you because I know we were together.”* However, in this House, everybody is everybody to me.

We all belonged to the same non-aligned organisation. Today you have the birthday of SWAPO, but it was not SWAPO by then, we did a lot together that you did not even hear and know about. It is better for you to come back to the heritage in order for you to know how it was composed and what it was. That is the information I am giving you now today so

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that you to understand that SWAPO was not just about memorisations, but there were duties and actions attached to it. I have to say congratulations with your birthday that you have memorised. Unfortunately you have to learn about how it started and what activities took place. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: If possible, I would like the Honourable Chief to inform us whether it is correct to say that those who were in Europe were more veteran than the others who were in Prison in Pretoria and SWAPO dungeons. Is it correct to say that?

HON RIRUAKO: I do not think that it is correct, but if anything of that kind happened, it can be brought here and corrected. I am not worried about that; the fact is that you are supposed to understand what a veteran is. A veteran is a person who suffered or who was fighting in the battle, I did not see anyone who went to the charge office to count corpses, I did that. All my leaders were chased away by the Magistrate, I went alone. This is a fact. However, now they are courageously talking about veterans, without being initially involved and I feel a bit of pity for those who behave that way. (Interjections) You do not want to hear this because it is painful for you; you could have partaken in some of these activities. The fact today is that we are talking about veterans.

HON MEMBER: On what page is that?

HON RIRUAKO: We did not have any page then, our page was action. Who is the person who created this, who ran back and forth between places? I did everything for you to be there, I put bread and butter on your table and you are enjoying it without knowing how that came about. That is a fact.

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My Colleagues can look at me and we can communicate in our own way we understand, but I do not want to be exposed. If you come and query me, I am going to put you where you belong. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I think, the Honourable Chief is done.

HON RIRUAKO: No, I am not done. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, may I ask the Honourable Chief a question? Honourable Chief, can you tell this House how you were detained at the island somewhere in the Caprivi area?

HON RIRUAKO: I was dumped by the Police and left there at the island, I could not go anywhere, but to stay on a tree.

HON MEMBER: Why could you not go down the tree?

HON RIRUAKO: The crocodiles and the hippos were under the tree, I could not move. Honourable Members, you must hear that from the horse's mouth, from Chaka who took me there. The Zambian fishermen rescued us from that tree. We were at that island, with the Zambezi River this side so we could not go anywhere. (Intervention)

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HON UEITELE: Honourable Chief, are you aware that the information you are giving is history? Honourable Moongo is against that, he does not want us to talk about history, do you agree with that, Honourable Chief?

HON RIRUAKO: I will come to that when I answer you. We are reminded about history here, on Page 6, **The Liberation Struggle Heritage** and a heritage without history will not be a heritage. The fact remains that we should go back where we started and look at what happened until we are here today. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to tackle the misunderstood Programme 2 – **The Liberation Struggle Heritage**.

This is not for us to tell stories; the stories must be investigated and recorded. A Nation that does not know its past or history has a big lack of its own understanding. I would sincerely encourage the Ministry of Veterans Affairs to carry on with this Programme in the areas that were suggested by Honourable Ilonga and Honourable Amathila to, while the people are still around, interrogate and record them in order to document and store the information for our future reference. I strongly encourage and recommend that to this House. Thank you and I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Kaura.

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HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

On Page 3 – **Education and Training Grants to the Veterans and Dependants of Veterans**; I want the Honourable Minister to elaborate, where the children of the liberation struggle fit in with the N\$9 million that was allocated for education? As a parent, when I see a child cry, I want to take that child close to my chest. We always see the children of the liberation struggle demonstrating on the streets, demanding assistance from the Ruling Party. I feel that these children are educable, they can be given an education and join mainstream Namibia, but they keep coming back as there does not seem to be a solution in sight. With the article under Activity 5 here, it does not seem that the children of the liberation struggle are taken in to consideration so that this year or next year they do not come demonstrating again by demanding something from the Government.

Can the Honourable Minister, shed light on what the Programmes are? We even have education for senior citizens, but these are young people, who I believe are younger than 40 years old and they can be educated. Vocational Training Schools can be set up for them, they are trainable. What are the efforts that the Ministry is making to educate these people so that they can join mainstream Namibia? Instead of them coming back every year demonstrating and some of them are already becoming parents. I just need some clarity on this aspect, especially on the children of the liberation struggle. What are you doing about getting assistance for these young people so that this problem can be done away with? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Kaapanda.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House

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Committee, I rise to support Vote 31 – “**VETERANS AFFAIRS**”, which is our Vote.

I would like to support the views express by the two Honourable Members; Honourable Amathila and Honourable Ilonga regarding the need to capture our history, a glorious history for that matter. I would also like to assure my senior Colleague, the Minister of Veterans Affairs that our Ministry will be ready to partner with this very important Ministry of Veterans Affairs in recording our history. We have the manpower and equipment and are ready to extent our helping hand. With this, I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much for that practical suggestion and to the point. Honourable Limbo.

HON LIMBO: Thank you very much. I do not have much to say, but only want the Honourable Minister to clarify one issue. I know that during the liberation struggle there were people who left us and came back, but because everybody wants to qualify for the veterans’ benefits, they are all in the queues. Some, I was told qualified for these benefits, while others are told that they were renegades.

Clear information must be provided because this is unfortunately very common in Caprivi. There are people who have acquired veteran status while at the same time, others are told they cannot qualify. I, therefore, just want to request the Ministry to look into this. Otherwise if we open the Pandora’s box at that time the money will not be enough for some of us. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Colleagues, I have exhausted the list and I now ask the Honourable Minister to respond.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members, first of all, let me thank you all for having supported Vote 31. You asked for additional information, advised and very important suggestions came out of your interventions. I will try to answer the questions.

Honourable Ueitele, wants to find out about the non-availability of information in the Regions, particularly when it comes to matters relating to Study and Funeral Grants. May I say that we have offices in each and every Region and the purpose for having those offices is for our officials there to be in touch with the residents of the Regions and provide information relating to the Programmes of the Ministry and also to advise the would-be veterans as to what they should do. Local languages can actually be used in the Regions for people to obtain information, but it is a pity if our people in the Region are not doing that. However, I hope that the Honourable Members of this House can also assist in your particular areas where veterans are. You can at least inform them that there are offices for veterans in each Region where they can go and seek further information.

Honourable Shixwameni, also wanted to know about the pace that we are taking because he had heard that registration in Khomas, for example, was already conducted and how this is done. Registration has been going on since 2008 and we go from Region to Region. In fact, it is conducted at Constituency level, in each and every Region, of late. However, Namibians are very difficult people to know what their interests are and where they normally stay. Every time there are people who says; “*we were left out*” or “*we did not hear about it*”. The Programme is announce on the radio, broadcast on television and published in newspapers, yet there are people who have been left out all the time. What Honourable Shixwameni mentioned about Khomas; it is true that Khomas was covered last year and from Khomas people went to the Caprivi, Kavango and Otjozondjupa Region. It was more or less towards the end of the year and the other Regions will be covered this year. This is what we meant. Registration will always continue, but this time around, once we have covered the whole country there is no longer going be a team from the Ministry going to all the Regions, we will rather ask people who are not

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yet registered to give their names to their Constituencies and then we will know in which Constituencies and Regions are there people who still need to be addressed as opposed to going on *en masse* calling people to come and register. If we consider the money spend and the human resources used since 2008, every year up to now and yet it seems that people still have the time to simply wait and then say; “*there will always be a tomorrow*”. We will never leave anybody out; it is only that the Programme is going to be scaled down. That is what is going to happen.

About registration process; that will also answer the question of ***Honourable Moongo***, the people who register people are not the ones recommending and approving people for the veteran status, they can, therefore, not be able to say who can and cannot register. They will take the information that you have provided and that information is forwarded to the Vetting Committee and the Vetting Committee subsequently go through the information that have been written and provided by yourself and if additional information is required, they will contact you to supplement more. The Vetting Committee in turn recommends you to the Veteran Board, which also go through the information provided, contact you if need be, approve or disapprove. That is how it works and that is why we cannot turn people away the first instant when they come for registration by saying; “*not you and you*” because the instruction is that they take the information for processing purposes.

Honourable Shixwameni also asked whether the people can only study in Namibia or elsewhere as well, usually we prefer people to study in Namibia because we can then afford to cover more people instead of only a few. However, if the person is going to pursue a special field that is not found in Namibia, that application can be looked at. I must also emphasise here that it is not really the main Programme of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs to provide scholarships or study grants for people to go and study, that responsibility remains with the Ministry of Education which provides scholarship. We are only assisting. It is just like what other Members have been saying here that, seeing that there is a need, they also give scholarships to their staff members to further their studies and once they complete their studies, they plough back their acquired skills. Therefore, this is not our core function at all and as a matter of fact

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we are not assisting more than 20 people per year.

By and large, looking at, for example, single mothers who are veterans and finding it very difficult to cope; those are the people that we try to assist. The size of the grant that is available for funerals is N\$10,000.00 per funeral service and that is an entitlement for each and every veteran who passes on. For whoever passes on in Namibia, the relatives simply needs to inform our offices in the Region where a veteran has passed on. The information is taken, the Ministry is contacted and the relatives are told to contact the funeral undertaker who knows the process. The Ministry then request the relatives to get the coffin and the funeral services which need to be provided within an amount of N\$10,000.00. Another N\$10,000.00 is available for a tombstone afterwards. That is what we do for every approved veteran. This process goes fast; no time will be lost because the funeral undertakers throughout the country know exactly what to do. Once they are contacted, they need the death certificate and the veteran number, we are then contacted and request the relatives to go and select the items that are needed.

Honourable Tjihuiko, in his absence; yes, he made a very important contribution about the psychological counselling Programme of the Ministry. Indeed, we saw that that was missing from the activities of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, however, we realised that it is late, but it is better late than never. Therefore, that is a Programme which is of course not going to be once-off, but it will be carried out year after year. The Government has reach a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Churches and for us to cover the whole country, the member churches will be used to counsel Namibians who are in need and in this case it does not only involve veterans, but Namibians who were traumatised during the time of our conflict. It is not only for people with the veteran status, but for all the people who are in need. The N\$25 million that was budgeted for is only for the first trial to see whether we need the same amount or more in the next Financial Year.

Honourable Moongo, I already answered your question by saying that if you go and present yourself, nobody is going to chase you away and nobody is going to tell you whether you qualify or not, because the people

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who are registering you are not the ones who are approves you for the veteran status.

Honourable Amathila, your contribution about solar energy and how it can contribute to the energy requirements of this country was very passionate and I know you for that for so many years now. As the Political Head of the Ministry, I hope that I can state it here that if it was left to me, I would in fact cancel the purchasing of the two farms and rather invest in something that may be useful and beneficial to the veterans. Firstly, we are paying N\$13 million for two farms and it will not be easy to find farms that cost that kind of money. We will reach the end of the Financial Year and Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila will request her money back. If it is not going to be difficult in budgetary terms, I can maybe sit with my officials and consider something practical that can benefit all veterans because if you by a farm, you will resettle two or three veterans on that farm and they will not have any actual means to purchase livestock for the farm. Thank you very much for that contribution, if my officials are somewhere here, I hope they will remind me of that and that is going to be implemented without any *nyaka nyaka*.

I also want to thank you very much, including **Comrade Ilonga** and many others, for what you have said about the importance of recording the history. My staff knows that I have been hammering them on this, people always have an attitude of; "*not yet, it is not ready, we do not have this*", yet it is true that people who are our living libraries today are dying. About two weeks ago we have agreed that a Programme is going to be put together to invite a number of historians to come on board and indicate their willingness to go and interview people in the Region and then of course to use the information that are available in the Ministry for the history to be recorded. It is indeed; extremely urgent because everybody almost said the same thing and people are leaving us. I think that Programme can no longer wait. Next year this time, I must report progress on this and my officials are listening.

Honourable Ilonga, I think I have covered you. I hope during the next rainy season there will be more rain and we will plough.

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Honourable Kaiyamo, thank you very much. I am glad to hear that you feel comfortable coming to the Ministry, it seems that you are well received. However, there are also a lot of our people who complain and I must indicate that some of the staff members of the Ministry have bad manners, are rude and are not encouraging veterans to come and seek the information they want. It is for that reason that, about three weeks or so ago, we agreed that each and every staff member of the Ministry must wear a name badge because I want to be told that; *“I was answered rudely by so and so”* so that we can deal with that individual. As many times as I gathered all them to express my dissatisfaction with the way they treat veterans, no one ever volunteered to say; *“it is me or it is so and so”*. I think that they must be exposed by way of wearing a name badge and those who are not willing to serve Namibians must find some other places of work.

Honourable Riruako, thank you very much for putting the record straight, there is a history that those of us that are young do not know and apparently some of us do not want to know about the history and a Nation that does not know its history is lost. Therefore, with your wisdom and having been there, do not ever get tired; always be ready to tell us what was there because we need to know. Those who do not want to know are probably not patriots or Namibians. We must know our history whether good or bad as it is part of human endeavours.

Honourable Bezuidenhoudt, again about the history and I have answered that. Thank you very much.

Honourable Kaura, thank you very much for raising the question about the study grants. Although I have already touch on that, let me just emphasise here again that the scholarship is not really our main function at all, we only come in here and there to assist. What I know is that, for the children of the liberation struggle, for example, there is a special list given to the Ministry of Education by the Ministry of Youth that indicates that whenever anybody on that list is requesting for a scholarship we say that; *“that person is in this category, please let him/her be considered”*. That is what I know exists. I also know that Cabinet has decide that these children who suffered, no matter how old they are today, if they want to

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go and study, they can always be listened to. Skills training is also available for them at Berg Aukas in Khai//ganaxab. Of course it is very difficult to say these people accept the advised provided, but you as a parent would agree if these young people were to get skills because it increases their chance to get employment. However, without skills, if they were to be employed now, for instance, as cleaners, the salary they would receive as cleaners will of course even be more frustrating. They would probably just leave and create bad records for themselves. One would have wanted them just to go for skills training that will not cost them anything and during the time that they are provided with the training, they also receive allowances for them to survive and they get into the job market thereafter. One would really think that that is the best way.

Honourable Kaapanda, let me just repeat that this is something that I will take up with my officials on Monday in order to make the history of our country's liberation struggle available. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is ready, the equipment is there and the personnel are available, I do not know what can hold us back. My Colleague, I will get in touch with you on that.

Honourable Limbo, Thank you very much. On your issue that some people abandoned the struggle, came back and are approved as veterans while others are not, I can only say that the Act says that; if you join the struggle, desert the struggle at some point and rejoin, you will be accepted as a veteran. However, just to give you an example, if you deserted the struggle, came back home, and joined the Turnhalle Circus that was here, you can do anything, but will never be accepted as a veteran. That is as plain as that.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I tried my best.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any Objections? Agreed to.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 22
HON SHIXWAMENI

Vote 22 – “**FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES**” put for Discussion. Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I will be very brief. First of all, I want to congratulate the Minister for the work that they are doing.

I want to go straight to Page 8. On the new research vessel, the Minister is saying that the vessel cannot be used maximally because of non-availability of funds. My question is; why buy such an expensive vessel if you have not planned to use it maximally? The Minister is complaining that their request for the 2013/2014 Financial Year was turned down, therefore, the vessel, which is a very important and expensive asset, will have to lie half idle. This is what was complained about in the Presidential Commission on Health; that we seem to be at pleasure to buy equipment that is very expensive, but then end up being idle or unutilised. I think, this is bad for governance and we need to look at that.

Page 9, also goes for the same thing, buying something and then not utilising it. On Page 18, the Minister is talking about the Programme on monitoring fishing companies and their contribution to the economy, yet I read in the newspaper about two weeks ago about the economy, that fishing companies might go bust because of the problems that they are experiencing. Maybe the Minister can highlight to this House as to what are the exact problems that fishing companies are experiencing that would cause them to go bankrupt. The case in point is Etale which has now retrenched more than 700 workers who now face unemployment. Can the Minister at least explain to us how this Programme of monitoring that fishing companies are operating appropriately, works in the Ministry.

On Page 19, **The Payment of Quota Fees and Other Levies**; my question there is, is the Minister satisfied that everybody paid, because I read so much about companies that are not paying their quota fees; sometimes they stay for up to two years without paying their quota fees but are still granted quotas in the next Financial Year while they have not made their payments.

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The second last one is; I read about the fishing trawler and its possible implications on the environment, apparently trawlers are bad and in some countries in Europe they have been stopped because they dredge on the seafloor in order to catch fish. What are the environmental implications for the introduction of the trawler that is about to start catching fish in our waters?

The last one is on phosphate mining. Once again, there are environmental implications that are being highlighted by an environmental concerned group that phosphate mining may undermine the fishing environment and biomass. Have we really weighed the economic benefits that will be derived from phosphate mining as opposed to us destroying shore resources that we have had over the years that are sustainable, if protected? What are the implications thereof and was a proper feasibility study carried out to enlighten the country. With those few remarks, I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House for giving me the Floor. Mine would be just to stand up and support the Vote.

Honourable Minister, the question that I have relates to the fact that the Fishing Sector makes some very significant contribution in terms of foreign currency earning and I know that there is a deliberate policy to add value to our raw material base. Having said that and being aware that the market where our white fish products are destined to is Spain, the question is twofold; what is the current economic climate in Spain and what is the impact of that on our prospects to remain in that market? Related to that I have read the recent press briefings that one of the largest privately owned fish companies, Pescanova, is in fact insolvent. I am aware that they have a significant quota in white fish through NovaNam, their Namibian

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counterpart, does that impact on our prospects of maintaining that lucrative market or should we also seek alternatives in that aspect? Can the Minister just enlighten us on those two aspects? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. In view of the fact that there are no further questions, can I ask the Honourable Minister to respond?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me also first thank Comrade Schleittwein, the Minister of Trade and Industry for the support on Vote 22.

I would also like to thank *Honourable Shixwameni* for the questions he has posed whereby he is seeking clarity on some of the issues raised in my Motivation Speech.

With regard to the research vessel on Page 8; yes, the said vessel is a state-of-the-art research vessel that we have procured and it is a very expensive vessel, but we are thinking about the future. We bought a vessel that can serve us for the next two to three decades instead of buying a vessel which can only serve us for a two or three-year period. Therefore, it is very vital for us to invest now as the price was very affordable in terms of the deal with the shipbuilding company. You mentioned about the utilisation of this vessel; as you know, we are a member of the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) that consist of Angola as well as South Africa and we also get requests from those countries to assist them in conducting stock assessment exercises or to carry out surveys of stock that we share like the sardine – small pelagic fish, this vessel, will therefore, be utilised to its maximum and we can maybe also get some funds in that process from countries which will be utilising our vessel. Although we did not receive enough funding from my sister here for the vessel, which is a challenge to

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us, we will try our level best to see how we can bridge that specific gap of funding.

On the question of companies going bankrupt and the problems that the companies are experiencing; it is a very tricky issue because we are there to regulate as Government, we regulate through the Laws. However, when it comes to corporate governance of these specific companies; the management of those companies, in the case of Etale, is vested with directors that are appointed by the owners and it is vested with the management of this very specific company, therefore, it is very difficult to interfere. However, when it comes to the impact of, especially jobs, we want to get comfort from the company, yes Etale has retrenched, as the papers are reporting, 700 workers, which is in fact not a true reflection, they have laid off 271 permanent workers and the balance were people who were employed through this labour hiring companies and those were not in fact directly employed by the fishing companies, they were contracted through the labour hiring companies to the fishing companies. Therefore the figure of 700 was just sensational. The 271 workers who were laid off were absorbed by other fishing companies were the right holders who closed their quotas in Etale transferred their quotas to. Companies like Gendev are one of the companies that have absorbed some of the workers because some of the right holders transferred their quotas there for catching and processing purposes.

Yes, fishing companies are experiencing problems, the other one was Cadilu Fishing, and I had a briefing yesterday on the status of Cadilu by one of the new owners. At least Cadilu Fishing has been rescued by someone who decided to buy equity in that specific company and it is operating. That was with reference to Page 18. Page 8 flows into Page 9 so I do not need to answer that.

On the issue of payment of quota fees and outstanding levies; we sometimes do experience situations whereby companies do not pay their quota fees and levies on time, however, we are in the process of putting up a system as was mentioned under Programme 7, where our Ministry is embarking on a Revenue Collection and Debtor's Management System and it is our believe that this specific system will improve the collection of

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these levies and quota fees that are due to us. We will for sure implement this new system during this Financial Year and it will help us in recovering those outstanding levies and quota fees.

Coming to the super trawler that you referred to here; it was in the *Informante* Newspaper and I fortunately have a clip of this particular issue. I did address this specific problem already, I asked my officials to tell me what has happened that a license was issued to this super trawler and the information that I obtained was that it is normally the responsibility of the Minister to issue licences, but the arrangement in the past was that the Minister had delegated that responsibility to the Permanent Secretary and administration to do that. The information I received was that this specific super trawler's horsepower was 6,600 and that is the horsepower it has to drag the nets for catching fish. However, if you compare this specific horsepower to that of the existing vessels that also operates in our marines, these vessels are having greater horsepower than this super trawler, therefore, we already have super vessels in our marine whose horsepower are ranging between 3,000 and 7,000, but we will address this issue during the process of amending our *Marine Resources Act*. We are in the process of consulting now and very soon we will be coming to Parliament after consulting Cabinet in order to debate these specific Amendments on the *Marine Resources Act* and these issues of licenses can also be addressed because it is provided within the Act.

On phosphate mining; yes, phosphate mining is a real concern to our Ministry. My Ministry is in the process of consulting my Colleagues here; Comrade Katali and the Minister of Environment and Tourism. Presently we came to an understanding that we will not issue any further licenses. The issuing of licenses has, therefore, been suspended as we are concerned and need to come to a common position on phosphate mining in terms of the implications it will have on our Fishing Sector because these Sector is employing a lot of people with the current employment standing at over 10,000, whereas we do not know whether the phosphate mining will also employ the same number of people. However, we really need to look into that. It is under our control and just for your information I have also spoken to people who can assist us with conducting the environmental impact assessment and all the other studies, people who

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possess the necessary skills. As I am speaking here now, one of our officials is in Mexico interacting with other experts on the implications of phosphate mining and not only that, but also about the oil drilling in our oceans. It is, therefore, very vital for us to take precautionary measures.

Before I get to the response of the Minister of Trade, I have got a note here, but I think I have addressed this issue already.

HON MEMBER: A note?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

No, not that other note, not the infamous one. Now on the issues raised by the *Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry*, as I have said, the Fishing Sector really contributes to our economy in terms of employment, Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Exchange earnings. We promote value addition to our raw materials and when I came to this Ministry, I told them that we should at least add value to horse mackerel. Why is horse mackerel caught, landed and just exported without value addition? Packaging can also be regarded as value addition because it creates jobs for our people as we need to address the unemployment situation. We are for value addition when it comes to our fishing raw materials and I will not compromise on that, those who are doing that will be remunerated.

On the question of the economic climate in Spain, we know that Spain is one of the countries that were hit by the economic crisis in Europe including other countries like Italy, Greece and Cyprus and we are really concerned because most of our fishing companies are from Spain. We need to diversify and get new players from other markets as well and not depend on Spain. With the new right holders, new people like the Chinese, Atlantis and quite a number of other people who came on board, at least it is a move towards diversifying by adding new players who can assist us.

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On Pescanova; we are keeping a close eye on Pescanova and are monitoring the situation on the ground. I had a briefing from Pescanova this week and they told me it is business as usual, but I do not believe it is the case. I think that we need to go into the details of this matter, we are also checking through our friends outside and inside the country to know what is going on, because Pescanova is one of the companies that provides a lot of jobs in Luderitz, we therefore, need to take care of this situation. I have instructed my officials to write a letter to the Pescanova's manager who is responsible for Namibia, South Africa and Mozambique to summon him so that he can come and at least give us the real picture. We will come with a Statement to Parliament after our consultations, to put you at ease. This is a very important matter; we do not know how severe the implications may be, therefore, we need to take control of the situation. Otherwise, I once more, thank you very much for the support of Vote 22. Happy 53rd birthday of the SWAPO Party. Aluta Continua!

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any Objections? Agreed to.
The Committee further has to consider the Bill.

BILL PUT:

Clause 1 and 2 put and agreed to.
Schedule put and agreed to.
Title put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill without Amendments.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Bill reported without Amendments.

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**THIRD READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA / HON MUTORWA**

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objections? Agreed to. Any further discussions? Minister of Agriculture.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I have been in this House for the past 21 years and I see that when we discuss the Budget progressively, we are making some improvement and progress in terms of disposing of the Budget within a relatively short time, to enable us to concentrate on the implementation. We spent exactly 20 days during this Session, for example, and I think this is quite good. However, considering the many documents that the Ministry of Finance submit, in support, motivation and giving information about the Budget, the Head of State and Government also comes here during the Budget Discussion and provide comprehensive Report on the State of the Nation.

I have a thought that next time around, we can manage to cut on the time spend on the Budget and probably dispose of the Budget by the end of March without skipping any stage of the Budget. Ministers could come here with their Statements and some additional information; however, we can maybe cut on the reading of those Statements and just give the information and go into the Committee Stage without necessarily reading. That will enable us to finish at the end of March next year which will afford us sufficient time. This is just a thought; I do not know how the Minister of Finance will respond to that. Thank you.

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**THIRD READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON BEZUIDENHOUDT / HON AMATHILA / HON RIRUAKO**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wholeheartedly agree with the Minister. I also think that we can save additional time by focussing on the tax and not focussing on the other issues surrounding the tax so that we will be very procedural and focussed and we also need to respect the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Amathila.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Speaker, I am actually impressed by Honourable Mutorwa's proposal. I am just wondering whether, during the time of our recess we could not explore the possibility of the two Houses discussing the Budget together. I know that there are constitutional and others implications, but that will maybe even enhance the passing of the Budget when Members of the other House also sit-in, listen to the Ministers and raise questions. However, we have to study and see what the implications are to our Constitution.

HON SPEAKER: With your last tribute, I take that on board. The other day when Honourable Dingara was paying compliments to Minister Mutorwa, he said there was something missing, I did not know exactly what he meant, but with this proposal, I understand what he meant. Honourable Chief.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I agree with Honourable

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Mutorwa to only do the job at one time. She doubled our work instead of doing it all at once and go into the Committee Stage. I support the proposal the way the Minister put it. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Very good, thank you. Any further discussion? Does the Minister of Finance wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to thank the Honourable Members for the constructive Debate on the Budget. It will most definitely improve our budgeting and I can assure them that the input that they have made will be considered seriously for purposes of future improvement of the Budget.

I can only agree with the proposals that are made to streamline our Budget approval process, so that we can allow more time for the Budget implementation. I have taken note of the concerns raised with regard to the need for strengthened allocations to some of the priority Programmes of our Government. I believe that we are making a good effort. This Budget entails a significant expansion to the point that there were concerns raised about the sustainability of the Fiscal Policy given this expansion. We have allowed significant flexibility to Line Ministers to apportion the resources that are availed for their Sector Programmes to the specific activities on their Votes and this specifically address the concerns that were raised with regard to the amount of funding that is apportioned to specific activities under the Votes.

The Ministry of Finance has take an approach were we do not really take every item and determine how much of the resources that are availed for the Sector would go to that activity. We allocate funds to a Programme and leave the Ministry to distribute according to the priorities of that Sector because we know that the Ministries know better than us. Since they are the ones who administer these Programmes, they are aware of what is on the ground and they can determine how to better optimise

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**THIRD READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR GURIRAB**

outcomes by apportioning resources to the various activities under the Programmes they administer.

I would also like to give assurance that indeed, in terms of the deficit and debt levels, the Budget stipulates the exact levels and the expenditure levels stipulated in the Bill translates into these levels. Given that Ministries will only be allowed to spend what we have agreed under that *Budget Act* and nothing else and with the support of my Colleagues I hope that there would be better compliance with the expenditure limits that are set in this Budget than we have had in the past. With that, I want to assure the House of our continued commitment to utilise Fiscal Policy to support our national development according to the priorities that we have set and I hope that we will continue to receive their support in doing that. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I now put the question that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Any Objections? The Secretary will now read the Bill the Third Time.

THIRD READING: APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1. – 2013]

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill* [B.1. – 2013]

HON SPEAKER: Before we go to the second item, I want to respond to two things. The first one is the point by Honourable Amathila on his idea that it might be an issue worth considering that the two Houses can meet during this phase of the Budget time, but he also added a caveat that

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means that we should look into the matter. This is a Bill that should go through the normal process of all the Bills and then go to the other House to go through the same exercise there. I do not know whether the effect of the suggestion that he advised us to look into has to do with the speed that we are now sort of celebrating, that we are speeding up things and that in that context that would further expedite the process. If that is the consideration, then it is maybe worth considering. My point is why we do not have a single Chamber that was the original idea of the SWAPO Party when we went to the drafting of the Constitution, if that is the one that we are considering then I want it to be first on the list. We do not need two Chambers, we only need one Chamber and I strongly believe in that, but the Constitution for now provides for two Chambers and that is the Law.

The second one is that I am against the idea of even considering phosphate mining in any time. I did not know how to argue the case, but at the SWAPO Party Congress, the Founding President, this time not speaking as anything do to with the SWAPO Party, but as a scientist has said that fish is a renewable resource and phosphate is not. Now that I have an argument and I further read up on it, I am opposed to it. I come from the coastal area, and therefore, lay claim to that environment. It is a bad idea and we must oppose it.

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON AIR NAMIBIA

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Air Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Tuesday, the 9th of April 2013, the question before the Assembly was the Motion by Honourable Von Wietersheim. Honourable Von Wietersheim has the

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

Floor and he may now continue.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. When the Debate was adjourned, I was busy commenting on the intervention by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration who claimed that the new business plan of Air Namibia would prove viable already after one year. I countered that the business plan was adopted in July 2011 and that only eight months later a subsidy of more than N\$500 million for the Airline was included in the 2012/2013 Budget in order to boost the implementation of the new business plan, and now – one year later – instead of proving its viability as claimed by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs another of N\$1,1 billion – more than double the amount of the previous subsidy – has to be provided by Government to prevent a total catastrophic collapse of the organisation.

I would have liked to ask the *Honourable Minister of Home Affairs*, but she is not here, whether she does not think that this situation is a matter of serious concern. I also ask the Honourable Members, through you Honourable Speaker, whether they do not think that the National Assembly should give serious attention to this development when supposedly being responsible for the Budget of this Nation – which must not only be based on nationalistic or patriotic considerations, but take into account the economic and social situation in our country and the resultant well-being of our people? Even with a looming job ahead, it becomes a more important topic.

My Colleague here, *Honourable Nyamu*, mirrored my surprise about some Members regarding the Motion as partisan, which is indeed very unfortunate. I had hoped that Honourable Members would address this issue in a mature and responsible manner, in order to find the best possible solution to the dilemma facing all of us together – because, let us face it, we all know that the Air Namibia saga cannot and must not continue the way it is; this was also spelt out very clearly by the Honourable Minister of Finance, when she emphasized in her Budget Statement that “*the perpetual lifeline extended to Air Namibia is a cause of national*

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

concern”, alongside her promise that “*a lasting solution is warranted*”.

Honourable Nyamu in his contribution proposed that his Excellency, the President, constitute a Commission of Enquiry – similarly to the Commission of Enquiry into the Health Sector – to investigate and advise on this issue of Air Namibia. If, after conclusion of my reply, an Amendment to my initial proposal of involving a Parliamentary Committee is proposed to that effect, I shall have no objection to Move that this Assembly requests his Excellency, the President, to constitute such a Commission.

I have high regard, Honourable Speaker, for the sentiment which ***Honourable Tjihuiko*** introduced to the Debate, in expressing his sincere pleasure of flying with Air Namibia, the atmosphere, their service, etc. I do fully agree with him on that score, contrary to what some Members would like to implicate me with. I have always made a point of choosing our Airline above any other.

However, unlike some Members of the Ruling Party, Honourable Tjihuiko was able to take a holistic and balanced look at the situation and also identify the inherent shortcomings of the Airline, and here I tend to agree with his assessment of suspecting a major problem with management, which seems not to possess the required expertise, neither makes an effort to acquire such expertise from elsewhere.

I was very impressed by ***Honourable Kazenambo's*** observations, which could have provided a substantial foundation for a Debate of this nature, if more Members had taken up his approach of regarding the problem from the four different perspectives, which are contained in the acronym P.E.S.T. – the Political, Economic, Social and Technological perspective. With this approach Honourable Kazenambo was able to highlight the important factors in each of the four different perspectives, pointing out correctly that:

- 1) a national airline is a factor of patriotic pride, that, however;

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- 2) a critical look at economic justification has to be part of the assessment; that
- 3) an honest balance must be found between investments in airline bail-outs versus investments in socio-economic needs; and finally that
4. the pleasure and comfort of utilizing advanced technology has to be weighed against the resulting costs, once again, these must be seen as possibly replacing alternative opportunities.

He pointed out the need for understanding the complicated dynamics of the Airline Industry and its highly competitive character. Like other Members he also applauded the benefits of transporting tourists visiting Namibia directly to their destination, which however, he correctly indicated, has to be weighed against the cost factor involved.

Coming to that, I wish to refer to *Honourable Katjavivi's* intervention, in which he pointed out the importance of Air Namibia for the country in terms of it carrying our symbols (P-Political/Patriotic), as well as in terms of its contribution to the economy.

The figure of a total of N\$1,6 billion of direct and indirect contributions to the economy is similar to the figure in the business plan and seems to be an impressive benefit compared to last year's subsidy – however, events have overtaken this debate, and we know by now, that another N\$1,1 billion subsidy is being transferred to the Airline, which, in fact, renders the economic gain redundant.

Even though Honourable Katjavivi took a very favourable stance towards Air Namibia, he, just as most other Members, who were seriously concerned about the untenable situation, accepted that there are challenges, and that the advantages and disadvantages have to be weighed against each other, and the real needs to be identified and addressed. He appealed for continued support to the airline, but demanded that the Board and Management be engaged in the process of how to proceed, without ruling out any options.

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This attitude, Honourable Speaker, to my mind, reflects in a balanced way the pride a national airline can instill, as well as the responsibility we as Lawmakers have to practice, when making decisions with regard to how to invest our precious and limited resources.

The defined goals of the business plan for Air Namibia, adopted in July 2011, aim at 'Consistent and Sustainable Profitability' as well as 'Positive Contribution to Sustainable Economic Development of Namibia', which can only be applauded; but how does it reflect the reality?

As I illustrated earlier, the performance of the airline seems to have plummeted instead of improving – while it appears rather ridiculous to even think about any degree of viability, as the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs wants us believe.

In the assessment of the airline and its performance against most of its peers and competitors, Air Namibia performs poorly, which is ascribed mainly to the following:

- Stiff competition;
- Complex and unaligned network;
- Lack of optimum marketable connections;
- Low utilization of aircraft and crew, amongst others.

Admittedly, these are strong negative factors, which call for extraordinary and decisive management, in order to overcome or at least minimize their destructive effects.

In addition, the business plan identifies various deviations from the original recommendations by the previous International Air Transport Association (IATA) consultant, which may play a major role in either achieving the goals or failing them. The effect of all these should be at the base of an investigation into how to extract the Airline from their present demise.

The new recommendations (2011) indirectly but succinctly point at a large

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number of deficiencies in management, with the advice to rectify them as follows:

- with increased operational integrity by better on-time and turn-around performance; by better cooperation and coordination with NAC; by improved maintenance, engineering and fuel management;
- with being truly customer focused by nurturing an Air Namibia Brand, with improved customer service, and increased cooperation with Namibian Tourism Association;
- with improved commercial excellence at sales and distribution, as well as pricing, revenue and cargo operations; and
- overall to create and sustain a confident team.

Judging by the very recent experiences of some of our members – including Honourable Katjavivi, Honourable Witbooi, myself and Honourable Tjihuiko, who tried to briefly sketch what we and 14 other passengers experienced at the hand of Air Namibia, when returning from an overseas visit via Johannesburg, and also judging by the haphazard way that important, highly cost-related and far-reaching decisions are first taken, widely announced and then rescinded within days or weeks, like the controversial scheduled flights to Accra, Ghana, the management of the Airline has obviously not yet grasped the essence of what is required of them, or – and I was going to ask; is it that political meddling in this highly specialized economic field renders efforts at economic rehabilitation fruitless? By now we also know that political influence of course played a role.

This brings to mind a very untypical, strange remark in the business plan with reference to the transfer of responsibility for Air Namibia from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Works & Transport, which reads: *“It (the transfer) was not our desire, but let us make the best of it; there are opportunities and strengths, which this change avails to Air Namibia”*.

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

This is not the kind of statement one would expect to find in a business plan at all.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I wish to appeal to this assembly of Honourable Members to give serious consideration to how to approach the issue of our ailing Airline in future. Do the Honourable Members wish to continue appropriating millions or rather billions of Namibian Dollars annually without transparency or accountability on the part of Air Namibia or the responsible Line Ministry on how effectively and with what kind of realistic expectations these subsidies are utilized.

We are all aware of our social and economic deficiencies as far as especially housing, unemployment, skills shortages and plain poverty is concerned; furthermore, this year we seem to be facing a catastrophic drought, which may have a disastrous effect on the economic performance of the agricultural sector, while even threatening the economic survival of a substantial number of farmers, if they are not assisted by the State.

Nevertheless we are expected to approve a subsidy of N\$1,1 billion in addition to last year's subsidy of N\$500 million and further amounts during the next two years, without having a clue, how the Honourable Minister of Finance justifies her pledge that a lasting solution for Air Namibia is warranted.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, I appeal to the Honourable Members to support this Motion for an expert investigation into the business operations of AirNamibia and its way forward. I Move to refer this Motion to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics for the appropriate steps to be taken. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. It is proposed that the Motion be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics. Minister of Defence.

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**DEBATE ON AIR NAMIBIA
HON ANGULA / HON ULENGA**

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I beg the indulgence of the Honourable Member to postpone the decision on this Motion so that the Minister concerned can be around to make a decision whether it is the appropriate course of action. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objections to the deferment of the Motion? Honourable Ulenka.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. If I understand the Minister of Defence well, he seems to be saying that the decision to refer the Motion should not be that of Parliament, but of the Minister. Do I hear him right? (Interjections) I am asking the Minister, please.

HON SPEAKER: I did not understand it that way. In any case the House has to agree, otherwise the option is to put it to a vote, but that is what the Minister of Defence is trying to defer so to speak and instead that the Line Minister be given an opportunity to appreciate both the Motivation and also the implications inherent in the Motion. I, therefore, ask the House either to agree or otherwise we leave it for now in the hands of the Minister. Agreed to.

The Secretary will read the Third Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

19 April 2012

**ANNOUNCEMENT
HON DR GURIRAB**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Financial Accountability.

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Friday, the 5th of April 2013, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Maamberua. Any further discussion? Honourable Lucks.

HON LUCKS: Honourable Speaker, we seem to have lost a quorum.

HON MEMBER: Are you sure?

HON LUCKS: I just counted myself.

HON SPEAKER: We do not have the secret tags available to the Speaker in which the Speaker is advised to be suspicious of calls for lack of quorum so one way to resolve this is to count.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: I would like to inform the Members that there will be a meeting of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus on Monday, 22 April 2013 at 12:00 in the Pink room. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and other Office Bearers.

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ADJOURNMENT

With that the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, the 23th of April 2013 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 12:07 UNTIL 2013.04.23 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
23 APRIL 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have two Amendments to make. The first one is to kindly ask you to join me in warmly welcoming the Parliamentary delegations from the sister Republic of Zambia, residence and home of some of the Honourable Members, I am told, including the Speaker.

There are two Parliamentary Delegations:

One is a twelve Member delegation led by Honourable Edgar Singombe, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Local Governance, Housing and Chiefs' Affairs.

The second is an eight Member delegation led by Honourable Kabinga J Pande, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Information and Communication Technology.

I welcome you all.

The second announcement is for the Honourable Members to be aware of the presence of the future leaders of the Republic of Namibia. They are 37 learners from Elim Primary School, Elim Constituency in the Omusati Region; and 65 learners from Oshakati West Primary School, Oshakati West Constituency in the Oshana Region.

Lastly, I have communication from His Excellency the President,

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON MOONGO**

informing me that he has appointed Honourable Festus Ueitele as the Regional Governor of the Omaheke Region. I had an opportunity this morning to receive the Honourable Member in his new capacity and wished him well on your behalf and assured him that he can count on the Parliament's support and also urged him to work harder than when he was a Member of Parliament because that may actually be the test of where he goes from there, higher up.

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

ORAL QUESTION

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, since there is a short time before recess, I would like to pose an Oral Question, if it is allowed.

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I have an Oral Question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, I would like to know as to why there are delays to accept the SMS line request for Government Institutions which was handed in on the 18th of January 2013 to the Prime Minister's Office, to ensure proper service delivery of Public Servants.

This mechanism should be accessible to every citizen who wishes to bring about change in the Sector. Citizens need to suggest, complain...(intervention)

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON NUJOMA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, you are allowed to ask Oral Questions, but they must be short and topical to be answered.

HON MOONGO: Yes. I am through with that one, but I have others for different Ministries also. Another is an Oral Question to the Minister of Home Affairs. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: Oral means Oral, you do not read.

HON MOONGO: Yes. Why are they delaying to accept or give endorsement letters to the client and allow queries through the SMS system, since citizens travel long distances just to enquire about the status of their applications, which involves the issuing of birth certificates, IDs, visas and passports? When are you going to provide linked services in order to have an accurate system, can the Minister explain?

Finally, I would like to ask an Oral Question to the Minister of Lands and Resettlement. I propose to the Delimitation Commission that the Windhoek Railway Station be named after the former President, Father of the Nation and be called Sam Nujoma Station.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker, I would like to remind the House about Rule 82 of the Standing Rules and Orders. Comrade Speaker, Rule 82(a) says that; “*After answers to questions on Notice, the Speaker shall allow time for Oral Questions to Ministers.*” 82(b); “*Oral Questions shall be:*

1. asked without Notice;
2. Short and to the point; and

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON MOONGO**

3. Answered immediately

82(c); “*Subject to the discretion of the Speaker*”, which the Honourable Speaker has mention. Comrade Speaker, I would like to be directed, in the first instance, I think the Honourable Member is Out of Order because you have correctly exercised your discretion, but then questions by the Honourable Member, should be Oral and short, however, we are seeing 3 pages of written questions. I think the Honourable Member is Out of Order and the Honourable Speaker should rule accordingly. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, I appreciate the assistance. English is not our official language and it might even be longer if I allow the Honourable Member to do that. I understand that you speak in terms of the Rule, but we are dealing with practical matters. However, it is a point, Honourable Moongo, you are reading prepared text.

I have helped you so far and I want to help you further, try to be brief as much as possible, otherwise I will rule you Out of Order.

HON MOONGO: Omaheke Railway Station to be renamed to Chief Riruako, Okahandja Station to late Chief Kapuuo. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: That has got nothing to do with Oral Questions. Please sit down. Any other questions? None. Notices of Motions?

The Secretary will read the First Order.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON AIR NAMIBIA

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**DEBATE ON AIR NAMIBIA
HON NGHIMTINA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Air Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourn on Friday, the 19th of April 2013, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Von Wietersheim that the Motion be referred to the Parliamentary Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration for further consultation. The Honourable Minister of Work now has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I appreciate the effort made by Von Wietersheim for bringing a Motion on Air Namibia.

We learned a lot from your wisdom and we are also aware of your concern about the national assets of our country and want to make an improvement on this subject matter. This is very good and there is nothing wrong with that and it is without any insinuation from other people who would say it should be thrown out. This is an asset that belongs to all Namibians, without which we would revert to donkey carts for travelling to Pretoria or Frankfurt and I do not think that we will be willing to do that.

Currently we have two Programmes on the ground: One Programme is spearheaded by the Honourable Prime Minister including some Ministers and the Aviation Industry that is operational, and also to find a financial way of moving ahead. The other Programme is on the forensic auditing that we are conducting in order to know what is exactly happening.

I propose that we finish with the Prime Minister's Programme and the forensic audit and then we table the Reports here in Parliament. If we are not satisfied with the outcomes of the Reports, we can then continue, otherwise we will duplicate all the efforts of the Government because the Committee has to be paid for by the very same Government. I therefore, advise that we first complete the ongoing investigations in the affairs of

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**DEBATE ON AIR NAMIBIA
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

Air Namibia and then Report back to Parliament. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I now put the question that the Motion be set aside until the investigations have been completed. Honourable Von Wietersheim.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I appreciate what the Minister has informed us about now. I would like to accept that we treat this as an Amendment to the Motion, meaning that my proposal that we have a Parliamentary Standing Committee investigating is now changed to the information that the Honourable Minister supplied saying that; under the leadership of the Right Honourable Prime Minister we have an investigation into the financial and all other aspects of Air Namibia and under the authority of the Honourable Minister there will be a forensic audit into the affairs of Air Namibia.

We can treat that as an Amendment and I would happily accept that and let it pass like that. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Is that acceptable to the House? Where now there is an Amendment, I now put the question that the Motion be adopted. Agreed to.

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORT CONDITION OF
URBAN WORKERS IN NAMIBIA**

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**HOUSING AND TRANSPORT CONDITIONS OF
URBAN WORKERS IN NAMIBIA
HON LUCKS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on '*Housing and Transport Condition of Urban Workers in Namibia*'

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 9th of April 2013, the question before the Assembly was a Report by Honourable Ms Tjongarero, Honourable Lucks adjourned the Debate and I now give him the Floor.

HON LUCKS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to make a short contribution to this critically important topic.

Housing for the people of Namibia or rather the lack thereof, is something that is very close to my heart and I will limit my contribution to the issue of housing and not talk about transport for the workers. Too many people in Namibia still find themselves without a roof over their head or a place to call home. It is completely shocking to see under what circumstances a lot of our brothers and sisters in this country live.

Honourable Speaker, we expect urban workers to show up clean at work while they do not have a home with running water to wash themselves. We expect workers to be well rested for work while they do not have a house with a proper bed to sleep on. Shelter is a basic human need just like food, water and love. I believe the need to have shelter, a home, a sanctuary that you can call your own is an even bigger need than the need for land and food production.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Report by the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development, has identified several reasons for the huge shortage of housing in Namibia and has established that a backlog of more than 92,000 houses still

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persists. I agree with all the reasons that are cited for this backlog and I also agree with the finding that the lack of serviced land is one of the major contributing factors to the shortage of housing. However, there is one more very important factor that contributes to the fact that so many people do not have a home and that I would like the Committee to consider. Beside the scarcity of serviced land, there is also the question of affordability, even if there were enough houses available, people would not be able to afford them. One major role player that is supposed to help people acquire a home is our commercial banks.

Honourable Speaker, unfortunately our commercial banks in Namibia are not very forthcoming when it comes to financing properties. They are not very flexible in the products and services they offer. In terms of home loans, their fees which are amongst the highest in the world, make it impossible for a large number of low income earners to take out a home loan. Some examples are; banks require additional security on top of the property that is to be purchased. If you take the property that is to be purchased as security, banks require additional security on top of that. Then they also require life insurance cover on top of the security that has to be offered. Prospective home buyers have to pay a string of different fees, like bond registration, transfer duties, stamp fees, etc. As if this is not enough, they even have to pay for the valuation of the home that the bank keeps and the home owner is not entitled to get. Another big issue is the fact that our banks do not want to finance alternative building methods. If your home is not built with materials like brick and mortar, you will not be able to obtain a loan to finance it. As an extreme example, just imagine a client applying for a home loan to construct a traditional hut as unthinkable. Alternative building methods and new building materials would make it much cheaper to construct houses, but this simply cannot happen because our banks are not willing to finance this.

Our Government has put many measures in place to encourage and enable our people to acquire a home. One example is the fact that a housing allowance as part of an employee's salary attracts much less income tax. You only pay income tax on two thirds of the amount that is offered. Too many employees, however, cannot make use of this special arrangement

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and something needs to be done about this.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, before I conclude, we have a range of different financial institutions which have been established for very specific and the financing (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Before the Honourable Member concludes, just because he may not suggest so, I would like to ask him a question. Honourable Member, I followed what you have said with kin interest, particularly about the unwillingness of the banks in this country to lower their requirements before financing a housing unit. Will you venture to suggest, before you conclude, that this National Assembly through its appropriate Committee, take up the issue with the Association of Bankers to express the concern of Members of this National Assembly on the way they treat their fellow Namibians when it comes to housing as an essential commodity that human beings must have? Will you entertain that kind of request? Thank you.

HON LUCKS: Honourable Member, definitely. I think it is long overdue that our commercial banks come to the party. Not only when it comes to small personal loans to banking facilities, but to really come to the party when it comes to the needs of the people of Namibia. Therefore, that is definitely one of the avenues that we could take, but I am about to propose another one as well. I see that there are many different financial institutions that have been established for very specific needs and the financing for growth and better life for all, for example, we have the Development Bank that aims to finance development projects for economic growth; we have the new SME Bank to help Small and Medium

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Businesses to get off the ground and alleviate joblessness...(intervention).

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, may I ask Honourable Lucks a tiny-winy question? Honourable Lucks, the first question is; are you aware that the money which the banks handle on our behalf is ours and not the banks'? The second question is; do you know that the problem of the financial crisis in the United States was basically an issue of unsecured loans? They were just dishing out money and as a result you, I and the world are suffering. Therefore, be careful of what you are saying, it is not their money, but our money their handling on our behalf. It is better for the Opposition to come with a better proposal.

HON LUCKS: Thank you, Honourable Minister. To come to your questions; you are correct on the first question, it is the Namibian people's money. However, to add to that, most of the banks that are operating in Namibia are not Namibian owned, they come from elsewhere and they do not take the specific needs of the Namibian people into consideration. Our needs are different to those of, say, South Africa. To come to the second question, yes, the financial bubble came as a result of banks that lent money without proper security, however to have security on top of security (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: He was answering a question. Let him finish answering the question, I will give you the Floor.

HON LUCKS: I believe that, when it comes to the financing of housing, our banks are too conservative. They are simply too strict in their requirements and they could ease their requirements to make it possible. I

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do not say that we should offer unsecured loans, but just make it more accessible to the people. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I wanted to ask him questions but he is lucky, somebody defended him. Does the GIPF Money not belong to us? It belongs to the public but it is not owned by the public, it is owned by the rich who can be given the money any time as they please or want.

HON MEMBER: And the point is?

HON RIRUAKO: The point is directed to the one who said the money belongs to the people, GIPF's money belong to this people here, but they are not entitled to borrow from the GIPF. (Interjections) I am not saying to buy cattle; it can also be borrowed by you for your construction. However, it is not lent to individual people who have the right to borrow from that money. Where do things lie? The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Can anyone who would like to answer this give me the answer, who does the Law protects here?

HON SPEAKER: Am I the only one who can recall that the late, Honourable Getze of CoD had something similar to the concerns being expressed here? What did we, as the House do about that? I think everybody applauded it and there were follow up discussions by the Standing Committees of the House and that should indicate the course of action that we had taken, having listened to similar concerns in the past. I know there were some Honourable Members who took this matter hard, they held different positions at that time, however, this issue is not new to my ears. What did we do in the past, as we are revisiting the same

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ground? Minister of Trade and Industry.

HON LUCKS: I am not done yet, but I am almost finished.

HON SPEAKER: I will give you time to finish, maybe the Minister wants to help us. I will come back to you. Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: On a Point of Information. If I remember correctly, I think what was before the House was the issue of bank charges and how expensive the services are that in fact the whole Financial Sectors is charging. There is a big difference between bank charges on services and prudential requirements that banks have to follow to remain viable and I think the question that we have to look at is; how can banks become more affordable in their service provision as a whole without wiewding down prudential requirements that helps us to secure depositors' money in banks? I think that is what one should be focussing on.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Honourable Lucks, continue.

HON LUCKS: Thank you. As I was saying, we have the Development Bank that aims to finance development projects for economic growth, we have the new SME bank to help Small and Medium size businesses to get off the ground and alleviate joblessness and we have the AgriBank to help with the acquisition of land and other inputs to help with food security in Namibia. Honourable Members, I believe that it is high time that a

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financial institution is established, just like the ones that I have mentioned, that will finance the ever growing need for housing. I, therefore, would like to call for the establishment of a Housing Bank that will offer low interest, flexible loans also for alternative building methods and materials that makes it possible to make use of the mentioned tax concessions and that does not charge all this exorbitant fees so that the people of Namibia can afford to borrow money in order to buy a house that they can call their own, their home and their sanctuary. For God and my country, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for allowing me to speak on this important Report on *Housing and Transport Condition of Urban Workers in Namibia*.

Deducing from some of the points raised by Honourable Lucks, I think when we are looking at the issue of housing and transport condition of workers we should appreciate a number of factors that are at play such as; the services and availability of land in the urban areas, we also need to clarify as to under whose jurisdiction this land that we are referring to is and who is responsible for land ownership in the urban areas, what role employers play in the ownership and services of land in the urban areas. There are also other issues such as; remuneration of employees, the very same workers that we are talking about. The term worker is very generic; we should, therefore, specify the category of workers we are referring to here; are we referring to workers in the Private Sector, Public Sector, etc? If we can take these factors into consideration, we will be able to confidently, effectively and efficiently address the issues as they are at the end of the day. However, with the current prevailing situation in Namibia, especially in urban cities about housing and transport condition of workers, one does not know whom specifically to blame or to point the

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finger at, for example, in urban cities in Namibia, land belongs to the municipalities, we are talking about land in the town boundaries of Windhoek in which the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Rural Development has played a catalytic role recently for the extension thereof. After the Central Government has done that, under whose jurisdiction (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: What point are you rising on?

HON RIRUAKO: Can I ask the Honourable gentleman a tiny-winy question? Who extended the town boundaries and who has given permission to that individual? Can you tell me who has done all that?

HON KAZENAMBO: The town boundaries of Windhoek, for example, have been extended by the Central Government under the Line Ministry of Regional and Local Government (intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: By who?

HON KAZENAMBO: I am going by the announcement and I think the Ministry should have followed the process and assuming that it has followed the process of Cabinet, etc before it arrived at that decision.

HON RIRUAKO: What Ministry?

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HON KAZENAMBO: I am repeatedly saying that it was the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and I think it acted in its mandate as per the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. Let me develop my thoughts further by saying that the Ministry played its role in making that announcement and everybody is now aware that Windhoek has extended 60 km to the east, west, north and south (interjections). I know that Honourable Chief is my Chief tribally and otherwise, but we are unfortunately not under a tree at a local community gathering. I respect the Chief as my Chief, I am his subject, but here we are dealing with another matter. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Not here, you are on your own here at Parliament. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Is it the Ministry of Lands or the Ministry of Transport, what Ministry is it?

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member answered your question.

HON RIRUAKO: Did he answer my question?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, he did answer the question that you asked.

HON RIRUAKO: No, but not the correct way.

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HON KAZENAMBO: The Ministry that is responsible is the Ministry of Local Government and Housing and has the subject; “*Orupa Romahi no Zondjiuo novina Viarue*”.

HON RIRUAKO: That means giving our land to a certain individual.

HON KAZENAMBO: Furthermore, I think there should be a link between role players, the Central Government and Local Authorities in dealing with the issue of land, specifically when it comes to the issue of housing for workers. There is also an important point that I want to mention that is link to the this issue of housing condition for workers trying to track the point mentioned by Honourable Lucks *vis a vis* the banks, I do not think that there is anything which the bank can do. For example, to buy an affordable house here in the City of Windhoek, you will be lucky to get a house that is valued at N\$600,000.00. Many houses in many locations in Namibia are between N\$800,000.00 and N\$1,000,000.00 and above. In the Namibian Public Sector, many of the employees are qualifying for houses in the range of N\$650,000.00, some for N\$500,000.00 and others below that. You definitely need to consider what we are talking about here because I can competently say that there is nowhere you can find a house that cost N\$500,000.00 in urban cities, because firstly, a contractor or developer buys land that cost between N\$200,000.00 and N\$300,000.00, you buy cement, which we are now producing at Ohorongo Cement Factory, however, the other building materials are not produced here and at the end of the day the house is going to be expensive.

Therefore, on the issue of housing, I will agree that the Parliamentary Committee, the bankers and the developers convene a stakeholders meeting to realistically look at what the affordability is for employees, be it in the Private or Public Sector and whether the money that we are providing for housing allowances is reasonable. The Private Sector is

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even worse because where can one purchase a house in the cities of Namibia for N\$200,000.00 or N\$300,000.00?

Honourable Speaker, as I am concluding; the issue of transport is unacceptable. It is pathetic that when you travel on the roads of Namibia, be it in the cities and other places, you will find a truck of people loaded like sardines, standing like cows, moving from the city here to Katutura. I do not even transport my cattle in that fashion and one wonders who is responsible for taking control, including traffic officers. Imagine if this truck gets involved in an accident how many (intervention).

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask the Honourable Kazenambo a question? The Honourable Member says he transport his cattle in a better way, does he transport them in a bus?

HON KAZENAMBO: No, Comrade Shixwameni, but it is good that you have asked that question. This is what I was exactly getting at, this is a leading question, for one to transport your cattle from your farm to Meatco, there are specific conditions, however, there are no conditions in Namibia for transporting workers. Therefore, a Law must be introduced in Namibia on how one should transport your workers. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: We are going to break for tea.

HOUSE ADJOURN AT 15:40

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HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:26

HON SPEAKER: We resume the Business of the House. Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wish to take this opportunity to make a small contribution to the Motion being discussed.

Without delving into the details of the Motion, I fully and wholeheartedly support the Motion as it was moved. However, I wish to confine myself specifically to the proposal that was made by Honourable Lucks regarding exploring the possibility of setting up a Housing Bank or a bank responsible for providing loan facilities for housing development in the country. I think that is a novel proposal that needs to be supported and if the House agrees, I then wish to propose that such proposal be referred to the Joint Committees (intervention).

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Maybe just for information. Comrade Maamberua, on the proposal about setting up a bank dedicated for housing, I am sure that it will have to be, sort of, set up at the effort of the Government. Do you not think that the mandate of NHE, the vehicle that is already there, charged with providing housing, be extended to cover everybody and perhaps accommodate the low-income group at a different interest rates, otherwise there will be many duplications. Do you not think that extending the mandate of the NHE to cover everybody fairly will be a viable proposition that may take less time to arrange?

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HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, very much, Honourable Minister. I think we are on the same wavelength. What I was trying to propose is that a Joint Committee of several Committees, perhaps that of Economics, Human Resources and Community Development be tasked to work in conjunction with Line Ministries such as the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Ministry of Finance, etc. to start exploring the possibilities of a specific housing financing facility, be it the extension of the mandate of the NHE or setting up an independent bank, whatever the mechanism or facility would be. However, we need to take this process forward (intervention).

HON VAN DER WALT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On a Point of Information, I agree hundred percent with my Honourable Minister, Honourable Iyambo that; why would we reinvent the wheel while we already have a vehicle, NHE. However, if I look at the Financial, the Insurance and Retail Sectors in our country, I find that 35% of the Insurance Sector's profit remains in the Namibia for development. Why is it only for Insurance Companies? Why do we also not have a rule that in the Banking Sector a certain amount of money remains in the country so that we make sure that there is some money from the Commercial Banks and the Retail Sector to help NHE? If the Insurance Companies are not allowed to repatriate all their profits, why are the Retail Companies and the Banking Sector allowed? Thank you.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I think we all agree that there is a need for a housing loan facility that is much friendlier, of much broader coverage and less strenuous to our citizenry. How we go about that will, therefore, not be fair for us to expect that to be conclude today, hence my proposal is that we refer (intervention).

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member, may I ask Honourable Maamberua a small question? I appreciate your thoughts that are in line with what Honourable Lucks have said in terms of the Housing Bank. Given the fact that what we are trying to do is to help the low-income section of the community, if we set up a bank with all the necessary bureaucratic structure of a bank while we have the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) being funded by the Government, do you not think that we may end up duplication the work and on top of that, increasing Government costs to capitalise the two structures that are dealing with more or less the same thing? Thinking in terms of what the Honourable Minister has said, doing away with one and concentrate on the other one, do you not think that that would perhaps be a good idea?

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I think what we all agree on is that there is a need for such a facility that we are talking about. We are not necessarily using the semantics whether it is a bank or a building society, whatever it is, but a facility. Whether that facility is going to be housed under the auspices of NHE or under any other environment is immaterial for this particular discussion. I think all that we need to agree on is the principle that that idea needs to be explored further and that is what we are proposing. There are obviously many different interrelated factors such as; land as it was expounded here by Comrade Kazenambo and there are other issues of interest rates that you just referred to now Honourable Tjihuiko, and so on. Can we, therefore, at least agree to have such a facility or have the possibility of having such a facility be explored? However, we cannot just do it on the Floor, can we thus, refer that particular matter to a Committee that could actually do that work jointly with other Committees? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD WELFARE:
On a Point of Order, may I ask the Honourable Member a question?

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Honourable Maamberua, the President of the old Party. (Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: It is not the old Party, it is the oldest Party.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD WELFARE:

The old age Party. Honourable Maamberua, was this Motion tabled during 2012 or this year? If it was in 2012, then we have to discuss it, but if it was tabled this year, 2013, why are people talking about houses while we are talking about the drought affecting our people? Thank you.

HON MAAMBERUA: Housing in Namibia has been described as a crisis and of course drought is being experienced this year, but housing shortages has been experienced through all the years. It is, therefore, not harmful to talk about housing even in a year we are experiencing drought, hence we are looking at ways and means of how to address that particular vexing problem.

Honourable Speaker, in short, my submission is that we need to refer this matter, particularly of the housing financing facility to the Economics and Housing Committee jointly to further look at that matter, if that is procedural. That is what I humbly submit. Thank you very much.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for the Floor. As the Mover of the original Motion, I would like to thank and congratulate the Human Resources Committee; they did a good job although I have my own little reservations on the methodology because they concentrated much more on Windhoek, but urban workers live in Luderitz, Keetmanshoop, Oshakati, Katima Mulilo, Rundu and many

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other towns. I would have hoped that they would have expanded the sample that they were going to do.

The other issue is that workers themselves were not consulted at the end of the day. The National Union of Namibian Workers was not consulted and some other partners that are crucial in this thing. That would have probably enriched the Report further. Nevertheless, it is a good Report that they compiled. On Page 2; **Housing**, it is good that all of us agreed that the housing crisis need to be addressed and that we need to find a vehicle that will arrest the housing crisis from escalating further. And that we need to build more houses and to make housing affordable to our people, but apart from recognising the housing crisis I will still emphasise the issue of co-ownership. As we stand here, I do not know, maybe a few have paid their houses off, but many people around Windhoek – one day I sat down at a house in Ludwigsdorf and we were looking over Windhoek, they are saying that if banks were to decide to call up their home loans, everybody would be on the street because the houses are owned by the banks and the repayment period is just too long, so long that a person who started working at the age of between 25 and 30 years basically pays the loan for his/her whole working life and by the time one retires, you are still left with a portion of the loan unpaid which you eventually have to settle with your pension money. Therefore, the issue of co-ownership should also be interrogated and I agree with what Honourable Maamberua has said that the portion of financing should be taken out and be put for interrogation by the Economics and Human Resources Committee so that we look at ways of how to shorten the repayment of the home loans. I cannot understand that one can purchase a car for close to N\$1 million and you are able to repay the car within a 5-year period, one wonders what is wrong with buying a house (intervention)

HON VAN DER WALT: On a Point of Information. Honourable Shixwameni, I do not think there is any problem with the term of paying off a house, the problem is that houses are more expensive than motor vehicles, however, the longer the terms, the smaller the amount of the

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monthly premium one has to pay. If you make the payment term shorter then you will pay more on a monthly basis which may affect your cash flow. Thank you.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I understand what my brother is saying, but I am still saying that, let us, as a country interrogate the issue of the repayment period for home loans. There are houses that cost N\$500,000.00, they take 30 years to pay them off, however, there are cars, if you take for example, the luxurious Mercedes Benz, that are edging between N\$700,000.00 and N\$1 million, but they are still repaid in a shorter period. People, we need to interrogate this, there is nothing impossible on earth that is manmade. We can always interrogate the issues and see what we come up with. I fully support the recommendations that are made around housing and housing delivery in the Report.

The other issue that I wanted to talk about is the issue of **Transport**; I think we should, as a Government, be able to come up with clear cut rules that say you cannot transport people in a truck like sardines. The fact that employers are transporting their workers to and from work is appreciated, but transporting them in trucks like cattle, packed like sardines, I think should be completely outlawed in the Land of the Brave. Therefore, we should look at how they can provide affordable transportation by urging the Private Sector to provide affordable transportation while still giving them some incentives. My sister, the Minister of Finance can probably deal with providing them with some tax incentives if they maybe buy a coach which will transport workers. However, particularly in support of 6.50, the quicker and safer transport should also be investigated by the Minister of Works and Transport that is, trying to look at the provision of trains maybe through Private Public Partnerships, for example, a faster train from here to Rehoboth. I appreciate the effort by the Honourable Minister when he announced the other day that the Okahandja-Windhoek road is going to be converted into a dual carriageway, but I still think, looking into a train that ferries people from Okahandja to Windhoek will be a good job.

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Otherwise, as the Mover of the initial Motion, I fully concur with the Committee's Report and I do not have any problems with the recommendations that they have made. I think they have done a good job. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wanted to seek the indulgence of the House to be allowed to make a contribution to this discussion tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: We will shift that for the time being in abeyance. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I rise to make my contribution to this Report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee. This important Report is dealing with two very important and basic issues; **Housing** and **Transport**. Bank charges and repayment has been dealt with by the previous speakers.

The issue of Housing can be divided into two or three categories of workers and this is one of the things we really need to look at, how we are going to deal with it, especially considering our set up where you have a Civil Servant and he/she may be transferred from Windhoek which is one urban city to another urban city/town, for example, Keetmanshoop. He/she owned a house in Windhoek and when he/she reaches the destined transfer duty station in Keetmanshoop, he/she is faced with a question of either selling the one house (in Windhoek) and take another in

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Keetmanshoop and this person might already have contributed five or ten years towards the payment of the house in Windhoek and is now forced to sell the house.

The misinterpretation of systems causes some of the good systems to be abolished while they are supposed to serve us. The municipalities in all our urban towns were not supposed to abandon the development of those houses. I think we still need to go back to the recommendation that the municipalities should revert to the old ways of developing houses, which will enable somebody like Honourable Iilonga, who has been transferred from Windhoek to Oshakati, not to face a burden of abandoning his house in Windhoek that is almost paid off and start with a new challenge of paying for a new house for another 30 years. He would instead rent a municipal house. The Municipality can in turn reduce their rental fees as it will generate income that will enable it to render other services. That is one of my recommendations on this Report.

The same applies to transport as well. The buses, especially in Windhoek are still operating like during the colonial time as they were just meant for transporting people from the Katutura compound to Klein Windhoek, drop workers to do their work, park until 17:00, drop them again at the Katutura compound and repeat the same process the next day. We still have that system. We are also not supposed to collect our children from school unless we want to afford them the luxury; we are supposed to have bus stops closer to schools where the kids can wait to be taken home. Go to countries like Brazil, with a population of close to 200 million, you will never find anybody stranded, the buses are just following each other and they are Government buses. I wonder why we cannot do the same. We can also have the trains as was mentioned here and just demarcate proper drop off zones, this will also ensure safety. Let us consider these issues closely.

On the land issue, I hope Honourable *Ho Chi-Minh* will follow that Programme through of not allowing land in urban areas to be auction or sold to foreigners then we can operate through lease. Even our fellow Zambians, who are visiting here, do not sell land, Botswana does not sell

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land, but investors are there. How good are the investors who come to Namibia, while the unemployment rate still remains high? However, one is told you can buy land, they buy land and exploit our children with townhouses which makes them irresponsible. The municipalities should develop transport routes in all our growing towns to help our people. They cannot lose a single cent for doing that, but only gain more in terms of income. We have to seriously look at the issue of land; auctioning of land should be avoided and no land should be sold to foreigners.

Comrade Kazenambo even asked what type of people we are talking about, in the Private Sector you cannot expect a labourer to ever own a house except for Government workers, because the Government is trying. However, as long as Comrade Kuugongelwa increase the threshold, say to N\$600,000.00, you will find that the minimum price of a house will increase to N\$800,000.00 so that no one can afford the minimum price of the house, because we do not have price control and leave it to capitalism to decide and we all seem to be happy because of the bread with sugar on top and a viennas in the middle. It makes us so happy when thinking about capitalism but we only feel the heat when it comes within reach.

Comrade Speaker, I just want to say that the municipality must develop a proper transportation system, taxis can be there, even in Britain and everywhere the taxis are still there, however, the bus transport must be there in order to help the low-income workers. We have buses in the Military; we are getting rid of trucks, except for those going into the field because you cannot go with the bus as a military man in the field, but you can see more buses here and they are also beautiful.

That is my contribution, Honourable Comrades. We must really pursue the Programme of not selling land through auction in towns, especially to foreigners and that people must instead lease just like in many other countries. Go to Angola, no land is sold, farms are there, it is only in Namibia and South Africa, Zimbabwe left us behind. We are the only three countries, I almost said in the whole world.

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HON SPEAKER: Before you sit down, South Africa, Namibia and what is the third one?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: It was Zimbabwe, but they left us behind. These are the only countries where land is sold, it is happening now.

HON SPEAKER: Kenya is also there.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I am not aware of Kenya, thank you for that information Comrade Speaker.

The Municipalities must develop the transport infrastructure and houses for people who only need to rent and return to their houses afterwards. With those few words, I support this Report.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dingara.

HON DINGARA: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker for this opportunity. I was listening to many Colleagues and heard their opinions on this Motion.

I was thinking that we should create a fund that sources its money from S&Ts of travelling employees. I am, therefore, proposing that we make a Law that will enforce that a contribution is made to the said fund, of N\$100.00 per trip, by every employee who travels, irrespective of where

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the employee is employed, whether employed by the Public or Private Sector and Parastatals. I am sure that everyone who travels using S&T is able to afford a contribution of N\$100.00 to that fund. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATE AND FORESTRY:

Just for clarity on the very interesting point of argument that Honourable Dingara is raising; Honourable Dingara, S&T is understood to be utilised for specific needs like travelling and accommodation needs. Recalling the Debates last week, when we debated our Vote here, could you enlighten the Honourable House how much of that S&T will remain after the Honourable Member has contributed to the fund? Thank you.

HON DINGARA: Thank you very much for the question Honourable Mutorwa. I did not only mean the Honourable Members, but every human being in the country who travels for work related matters to anywhere else. Let us take an example of a Government employee travelling to Gobabis. The employee receives N\$400.00 per day to travel to Gobabis and what I use to observe is that people look for accommodations where they will only pay, say, N\$60.00. Therefore, out of this N\$400.00 approximately N\$300.00 still remains in this person's pocket per day. If the person is to stay ten days in Gobabis, this person would have received N\$4000.00 for the ten days of which the person would only spend N\$60.00 per day. In towns like Swakopmund and Keetmanshoop where there are Youth Hostels, people like to stay there. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: It is a new idea, I want to listen. Honourable Lucks.

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HON LUCKS: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker can I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, are you aware that there are some Members of Parliament who, when they travel share a room so that they can have enough money afterwards to buy food? I am not going to mention names, but are you aware this is happening?

HON DINGARA: Comrade Speaker, I am trying to avoid referring only to Members of Parliament I want us instead to refer to any person who consider him/herself as a human being travelling on S&T for work related matters anywhere else, within or outside the country. Only a N\$100.00 from the first amount of that particular one day should be taken, leaving the rest of the amounts for the rest of the days untouched. We can make a Law that says everybody must first agree that; *“I will contribute my N\$100.00 every time I travel”* so that everybody in the country will make a contribution. I was just making a simple calculation here, Comrade Speaker. The Government employees are more than approximately 90,000, if say, 20,000 of them travel once in a particular year, N\$2 million will be contributed to that fund already. This fund will thus grow very fast because every time you are given S&T, you will be able to afford a contribution of N\$100.00 to the fund. I am seeking the approval of the House to agree with me so that we can ask the Nation to (interjections) No, I am only talking about S&T, not salary.

Comrade Speaker, I can see that the House is in agreement and, therefore, (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: We will see whether he also agree with you. Honourable Kawana.

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask my Comrade

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a question? It was just last week when the Honourable Member said he was even scared to retire because of the meagre terms and conditions and now he is volunteering to even donate and surrender some of those pennies that he is having. Is that fair, Comrade Speaker?

HON DINGARA: Honourable Speaker, even though the House is not happy I know that the Namibian people are happy that if all of us who travel contribute N\$100.00 to the said fund, we will make a lot of money and appoint the Shack Dwellers Association of Namibia to build houses for the poor in Namibia because the poor (intervention).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker, may I ask Honourable Dingara a question on a Point of Order? The idea of Comrade Dingara of contributing N\$100.00 from S&T per trip sounds like he wants to reintroduce the Basic Income Grant (BIG) in disguise.

HON DINGARA: Since BIG is also N\$100.00, maybe we can increase it to N\$120.00 to differentiate this fund from BIG. Comrade Speaker, I think that is my contribution and I think that it will at least solve the problem of accommodation for the poor. This would ensure that most of the Namibian people would have a roof over their heads in ten years time from other Namibian people's pockets. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Trade and Industry.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you,

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Honourable Speaker for giving me the Floor. I think the Debate on affordable Housing and Transport is a very important one. However, before I go into the details for housing costs, let me remind the House that, within the TIPEEG Programme, Housing and Sanitation was identified as priority areas and significant amounts of money were set aside to address that burning need. I recall that the Line Minister of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, has informed us that in the Windhoek Municipality an amount of N\$150 million was set aside to address the sanitation issue in the Informal Housing Sector. I, therefore, just want to inform and recall here that the public is also informed; it is not a matter of us not doing anything about it or the Government not being quite sensitive to the housing needs. It has been identified as a specific priority within TIPEEG and significant amounts of money were made available to address that. It is not only in the capital but all over the country. That is the first point.

Honourable Speaker, the second point is; when you look at the cost of housing, there are a number of latched-on costs that have nothing to do with the building of the house. Just to mention a few; there are evaluation costs, conveyance fees, estate agents costs, transfer duty, stamp duty, the profit of the developer and the gain for the municipality when they sell the erven land. All these costs are somehow generated out of a set of rules that we have created, either statutory, municipal, etc. I am, therefore, convinced that one can without much harm; reduce the costs of building or costs of housing by 30%, by just revisiting the rules that we have created ourselves that makes it more expensive.

Honourable Speaker, the rules are of such a nature that they are incentivised to make the house price more, because there is always an *ad valorem* addition, it is a percentage of the whole that conveyancers or estate agents get or contribute towards the *Transfer Duty Act*. Therefore, the higher the house price, the better the reward for the services that you are rendering. I think there are a lot of Acts in the system and I see a possibility to create a different set of rules for low-cost housing, where we do away with a number of these obligations, like to go through a conveyancer and so on.

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There are also Industries developed around the Real Estate Market, therefore, one must also be aware of that. However, for especially the low-cost housing, I think it would have mattered to look at the different set of rules where we can save on these latched-on costs significantly and if we want to do justice to this Debate, I think that is an aspect that would justify some study and investigation. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Van Der Walt.

HON VAN DER WALT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As we all know, Housing and Transport are very important. I just quickly want to come back on housing in terms of house prices, banks and inflation.

Property; land is part of our economy and inflation is also part of our economy. Therefore, as soon as you tamper with prices and land, you will in a way, on the other side of the coin harm the economy. On the banking system where Honourable Shixwameni asked why can pay off a car in five years and not house; the reason for that is that there is inflation on house properties unlike on cars because they become more worth over the years. What happens is that, you can gain capital on your house or land and within the next five or ten years you can obtain a loan using that particular property of yours.

I am very happy to listen to Comrade Dingara, I love his creativity. One should rather look for a solution before you kill a cat to make some money.

On the Transport issue, I believe, like Comrade Iilonga said, public transport is very important. I think there is a way of establishing that very easily. Looking at all the companies in Namibia and considering the fact that house owners in Windhoek would like to make things work in the

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surroundings of Windhoek, why can we not establish a non-profitable transport organisation where all companies, and I think they would be able to do that, buy into this Sector? For example, if I have 120 workers, it will cost me N\$1,000.00 a month per worker for transport and all these companies need to get together and we make a Law that will enable us to create public transport for all our people in a city like Windhoek and even in other smaller towns that is capable of handling this initiative.

I believe that there is a way, looking at what is happening overseas, I cannot see why we cannot have such transportation in our country. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I would like to make a brief contribution by saying; I think that it is high time that Members of Parliament and other officials join men and women networks in order to prevent organised crime and corruption until we reach a point of zero tolerance for corruption which took millions, and now reaching for billions of dollars. Through prevention, that money can otherwise be use for building houses and one cannot only have a house without food, taking that we are experiencing drought this year into consideration, we can provide our people with drought relief.

I, therefore, appeal to all Members to join men and women networks to prevent organise crime so that Namibia can become a corruption free country. With this, I support the Report. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I think most of those who wanted to contribute have done so, for the last time, any further discussions? The Honourable

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Minister of Finance appealed to the House through the Speaker to defer at this stage until tomorrow. Does the House agree? Agreed to.

The Secretary will Read the Third Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON
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SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Financial Accountability.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Friday, the 19th of April 2013, the question before the assembly was a Motion by Honourable Maamberua. Any further discussions? None. Does the Honourable Member wish to reply?

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First of all, since I am speaking for the second time today, the first one was just a contribution to another Motion; therefore, allow me to also congratulate my Comrades, brothers and sisters for the birthday they celebrated last week, that is the SWAPO Party.

Honourable Speaker, there were a few contributions that were in favour of this Motion, but the extensive one came from the Minister of Finance. If you allow me, before I give an extensive reply to all these contributions, I would beg the indulgence of the House and also of the Honourable Minister of Finance, because of the extensiveness of the reply and just on one particular aspect, given the fact that the intention of this Motion was actually to improve on our accountability, transparency and so on, in that

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regard, I wish to quote one Paragraph from the Minister's contribution that says that; *"The reform that we are undertaking will also culminate in more robust performance monitoring systems including regular reporting to Parliament and Cabinet on the implementation of the Budget and its outcomes. This includes a Mid-Term Review in the future. Submissions of such Progress Reports should, however, not be used to reintroduce supplementary Budgets as we have consciously moved away from that practice."* That is perfect and it was basically also my intention, that is what I proposed, I did not mean to introduce a Budget Committee or many other things, my proposal was specific that we need to have Mid-Term Reviews.

If there is no objection to this formulation that goes in concurrence with the intention of the Minister and if this formulation is accepted then we can rest our case and proceed. Can we then say that Parliament resolves that the current reform being pursued by the Ministry of Finance should include regular reporting to Parliament through a Mid-Term Review as from the next Financial Year and submission of such Progress Reports should, however, not be used to reintroduce supplementary Budgets? If that is accepted, then I think we are in agreement and the Motion can be accepted. Honourable Speaker, that is maybe before I delve further into replying.

HON SPEAKER: Are you still continuing?

HON MAAMBERUA: I am waiting to see whether what I have said meets with the agreement of the others or not.

HON SPEAKER: There is a different way of doing it, but the Honourable Minister of Finance will do that on behalf of everybody.

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I do not know whether the procedure that is being followed by the Honourable Member is correct. However, be that as it may, I would like to say that the main concern that I have is in the *ad hoc* nature of the proposal where he can just get up and say that from this day, this and that should happen without due consideration of what is happening on the ground, that is one of the concerns that I have.

Therefore, I said, besides the concern about the possibility of bringing that supplementary Budget, I am also concerned that we will disregard the reforms that we are pursuing and disregarding whatever time we have scheduled to introduced certain aspects, we just come and say at will, pull this aspect out of the others, it should start on this day. That is where I was appealing to Parliament not to do that, but rather allow this Programme to be implemented in a systematic manner. In other words, let us consolidate whatever we need to consolidate and let us get to that point according to scheduled activities in that reform Programme.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. We will do it the way we always do, you get done with your reply and then we will decide at the end. This midway verification with expectations that they will be in agreement with you is irregular. Therefore, I want you to continue and do your part and at the end we decide as the House.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The first part is to start by thanking *Honourable Riruako* and *Honourable Moongo* who gave support to the Motion.

Honourable Minister of Works and Transport, had a question on the implementation of Programmes during the Financial Year which of course, was not specific to this particular Motion as such, because ours was actually to allow the National Assembly and Parliament in general to review progress of the Budget as we proceed halfway through the

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Financial Year.

Honourable Nambahu, made a statement that we should not allow reporting for the sake of reporting, indeed it was again not the intention of the Motion, it was not just to ask the Ministry of Finance to report on the progress of the Budget for the sake of reporting, but rather to enhance accountability. That is my reply to that.

Coming back to the extensive reply, specifically to the *Minister of Finance* who took the Floor on this matter; the first point is the one I started with. Given the fact that the agreement is there that the Mid-Term Review will be introduced sometime in the future, makes it a problem because it is not specific, when in the future are we talking about? If we were to get a specific timeline to say that in the next two years the Government will introduce the Mid-Term Review, I think that will be more helpful than instead to be given futuristic outlook which is not already determined. That is one point.

The other point that I need to react to is on Page 5, which is start with; *“First on the issue of Government having supposedly run out of cash”*, of course as it was reported by the papers the Minister says; *“The Ministry has received a request from the Ministry of Labour for an additional N\$216 million for old age and disability grants. This came about because the Line Ministry took on board additional beneficiaries for which no appropriation has been made”*, here one needs to bring to the attention of this House that if a Ministry that deals with old age pension goes on as it is said here, intensifying campaigns for more registrations, this should obviously be done in concurrence with the Ministry of Finance so that that budgetary provision is agreed to before intensification campaigns of such nature because this could have very serious financial implications as you can see N\$216 million requested just like that. Therefore, this is a question of planning and obviously the Ministry should have done that in concurrence with the whole financial system in the country. However, that is not to say that old age pensioners should have been registered, but just the planning and synchronisation of such campaigns.

Further on, my third point is that; *“With regard to the funding for the 8%*

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salary increase, OMAs have been requested to use anticipated unutilised balances on the Budget to meet the obligations related to this increase.” This is another problem because it goes on to say that; *“this is because the salary increase was agreed upon after the Budget was approved already and there was thus no provision for it made on the Budget.”* Again, if Cabinet agrees on a salary increase at the time when the Budget has already been passed or when such a provision is not there and what is being requested as savings must be found on the Ministry’s Budget. What that tells us is that, because salaries are so important, and there is no one Ministry that will say they have got no savings on their Budget, Programmes and services that has already been budgeted for will be suspended and once they are suspended it means that services will not be delivered to the citizenry because of the priority of the salaries. I think that explanation – much as it is the reality as to what happened, in order to avoid that from happening, the proposal to have these Mid-term Reviews is actually very important so that the National Assembly is constantly updated as to what is happening with the Budget implementation and what are the other Government Programmes in line, that could eventually disrupt service delivery as is the case this time around. It is also strange to note that suddenly Ministries where able to realise savings to meet all the salary increments, it is very unusual, I think this year we are probably going to witness about 100% Budget implementation just because of salaries increases that are coming.

My fourth point, I again quote from the Minister’s submission and I think that it is important that we do so, so that we are systematic in our approach; *“While it is agreed that these funds are better spent for what they were initially appropriated, for now, while efforts are ongoing to address the bottlenecks to full utilisation of appropriated funds, Cabinet has decided to utilise these balances to address the funding requirements for the salary increase for Civil Servants in order to avoid having to borrow additionally for this at cost”*, indeed it is true in order to avoid borrowing at additional cost – again this is a question of planning. Salaries cannot just be increased in the middle of the Financial Year taking from the existing Programmes through the so-called savings, because when we budget here, every item is budgeted for after all, and the realisation of savings is more a matter of inefficient implementation of

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Programmes and service delivery and not necessarily of any other factor.

Honourable Speaker, the next point is on the contingency provision and I quote the Minister again; “*To deal with issues*” that is now again the salary increments and so on, “*we utilise savings on the Medical Aid provision which was then viremented to the contingency provision paid out from there to cater for the shortfall.*” Honourable Speaker, this is again very serious, if the intention is for us to providing Medical Aid to the Civil Servants and in the middle of the year some money from the Medical Aid is viremented to the contingency, that can happen with any line item, it can be Medical Aid or any other money that was provided by to the Ministry of Finance that could actually be viremented to the contingency. Given the fact that money from the contingency can be allocated to any Vote or Programme during the course of the year, I think this is what we need to avoid because it was not the intention of the Law to have money budgeted for a particular item in the Ministry of Finance to be viremented to the contingency in order to meet other obligations. Otherwise, the intention to have Mid-Term Reviews is important to avoid this type of practice. I hope it is not going to be a practice in the future, but it is not just a matter of taking it for granted.

Honourable Speaker, therefore, as we know the Budget was approved for specific Programmes and service delivery items, it is unfortunate that this has to happen without coming back to Parliament to reallocate what is termed as saving to salaries increases. Therefore, as much as the Ministry of Finance and Government actually agrees with us about the importance of the Mid-term Review, our request is that, if the Mid-Term Review is not going to be introduced as from the next Financial Year, it is important that we be informed as from which year the Mid-Term Review is going to be introduced. I rest my case. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: We are done. I now put the question that the Motion be adopted. Any Objections? Minister of Finance.

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to object, because I still have difficulties with the Honourable Member's reformulation and also think that part of the explanations that he gave strengthen the concern that is there with regard to what is expected from a Mid-Term Review. I think towards the end, the Honourable Member started to emphasise that the intention is actually to cater for additional requirements and that is why he went on to the extent of saying that the issue of the salary increase should have been brought here and if it comes to Parliament, whereas the signing for the salary increase to start in this Financial Year has already taken place, the only thing that Parliament can do is to make additional allocations. I would, therefore, emphasise the point that the Ministry has initiated the reform that entails a number of activities and it will not be appropriate, either for Parliament just to disregard that and on an *ad hoc* basis set a date that is based on nothing or in an arbitrary manner to insist that the Ministry should provide a target date on the Floor of Parliament of that item only, out of all other reform measures for Public Finances. I do not think that that will be appropriate. What we are doing is; if we have identified the reforms that need to be implemented, we have to set implementation dates and we will move to the next activity when the first activity has been dealt with. I think for now there are sufficient measures as I have indicated to ensure that Parliament is informed about what is going on at the Ministries, including opportunities of the Members of Parliament to ask questions.

With regard to the issues surrounding the old age grant, the Honourable Members could have simply asked a question, but he decided to move a Motion using information coming from the media while the Minister is here to provide first hand information to the Member.

In concluding, Honourable Speaker, I want to once more emphasise that the issue of the salary increase having been agreed on in the middle of the year has nothing to do with Fiscal Policy administration. It was not the Ministry of Finance that agreed to make this payment in the middle of the year without there being a Budget, but a collective decision of Cabinet after a disruptive strike that was launched by the teachers, that harmed our

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children. Cabinet decided then that it was not worth insisting on adjusting these salaries in the next year and risk children taking their examinations, than rather concede whatever we are able to concede and allow the situation to return to normal so that the children can learn. I have indicated in the statement that *ordinarily* we should have negotiations for salary adjustments and allow time to provide for that in the Budget. That is what we have always done. It is the same with the issue of the old age grant and I agree with you that what that the projected increase ought to have been budgeted for and if it is established that the amount budgeted for is below the actual outturn, the Ministry ought to have been consulted.

The Ministry of Labour is in agreement that what actually happened is undesirable and they have given their word that they will do their best to make sure that in the future no liabilities will be contracted where there is no appropriate provision made and if there is an emergency situation, procedures as laid down in the Law will be followed, which state that the Minister of Finance has to authorise any expenditure for which there is no appropriation.

Finally, with regard to the use of savings for meeting the salary increase as I have indicated, no directives were given to suspend any service delivery, to my knowledge. Nothing was deliberately delayed or withheld in order to realise these savings; that is the first instance. These funds that were reallocated for the salary increase are funds that were foreseen to remain unutilised at the end of the year. However, these are funds that have already been raised by the Ministry of Finance on the basis of expenditure projections by Ministries, and we have already incurred costs on them.

It would have, therefore, been inefficient for Government to say, just because this is in the Budget, allow that money to remain put there until the end of the Financial Year, go to Parliament, seek additional funding and then go raise that additional funding. We cannot do that, the Law makes provision for the Ministry of Finance to cater for those expenditures that should be implemented before the end of the Financial Year and that is what we have done as is indicated. No violation was

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committed and I think we just moved forward to make sure that we strengthen our administration and I am sure that our stakeholders; the members of the Trade Union are listening, that, however hard pressed we are, we cannot insist on payments that are not budgeted for, you have to wait until appropriate Budgets are available and we also only insist on what can be afforded. We will continue to encourage our stakeholders to recognise that and we will hopefully have positive progress.

Honourable Speaker, with this, I hope that, as I have also heard from the interventions of the majority of the Members, there is an understanding that we should pursue our reforms in an organised manner and I have no doubt that Honourable Maamberua will be able to understand that, having been at the Ministry of Finance for probably more than seven years and having assisted the Minister who was there at the time himself to pursue reforms in an organised manner and not in the manner that he is suggesting. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako, I am not going to give you the Floor. The Motion was tabled and there was an expended discussion. This discussion is completed and Honourable Maamberua replied and after his reply we must decide. The Minister of Finance has objected so there is not going to be any further discussion.

The House is divided.

In favour 2
Against 28
Abstaining 8

The Motion has been rejected.

HON SPEAKER: As we adjourned ten minutes earlier, I will afford this

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ADJOURNMENT

opportunity to say the delayed word of welcome back to the Prime Minister. We do not know what he has brought back, but we have been monitoring his movements globally. It is good to have you back. We also saw you doing whatever that dance is called, back on the Namibian soil.

The House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 12:07 UNTIL 2013.04.24 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
24 APRIL 2013
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the Adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: You are all welcome. Let us start with the Business of the Honourable House. No Swearing In. No Announcements. Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Works and Transport?

**TABLING OF REPORT: 2007/2008-2010/2011 ANNUAL
REPORT MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Roads Contractor Company (Ltd) for the years 2007/2008-2010/2011 for note taking.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Any further Reports? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Minister of Finance.

NOTICE OF MOTION

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow the 25th of April 2013, I shall Move-

That leave be give to introduce a Bill to amend the *Income Tax Act* of 1981 so as:-

- to increase the threshold on income tax payable by individuals;
- to reduce the tax rate by individuals and non-mining companies; and
- to provide for incidental matters.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I also give Notice that shall I shall Move-

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the *Stamp Duties Act* of 1993 so as to exempt natural persons from the payment of stamp duties on transfer deeds in respect of the acquisition of immovable properties with a value of consideration not exceeding N\$600,000.00 and to provide for incidental matters.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I shall further give Notice that leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the *Transfer Duty Act* of 1993 so as to change the rates at which transfer duty is levied and to provide for incidental matters.

I would like to seek the indulgence of the House that we apply Rule 98 in respect of the consideration of these Bills on account of urgency of the Bills so that they are dealt with before the House rises. Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Herunga.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON HERUNGA**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker for allowing me this opportunity for convey this important information to this august House and also to the members of the public out there. However, before I start I would like to say, happy birthday to Chief Kuaima Riruako on his 78th birthday.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia will be hosting the 11th Conference of Parties (COP11) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2013 in Windhoek. This was formally confirmed by the Convention during the 11th Session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, which was held in Bonn, Germany from the 15 to the 19th of April 2013. At this meeting Namibia was given the opportunity to present its capacity to host the conference and give a brief overview of what the country can offer, with Windhoek being the host city.

The UNCCD, established in 1994, specifically addresses the management of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the dry lands, with the aim to maintain and restore land and soil productivity and to mitigate the effects of drought.

Key to the decision to allow Namibia to host this conference was an address by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba to the United Nations General Assembly in 2011, which outlined Namibia's commitment to combating desertification and land degradation. Namibia was thereafter invited by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD to host COP11 of the UNCCD. In February this year Cabinet endorsed Namibia's proposal to host the conference.

The 195 countries which are parties to the UNCCD convene to hold large scale meetings known as Conference of Parties (COP) every two years, and these are the supreme decision-making bodies of the Convention.

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HON HERUNGA**

The COP11 will be the first time for UNCCD-COP to be held in the SADC region. It is envisaged that 2,000-2,500, international delegates will attend COP11 during the period 16-27th September 2013 for the conference.

As the focal point to the UNCCD, the Department of Environment Affairs of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism will be coordinating the preparations for the pre-event planning and hosting of COP11. A cross-sectoral national level committee has been put in place to provide oversight and guidance to the preparatory process and to mobilize the necessary support from Line Ministries, Civil Society and the Private Sector to make Namibia's hosting of COP11 a resounding success. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism will require the support and cooperation of all Namibians in this regard.

The hosting of this conference is a unique opportunity for Namibia to showcase itself to the world and more specifically position the City of Windhoek as a cosmopolitan city with well-developed infrastructure and high quality amenities.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and on my own behalf, I look forward to welcoming this prestigious event in the land of the brave. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. That is a very important conference. I hope we will prepare for it properly, make our contribution and also benefit from it. Honourable Amathila attended a number of them and they are very much worthwhile internationally. Any other Ministerials Statements? None.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

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**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF REPORT
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORT CONDITIONS
OF URBAN WORKERS IN NAMIBIA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Transport Conditions of Urban Workers in Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 23 April 2013, the Question before the Assembly was a Report by Honourable Agnes Tjongarero. The Honourable Minister of Finance adjourned the Debate and she now has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, let me join other Honourable Members of this august House in the Debate about housing in Namibia.

Since Independence housing delivery has been one of the most pressing developmental priorities for the Namibian Government. Accordingly, housing was identified as a key priority in the successive NDPs and the desired outcome under NDP4 is that by 2017, Namibia will have well-established housing standards in place that will allow every Namibian to have access to affordable housing.

Nonetheless, access to affordable housing still remains a considerable challenge for many Namibians as unprecedented increases in house prices continue to reduce the majority of the population's ability to access affordable housing. Moreover, the increase in house prices poses a threat to financial stability, especially in the event where such high prices are not supported by economic fundamentals, for instance, an increase in household incomes. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that we come

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up with pragmatic measures to tackle the obstacles facing the Namibian housing market.

The importance that the Namibian Government attaches to housing delivery is amplified by the call of His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba for a mass housing initiative in Namibia.

Government availed over N\$1 billion under this Budget towards housing development. This is expected to result in the clearing of 3,980 new serviced plots and construction of 4,521 new low-cost houses.

Further, the financial contribution that Government will make towards housing development including land servicing during the current MTEF spanning over 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 amounts to just over N\$3 billion.

I also wish to mention that Government's contribution to the homeowner scheme for Government employees has increased significantly. The scheme is aimed at assisting staff members below management cadre to acquire housing in a number of ways:

- Government will subsidize the installments of a home loan, ranging from 70% for lower salary bands to 66% for higher salary bands. Previously, there was only one subsidy portion namely 60% of the priced subsidy.
- Government continues to stand in for the 20% cash deposit required when applying for a loan at a financial institution in the form of a collateral guarantee.

In addition, GIPF is in the process of devising some programmes to assist the fund's owners, the members of the fund, who are the Civil Servants to erect houses even in rural areas by allowing them to use a part of their accumulated pension benefits to collateralise their home loans. However, you will agree with me that housing for Public Servants is not the only priority of Government.

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Addressing the housing problem will require swift and innovative actions on both the housing demand and supply side. Demand factors include the rapid rate of urbanisation, undesirable speculation with land and residential property in all priced categories, foreign ownership of land in urban areas and exorbitant rent for accommodation. On the supply side, we are faced with inadequate serviced land, rising cost of building materials and lack of institutional capacity to address the housing problem holistically, while the process of acquiring a property in Namibia seems to be unnecessarily onerous. Against this background, we welcome the decision by some of our Local Authorities including the City of Windhoek to do away with the land auctioning system, which has limited the access to housing to those that can easily afford it.

From the side of the Financial Sector we addressing various issues related to land and housing. Through the Bank of Namibia we intend to help curb unnecessary speculation in property by limiting the extent to which commercial banks can extend credit for a second house. Additionally, efforts will be made through issuance of guidelines aimed at keeping bank fees and charges under control, especially as far as it relates to housing loans including life and short-term insurance covers that normally accompany home loans.

We are investigating how the financing for home acquisition in communal areas can be facilitated in the light of the current land title situation in these areas. The problem we are currently facing is that since communal land belongs to the State, funding from financial institutions for home acquisition in these areas is limited because of the challenge of using State land as collateral in a situation of home loans acquisition.

In addition to these measures, I believe that the tax concessions that we introduced under the Budget and which would be implemented if we pass the Bills that I will table tomorrow, will bring substantial relief to households to keep up with their monthly loan installments and encourage the acquisition of residential properties.

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Looking ahead, the approach that we should consider should include the following:

- Establishing partnerships in the provision of housing, especially between Central Government and Local Authorities, and between the Private and Public Sectors through PPPs.
- Strengthening the regulatory role of Government including as it relates to land and property developers, valuers as well as estate agents. This is to ensure that house prices are not artificially inflated and that profit margins are fair, especially in the provision of social housing.
- Removing bureaucratic bottlenecks in the acquisition of virgin land for housing purposes through the review of relevant Laws.
- Considering residential property rentals as an alternative to the prevailing excessive inclination towards home ownership.
- Considering an incremental approach to house ownership by which borrowers could access micro loans for building houses in stages.
- Forging ahead with promoting access to finance on a broad scale to encourage savings and access to credit.
- Continue our engagement with financial institutions to revisit bank charges in order to make access to finance quite affordable. As said earlier this is an ongoing process.

In conclusion, some Honourable...(intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo, I did not give you the Floor. If you indicate I will do so. Honourable Kazenambo.

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HON KAZENAMBO: I was defending myself, Comrade Speaker I am sorry. Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am sorry to interrupt my sister and senior Minister. In her intervention she mentioned two issues that are of interest to me and would like to seek clarity on.

The Bank of Namibia and the Ministry of Finance are looking into the issue of the second bond when buying a second house. I would like to get clarity on this because for some people, housing is just an investment like any other investment. How do these restrictions work on pure economic terms? Is it a restriction on a second bond for a residential or commercial property? I need clarity on this as well as the implications thereof. Capitalists also exist and they have rights just like communists.

The second question is about State land in the rural areas, this is the crux of the matter for me. Some Government policies are currently encouraging people to own 20 hectares in communal lands, which is State land. If I want to develop a house on this land, does it imply that I cannot get collateral anywhere? This has been a problem and many of us have spoken about it. Let me not confuse it with the 20 hectares because there are many developers currently...(intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Try to limit your questions.

HON KAZENAMBO: I am limiting them, this is the last question, Comrade Speaker. Many people have invested in the rural areas by erecting massive properties there, but they cannot use these properties as collateral. When are we going to be allowed to use the properties that are developed in the rural areas in the State land as collateral because some of these properties are used for job creation and employment purposes?

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Let me provide clarity on what I mean by this. The administration of State land is currently provided for in terms of the *Land Act*, through the Ministry of Lands. In terms of this *Land Act*, communal land cannot be collateralised by individuals who have made investments thereon because it is State land. That is the provision of that Law and as a result, we do not have a secure land tenure system in the communal area. In the current system where in a communal area, land is owned by the State, it is a given that the situation will remain like that until we come up with a system where we can ensure that there is a secure land tenure system, whether it is a free-hold title or it is a leasehold but it should be a recognisable land tenure system. In the absence of that the ownership would vest in the State and it would be difficult to transfer these properties from one person to another where you do not have a recognisable land tenure system.

As a result of the current situation, financial institutions are reluctant to accept assets in communal areas as collateral for loans sourced from them. That is now a constraint to home acquisition, because inasmuch as we want to encourage, for example, the pension fund where we do have a provision in the *Pension Fund Act* that says; where pension funds have appropriate regulations can allow their members to use a portion of their accumulated pension benefits to collateralise home loans or to advance loans to members of the fund, they are not able to do so when these members want to acquire land in communal areas because of that constraint. That is what we are talking about, when we say that we are looking at a specific provision in the *Pension Fund Act* to see whether, for example, we can have an arrangement where members can use their accumulated cash benefit in the pension fund (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Chief, and happy birthday.

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Chief, can I just answer this question?

HON RIRUAKO: It is not applicable to us, even after we leave Parliament. We, the owners are not allowed to borrow the GIPF money but individuals outside are the best people to borrow this money. What is happening? Who does the money belong to? That is a fact. We limit these people who have the money, the owners not to use their own money. Even the Speaker here (interjections).

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Chief. Chief I was providing clarity and because of seniority I will answer your question. Honourable Chief, the Members of this House are not GIPF members, even if there were rules that would allow Members access to the GIPF fund, we would not have access to such a fund because we are not members. We are members of the Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Pension Fund which is different and separate from the GIPF. Our fund is only administered by the GIPF Pension Administration Fund. Although it is entirely owned by the GIPF, it is different from the GIPF.

However, the point that I was trying to explain to Honourable Kazenambo is slightly responding to the principle that Chief is querying about. The principle that Chief is querying about is why the members of the fund cannot have access to their pension benefits. I am trying to say that in terms of the *Pension Funds Act*, there is a provision that says; if a pension fund puts appropriate regulations in place it is allowed in terms of the *Pension Funds Act* to use part of the benefits of that fund either to advance loans to the members of the fund or to allow the members of the fund to use a portion of the accumulated benefits to collateralise loans for acquiring homes. That should address the concerns of the Honourable Chief. (Interjection)

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HON RIRUAKO: If I own business?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: No, Honourable Chief, if you own business the *Pension Fund Act* does not allow members of the fund to directly source loans from the fund or to use pension benefits to collateralise loans for businesses. However, in terms of Regulations 15 and 28 we require that insurance companies and pension funds should retain a portion of their income in Namibia which income should be invested in activities, including business activities. Of course, the pension fund would now contract managers that would manage these portfolios by way of allocating loans or acquiring stakes in business entities and that is a way to ensure that our pension fund and the contractual savings that are held by insurance companies are also directed towards promoting investment in the country. That should also address your concern to say that when it comes to business loans, that would be channeled differently from home acquisition loans. However, the principle remains that we want more of the fund from these vehicles to be channeled into the Namibian economy.

Before I lose my train of thought let me finish the answer to Honourable Kazenambo. I was now saying that because of the provision of the *Lands Act* we found ourselves in a situation where, even though the *Pension Fund Act* has the provision that says you can borrow from your pension fund and you can use a portion of your accumulated benefits to collateralise a home loan, to the extent that you want to acquire that home or to set it up in the communal area, it is difficult to make use of this facility because of the fact that you cannot use that property to collateralise that loan. We were looking at it from a purely financial point of view saying, can we reformulate that provision in order to allow somebody, for example, to utilise this fund to put up or to acquire a home in the communal area provided that they can provide another security. For example, you can use your accumulated cash benefits in the pension fund to collateralise that home in the communal area. Otherwise, it is not possible from a Financial Sector to amend a Law that deals with land

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ownership until then we have dealt with the issue of secure land tenure system. We all know that that issue is very complicated, it cuts on both sides. It has advantages and disadvantages. There is a range of stakeholders that needs to be consulted and we need to have convergent before we can arrive at a conclusion with regard to how we would like to own our communal land.

With regard to what the Bank of Namibia intends to do in respect with the acquisition of a second home, this is specifically aimed at curbing speculation, it does affect business investment. If you are a business and you invest in real estate development, you will not be affected by this. The person that will be affected will be the one who will approach a bank to get a loan to set up a home. A home does not mean a residential property for sale, but it means a residential property for one to reside in, however, I do not intent to reside in it, I instead intent to sell it on. That is pure speculation and it can inflate the prices. This is partly what has contributed to the high prices for serviced land. It is not only the shortage of supply it is also the speculative behaviour of certain persons who are there, buying plots, not because they mean to put up any development, but because they want to sit on it for three months and then sell it after adding 15% to the original price. The next person does the same thing and at the end of the day the prices are inflated.

I was about to conclude saying that there were some proposals made as we considered the Report. I can see Honourable Kaura also wants to intervene, but the Honourable Speaker is not looking at him.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: I would like to find out from the Honourable Minister, could you shed light again on our relationship with the GIPF, where for example, if I want to improve on my house, whether I can get a loan from

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the GIPF to bring an improvement on my house which I own right now? I did college algebra up to university, but I did not do calculus so I did not quite understand the Honourable Minister's explanation. Therefore, I need some calculus to understand the way you explained it, especially the relationship between our pension fund and GIPF, because if we want anything we go to the GIPF. Can you explain and shed some light on this relationship because I do not understand this difference, where I cannot even access this fund to bring an improvement to my house?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, another question behind you from the Minister of Lands.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Kaura, the relationship between the GIPF and us is as follows: There is a Government Institutions Pensions Fund, GIPF. That fund has its membership in persons who are employed in the Civil Service and some State-Owned Enterprises because a number of SOEs were borne out of outsourcing of functions that were administered by Line Ministries, therefore, in certain instances the staff who went with the outsourced functions to those institutions who were members of the GIPF by virtue of them being Civil Servants remained members of the GIPF upon moving over to those companies when they were established. In other words GIPF is a pension fund for Civil Servants not Public Servants. It does not include us, the politicians. We, the politicians have our own pension fund; it is called Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Pension Fund. That pension fund has contracted a pension fund administrator company called GIPF Administrators (PTY) Limited or Kuleni. Kuleni is one hundred percent owned by GIPF, the Civil Servants pension fund. However, it is a different juristic person from the GIPF. That administrator company administers the GIPF and our own pension fund. In terms of our own *Pension Funds Act*, just as is the case with the *Pension Funds Act* that governs the GIPF, we may borrow from our pension fund to acquire a home, to put up a home or to repay a loan

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acquired for the acquisition of a home or to extent a home where you are residing. You can indeed do that or you can use part of your accumulated pension benefits to collateralise a loan from a financial institution. However, for us as Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Pension Fund members, we decided in terms of our Rules that we are not going to borrow directly from our fund, we will instead use a share of our accumulated pension benefit to collateralise a loan from a financial institution to do all those things that you asked for.

In other words the answer to your question, Honourable Kaura is; if you want to extent the house you live in by adding a garage or an extra bedroom you can indeed use your accumulated pension benefits to do that. You only need to go to what we know as GIPF but it is actually GIPF Pension Administrators, and they will explain to you the modalities for doing that. That is the long and short of it.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to ask a very tiny question. Maybe the Honourable Minister of Lands will be able to explain more, but the current situation in all the Traditional Authorities is that people are getting certificates in communal areas. I thought that people issued with these certificates can use them to obtain loans from any financial institution. However, I am now confused because I understand it is State land. Can the Honourable Minister explain? Are we making a mockery of the poor people in communal areas that they cannot use their land as collateral for loans? What are these certificates for? Thank you, very much.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Moongo, the Honourable

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Minister of Lands has indicated that he has an intention to take the Floor after I have spoken and I think he will provide better clarity with regard to what we can do with the communal land and what we cannot do.

As I have indicated, we are conducting an investigation from a financial point of view, looking at the formulation of the *Pension Funds Act* to see whether we can reformulate it, since we already have a provision that says you can use part of your accumulated pension benefits to collateralise a home loan. That means you do not need to use that property as collateral, whether or not you can collateralise State land should become irrelevant in this case if we review that formulation in the Act. We are looking at it with the lawyers to see whether we can get around it in as far as it relates to pension funds because there is an interest there from the pension fund to support home acquisition in communal areas.

With regards to banks, the only thing that we can do is to negotiate with them and try to engage them because at the end of the day it is (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: We are a few minutes past tea time, I seek the pleasure of the House to allow the Honourable Minister to complete. Continue, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you. Let me conclude that point by saying that with regards to the banks we will just continue to engage them in order for us to convince them that they should look at other ways of securing their lending other than the traditional old ways because that would just limit the growth of their client base which would also limit their own profitability. However, it is a process that will take some time.

In conclusion, I wanted to refer to some of the proposals that were made

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during the various discussions on the Report of the Standing Committee so far and one of the important proposals was either to set up a dedicated house bank or to consider a Government financing facility for home acquisition. Others have pointed out the need to build on what already exists. The National Housing Enterprise (NHE) is the Government agency for housing development and financing. Under this MTEF, NHE is to receive N\$320 million for housing development to support or to supplement the fund that the institution has raised on its own balance sheet as a way to strengthen our efforts towards the provision of housing. This is within the N\$3 billion that I have indicated is allocated in the MTEF to the Housing Sector to the Programmes that are administered by the Line Ministry and other stakeholders in the Local Authorities.

From my point of view, it is agreed that we need to strengthen the current efforts to provide housing because the current backlog emphasizes the necessity of doing so. It is for this reason that His Excellency the President, as we have previously indicated, both the Minister of Local Government and myself, have set up a dedicated committee of Ministers to look at how we can achieve an expedition of the provision of housing for our people. The President has set up a Ministerial Committee to look at how we can accelerate the process of providing housing to our people and what kind of modalities we can adopt in addition to the ones that we have and how we can improve on the ones that we have in order to achieve that. It is now up to us in this House how we intend to support the efforts that are on the ground. Do we want to adopt some additional measures to what is already contained in the Report? The recommendations in the Report are general and they can be useful to this ongoing process. However, if we decide that we want to adopt additional specific measures, like setting up a housing bank besides NHE, do we say we want to set it up now or do we want to hear what this committee is proposing and we then sit around that and see how we can panel beat it or whether we want to replace it with something else. It is up to us.

From my point of view, I think it is best that we streamline our efforts and support what is going on by working together with the committee,

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allowing them time to come up with a proposal and they will most definitely engage all the stakeholders of which we are one important stakeholder. That is what I have to say in that regard.

The Minister is not here, I do not know what his personal views would be, but as somebody who is appointed together with the Minister and other members in that committee, that is the suggestion that I would make.

With these comments I support the Report of the Standing Committee. I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Lands so that we can wrap that up.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. It is usually not advisable and prudent to get provoked by what is said and just jump up and participate in a Debate without having done your own homework. However, I regard it as very relevant not to let this opportunity pass. Honourable Speaker, I would like to briefly enlighten the Honourable Members with regards to the provisions of the *Communal Land Reform Act*, we all know that communal land is State land and we also know that when the going gets tough here in the urban areas, we all revert back to communal areas. The idea of collateralising communal land was at one stage heavily romanticised by a certain Mr de Soto and some of his publications were distributed in this House. I can equally inform you, Honourable Members that in the meantime we develop some strong reservations on the issues he was articulating in his book with regards to collateralising communal land. We cannot and we dare not privatise communal land to the extent that very tall and powerful people with financial muscles would out muscle the small men and women in the communal areas.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with this awareness creation campaign amongst the general populace, with regards to having a secure tenure that they sit on a piece of land in the communal area, they need to register that piece of land in order for them to be issued with a certificate clearly demarcating the area that they have been so allocated through the due process of the Law. Once you have that certificate you have the title to that piece of land on which you find yourself.

I know of cases where financial institutions, I am not shy to mention one, First National Bank, on the basis of an individual having a secure right of tenure in the communal area, is advancing loans for people to put up any structure on that piece of land on which they have a 99 years lease hold right. Honourable Speaker, that is what I wanted to say to the House, that is the official position and that is what we do as part of our daily work and I thought that I needed to clear that for the benefit of the Honourable Members.

HON SPEAKER: Before you sit down, Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: I listened carefully to the Honourable Minister's explanation, whether out of conviction or what exists in our Law; I do not know which one is which. I would like to ask him whether his statement is based on his personal convictions that communal land should stay in the State's hands. I want to draw his attention to a statement by the UN Agency that one of the main problems with Africa's development is that land is not used as a tool for development, because we give the land to the State and the State does nothing about the land. It is actually dead land; therefore, I think the modern thought is to move away from this State land concept. We do not find these things in Europe, for example, if you do then it is small parks not a whole vast estate belonging to the State. Yes, we see this is the case, but is it tenable? Is it something we can perpetuate

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to our children and grandchildren? Can they benefit from the land on which we were born and raised?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister. I do not want to entertain any further questions; it is just for the Honourable Minister to respond. We have other things to do.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As much as I value and appreciate the input of the senior Colleague, whatever we do, we do on the basis of the Law that we have to administer, informed by the Supreme Law of the Land of the Brave.

If we as citizens of this country have any intention of changing the framework that we have developed do not expect the Sector Minister to do so, tell me that we want to change our approach to the way we have provided for land administration in our Constitution. This House is perfectly capable of changing the Constitution if it is not enshrined under Chapter 3 of the Constitution. All I am saying is that given the framework under which we have to function as a Nation, when you have a certificate that certifies that you have the right to be on that piece of land, whether for business or for putting up a homestead or intending to put up a structure, you can go to a financial institution and I have cited one such institution that is reaching out to people in communal areas to put up their homes. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. On that note, we shall rise for an abbreviated break for tea.

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HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:56

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:34

HON SPEAKER: We continue the Business of the House. Continue discussions. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Minister, I appreciate what you have said but there is still something lingering, we did not solve the problem at all, we were supposed to find ways and means on how to tackle the problem. The land belongs to the people and they must benefit from it and not look at it idly until they die. That is not fair. The reserves can be camped, but people sharing land are the ones who live in towns and the ones who own farms. What about the people who are left without anything? There must be something else tangible that can also uplift their living standards. They need to say, this is our land.

However, 3,000 hectares according to the Law was in existence. Twenty hectares is worth nothing you will not be able to produce anything out of that. Land must be given to people who can produce either through gardening or farming, making sure that you would be able to take care of up 30 people. However, these kinds of things we must develop with Government assistance with money that is in reserves for that purpose. Rather than saying I am stuck. That is the way of doing it.

I am not here to make jokes. You are joking with your death, but going to the funeral while joking is bad. (intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Honourable Speaker, Point of Order. I am seeking direction, the topic under discussion is Housing and Transport. The Honourable Ministers were trying to clarify the problems and the Laws available in terms of acquisition of land or housing. However, now I foresee a problem if we go in the direction of discussing land. Where are we heading? I have a problem with that, but if we continue discussing housing then I will be listening to the discussions.

HON RIRUAKO: I am discussing about housing, I know what is happening, you better sit down!

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kapia is quite correct. The Honourable Minister of Finance, for obvious reasons that we all appreciate, was making her own contribution but it was not the issue of land and the Honourable Minister of Lands found it necessary to clarify the current position of the Government. I, therefore, do not want us to be discussing land. That is not what the Report is central to. Let us not discuss the land issue. We are discussing the Report of Honourable Agnes Tjongarero. If you read that Report, let us not discuss the land.

HON RIRUAKO: I read that Report. I am discussing housing. I built a house for N\$750,000 in the reserve. It is housing because I already built a house worth N\$750,000 on communal land. I am right when I am saying these, I did not go to the moon. How are going to take care of ourselves if the Law is protecting the rich to get richer? Us who really need the land to be appreciated do not get any assistance. That is a fact. We did all

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these and we did not do these for the sake of doing it, we want to be exemplary to others (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Exactly, what point are you making, Chief?

HON RIRUAKO: A point of housing in the reserves.

HON MEMBER: Is it housing on land?

HON RIRUAKO: You cannot build a house between heaven and earth. Think aloud, we cannot talk in a vacuum, there is a reason for it. However, that is the reason we put it in front of you, take a look at it. How are you going to take care of it? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, it is very clear now. Any further discussion? Does Honourable Tjongarero wish to reply?

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members allow me to thank all those who took the Floor to support the Report and those who did not take the Floor, but supported the Report in silence. Most of the contributions were supportive.

Thank you, *Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila* because you made the job very easy for me by summarising most of the recommendations, which

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were made on the Floor. That was mostly on the part of housing.

The recommendations that were made on the part of transport were not so many. Thank you, *Honourable Witbooi* for suggesting that there be bicycle lanes in towns so that those who do not own motor vehicles can ride bicycles. I would also like to thank *Honourable Tjihuiko* for his valid suggestion of buses for nurses because life nowadays is difficult for women and children without transport.

Honourable Shixwameni suggested affordable transport for everyone. As I said, most of the contributions were on housing, I would, therefore, suggest that we wait on the committee on housing that Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila mentioned. Let us hear what this committee is going to come up with and take it from there. Everything has been said and the committee that was set up by the President has heard the contributions that were made. I would like all of us to wait for this committee and work together with them. I also want to urge all of us not to take another five years on this Report of Housing and Transport. Let us tackle it as fast as we can because we all agree that this is a very critical issue. Honourable Minister of Finance, seeing that you are the only one here from that committee, let us urgently work on this so that we can come up with a solution for housing and transport for our people. With that, I request the House to adopt the Report. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I now put the Question that the Report be adopted. Any Objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE
DROUGHT SITUATION IN NAMIBIA**

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SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Drought Situation in Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Thursday 21, February 2013 the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Maamberua. Any further Discussion? Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. We are debating the drought situation in Namibia. Honourable Speaker, I believe that we are looking at a situation that affects so many people. We really need to look at it from a very professional point of view and not try to bring in other issues. I will, therefore, try to concentrate on those issues.

Honourable Speaker, I believe that the drought situation that we are facing in the country right now is serious and it needs all of our support. We need to know exactly what the Government plans to do. I am sure that there are a number of Reports that are still being awaited and that we need to look at.

However, if you look at the drought in areas like Aminuis and Opuwo, it has been there since October last year. We have seen the situation since that time and I believe that the Government was supposed to have developed specific intervention strategies to try and address those issues. About the statement made by His Excellence, the President, that people should start looking at selling some of the cows; there are specific communities who are making 90% living out of farming. I am sure that if you sell about ten of your cattle today, you will not be able to buy two this time next year if at all we manage to get rain. We may create a situation where communities who are self-sustaining will be tempted to sell their cattle and eventually become dependent on Government at the end of the day. This is one thing that we need to look at very carefully.

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One of the options that we may look at is to have a consultative process where we engage, especially the cattle farmers and try to find out as to; *“Tjihuiko what do you want the Government to help with?”* If Government decides to give you 8 bags of lick, then give it to me and let me see what I am going to do with the rest. We may look at the farms that are underutilised at the present moment, I am sure that a number of people have been resettled with their few animals on the farms. The Ministry of Lands can perhaps look at that and say *“Tjihuiko can be assisted by the Ministry to obtain a written agreement to graze on resettled land for a certain period of time, pay the person who has been resettled on that farm and eventually get out of it”*. I am sure that these things have been taking place illegally on farms where people have been resettled. Many people have been grazing their animals on illegal agreements for a certain period of time and then took their animals out.

That is one thing that we may have to look at and instead of doing it illegally, to legalise it and the Ministry will be able to assist those who are resettled on the farm so that, whenever Honourable Kazenambo decides not to pull out, Government will then come and help the weaker person. Those are some of the factors that we may look at.

The other point that I am looking at is that Government may have farms that they have bought and where people have not yet been resettled as one option to look at and see whether those who are in desperate need can get into a legal agreement for grazing their animals and once the situation changes they get out of those farms.

These are some of the better options rather than advising that we should sell these animals. I know that we did that with the ostrich farming in the past. We now know where we are and I know that the moment we start doing these things we may sell more cattle to Angola, for example, at giveaway prices and when the time comes to buy again, we may not be able to buy back from them because the price would be triple the price that we have sold them. Honourable Speaker, these are some of the practical ideas that one can put on the table.

As I said the situation in the country is not the same. Some of those who

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are employed and can help themselves, once the Government brings a little bit of their part, may also opt for looking at some undeveloped land, for instance Eiseb, where one can fence off a certain area and graze in that area over a certain period of time. Of course you do not do this illegally, but Government must assist me to be able to help myself, with fencing material so that I can comfortably go to Eiseb or one of these areas where there are poisonous plants. I think some of you have developed some ideas of how to handle the situation. If Government can assist *TjiHuiko* and Honourable Maamberua with fencing material to move into this area, we will be able to save some animal's lives and continue contributing to the economic well being of this country by exporting meat. I am sure that some Honourable Members, like Honourable Nujoma will agree with me, from the way he is looking at me.

Honourable Speaker, these are some practical ideas that I am trying to put on the table, some of the things we need to look at and not always to say Government should help us. We should also try to look at ways and means of helping ourselves, Government should find us moving. I think if we consider all that and say Government can help those who are seriously affected by even providing soft loans, suspended for a certain period of time to buy building materials and you pay back when the time comes. I, therefore, think that in so doing, Government would have really assisted these people to keep their cattle in order for us to be able to continue contributing meaningfully to the economic development of our beautiful country.

Honourable Speaker, before I conclude let me also touch on the flood issue, which is equally affecting our people like drought. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to ask Honourable TjiHuiko a small question. Honourable TjiHuiko, are you

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allowed to wear a t-shirt and a jacket in the House?

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I want to touch on the floods, which is equally devastating the living conditions of our people. Every year, especially in the Caprivi Region, we see a situation where Government moves in quickly, saves lives by moving people living in affected areas to an upper land where these people have been comfortably resettled, given tents and all basic necessities in order for them to continue cultivating their land. After the situation normalizes these comrades go back to where they came from. Therefore, every year the Government is spending more or less the same amount of money getting them up and then they go back. I think we need develop a strategy where we would encourage them to live on the upper land. We can try and talk sense into them by saying if you continue living here you will have a better life than expecting Government to spend money every year by moving you from the lower land to the upper land. It does not help a lot. It is a costly exercise. Government should look for a strategy where these people would be helped permanently.

I do not know how it is going to be done. I am not saying we should send the Police in and make sure that they do not go back, but I think we need to talk to them and convince them that in the long run it would be in their best interest. In short, Honourable Speaker, I support the idea that we should at least come up with those strategies that I have mentioned as soon as possible. I am sure that 70%-80% of those who have been affected right now, if Government can assist them in that way that I have proposed, which is not that expensive, but it will help in the long run, even to take pressure off the communal areas because we would have taken the people out of the communal areas. (Intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: Do you have a question, Honourable Minister?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask Honourable Tjiuiko a question? Honourable Tjiuiko, we know that drought will always be experienced in Namibia and we must face it. From the side of Government there has been a direction being thought of that may perhaps permanently be there to assist us, particularly on the side of the animal husbandry. Hence, the proposal of restructuring of Meatco so that the trading part of what is being proposed, the share percentage that Government is recommending, Government has said that portion of Government will be put in a dedicated fund to accumulate interest, to accumulate more capital so that when we have another situation like this, it is not going to be a situation where you wait for Government to say, since that Budget is not yet approved there is nothing that we can do. We have to wait and then the assessment will of course be late.

- a) Do you not think it is really well thought of from the side of Government to help the farmers throughout the country by having a dedicated fund that can assist farmers in this particular case?
- b) Government will then be left with the responsibility of looking after floods when it comes, but for drought there is that suggestion, but unfortunately some farmers are terribly opposed to it. Do you think that is a realistic position for them to take, knowing that drought will always be with us in this country for some time? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjiuiko.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I think we are together. The issue of restructuring of Meatco needs to be properly discussed and put into better perspective. I do not want us to start looking at it in deeper. I think the Honourable Minister is right by saying that we need to look at developing structures that will be able to assist us when the need arises. Of course, the 30% that the Government is taking is from the cattle that I am selling, therefore, I will be contributing 30% of my income to the fund directly or indirectly.

My concern will be that if we were saying that we would use this 30% for the purpose of helping cattle farmers for animal husbandry, the question would be that; what would happen to the crop producers? How are they going to be assisted? Are we taking 30% from their income? No, of course not. The 30% should, therefore, not be seen as a fund that was specifically dedicated to help these people. One would turn around and say, if that is the case then the crop producers should also develop a fund where 30% of their income would be put in a special fund. When the flood situation arises, we would then use that money to take care of them. The issue of Meatco needs to come here so that we can properly interrogate it, get better information and be at the same arm length.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I just want to say that with the ideas that I have thrown around, I believe that it is always better to teach somebody how to fish and not how to eat fish. The best way is for Government to help those who want to help themselves to develop undeveloped areas, drilling boreholes and to have a dedicated fund where they can borrow money and develop those areas, deal with the poisonous plants and also take off pressure from the communal areas into areas where there is nobody right now. That would help Government not to buy expensive farmland unnecessarily, because there would be an alternative way for *Tjihuiko* to go to an area and develop that area with the assistance of Government, and instead of Government paying N\$7 million for a farm, it can give *Tjihuiko* N\$1 million and *Tjihuiko* will develop a better farm of the same size at N\$1 million rather than Government spending N\$7 million and that will also go to those who were previously advantaged. These are the ideas floating in my head, Honourable Speaker. I rest my case. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for allowing me to discuss the issue of the drought situation in Namibia. Like the previous speakers have said, Namibia is known to be a drought-prone country if my memory serves me well. Drought will always be with us and in contributing to this important Motion, one would attempt to look at intervention or mitigating strategies in dealing with this issue of drought.

Farmers are often encouraged to reduce the number of their cattle during drought. One understands the appeal from the side of the Government because quite often during the floods everybody is looking to Government for assistance with food etcetera. That is why I would rather look at strategies. I know that the Office of the Prime Minister through the Emergency Management Unit is distributing bags of food as assistance to affected communities and I welcome that.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Agriculture, however, includes crop and livestock farming and it is one of the main contributors to the GDP of this country. It is also one of the largest Employment Sectors in our economy. This Sector is quite often fazed by drought and due to environmental change this phenomena will continue to manifest itself. I would now like to emphasise one point that for both communal and commercial farmers, livestock or animal husbandry is just like any business, it is just like a car manufacturing plant; it is just like a school for teachers; it is just like Parliament for politicians or elected Members. Therefore, if you have your cattle or crop and this is the Sector you are involved in, on which you are dependent and that is the business you trade in, and now because of environmental factors you are told in your face to reduce or limit your production or to do away with those things that you use to produce. It rings a different tone to a person who uses those factors of production. This is what goes in the mind of a farmer when he/she is told to reduce his/her stock. This needs to be denoted.

The point that I want to make is that it is psychologically very difficult for

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a person who knows that this is the means to an end, therefore, I should get rid of the means to an end because of environmental factors. It is not an easy thing to embark upon. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I will look at the mitigating factors or strategies. Namibia, although we are a small population we do not mainly consume the things that we produce here and the livestock production as a lucrative Sector, you will find that the main source, if we may call a spade a spade, of meat production in Namibia is not produced in the commercial farms. It is produced in the communal areas.

Be it for Meatco, maybe I am risking calling it on its jurisdiction name, but to inform my argument is that the meat companies in this country source their resources from the communal areas, even in the Redline areas, that is where Meatco gets most of its produce. People in the Commercial Sector have changed their tactics, they do not keep livestock they only buy from the communal areas and stock them for the next trade in. The real producers are in the communal areas and these are the people who are faced with drought. When there is drought like this, the colleagues in the Commercial Sector either buy through permits or auction from the communal farmers at giveaway prices. If you attend auctions and permits, the prices there are giveaway prices.

The strategy should move from saying that reduce the livestock, instead ask how producers like Meatco and other abattoirs would come in and help these people bring their livestock directly to them. Although I know people would say leave it to the market forces to sort itself out, the reality is that these colleagues would buy from the communal areas for a number of factors. Let me address those factors: Farmers in the rural areas are small farmers without transport and this is one of the inhibiting costs because for a farmer in Kunene, Kongola or Koës etcetera, to take his/her produce to the market becomes expensive. Therefore, the colleagues who have developed some muscles over the years, with trucks, end up buying at these places and take it to companies like Meatco. There are restrictions imposed between brokers or middlemen, because in reality they are not producers, they are just speculators, like the Minister of Finance was talking on the Sectors of housing. They are not producers and they are designing things that are unbelievable everyday.

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HON KAZENAMBO

There is natural drought and artificial or man-made drought in Namibia and while we are here it is busy at work. What is man-made drought in Namibia? I cannot load cattle even from my farm, which is in a commercial area. I cannot go to Honourable Maamberua and ask him to use his truck to take five cattle to Meatco in Okahandja or Windhoek and I load my cattle. No! It is not like that, firstly the truck that has to transport these cattle must be certified. It has to be registered, certified and it must meet certain hygienic conditions. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: These are good thoughts, complete them, because I am learning.

HON KAZENAMBO: The point is that the truck that has to transport the cattle must be certified. It has to be registered and it must also be in a certain condition, otherwise you cannot transport your cattle to Meatco or any abattoir in Namibia. This is the reality and this has become what I refer to as man-made drought. These are the factors, what are you left with? What you are left with is that you are locked in Kongola, you are locked in Epupa, etcetera then you are forced to sell to the next guy at a giveaway price.

HON SPEAKER: I have 5 speakers to follow before we adjourn at 17:45. Conclude, Honourable Member.

HON KAZENAMBO: Honourable Speaker, let us look at other artificial man-made restrictions that aggravate drought. Let us support those businessmen, like the fellows in Witvlei. There is an abattoir there and it is facing uncertainties because of other factors, but these are young Namibian businessmen who are trying to bring investments. Its

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HON MOONGO

uncertainty and farmers who could have sent their livestock to that abattoir are also hanging. We are told Government is interfering when Government wants to support the community to have access to Meatco. The fact of the matter is that those so-called farmers who have a voice produce *zero*. The people who produce are in the rural areas.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: My contribution is very brief as usual. Honourable Speaker, we are really experiencing a very serious drought which will cause a lot of havoc. I accept the Government call that we must sell our livestock and buy it back later. However, as a Traditional Chief it is a taboo to sell all your cattle because you will disqualify yourself. In our norm a Chief or a Headman cannot stay without cattle. I can understand and accept if you say that from the 30 heads of cattle I have, I must sell 10 in order to buy fodder and grass to feed the others. That could be a remedy. While we are at that point, according to our norms and traditions a drought year is when a poor person who does not own enough cattle can improve by buying a beautiful Brahman at a cheaper price as the commercial farmers are selling at low prices now. That is the prevailing atmosphere within the community; that a drought year is when a clever person will have something to feed this small Brahman, which you cannot otherwise afford during a good year. This is the tactic. I do not want to say it out loud so that the commercial farmers change their minds to sell. That was our elders' believe that during a drought year a poor farmer can afford to buy quality cattle. I, therefore, encourage the poor people to find a way to buy a Brahman at N\$1,000 and he will then be able to feed this until the rain comes. By doing that, poor people will be able to improve the quality of their livestock. Those who have five or ten cattle will now have a Brahman of good quality.

Finally, I have a serious concern on drought-relief food, which is distributed around Oshigambo. I received a report that they started

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discriminating others. I, therefore, call upon the Regional Councilors, Traditional Authorities and the Committee dealing with drought aid to strictly provide food aid to the needy and please no discrimination. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I just want to make my contribution. Comrades, like you said, the drought this year is completely different. We usually have some areas not receiving enough rain and you have a fall-back. However, this year is different. The best option would be to ask the Ministry of Agriculture and NamWater to reopen some of the water points in the grazing areas that have been closed for some time, especially in the northern area. There is no water and there are no boreholes, because of the salty ground water. This could be a first option, because there is a grazing area there, instead of selling all the livestock.

Those within the northern Redline can sell, because they have bigger and well-partitioned farms and water. There is no one to sell the livestock to in the north. We can suggest selling them to the DRC and Angola, but how are going to get them back? Therefore, Ministry of Agriculture and Namwater must reopen these water points so that the cattle can have water to drink. For this year we can do that and if the situation does not improve next year then we can start thinking of reducing the livestock by selling the older ones first. Honourable Speaker, that is my contribution. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister Katali.

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HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker this issue of drought is very important this year. I am just afraid that the conflicting message that we are sending out may be dangerous in the sense that the Government is saying; *“you must sell your cattle to reduce the number to a manageable level”*. On the other hand some are saying; *“we depend on cattle and we can therefore not sell”*. It depends on who hears what, at what time. If it was possible for what we are saying here to be heard at the same time then we give the people the opportunity to hear different views and then they will be able to make up their own minds. However, if they only hear what Honourable Kazenambo or Honourable Tjihuiko or Honourable Ilonga said, then they might only take that to be what Parliament is saying.

Honourable Speaker, drought is a social issue because people are going hungry and it is also an economic issue on the other hand, because others are exploiting the situation by enriching themselves through this process where social issues were supposed to be looked into. The social issue is that there is no food in the country, because people did not cultivate enough. This is the time when a bag of maize becomes expensive. We have the farmers who are being requested, rightly so, to reduce their animals by selling them. The price is very low, who is benefiting there? Only those on the economic side are benefiting, because they buy the cattle at a cheaper price. However, when you go to the supermarket (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Trade, would like to put a question?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I would like to ask the Honourable Minister a question. Honourable Minister, you have quite correctly stated that prices that producers receive for their cattle have dropped significantly. Are you aware of any drop in price of consumer-ready meat products, because it would be the natural flow of things that

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consumers would then benefit indirectly from lower production prices? I just wanted to know whether you are aware of any reduction in consumer prices for meat products.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Minister. This is what I was saying; if you go now to the supermarkets the prices have not gone down. That means that the consumers and the producers are the ones suffering while the others are benefiting from the meat that they bought at a cheaper price. There is no reduction at the market place. That is what I find to be very unfair. I thought that during the time of drought the Nation comes together and help one another by making sure that everyone gets through the drought and then things can get back to normal, but it seems like it is not the case.

When there is a call for the reduction of animals, I think in reality this is a logical thing to do, because if you do not have enough grass you can definitely not keep a lot of animals. The problem is that when you sell at the current market prices, you would need to sell five cattle to buy one when the time comes and that is really not a good thing. People are affected in different ways; there are those who can do with farms and those who can do with nothing. If you think of Government to come in, we are now in April, is it manageable for Government to give fodder for the rest of the period and for how many livestock? Sometimes it is not possible for those that are affected, but it is true that if we can reduce our animals all the programmes that we trying to find, like grazing land somewhere with a smaller number of animals, we can get through.

However, sticking to our old traditions saying we are not going to sell because this is our lifeline, these cattle will perish. Where are you then going to talk about your lifeline? They will definitely die because there is nothing. I had an idea and it is good that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture just arrived. We have the silos for Mahangu and this is what we do, during better years we store. It should be the reverse when it comes to drought in terms of meat. If we can have meat storage facilities as a Government we will do better. Government can buy this meat at a

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reasonable price and then store it so that schools, hospitals and other institutions that have meat consumers can get it from that storage. This means that people will sell their livestock at a reasonable price and after the drought when the rain comes they will still have something to replace what they have lost. Otherwise, it is definitely not an easy thing.

Finally, this time around for those who have loans from Agribank, it is time that they are exempted from paying those loans so that they can try to see how they can get through the drought season by buying fodder and all that is necessary. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Does Honourable Maamberua wish to reply?

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma, I am guided by what I see on the list and I did not see your name on the list, unless you are very brief.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Very brief indeed. Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to join the Debate and just make a few points. I have been listening very attentively to the previous speakers and I entirely agree with them. It is true that most of the cattle our farmers are producing come from our communal areas. Honourable Kazenambo is spot on and I agree with him that the people in the communal areas are the producers. All these other farmers normally go either with a permit or buy these cattle at the auction which they then fatten and sell to Meatco. This drought situation has taught us something and we really need to make sure and work together with Government so that we convince Meatco that Government should play a role in the affairs of Meatco, a little bit of

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shareholding that will protect these vulnerable producers. The Government is correct in saying that we are now facing this situation and the only alternative is perhaps to reduce the heads.

However, the problem is that the prices have been deliberately dropped at this particular moment. The other argument is that, of course, it is a question of supply and demand, the rule in capitalism is the supply and demand, which determines the prices. Now, there is an oversupply of course and the prices must go down. What we need to do is to set up a fund where we protect the producers. At this particular moment you sell your cattle which is your livelihood at a giveaway price. That is the problem with the drought, the small and vulnerable people cannot envisage why at this particular moment when they are facing these serious difficulties, they literally give their cattle away for free.

I will suggest that in future, we are lucky that the Honourable Minister is here, we have to devise a strategy as to how we can protect the vulnerable producers. I am one of them, I am also a producer, but I take my cattle to the auction and now I would rather see them die than giving them away. That is the argument of the ordinary people. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I can afford to respond within the remaining five minutes. Firstly, I wish to thank all those who supported the Motion either by expressing themselves or in silence. Let me caption my response by agreeing with *Honourable Katali* who is stating that these conflicting messages that we may be sending out there should not be harmful. Hence, the rationale for the Motion was to refer further interrogation of all these issues that were elaborated on by the people who spoke to Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration Committee so that all these different suggestions could be

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interrogated ranging from those coming from *Honourable Tjiuiko*, guarding against possible dependencies that could be created if people lose all their livestock.

The suggestion of opening virgin lands for assisting farmers coming, to the intervention by *Honourable Kazenambo* looking at some mitigating strategies such as distributing foodstuff and also that Meatco could assist, and the inhibiting conditions that need to be looked at such as restrictions in the transportation of livestock. The different views expressed by *Honourable Moongo* the fact that he is in agreement with the selling of livestock, which is not what others agreed to.

Honourable Ilonga, the suggestion for the Ministry of Agriculture and Namwater to open some of those restricted grazing and water points. That point goes to the Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration Committee to interrogate together with the Ministry of Agriculture, NamWater and maybe other institutions.

The suggestion by *Honourable Katali* that Agribank should be accorded the opportunity not to charge interest on the repayments during the time of drought, that is also a point that can be further interrogated. *Honourable Nujoma*, the proposal about setting up a fund that could protect farmers during drought, both the livestock and agronomy farmers, that could also be a factor to be considered and again be further interrogated. All these suggestions put together, of course we will not be in a position to draw conclusions here, hence my call again, that because of all those proposals from the interventions, there is a justification for the Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration Committee to interrogate these issues further and update this House regularly until the situation is ameliorated. That is the proposal. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, very much. I now put the Question that the Motion be adopted. Any Objection? Agreed to.

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ADJOURNMENT

On that happy note, I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the House now adjourns until tomorrow, Thursday, 25 April 2013 at 14:30. I so Move.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:44 UNTIL 2013.04.25 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
25 APRIL 2013
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the Adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON SPEAKER: Good afternoon everybody, before we commence with the Business of the House, I acknowledge the presence of 35 students in the public gallery from the University of Namibia (UNAM), Main Campus. They are members of the Political Science Association at UNAM.

Secondly, I would like to kindly request all Honourable Members to clear your desks because we will have the convening of the Fourth Children Parliament in the Chamber during the May break. We do not want to tempt them by leaving things in the drawers.

Let me just hold this up. I, in the strongest possible terms denounce and reject people who are circulating this illegal chart. I found it yesterday when I was going out at the exit. I saw it before and for reasons that are obvious to anybody who looked at it we did not approve it. Up to now we do not have a chart it should be done properly. It is an outdated chart and I threw it away.

Any Petitions? Any Reports of Select or Standing Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

TABLING OF REPORTS

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TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

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

- (i) Municipality of Grootfontein for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012; and
- (ii) Municipality of Tsumeb for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012. I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Reports? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable !Naruseb.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members. I rise to explain to this august House and the citizens of this country the legal provisions and policies surrounding the registration of land rights in communal areas in Namibia.

I feel compelled to address this issue due to continuing divergent public discussions on the essence of the on going communal land registration programme. Honourable Speaker, allow me from the onset to make reference to Article 100 of the Namibian Constitution which states that *“land, water and natural resources below and above the surface of the land and in the continental shelf and within the territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone of Namibia shall belong to the State if they are not otherwise lawfully owned.”* I must emphasize further that in Namibia land is classified as State land, communal land or commercial land. Each of these categories give certain rights and responsibilities to the people who have such rights over land.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, communal land is State land that is administered by the Government in trust for the benefit of the traditional communities living on those lands and for the purpose of promoting socio-economic development of the Namibian people. Following the 1991 Land Conference, the Nation adopted the National Land Policy of 1998 and the *Communal Land Reform Act* (Act 5 of 2002), which provides for a unitary land system which means that all citizens have equal rights, opportunities and securities across a range of tenure and management systems. This policy and legislation also sought to improve communal land administration. I believe in Communal Land Boards and the provision for the powers of the Traditional Authorities in relations to communal land.

Prior to the enactment of the Communal Land Reform Act communities experience the following challenges:

- 1) Illegal grabbing and disposition of land rights by the affluent members of society;
- 2) Double-allocation of land rights;
- 3) Absence of records of land allocation;
- 4) There were reports of bias in allocation to different groups, especially women and vulnerable groups;
- 5) Communities questioned credibility in the allocation process and because of this some communal residents resorted to self-land allocations, land grabbing and the consequence thereof was tenure insecurity for majority of communal residents.

Those were the challenges that were prevalent before the *Communal Land Reform Act* (Act 5 of 2002) was enacted.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the *Communal Land Reform Act* of 2002 follows the guidelines that are outlined in the National Land Policy of 1998. The Act sets out the functions of the Traditional

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Authorities and Communal Land Boards with regards to the administration of communal land. Under this Act, Communal Land Boards are required to establish and maintain registers of Customary Land Rights and of rights of leasehold in order to monitor the allocation and use of communal lands.

As per the current legal provisions in the *Communal Land Reform Act*, the Communal Land Boards, which have been established in all the Regions and they perform the following functions:

- 1) They control the allocations and cancellations of Customary Land Rights by Traditional Authorities;
- 2) They decide on applications for rights of leaseholds;
- 3) They create and maintain registers for the allocation, transfer and cancellation of Customary Land Rights and rights of leasehold.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as prescribed by the *Communal Land Reform Act* of 2002, the Government has embarked on the programme to register all land rights in communal areas using the established Communal Land Boards and in close collaboration with Traditional Authorities. The land rights being registered are both customary and leasehold land rights. These land rights may be existing rights or new rights. Existing land rights are those rights that were allocated before the enactment of the *Communal Land Reform Act* (Act 5 of 2002) while the new rights are those rights that were allocated after the Law was passed.

The Communal Land Registration Project was introduced by the Government in March 2003 and is still on-going until February 2014, but ideally until such time when our citizens have been enabled to register their land rights. Under this project Customary Land Right Holders are required to apply for recognition and registration of their existing Customary Land Rights. Application forms for registration are widely available and obtainable from Traditional Authorities, Communal Land Board Offices and all other offices of the Ministry of Lands and

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Resettlement countywide.

The issue of secure tenure is a real concern with most of our stakeholders and it is in cognizance of this that the Ministry has been promoting the registration of Communal Land Rights countrywide. This is a national programme that all communities are urged to support. Although there are challenges with this process, the Ministry is working with various partners focusing on the provision of secure tenure through Communal Land Right Registration.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me at this juncture to point out some of the benefits that are enjoyed and recognized under the *Communal Land Reform Act* (Act 5 of 2002). As I have mentioned, two land rights are currently issued in the communal areas namely; the Customary Land Right and the Leasehold. The Customary Land Right lasts for the natural life of the holder. It comes to an end only when the occupant dies or decides to relinquish the right before his or her death. The Customary Land Right is, therefore, an occupation in perpetuity and the holder need not fear eviction or expropriation without just compensation. Registered Customary Land Rights are thus formal and enjoy official recognition and protection and thus are secure.

The registration of Customary Land Rights in the communal areas is very important because it;

- gives security to land holders, their spouses, children and/or dependants;
- ensures that a land holder has documentary proof of their right to the land and know the boundaries and exact size of the legally allocated land parcel;
- allows each parcel of land to be owned by one person at a time which rules out any form of land grabbing;
- gives an indication to the Communal Land Boards and the Traditional

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Authority as to which land is occupied and which land is available for allocation; and

- avails a right for compensation when the parcel or part of it is claimed by the Government for Public purposes that include building of new roads or expansion of towns.

The Communal Land Registration Project has brought to an end the contestable practice of oral transfer of land rights and land-related boundary disputes such as problems of double allocation of the same piece of land by Traditional Authorities and Land Boards.

A right of leasehold on the other hand gives the right to land for a specific activity to be undertaken on the land parcel as described on the conditions of the Lease Agreement. The activity may be agricultural, residential, tourism, commerce or any other use that the Land Boards approve. After the Right of Leasehold is granted and a Deed of Leasehold is signed the Leasehold is registered in the name of the applicant in the prescribed register and the applicant is issued with a Certificate of Leasehold. It is the responsibility of the leaseholder to register the lease in the Deeds Registry Office. The Leasehold thus grants the Lessee the opportunity to access finance to invest in their properties and thus improve their living standards.

Before the enactment of the *Communal Land Reform Act* (Act 5 of 2002), the Ministry used to issue Permission to Occupy (PTO) certificates to regulate business establishments in communal areas. Presently, PTOs are being phased out and existing PTOs are to be converted into Rights of Leasehold, which offer more security.

As I have alluded to yesterday and at this juncture, I want to comment the efforts by the First National Bank of Namibia (FNB) for their foresight in developing a new product called the FNB Pension Backed Home Loan Scheme, which they are currently implementing. This scheme is important to the Ministry because it makes use of the Communal Land Right Registration Certificate as proof of ownership or entitlement to land. The said initiative is a positive development, in my opinion, because the

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bank has made a business decision that recognizes the use of secure tenure provided through land right registration to provide credit to communities in communal areas.

The Ministry is working in close consultations with all stakeholders in the communal areas to register land in sustainable ways. FNB has already grasped a concept through its vision in acknowledging the security of tenure being offered through the Communal Land Rights Registration Certificate.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, if you allow me to conclude; despite many challenges, the Government through the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is committed to bringing tenure security in the communal areas. The Ministry strongly believes that security of tenure promotes socio-economic development of the people as well as encourages natural resource management. The current Land Registration Project will not impoverish our people and leave them destitute.

I want to urge all citizens to come forth and apply for the recognition and registration of their existing Land Rights before the stated deadline, which is February 2014.

Honourable Speaker I would like to thank you for affording me this opportunity to share with the Nation out there what I had to share with them. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister, a lot of information for small minds like the Speaker's mind. Honourable Minister of Finance, in one of your presentations yesterday, you were talking in respect of our money. Some officials came to say that Standard Bank was the one that was desirable, is First National Bank catching up with Standard Bank? That is what I am trying to understand; I am interested in land, but I do not know how to go about it. Honourable Minister of Finance.

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STATEMENT
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA / HON RIRUAKO**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As the Honourable Minister has explained, the facilities of the First National Bank is to advance loans for home acquisition in communal areas using the security of accumulated pension benefits and that is why it is called Pension-Backed Home Loans. This means that FNB is using pension benefits as security and not the leasehold. The challenge is to use the leasehold itself as security.

That is what we are trying to address, the greater challenge is especially when it comes to direct financing of home loans from the pension funds. However, even the use of Pension-Backed Home Loans, is still to be applauded, because there are some institutions that are not doing that. I think FNB will only be the second to Standard Bank, because I know that for Members of Parliament and other Office-Bearers Fund, Standard Bank has been offering us that facility. It is nice to hear that FNB is offering it as well. I would like to have a situation where all the financial institutions are doing that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Chief Riruako. Brief questions, please do not belabour the points.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I would like to know, because the amount that is given by Standard Bank is very small. It cannot be over N\$50,000 and that cannot even buy a house. We want clarity from the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Lands. N\$50,000 is worth nothing and that must be clarified. Land and also a house ranges between N\$500,000 to N\$1,000,000 and for that matter this must be clarified.

HON SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you, a good question. Honourable Moongo.

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STATEMENT
HON MOONGO / HON SHIXWAMENI**

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also have a small question to the Honourable Minister. When will the Ministry of Lands come up with a system where poor villagers can also own a piece of land (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Where you listening to the Honourable Minister when he was speaking?

HON MOONGO: Yes, I listened to him. There is leasehold, but I also want the poor villagers to have a piece of land in Namibia because we fought for it.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Honourable Minister of Finance mentioned the issue that I wanted to raise. It is good we should congratulate FNB for having the foresight of taking this particular initiative to give loans to people in the communal areas and the rural areas. We should encourage all the banks, in fact we must urge all the banks to provide the same facilities to our people. There are people with very nice buildings in the rural areas if you look at Owamboland and some parts in Kavango, a lot of people have land (intervention)

HON MEMBER: There is no Owamboland!

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

HON SPEAKER: I want to listen to Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: *Vakwetu!* People still talk about Owamboland, whether you like it or not. They still talk about Kavango, we know that there are Regions, the Four Os and all these kinds of things, but the truth must always be spoken. God's truth must be spoken.

I like the information provided by the Honourable Minister. We need to amplify it. I might be running the risk of a conflict of interest because my wife works on this project of land registration in the communal areas. It needs to be amplified more so that our people have the knowledge. I know, particularly in the Kavango Region there has been resistance towards registration. We need to go down to the ordinary men and women and explain to them the benefits of securing their land registration. One question I wanted to ask in this particular regard coming from the Kavango Region is; can a person register more than 5 parcels? With us, Honourable Mutorwa, will testify that we have land where we live, where our homesteads are and a small garden around there. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Let us make it shorter.

HON SHIXWAMENI: We also do have land somewhere else, 3 to 4 parcels in the inland. Can one register more than two parcels of land? Otherwise, I support the information that is given out and I hope that it shall be amplified to the masses out there. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs.

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STATEMENT
HON DR IYAMBO / HON PROF KASINGO**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I do not believe that we have moved an inch. The bank has not moved an inch. I want to be told about FNB having given a loan based on the lease that a person has alone. What FNB is doing is this; if you have a property in a leased area in the communal land they will take that lease that you have and they will ask you: Do you have any other property somewhere else? If you have property in an urban area, yes, they will give a loan to develop that property in the communal area. In other words, should anything go wrong they have their eyes on the property in the urban area.

We have to expect what the Minister of Finance has informed us yesterday that they are now trying to work out to see the interpretation of a Clause somewhere, whether a financial institution will actually in earnest accept a leasehold in a communal area as a property they have as collateral for what you want to develop? For now it is semantics, it is not really that they have moved an inch. That is my understanding unless I am told it is really like that. Thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Lands, thank you for the information. My question is; what will happen to those people who will acquire pieces of land in the communal areas after the deadline? The acquisition of communal pieces of land for subsistence and household is on going and you mentioned a deadline for registration to be February 2014, what will happen after a person have acquired a piece of land after the deadline?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON MINISTERIAL
STATEMENT
HON !NARUSEB**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Lands, back to you.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. Starting with the last question; I have said the registration process, in my opinion is needs driven, if we realize that there is still the need for new registrations to come on board, like they used to say during the old days; the so-called Damaraland when they started with the *Damara Raad* vs DTA, Honourable Shixwameni should know about it. Some people from the *Damara Raad* wanted to move over to the DTA and they would say that; “*it is our thing, it is our project*”, meaning that it is our national drive, therefore, we cannot treat it as if it is cast in iron.

If we realize that there is a need for us to continue with the registrations we will continue to do that. I am sure that the one who will take over from yours truly will also understand the rationale for what I am saying.

Honourable Iyambo, I have no desire to speak on behalf of FNB. They are perfectly capable of doing it themselves. I hope that their Public Relations Department will tune in to this particular Debate tomorrow or the day after and advance responses to the Nation. That is incumbent on them to do that.

Honourable Shixwameni, we are treating this land registration process as, at least in my opinion, the Law is there, but I am treating it as one-size-does-not-fit-all. The way Namibians use land where I come from, that is the Okombahe area, is not the same way people use land in the Omungwelume area. The same applies to where you hail from. I, therefore, at least have that understanding and we would, in terms of operationalising the implementation of the Law, look into that.

I am about to go back to the Hompas and the Fumu in the Kavango area, God willing from the 6th of May until the 10th of May, I will be in that area. I want the leaders of the community to come on board (intervention)

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON MINISTERIAL
STATEMENT
HON !NARUSEB**

HON SPEAKER: It is a lot of useful information. I seek the pleasure of the House, shall we break or shall we continue?

HON MEMBER: Let us finish first.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, finish Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Sorry, Honourable Speaker. So that we can get the buy in of the communities that we want to convince that it will have distinct advantages, if we can register their parcels of land. If the use of land in a particular area is such that there is a need for more than one land parcel to be registered, we shall be able to listen to that because we do not want to believe that the way land administration or land allocation is dealt with in a given area should be uniformly apply to any other area as long as it is within the ambit of the Law.

Honourable Moongo, our Land Reform is premised on three approaches; one is that Government buys land in the commercial farming areas and that land is distributed to the landless citizens of this country. However, there is a caveat, you cannot sit, as poor as you are and expect that land will just be given to you. There is an expectation from your side that you must apply and land will be allocated to you once you have applied.

The other issue is what we are discussing now, **Land Use in Communal Areas**; grazing in communal areas is for the communities who reside in those communal area. The land parcels that get registered is primarily for citizens in that communal area to have security of tenure to put up their homesteads and crop fields, mahangu fields in your case. However, the open land that is sometimes fenced by powerful people like Uncle

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON MINISTERIAL
STATEMENT
HON !NARUSEB**

Moongo is what we are trying to prevent, but land is also available in communal areas where such is available for the common use of the general populace. That is really all I can say now, Honourable Speaker.

On the N\$50,000.00 that is too little; I do not want to venture into the money that becomes available because that is really not my forte. All I am saying is that the factual situation, as legal as it is, is what we are faced with as a Nation. That is what I intended to clarify and I hope that I did that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. That was a reply, we are not going to open it again. I am not going to give you the Floor. I am going to let you go for tea break. We must all return. There are Bills we have to finalize, particularly the *Finance Bills*. We are going to break and if we do not make use of today we will be in trouble. Let us come back as quickly as possible after the tea break.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:43

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:23

HON SPEAKER: We resume the Business of the House. The First Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**FIRST READING: INCOME TAX
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

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

**FIRST READING: INCOME TAX
AMENDMENT BILL [B. 2 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: *Income Tax Amendment Bill* [B.2 – 2013].

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my pleasure to introduce Amendments to the *Income Tax Amendment Bill Act* (Act 24 of 1981) as amended. In the furtherance of the national objectives, various tax policy changes were proposed in the 2013/2014 Budget. The Domestic Tax Policy is premised on the objectives of enhancing the competitiveness of our economy, promotion of social welfare of our people and encouraging economic activities.

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**SECOND READING: INCOME TAX
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

This *Income Tax Amendment Bill* contains adjustments to the income tax rates and categories to be paid by individuals. This *Amendment Bill* also reduces the corporate tax rate from the current 34% to 33%. The proposed changes for individual income tax brackets will relieve the tax burden on all categories of individual taxpayers except for the upper 0.2%. In this regard persons at the bottom of each tax bracket shift into a lower tax bracket than previous and the applicable rate for each bracket is lowered.

These adjustments to the income tax rate for individual taxpayers are aimed at enhancing the progressivity of the tax system and its contribution towards reduction in income inequalities by retaining progressively higher rates for the upper income brackets. In this respect the rate for the upper bracket is maintained at 37%, but the bracket range is narrowed.

Reduction in inequalities is the priority outcome area for Vision 2030 and NDP4. This is a policy challenge that requires appropriate policy mix to address it and the tax policy plays its part. Individuals earning N\$50,000 or less per year will be exempted from the payment of income tax. The new tax brackets will introduce the new minimum income tax rate of 18% and a maximum rate of 37%. The last adjustment for individual income tax bracket for Namibia was made in 2009/2010.

Considering the inflationary effects, regional benchmarks, unequal distribution of income and the general tax burden on the population, the adjustment in the *Income Tax Bill* will relieve the tax burden on various categories of individual taxpayers and thereby enhancing the sense of the progressive approach of our tax system of contributing to the promotion of income equality. The Government plays a critical role in ensuring that the economic environment is conducive to promote business confidence, growth and employment creation. In this respect the non-mining companies' tax rate is reduced from 34% to 33%. This reduction rate is expected to incentivise operators to reinvest and expand their operations, thereby creating economic more opportunities and growing the economy.

In striving to improve the lives of our people and grow the Namibian economy, I ask the Honourable Members of this House to pass this

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**SECOND READING: INCOME TAX
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Income Tax Amendment Bill. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions? Does the Honourable Minister now wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I want to thank the Honourable Members for their support.

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

**SECOND READING: INCOME TAX
AMENDMENT BILL [B. 2 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: *Income Tax Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee Stage?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Secondment? Deputy Speaker, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee it is your bit.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: INCOME TAX
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee has to consider the *Income Tax Amendment Bill* [B2. – 2013].

Clauses and *Title* put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported without Amendment.

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

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

25 April 2013 **THIRD READING: INCOME TAX AMENDMENT
BILL HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I thank the Members once again.

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will now read the Bill a Third Time.

**THIRD READING: INCOME TAX
AMENDMENT BILL [B. 2 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: *Income Tax Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: The Second Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Will the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill now be introduced?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any secondments? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Minister table the Bill? The Secretary will read the Bill the First Time.

**FIRST READING: STAMP DUTIES
AMENDMENT BILL [B. 3 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: *Stamp Duties Amendment Bill.*

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**SECOND READING: STAMP DUTIES
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any secondment? Any Objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, allow me to introduce the Amendments to the *Stamp Duties Act* (Act 15 of 1993). Stamp Duties is the tax paid on documents such as contracts, agreements, bonds and transfer deeds. This *Stamp Duties Amendment Bill* exempts natural persons from the payment of Stamp Duties when transfer deeds are executed to the amount N\$600,000 when acquiring immovable properties. The aim of the *Stamp Duties Bill* is to align the Stamp Duties relief to the Transfer Duty relief and accord the same treatment in the case of the transfer deed when property is acquired by individuals.

The Stamp Duty threshold in the *Amendment Bill* is adjusted to provide relief and incentivise individuals to acquire property. The Stamp Duty threshold will increase from the current N\$400,000.00 to N\$600,000.00 on par with the Transfer Duty threshold. Individuals will now be exempted from the payment of Stamp Duty for the first N\$600,000.00 when they execute a transfer deed in respect of the acquisition of immovable property. Considering the high costs of acquiring property in Namibia in addition to the high house crises, I ask the Honourable Members of the House to pass this *Stamp Duties Amendment Bill*. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**SECOND READING: STAMP DUTIES
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I thank the Honourable Members again for their support.

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

**SECOND READING: STAMP DUTIES
AMENDMENT BILL [B.3 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: *Stamp Duties Amendment Bill* [B.3. – 2013].

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee Stage?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objection? Secondment? That means the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: STAMP DUTIES
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee has to consider the *Stamp Duties Amendment Bill* [B.3 – 2013].

Clauses and *Title* put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported without Amendment.

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

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

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**THIRD READING: STAMP DUTIES
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, Honourable Speaker, thank you once again, Honourable Members.

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

**THIRD READING: STAMP DUTIES
AMENDMENT BILL [B. 3 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: *Stamp Duties Amendment Bill [B.3 – 2013].*

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any secondment? Any Objection? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Minister table the Bill? The Secretary will read the Bill the First Time.

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**SECOND READING: TRANSFER DUTY
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**FIRST READING: TRANSFER DUTY
AMENDMENT BILL [B.4 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: *Transfer Duty Amendment Bill* [B.4 – 2013].

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker

HON SPEAKER: Any secondment? Any Objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to introduce the Amendment to the Transfer Duty Rates under the *Transfer Duty Act (Act 14 of 1993)*. In an effort to introduce tax reforms that are able to contribute to wider economic and social objectives, the *Bill* introduces favourable Transfer Duty Rate Regime when individuals acquire properties. Economic downturn calls for domestic interventions assisting the low-income consumer. The Transfer Duty Rate in the *Amendment Bill* is adjusted to provide relief and incentivise individuals to acquire properties given the increasing property prices in the market.

The Transfer Duty threshold will increase from the current N\$400,000.00 to N\$600,000.00. Individuals will now be exempted from the payment of

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**SECOND READING: TRANSFER DUTY
AMENDMENT BILL
HON SHIXWAMENI**

Transfer Duty for the first N\$600,000.00 when they acquire residential property. Given the concern and plight of our people concerning high price of residential properties in Namibia, I ask the Honourable Members of this House to this pass the *Transfer Duty Amendment Bill*. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am not going to talk about the *Transfer Duty Amendment Bill* per se. I welcome the three Amendments because they are going to help the low-income groups and the middle class of our country by taking off the burden that they have carried over the years. I would have wished that the limits had been moved up to help more people in this particular regard.

I would like to welcome the approach that the Honourable Minister has taken in the hope that it shall be followed in the future. The Honourable Minister, through the Government Chief Whip passed all these Bills to us yesterday, with the Chief Whip's request that we do not delay these Bills in this Chamber, I think it is a very good approach, of course the former Prime Minister started with that particular approach of passing *Public Bills* even to leaders of the Opposition Parties in time so that we go through it with time and we are able to resolve the Business of passing the Bills, the Laws in this country in a shorter time.

I remain an advocate for shortening the period that we take on the Floor. If you give me a Bill of hundred pages three days before it is tabled, I will have the opportunity of going through the Bill and by the time the Minister is motivating I know the contents of the Bill. I will be able to be on my feet immediately and be able to contribute to the Bill at that point so that the Law-making process will not be a dragged out process at all. We are all Namibians and I do not think that Bills are secret documents that have to wait until the Minister Move them for it to be presented to us.

These are public documents and they should be forthcoming to the Legislators all the time so that we can be able to consult with stakeholders

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**SECOND READING: TRANSFER DUTY
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

and our Constituencies and make valuable contributions to Bills that are presented on the Floor of this House. That is all I wanted to say Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to agree with the point that was raised by the Honourable Member. I will definitely not have a problem in the future to circulate Bills we will be bringing to Parliament. We will be happy to do that. I thank everyone for their support.

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

**SECOND READING: TRANSFER
DUTY AMENDMENT BILL [B.4 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: *Transfer Duty Amendment Bill [B.4 – 2013].*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee Stage?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: TRANSFER DUTY
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Secondment? That means the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will do the usual.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee has to consider the *Transfer Duty Amendment Bill* [B.4 – 2013].

Clauses and *Title* put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported without Amendment.

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

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**THIRD READING: TRANSFER DUTY
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA / HON DR GURIRAB**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I thank the Honourable Members for the expedited manner in which we have passed these three Bills. By doing so, we have made it possible for Namibians to enjoy the concessions that they badly need in the light of the current prevailing situation. I hope that our Colleagues in the other Chamber of Parliament will do as we have done, so that our people will be able to get the relief that these Bills intent to give, as soon as possible. Thank you, very much.

HON SPEAKER: I want to say one or two things in associating myself with what Honourable Shixwameni said, not on this particular aspect that he spoke on, but I made an attempt to have brought a chimney to help us to revisit our Rules and Orders.

However, in the process stories spread that we were somehow trying to undermine the National Assembly by unscrupulously changing the Rules as we have been looking at them and using them all this time. The whole thing was shot down simply on the grounds of either deliberate misunderstanding or deliberate distortion. We were not amending the Constitution. We were not amending the Laws of the Republic of Namibia. We were merely updating the Rules. Simply by bulldozing that ideal, the thing was shelved. It looks absolutely ridiculous, if we had visitors sitting here, they will be wondering why the Speaker should be doing his physical exercises, walking up and down in the Chamber and not joining a gym somewhere. Some of us have been observing how other

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**THIRD READING: TRANSFER DUTY
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR GURIRAB**

Parliaments operate for such a long time. There is room to bring our Parliament far beyond where we are now, there are *goggas* out there that some Comrades are scared of, some of us spent most of our years right in the bellies of the *goggas*. If you are absolutely confident about yourself and if you know your game, why should you always be afraid of people who are always undermining you? They are up to something. I hope that we will sit down, revisit our Rules and this time that we have spent here is the time that we could have fruitfully and productively spent doing good things. This is something that we could have probably done through consultations without us doing all these. I hope next time the Comrades would have slept through the wasted time that we have spent. Let us continue with what is on Paper.

I did not ask anyone to take Floor, the only person who has spoken so far is the Speaker and you are not allowed to raise Point of Orders on the Speaker. If you say something I will give you the Floor.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: It is with regard to the Honourable Speaker's remark that we are now going to continue with what is on the Paper. I would like to raise a point there.

HON SPEAKER: I have not called for anything. I just said that. I should first call for whatever is on the Paper and then you can take the Floor. I ask the Secretary to read the Bill a Third Time.

**THIRD READING: TRANSFER
DUTY AMENDMENT BILL [B. 4 – 2013]**

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

SECRETARY: *Transfer Duty Amendment Bill* [B.4 – 2013].

HON SPEAKER: Alright.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. We have patiently and in the interest of the importance of those Bills accepted a change on the Order Paper, while today is Questions Day. I would kindly ask you to go back to the usual tradition of having the questions which we have patiently been waiting for, for many weeks due to the Budget Debate, answered today as it is a Thursday. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I will do that, but I went through the normal procedure of calling for Motions, Questions and all that. You were not listening.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: It is not a matter of asking questions, but as it is Thursday today, normally before the Order Paper, it would have been the day to answer questions and we have a whole list of them waiting.

HON SPEAKER: You are right! You are absolutely right. When you are right, you are right. Question 2 is the one by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON MOONGO
HON MUTORWA**

QUESTION 02:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am ready to answer the question, but before coming to the actual response, like Honourable Von Wietersheim stated, this response was prepared sometime back. Therefore, during the time of answering it I might have updated it with recent information here and there. In actual fact, we disposed of a Motion on the Drought here yesterday.

Question 1: Global Warming has caused above average rainfall over most parts of Namibia during the last decade. However, it is true that some isolated areas, and we now know that it is not only isolated areas, but also large parts of our country, during this year are affected by less rainfall during our normal rainy season.

Surely the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is aware that some areas around Omatjete and Uis in the Daures Constituency did receive below average rainfall during the previous rainy season, that is 2011/2012. Honourable Speaker, it is also true that constant over grazing and over stocking in some areas including Omatjete also led to severe land degradation, a decrease in carrying capacity and encroachment of invasive bush and weeds.

As a result the current average carrying capacity of Omatjete, as per the information coming from the experts, is above 35 hectares per large stock units. Honourable Moongo, the dry spell in Daures Constituency was already discussed at a meeting in Omatjete on Saturday, 16 February 2013. The Erongo Regional Governor, Honourable Kleophas Mutjavikua, the Daures Regional Councilor, Honourable Katjiku, the Headmen and farmers did participate in that meeting. Of course, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry was also represented. Several more meeting have already taken place all over Erongo, but so also in other

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON MOONGO
HON MUTORWA**

parts of our country to establish the severity of the dry spell.

I must also add here that through the Office of the Prime Minister a preliminary Report was also submitted to the Cabinet on the basis of which Cabinet has already made some decisions and we are now awaiting a comprehensive Report that will again come through the Office of the Prime Minister on the basis of which the Cabinet will again make final decisions in terms of the response to the drought.

Question 2: Honourable Moongo, it is indeed a good idea if members from the Omatjete community could be encouraged to participate in the Resettlement Programme and that for sure is a duty of all of us as leaders, because this could reduce land degradation in that area. However, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry does not have the mandate over resettlement farms, but that is within the mandate of the Ministry over which my neighbour, Honourable !Naruseb is the political head.

The last question; it is difficult to finalize the assessment at this point in time as we are already half way through the rainy season, but as I said even at the level of Cabinet there is already a group that was dispatched through the Office of the Prime Minister under the overall coordination of the Directorate of the Disaster Risk Management, but also composed of different Ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry that have been tasked to compile a comprehensive Report on the drought. When that Report comes, and I think it will come very soon, it will give the current picture of the extent of the drought in our country and appropriate decisions will be taken by the Cabinet.

Honourable Speaker, I think this is the response to the questions by the Honourable Moongo. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Honourable Moongo, are you satisfied? Question 3, is by the same Honourable Member. Does the Honourable Member put the question?

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RT HON DR GEINGOB**

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transport was here. That Question is stood over. Question 4 is by Honourable Shixwameni to the Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 04:

HON SHIXWAMENI: Just a question of advice for the Honourable Speaker. The Right Honourable Prime Minister did provide me with the responses already and I am satisfied with that unless the Right Honourable Prime Minister wants to say something, but he already provided the answers.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Shixwameni, asked a question about consultants; how many are foreign, how many are local and how much is spent? I did a research and I got answers from relevant institutions. Since the questions were not put in the House, I did provide the answers to him.

He came back to the House and thanked me and also said that he was satisfied. However, just briefly since many of us think that the consultants are foreign, I was surprised to find out that we acquired 500 consultants and out of that 400 are local and about 100 are foreign. We spent about N\$900 million on 400 local consultants which means that Namibians have jobs and they earn money, and we only spent about N\$100 million on 100 foreign consultants. That is what happened about the consultants and I did provide the answer already.

The next question was about the political advisors; I said there were 13

Regions, 13 Governors and not all have advisors, but they all have some kind of advisors. The question was whether Government is happy that they are giving proactive advice. I would say yes, but I am not the one who is being advised, therefore, it would be difficult to say. It depends on the Minister and the Governors who are being advised, but if they are not happy they must remove them and if they are keeping them, they are perhaps happy with them. It is a difficult question to answer for me. There is a value judgment involved. I just summarized that because I already gave you the full reply.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Question 5 is by the same Honourable Shixwameni to the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 05:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to request the indulgence of this Honourable Member to allow this Question to stand over. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 6 is by the same Honourable Shixwameni to the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Does the Honorable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 06:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Shixwameni posed seven questions and I will answer them as follows:

Question 1: According to our records we have 145 companies or rights holders, which are registered with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and they are registered with the Ministry of Finance for VAT purposes. However, I would like to advice the Honourable Member to also consult the two Ministries for clarity when it comes to the registration of companies as well as the registration for VAT. We are not the competent Ministry on that.

It is also very important to share with the House that in terms of the *Marine Resources Act* it is not a requirement for a company or for an institution to be registered on the onset when they apply for fishing rights and this is because we want every Namibian to participate in exploiting our natural resources.

Question 2: The Minister in terms of the *Marine Resources Act* is given for the power to call for the Public to apply for fishing rights. The Public is normally informed through the Government Gazette as well as through the media. As mentioned above, the Ministry is not compelled by any Act for an applicant to be a registered company when applying for fishing rights or concessions.

Question 3: At the end of 2012, we had about 98 right holders who still had to pay their dues to the Ministry. However, this has since changed because the seasons are also changing. We start with our fishing season in January every year. For monk and hake, the season starts in May. We will provide you with the exact figures.

Question 4: I do not promote the sale of rights. Allow me to share with the august House that the rights are not transferable as stipulated in the *Marine Resources Act* Section 42(1). The Act stipulates that; “*no rights or exploratory rights may be transferred to any person except with the approval of and subject to the conditions determined by the Minister*”. So far the Minister has not approved any transfers or sale of fishing or exploratory rights.

With regards to quotas, no quotas for any marine resources were sold. However, companies enter into operational agreements with other operating companies with vessels or factories to utilize the allocated quotas. Therefore, if you are given a quota as a right holder, you enter into an operational agreement for that company to catch your fish and pay you for the usage of that quota.

Question 5: Honourable Speaker, I want to inform Honourable Shixwameni that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is based on commercial fisheries and not on individual company holders. With respect to the processing on land in Namibia and export we have a deliberate policy where 70% of the catches are to be processed on land and 30% onshore. This is a deliberate policy to create the necessary jobs for our people. 70% of wet fish will be landed and then it will be processed through our factories.

Question 6: The Fishing Sector is an important contributor to employment in Namibia. It employs about 13,000 people. The Hake Sector remains the biggest employer in the Namibian Fishing Industry. During 2012, employment in the Hake Sector stood at 8,557, Horse Mackerel stood at 1,350, Monk – 438, Tuna and Large Pelagic – 253. I will give you the breakdowns.

Question 7: We have not fixed any minimum wage for the Fishing Industry, because the *Labour Act* promotes collective bargaining with Unions, that are recognized to negotiate for wages. It is therefore, a very good thing where people interact and understand the dynamics of the economy and come to a common understanding in terms of concluding agreements. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON VON
WIETERSHEIM
HON KAAPANDA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Question 9 is by Honourable Von Wietersheim to the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 09:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Yes, Honourable Speaker, in a similar way, I wish to ask the Honourable Member to allow his Question to stand over until next time so that we can prepare his answers. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 10 is by Honourable Shixwameni to the Honourable Minister of Education. Does the Honourable Members put the Question?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, as with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, I would like to put the Question but the Colleagues are not here, but they also provided me with written responses.

HON SPEAKER: Question 16 is by Honourable Shixwameni to the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. Does the Honourable Member put the Question? Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

QUESTION 16:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I put the Question.

**HON MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very, Honourable Speaker. I would like to respond to Question 16 and I think it will also cover Question 15 since they are both the same.

Question 1: The following places are still using the bucket toilet system:

- 3 towns, 6 villages and 4 settlements;
- a total of 263 households in the Otjozondjupa Region; and
- Kalkveld settlements, the Government is in the process of addressing this problem.

Question 2: The Government, through the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development has been pursuing strategies as the implementation of Programmes by proclaiming towns, villages and settlements in all the Regions of the country so that the majority of our people can enjoy social amenities and services.

If you look at what we have provided to the Regions in the last Budget, for instance, most of them were given N\$20 million to build toilets. This amount built over 1,500 toilets. In Kunene, the Council constructed 102 with and their allocated Budget was N\$14 million. The Kavango Regional Council constructed 1,314 toilets on an allocated Budget of N\$20 million.

Furthermore, Government constructed the following ventilated pit latrines:

- 71 in Nepembe;

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON KAURA
HON DR KAWANA**

- 89 in Eenhana; and
- 89 in Ondobe.

Sometimes some Regions or towns do not use the money they receive to build toilet facilities. People at these towns and settlements are the ones neglecting to put up structures, the Ministry allocate money to them, but then they fail to use it for the intended purposes. For example, they would use this money to settle their water and electricity bills. We always try to address this issue in our Budget, which remains a challenge to all of us. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Question 17 is the one by Honourable Kaura to the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General. Does the Honourable Member put the Question? Does the Honourable Minister wish to Reply?

QUESTION 17:

HON KAURA: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Senior Member is correct by saying of late we are experiencing a trend whereby some of our citizens are taking the Law into their own hands. It is correct to say that per *Article Six (6)* of the Constitution; “*no Court can hand down a death penalty*” as that will not be a competent sentence. However, Honourable Speaker, as per the call of our President, that call was also made not a long time ago here in Parliament by way of a State of the Nation Address. It is the duty

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HON DR KAWANA**

of each and every Law-abiding citizen and more so our leaders, including the leaders in this august House, to preach peace and the spirit of obeying and complying with our Laws, particularly when it comes to crimes. Political leaders, religious leaders and community leaders including all the citizens, as I said, we were called upon to make sure we live in peace, order and stability in our country.

We must assist the Police whenever possible to make sure we reduce crime in our country. As soon as we go on recess, we have a Programme to tour the country to acquaint ourselves with the state of affairs with the administration of Justice, particularly at the Lower Court and Community Court levels. When we come back we will then be able to reflect and make some Amendments to the existing legislation where necessary and to strengthen the administration of Justice in our country. If there is no need of coming up with new Laws or Amendments of existing Laws, we will be able to put administrative measures in place in order to make sure our citizens live in peace and stability as per the provisions of our Constitution, the Laws of our Republic and the policies of our leaders, including political leaders, religious leaders and community leaders. This is a project for all of us wherever we go, especially during recess whenever we address meetings we must preach peace and stability and make sure that we address Gender-Based Violence and domestic violence. Honourable Speaker, I so submit.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. If Honourable Kaura is satisfied, that does it for the Questions. Question 12, I am reminded was addressed to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

QUESTION 12:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON MOONGO
HON MUTORWA**

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I apologise that I was outside the Chamber when this Question came up. I took the proactive step to come to this Chamber and gave the comprehensive factual Report concerning this matter by way of a Ministerial Statement, which I am sure is reflected in our Hansard, Honourable Speaker. I see here, although asked by Honourable Moongo, all the questions reflected on the Order Paper here are exactly the same questions that were addressed in the Ministerial Statement. I, therefore, think there is no need for a repetition as far as this matter is concerned. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE STUDY TOUR TO GERMANY**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Study Tour to Germany.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Amathila Move that the Report be considered?

HON AMATHILA: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT – STUDY TOUR
TO GERMANY
HON AMATHILA**

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has the Floor.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope the time will allow me to share with you the Report on this particular visit. The Standing Rules and Order Committee of Parliament through its Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration has undertaken several activities as part of its quest to understand the issue of renewable energy and its use in Namibia, especially with the view to make Namibia's citizens participate in the production of energy.

This will help with the problem of poverty in the country and income disparities between its citizens. Amongst the activities undertaken in this regard, the Committee interacted with NamPower and ECB to understand the strategies and policies *vis-a-vis* future challenges and visited the Ruacana Hydro Power Station, the Tsumkwe (Hybrid Solar PV Plant and Diesel Project) as well as the Ohorongo Cement Factory and its use of biomass to generate electricity.

Following these visits the Committee decided to undertake a study visit to Germany that took place from the 13th to the 20th of October 2012 with the view to learn and acquire a better understanding of how Germany pursued the development, usage and management of renewable energies which led to them being one of the leading players in the implementation of renewable energy, especially with regard to legislation.

The visit was made possible through the financial assistance by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS). Namibia is endowed with abundant resources of renewable energy (solar, wind, biomass and hydro) which constitute a comparative advantage that a country can use to its long-term social economic benefits, such as creation of new local jobs, adding local values and the decrease in currency outflows via import of electricity. However, such resources with the exception of hydro are not fully utilised.

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HON AMATHILA**

Namibia currently faces a huge challenge with our National Electricity Sector ranging from the increasing energy prices, the inability of the currently installed generation capacity to meet the rising demand for electricity in the country and to top it all, our neighbouring countries on whom we rely for the supply of electricity may not likely supply us with all the electricity we need in the future.

Namibia is said to be facing about 100 MW electricity deficit and by the year 2015 the deficit will further rise to 300 MW should there be no new investment in the energy generation infrastructure. Namibia depends mainly on the Ruacana Hydro Power Plant for most of the country's energy and the rest is imported from South Africa (ESKOM), Zambia (ZESCO), Zimbabwe (ZESA), which are also faced with the crises of meeting energy demands of their own.

At the moment, Namibia spends about N\$1 billion to import electricity from all those countries including Mozambique. ESKOM, which is the main supplier of electricity to Namibia is also experiencing capacity generation problems due to outstripping supply. Unless a deliberate decision is taken, Namibia's economy will be negatively affected by the shortage of electricity which will have major negative effects on investments, especially in the Mining Sector, the creation of jobs and Vision 2030.

South Africa is planning to produce about 7,700 Mega Watts of electricity from renewable energy sources in 10 years time. This is a very ambitious position that South Africa has taken because they are looking to the future to solve problems, which will affect all countries in Southern Africa.

In his State of the Nation Address on 3 April 2013, His Excellency, the President Hifikepunye Pohamba said: *“Namibia must take advantage of the development in the Renewable Energy Sector to promote security of power supply in the country”*. He further called upon us to harness our abundant sunlight for the development of our country and find a solution to fill the inadequate supply of electricity that we are going to face.

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HON AMATHILA**

The Namibian economy is further faced with other challenges including an alarming unemployment rate put at 37% today. The majority of the people are unable to afford basic services such as electricity and water due to the ever-increasing prices of such services. This Report reflects on the interactions between Namibia's Members of Parliament, political decision makers, the development institutions and various energy experts in Germany. It documents their experiences, their success stories and challenges regarding the development of renewable energy.

The Report further includes important recommendations for approval and consideration by the Parliament. The Committee believes that if certain towns could be assisted to buy solar panels to produce electricity from the sun and wind and be allowed to sell it to NamPower and the REDS at certain guaranteed prices, whereas during night time they could use NamPower electricity, such a model could yield lots of benefits to the citizens including job creation and income generation. Namibia could further become energy self-sufficient and even more, possibly an energy exporter through such a model.

The purpose of the visit was to report to the Members of Parliament implementable results and lessons learned from the study visit. The Committee believes that for the country's potential and renewable energy resources to be exploited more aggressively, investment and market conditions have to be made more attractive with target incentives to attract investment in the Electricity Supply Sector.

Furthermore, the persisting barriers to the development of renewable energy and the low level of competition in the electricity market highlighting various studies done by other local institutions implied that there is a need for policy intervention. The purpose of a policy should be to govern the approach of renewable energy and energy efficiency market in Namibia by facilitating fair market access, return on investment for all electricity producers, quality of supply, standards, market support structures, incentives and legal issues.

The finding of the Committee was that the Report highlights major

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observations of the Committee and the lessons learned during the visits to various renewable energy projects and discussions held with several political decision makers, developing institutions and environmental experts with a view to gain a better understanding of Germany's experience with the development of renewable energy. The following are summaries of major findings of the Report:

The delegation learned that Germany success story has been accredited to its German Feed in Tariffs Law, which is a policy mechanism, designed to accelerate investment in renewable energy technologies, reduce external costs, and increase the security of energy supply. The mechanism provides long term contracts to renewable energy producers typically based on the cost of generations of each technology.

Furthermore, as a Committee we have learned that Germany's situation is different from Namibia in that almost everybody is connected to the grid. For Namibia a decentralised system will have to be introduced to allow all citizens and interested parties to produce and store energy.

Here the delegation also learned about some of the main principles of the *German Renewable Energy Act* which include:

- Investment promotion through a guaranteed feed-in tariffs and connection requirements every kilowatt-hour that is generated from a renewable energy facility receives a fixed feed-in tariff. The network operators must purchase and feed in this electricity into a grid preferentially to the electricity generated by the conventional sources like nuclear power, coal and gas power stations.
- Renewable energy plant operators receive a 20-year technology specific guaranteed payment for the electricity they produce. This Act allows Small and Medium-sized Enterprises new access to the electricity market along with private land owners, so anyone who produces renewable energy can sell it for a 20-year fixed price that is calculated in such a way that it justifies investment and make them

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bankable.

- Germany's Renewable Energy Industry employs more than 350,000 people in Germany today (up from 30,000 people in the year 1998) and it is home to several world market leading companies in the wind, solar industry thanks to its conducive market. Germany's feed-in tariffs have been accredited for generating more competition and many more local sustainable jobs. The feed-in tariffs provide financial certainty; it is more cost-effective and less bureaucratic. Due to its source the *German Renewable Energy Act* could serve as one of the appropriate models to be followed by Namibia in developing similar Laws.

Recommendations:

The following are some of the recommendations that the Report brings forward:

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders has agreed that the Committee on Economics, Natural Resources proposes organising an information sharing session for all Members of Parliament on renewable energy sources and on how Namibia can be assisted to become renewable energy producers. The objective of this initiative is to inform the Members of Parliament on the various renewable energy sources, their potential as well as how Namibia can capitalise on them. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: This is your baby my namesake, is there a way in which you can summarise within the next three minutes what you want us to do?

HON AMATHILA: Just give me two minutes; I think I will be done. It is expected that various local experts and other important stakeholders will

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be invited to share information in this regard so that when Namibia makes its Law, at least it is based on more information and better understanding.

- The Report further recommends that in the mean time the Ministry of Mines and Energy with the ECB should consider conducting a comprehensive study on possible means of involving community members, especially the unemployed and participating in different renewable energy projects for income-generating purposes. The study should further explore different financing mechanisms (Public and Private) that can be used for the community members.
- Another important recommendation of the Report is that the Ministry of Mines and Energy should consider developing a renewable energy policy.
- A possible legal framework for renewable energies in Namibia.
- The Committee shares a strong view that a certain town be chosen as a pilot project where a solar and wind park could be created with full participation of residents, to demonstrate the generation of energy from renewable sources by the residents.

This is roughly fast read recommendation, which I hope the Members of the House will come to appreciate and I plead with the Members that we can have that information session to provide more information on this issue. This is actually a technology of the future that Namibia cannot miss and I ask your support for this recommendation. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I wholeheartedly agree. It is indeed a technology for our future, given a country that we are. I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House as of today until 11 June 2013 at 14:30.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. It is now

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ADJOURMENT

an opportune time that this House adjourns so that the Honourable Members who are farmers can go and seeing that the country is going through a very serious situation of drought, please go back to your farms, try to sell what you have to salvage what you have otherwise you will lose it all. I Move that this House now adjourns until 11 June 2013 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:46 UNTIL 2013.06.11 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
11 JUNE 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

WELCOMING REMARKS

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I welcome you all back. I trust that you had a fruitful and extended commitment of taking Parliament to the people and we have come back to the Chamber to continue the Business for which the people elected us some time back. Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees?

**TABLING: REPORT ON FAMILIARISATION
VISIT TO CAPRIVI AND KAVANGO REGIONS**

HON AMATHILA: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I lay upon the Table for discussions on the 18th of June 2013, the Report of the Familiarisation Visit to the Caprivi and Kavango Regions from the 6th - 16th May 2012 by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 18:

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 20th of June; I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following questions:

1. Who is responsible for the maintenance and renovation of the Traditional Authority offices around the country?
 2. If it is the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, why are the offices both in the central, north-eastern and far north-eastern Regions in such a dilapidated state?
 3. When does the Ministry plan, if they are the ones responsible, to renovate the offices?
-

QUESTION 19:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on 20 June 2013 I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development:

It was reported in the newspaper that the Minister told Traditional Leaders about the threat of tribalism in the country.

1. Would the Minister inform us as to how serious is the treat of tribalism, ethnicity and regionalism in the country?
2. Does Government have a programme to control the threat of tribalism and ethnic conflict breaking out in the country? In which areas are

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

there disputes of the various ethnic and tribal groups and is there a plan for Government to settle these disputes and how?

3. Is Government considering putting a moratorium on the further recognition of new tribal or ethnic groups and new Headmen and women?

QUESTION 20:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on 20 June 2013; I shall as the Minister of Finance the following questions:

1. Can the Minister tell the Nation as to how much TIPEEG funds each Region's Municipal Councils received during this Financial Year?
2. Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the funds town by town and per Region?
3. Has there been any improvement in the implementation of TIPEEG projects around the country and if not, why not?

QUESTION 21:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on Thursday, 20 June 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance the following:

Since TCL, the Tsumeb Corporation closed down in 1996/1997 there have been continued demonstrations by its former employees about their pension money.

1. Can the Minister update the Nation on what exactly happened to the pension money that is legitimately due to the former TCL workers?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

2. What exactly happened to the money and is there hope that the money will be recovered and paid to the former workers?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notices of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

QUESTION 22:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 20th of June 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry:

1. Can the Minister confirm or deny that two Mangetti Associations exist; one for SWAPO and the other for RDP, in order to serve Parties' political interests and make a mockery of the farmers' interests in the north?
2. Is the struggle between the leaders of the above Associations influenced by Parties in order to enrich Parties and enrich themselves with TIPEEG funds?
3. Is it not high time that the Minister advice the two Mangetti Associations to divorce from Political Parties in order to work accurately and professionally in order to fully represent the interests of all farmers, as everybody knows that politics is a dirty game?

HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member table the Questions? Notice of Motions? Minister of Finance.

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA / HON ESAU / HON
MUTORWA

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 12th of June, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the *Public Accounts and Auditors Act* of 1951 so as to extend the period of tenure of office of members of the Public Accountants and Auditors Board and to provide for incidental matters. I Move so.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 18th of June 2013, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Ratifies the Convention on the Benguela Current Commission. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 18 June 2013, I shall Move –

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
RT HON DR GEINGOB**

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the management, protection, development, use and conservation of water resources; to provide for the regulation and monitoring of water services; to repeal and Amend certain laws and to provide for incidental matters. I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Motions? Before we proceed to the Order Paper, the Honourable Prime Minister wants to say something.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, welcome back.

Several days ago the heinous actions of a group of racist criminals in the town of Gobabis took the entire Nation back to a dark past from which we have all so dearly wanted to emerge. It seems there are some people living within our borders who are intent on continuing the sinister legacy of racial discrimination and brutal violence of the past. These are among a large number of so-called Namibian citizens who look upon our Policy of National Reconciliation as a policy of weakness.

The Policy of National Reconciliation was adopted to heal a Nation which was emerging from a history of discrimination and to avoid acts of revenge. Therefore, it was not adopted out of weakness. We, therefore, condemn in the strongest terms the racially motivated and cowardly attack on Mr Levi Katiire and promise that no stone will be left unturned until we uproot and expose each and everyone of these racist elements who participated in this act of barbarism.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
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There are those who still think they can establish pseudo-republics and homelands on Namibian territory. It is high time that Government awakes these bigotting individuals from their absurd dream and remind them that the Apartheid republic is now nothing but a relic of their psychosis.

Let me just quote a statement made and sent to the President by somebody: “Furthermore, on the same day, Tuesday, 4 June 2013, a certain Mr Pretorius, a magistrate that our Court on a work permit and of South African nationality, referred to the community members as follows: “*Die goed moet met traangas gegooi word en verwyder word.*” For those who do not understand Afrikaans, “*the things*”, referring to our people now, “*the things should be sprayed with teargas and be removed.*” Let me remind them, Namibia is a free and Sovereign State and any individual who cannot comprehend that after 23 years, should do him or herself a favour and pack and go. If you cannot pack fast enough, we will assist you. Make no mistake, we will help you to pack so that you can go where you belong. The days are numbered for undesirable establishments like Buffalo Bar and similar places which are scattered all over the country. These establishments should be closed down for good. The right of entry reserved should be removed. We cannot allow private establishments in public areas.

Therefore, Comrade Attorney-General, I urge you to look at ways of closing down these places and conduct a thorough investigation of the incident which transpired in Gobabis. We need to identify the nationality of these perpetrators and if they are not Namibians, they should be shipped off immediately.

I am aware that there is a criminal investigation which is on-going, but we must ensure that a place such as Buffalo Bar is permanently shut down. We do not want criminals here. We are committed to the process of nation-building and creating a society in which all people are treated with dignity and respect, whether they are black or white. Therefore, this statement should not be viewed as an attack on white people, but it is important that the white community join with us in identifying and isolating these criminal elements so that they can be removed from our society. If you keep quiet, you may be misunderstood. So, join us and I

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAVETUNA**

praise those few white people who joined others in demonstration to condemn this evil act. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, fellow-Namibians, the last few days have been overwhelmed by the news about the resignation of our recently appointed national coach and I would hereby like to assure our beloved Nation that the NFA and relevant authorities are hard at work to come to the bottom of the reasons for this abrupt and prompt resignation of this coach and as soon as possible, as they complete the process, the Nation will be informed accordingly.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this afternoon, on behalf of my Minister, I have the distinct honour to present the Senior National Football Team, the Brave Warriors, to this august House. They are sitting in the gallery. They are here on the eve of their World Cup qualifying match against Nigeria, the current African champion. This match is crucial to us, not only because of the fact that we revive our qualification aspiration if the victory is achieved, but one which is important for the restoration of our national pride as a football-playing Nation and for our Nation's position on the FIFA ranking. I asked for the team to visit this Honourable House to draw pride and aspiration from the Members of Parliament and for them to appreciate the support that this House has for the national team in Namibia.

This visit was organised to engage Parliamentarians and, through Parliament, our Nation to rally behind the team for the match tomorrow. As all here can see, this team consists of young people and in fact, a new team indeed that is being built for the future and they need our support as they start their international career representing our country. We do this, fully convinced that our players deserve the support of this House, its

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recognition and appreciation in order for them to reach higher heights in the game tomorrow against Nigeria and in the future.

We hope that this visit will give the players a lot of pride as official ambassadors and the warriors of the Land of the Brave. On your desk you will find complementary T-shirts that were sponsored by the NFA with the assistance of the Namibia Breweries for you to wear tomorrow when you are going to shout and witness how these Brave Warriors are going to demise the Super Eagles on our soil. Those who want to take along your partners, kindly communicate this to the NFA.

In conclusion, I would like to quote a famous writer: “*One is known for what you do repeatedly.*” Our guys are known for winning, they are going to win tomorrow. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I assure them that we will show up and pray and dance to ensure victory and to help the standing of the Brave Warriors in the consideration of World Cup qualifier status. We are with you, be Brave Warriors and make our Nation proud. You have our support one hundred plus percent. You are allowed to wear the T-shirt until tea break, but you are not allowed to undress in the Chamber. Honourable Tjihuiko.

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HON TJIHUIKO: I want to ask the Deputy Minister a small question. Deputy Minister, I read in the newspaper that our current coach has resigned. The first one has resigned in the same manner and ran to Zimbabwe, the second one has resigned, but you are going to play against Nigeria, the African champion, who is being coached by a local Nigerian, a professional. Do you not think it is perhaps now time for Namibia to

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appoint a local coach and give that local coach time to build a team that will make all of us proud, rather than having another foreign coach for two days and then start again. *“Local is lekker”*.

HON SPEAKER: That is a general concern. Even on my way coming in I received questions to clarify that matter. Deputy Minister.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Speaker, I would not like to comment on the issue of the appointment, because the process has taken place and a suitable candidate has been identified. The Honourable Member is welcome to advise the Ministry, but currently I just want to solicit support for this team to win tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the First Order.

REPORT ON STUDY TOUR TO GERMANY

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Study Tour to Germany.

HON SPEAKER: When the House was adjourned on Thursday, 25 April 2013, the Question before the Assembly was a Report by Honourable Ben Amathila. Any further discussion? Does Honourable

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**REPORT ON STUDY TOUR TO GERMANY
HON AMATHILA**

Amathila wish to reply?

HON AMATHILA: Comrade Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the House for its support as silence obviously means consent, that they are very much in support of the Report and its recommendations. We as Parliamentarians and a country have a big challenge to see that elements of the Report are implemented in order to alleviate the challenges our country is experiencing in terms energy provision and I once again thank you for your support.

HON SPEAKER: I put the Question, that the Report be adopted. Any Objection? Agreed to. The First Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Ulena. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, seeing that we were in a very long recess and, therefore, I was not quite sure that this would be an item on the agenda, I Move that the discussion of this Motion be deferred until Tuesday, 25 June 2013.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objection? Agreed to. The Second Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Shixwameni. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, our Congress has just passed some resolutions relating to education, therefore, I request that the Motion be withdrawn.

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HON SPEAKER: The Motion is withdrawn. The Third Notice of a Motion is by Honourable Shixwameni. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the introduction of the Motion be deferred until Tuesday, next week.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objection? Consideration of the Motion is deferred until Tuesday next week. The Fourth Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Seeing that the Minister is not in the country, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until next Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objection? Agreed to. I ask the Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, I Move that this House now adjourns until tomorrow, 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objection? The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:30 UNTIL 2013.06.12 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
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The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: I call the Business of the House to order. Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Deputy Prime Minister.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I have a very brief Ministerial Statement to make, which is unique in its nature and content. I am going to read a statement and then I will add something at the end.

“Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, today, 9 May 2013, received the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun Award from the Emperor of Japan, His Majesty Emperor Akihito. The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun is a Japanese Order established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji of Japan. The Order was the first National Decoration awarded by the Japanese Government, created on 10 April 1875 by decree of the Council of State. The Order is awarded to those who have made distinguished achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, advancement in their field, development in social occupational welfare or preservation of the environment.

I this regard, Speaker Gurirab have been awarded this award because of his contribution to the strengthening of the relationship between Japan

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HON NYAMU**

and Namibia and to the promotion of Japanese diplomacy regarding Africa.”

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I took this opportunity without broadly consulting, to express our congratulations as Members of this Honourable House on this award. We know that this is not the first award you have received, nationally and internationally you have been recognised in different ways. We want to urge you to do more in order to receive more recognitions. However, please accept our congratulations on this one. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Deputy Prime Minister. Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, I would like to pose a question to the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister in respect of the statement he has just made.

Is it normal practice for a Member of Government or Parliament to be known to promote the policy of foreign Nations and is it acceptable to do so? I need to be advised, because in the Statement he mentioned, to my surprise, the Emperor of Japan, who is known mainly for previous wars. I want to know whether it is in order for us to be given awards for promoting the policies of other Nations?

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, I was informed that Honourable Nyamu has served as an Ambassador of SWAPO Party. It is stated here that he made a contribution in strengthening the relations between Japan and Namibia and the promotion of Japanese diplomacy regarding Africa. Comrade Gurirab has served at the UN for a long time, he was the longest serving Minister of Foreign

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RT HON DR GEINGOB / HON DR GURIRAB

Affairs. What does one expect from a Minister of Foreign Affairs both nationally and continentally in terms of the Continental Integration Policy? Indeed, that is to promote relations between our country and other countries and the continent's relations with other continents and countries. There is nothing wrong with that. I cannot believe that this is a question which comes from a former diplomatic practitioner.

Of course, I believe you will follow suit and congratulate Comrade Gurirab rather than being unnecessarily negative. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: It is good to have great minds thinking alike. My Colleague made the Statement, I was just delayed because I was searching for something. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: All accepted in good faith. I do not want to defend myself, but Honourable Nyamu probably knows as well as anybody else in this House that at no stage during our association has anybody accused me for promoting the Japanese foreign policy and the Japanese themselves would be embarrassed if they were alleged to have said that about me. Yes, I have probably visited Japan more than any of my Colleagues for entirely different reasons. I went there first as part of a delegation which pays annual pilgrimage to Japan, visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki to tell the world that what happened to Japan in 1945 should never ever happen to other Nations. They do that annually.

I went back as part of the delegation of the United Nations Council for Namibia. I went back for the inauguration of the current Emperor before the Independence of Namibia in 1989. I was the leader of the Namibian delegation for the Inaugural Conference of TICAD (TICAD-I), which is

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now in its Fifth Round and I went back for the Third ICAT Conference. The current Prime Minister went for the Second TICAD Conference and I accompanied President Nujoma for the Third ICAD Conference. Therefore, it is for those things, not for promoting Japanese policies. Actually, I would have said something like that but in a different way. The Japanese were the world's largest economy between the seventies and the eighties, the prize that the United States relinquished in favour of China. Therefore, they know me and it is a great honour personally for me to be the first Namibian and first-ever African. That would even include the Africans in Diaspora. So much for that, let us go back to work and thank you very much.

Any further Ministerial Statements? Minister of Defence.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this distinguished House, after the 2013/2014 presentation of the Defence Budget and the Discussion in this august House, I felt obliged to respond and shed more light on some of the questions and concerns raised by some Honourable Members.

During the Defence Budget Debate I promised to investigate some of the issues raised by Honourable Members and the answers to some of the questions and concerns are as follows:

Concern number one: *“The general welfare of NDF soldiers, especially the salaries of private soldiers, was identified as very low after the grading process.”*

The Job Evaluation and Grading and Reward Management Policy results were recently distributed to the Ministry of Defence by the Office of the Prime Minister. The overall purpose of this Job Evaluation, Grading and

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Reward Management Policy is to attract, retain and motivate staff members in sufficient quantities to enable the provision of quality services to the Republic. Guided by these aims, the Ministry of Defence Management thoroughly studied the results of the grading and after a careful consideration, it became apparent that some job categories were under-graded as a result of the job evaluation, notably the notches of private soldiers. To this end, an appeal was forwarded to the Office of the Prime Minister for submission to the Approval Panel and the Ministry is still awaiting the outcome of that appeal.

Number two: *“Promotion in the Defence Force.”*

Annual promotions were temporarily put on hold due to budgetary constraints, which was as a result of a general salary adjustment granted to all staff members with effect from 1st April 2012. It is worth noting that when the salary adjustments were agreed upon, it was not accompanied by budgetary provision from the Ministry of Finance. As a result, the Ministry of Defence had to source funds from its own Budget to cater for the salary adjustment. At the moment, however, the Ministry of Defence’s Directorate of Human Resources has started to consolidate the pending promotions of about two thousand members, which would be implemented during this Budget Year.

Number three: *“Accommodation for NDF members.”*

As I informed this august House during the Defence Budget presentation in April this year, the Namibian Defence Force had halted the recruitment process for two years, that is 2012 and 2013, so that efforts can be concentrated on building and renovation of accommodation facilities for NDF members. To this end, about 2,100 personnel have been provided with suitable accommodation through renovation of barracks, the construction of new prefabs and conventional barracks across the country in the 2012/2013 Financial Year. The process of providing decent accommodation for NDF members is still in progress and the Ministry of Defence is happy with this achievement, which can further be corroborated by the Parliamentary Committee on International Affairs, Defence and Security, headed by Honourable Paulus Kapia, since they

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have visited NDF units and gathered evidence in this regard.

Number four: *“Housing and Transport Allowances.”*

The purpose of these allowances is to assist staff members with expenses relating to accommodation and travelling to and from place of residence and place of work.

Conditions for payments and cessation of such allowances are clearly stipulated in the relevant Public Service Management Circulars and are brought to the attention of all Ministry of Defence and Namibian Defence Force members. To this effect, the Ministry is not aware of any allowances being paid to staff members who do not qualify for such allowances as we rely on the Services/Formations and Directorates to feed us with such information.

On the issue of salaries being stopped without members’ consent, again the Ministry is not aware of such cases. Thus it will be highly appreciated if such information can be submitted to us for further investigation and appropriate action.

With regard to the Home Owner’s Scheme for Staff Members (HOSSM), such payments will only be stopped if the main member does not live and/or does not have any dependants living in such a house. Once again, we would like to encourage the Ministry of Defence and Namibian Defence Force’s members to approach our Directorate of Human Resources for clarity and/or assistance which they may require regarding housing and transport allowances.

Number five: *“Does the Ministry of Defence have a concept of defining the defence of a large territory of Namibia with a small sparsely located population?”*

Honourable Members, in my Budget Statement I argued that the first line of defence of the Land of the Brave was the politicians, especially the Parliamentarians and if they hold firm that line of defence, any potential war against Namibia will be won without firing a single shot.

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The existence of the NDF is provided for in our Constitution, Article 115(1) for the Defence of the Territory and National Interest of our country, while Article 115(2) provides that the President shall be the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force and shall have **all the powers** and exercise **all the functions** necessary for that purpose.

Premised on the above, this august House passed the *Defence Act* 2001 (Act 1 of 2002) which regulates the administration and employment of the Force for the defence of our country. In terms of the *Defence Act*, Chapter V from Section (13) to (26), the Minister of Defence is empowered to establish Military Commands, areas, headquarters, arms of services, formations, units and personnel mustering. The Minister of Defence is also empowered to establish a Reserve Force as provided for under Chapter V, Section 19(1)(2) and (3) of the Act.

In 2011, this august House has also approved our Defence Policy which outlines its aims and objectives as being to support, strengthen and defend the cherished ideals and aspirations of our Nation of maintaining a stable, peaceful and vibrant society which co-exists peacefully with all its neighbours. Similarly, our Defence Policy complements and supports our Foreign Policy. Hence Defence and Security of neighbouring countries become a shared responsibility amongst southern African Nations. In our region we have a SADC Mutual Defence Pact which this august House has ratified. Furthermore, there are other mechanisms that help in a collective security arrangement, such as the Inter-State Defence and Security Cooperation at regional multilateral levels, while on bilateral level Namibia has established Joint Commissions on Defence and Security which meet on an annual basis to discuss and resolve issues of defence and security nature between neighbours to cultivate mutual trust.

In addition, the mission of the Ministry of Defence clearly outlines the posture of our Defence Force as being to operate a cost-effective, professional and highly mobile national defence system that will safeguard Namibia's territory, its inhabitants and national interest and contribute to national development and world peace.

Lastly, the NDF has a Concept of Operations which details how to defend

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our country. All these concepts, systems and instruments are put in place taking into consideration that Namibia is a large territory with a small sparsely located population and are, therefore, there to ensure the defence of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Namibia.

Number six: *“Strengthening Defence Industry.”*

Honourable Members, in 1998, the Ministry of Defence acquired the Windhoek MachinenFabrik, a private company responsible for the manufacturing of defence equipment, in particular Anti-Personnel Carriers (APC), such as Casspirs and the like. In the same year the August 26 (Pty) Ltd was created to spearhead the Defence Industry.

The August 26 (Pty) Ltd had its Turnaround Strategy approved by the Cabinet Committee on Defence, Security and International Relations and has now diversified its operations into the following subsidiaries:

- **Windhoek MachinenFabrik (WMF):** responsible for the manufacturing of APCs, vehicles and related equipment;
- **SATCOM:** which is more in the area of electronics, including design and manufacturing of military radio equipment;
- **Shoes Factor:** located in Okahandja which is the main shoe supplier to the Namibian Defence Force and other segments of the market;
- **Garment Factory:** which is engaging in the production of uniforms, not only for the NDF, but also for other uniformed services as well;
- **Construction Industry and,**
- **Agro Tour Development Initiative:** a company which is involved in farming.

Furthermore, August 26 (Pty) Ltd is busy establishing a Logistic and Supply Chain company.

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Likewise, the Ministry of Defence is engaging August 26 (Pty) Ltd in various research projects, such as the modification of weapon systems, vehicles and radio communication systems. Through research we are empowering the company and, at the same time, creating employment for many Namibians. We are, therefore, encouraging other Government Agencies, Ministries and Offices and Parliamentarians to make use of the services of August 26 (Pty) Ltd and in this way support the growth of our Defence Industries and create employment opportunities for our unemployed youth.

We are developing the Defence Industry with a view that it will contribute to the economic growth of the Nation in order to sustain its defence, which is a very expensive public good that we should all support in earnest.

Number seven: *“Assistance to civil authorities.”*

The Defence Policy, which is approved by this august House, Section 72, provides that the secondary roles of the NDF include assisting civil power and Local Authorities in internal support operations when required. The Ministry of Defence Customer Service Charter outlines how the assistance from the Defence Force could be acquired.

In the most instances the NDF provides assistance in emergency situations, such as floods, drought relief distribution and the fight against veldfires. However, the Ministry has recognised that our Defence Force is ill-equipped when it comes to fire-fighting equipment and when called to assist, they in most cases do not possess the right equipment and are exposed to danger.

The Ministry is strategizing on how best to equip all the military bases in the country with appropriate mobile fire-fighting equipment. However, we recognise that this exercise will not be cheap, but are convinced through prioritising of our needs that we will succeed in the near future. We are also considering joint efforts and proper coordination with other Offices, Ministries and Agencies, such as the Office of the Prime Minister which is responsible for the Disaster Risk Management Unit to address this challenge.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHIDINWA**

Honourable Members, in conclusion, I wish to conclude by most sincerely thanking the Members who contributed to the discussion of the Defence Budget 2013/2014 in this august House.

We are encouraged by all your positive inputs and have taken serious note of your concerns and undertake to address them in our day-to-day work as we strive to build the capacity of our Defence Force to be able to respond effectively to the defence challenges of the motherland.

We know that we have the valuable support of this august House and the Ministry of Finance and will our best to live up to your expectations and not to disappoint you and the Namibian Nation and people when the NDF is called to duty. I thank you for your attention.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker and congratulations. I rise to inform the august House that on the 16th of June 2013, Namibia will join the rest of the African Continent in commemorating the Day of the African Child under the theme, *“Preventing all Forms of Harmful Traditional Practices Against Children: Our Collective Responsibility.”*

In Namibia this day will be commemorated on Saturday, the 15th of June 2013 at the After-School Centre in Grys Blok, Katutura. The Day of the African Child was institutionalised in 1991 in memory of the Soweto massacre of children and the young people who took to the streets on the 16th of June 1976 to protest against the Apartheid regime. The Day of the African Child will be celebrated at a time when Namibia is striving to reinforce actions and pursue political commitments to accelerate the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as

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HON NGHIDINWA**

the National Agenda for Children.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, with the support of UNICEF, submitted the Initial and Periodic Country Reports on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and also just finalised the Initial and Periodic Report for the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

In holding the 2013 commemorations focusing on harmful traditional practices against children, the recognition of the growing problem of children subjected to all forms of harmful traditional practices, particularly noting the gross deprivation of their basic human rights. Although the cases of harmful traditional practices have not been well-researched in Namibia, it is important to highlight the negative consequences it has on various rights of the children, including violence and economic exploitation, as stated in Article 11 on the girl and the boy child of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

Some of the harmful traditional practices noted in Namibia are such as child labour as cattle herders, shebeen attendants, farm workers; sexual harassment, such as teenage pregnancies, early marriages, rape and inheritance issues, just to mention a few.

The commemoration of this day will provide an opportunity for policy-makers, Civil Society and other stakeholders to share good practices and to adopt an integrated approach in preventing and responding to harmful traditional practices against children and be reminded of the need to improve the welfare of children in all other aspects of their lives.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, in partnership with the Office of the First Lady, UNICEF and the Finnish Embassy and in collaboration with Civil Society and children, will seize the opportunity of the Day of the African Child celebrations to work as a springboard for raising awareness on the urgent need for effective prevention and response to all forms of violence against children and adolescents, including harmful traditional practices which are clearly another form of violence against children, as I

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HON BEZUIDENHOUDT**

mentioned earlier.

The Ministry, together with the Office of the First Lady and other stakeholders, have made arrangements for some activities to precede the commemoration, featuring news articles on both electronic and print media, highlighting the plight of children, including harmful traditional practices on children in Namibia and the challenges facing them, such as violence, abuse and neglect.

It is against this background that I am extending an invitation to all Honourable Members of Parliament to attend this historic event that will be graced by the presence of Her Excellency Madam Penexupifo Pohamba, the First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, as the main speaker at the After-School Centre in Grys Blok, Katutura. This event will be preceded by a high-level child rights advocacy dinner at NamPower Convention Centre on the 14th of June 2013 between 18:00 and 21:00. Let us all attend this event to honour the lives and rights of all Namibian children including the call for urgent passing of long-awaited legislation affecting children, the *Child Care and the Protection Bill* which will be tabled soon in this Parliament.

For your information, the 16th of June is a very special day for the Namibian people because one of the prominent persons was born on that day. Guess, who is that person? With these few words, I thank you very much and I am looking forward to see you at the event.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Questions to the Minister?

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Honourable Speaker, I would just like to ask a direct question to the Minister with regard to the children, whether the Minister can inform us as to when we can expect the *Children's Bill* which would, hopefully, incorporate all those abuses and prohibit them, to be tabled in Parliament? Last year I attended the function in the restaurant

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**RESPONSE TO MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHIDINWA**

where the promise was made that the Bill will be submitted imminently. I feel it is an important piece of legislation within our legal framework to protect the children. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, I do not have the precise date for the tabling of the Bill, however, it will be tabled in due course. I thank you.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I have a question directly to the Minister with regard to the events of the 16th of June. I would like to thank the Minister for informing the House and inviting us to attend. However, I would like to know how widely this event is advertised at schools and amongst the people to whom this kind of day should be very significant. I am asking because recently I spoke to 16 and 15-year olds, just testing them to see what they know and I mentioned the Day of the African Child and they did not know anything about it. They do not know anything about Hector Pieterse, they did not know anything about children being forced to be taught Afrikaans. So, I would like to know whether you are advertising the day and its significance and meaning amongst the school children or only amongst the adults. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, the Programme is given to different schools and I think even tonight there is a Programme giving that information regarding the 16th of June. Many of the speakers, apart from the keynote address speaker, are children themselves.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON KAVETUNA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kavetuna.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,
from the onset let me express my appreciation on behalf of the team which
was here yesterday for the warmly and overwhelmingly welcoming them.
It actually served to boost their morale at the last minute.

I hereby would like to inform the Honourable MPs about the logistics at
the Sam Nujoma Stadium this evening. The kick-off time for the match is
not 18:00 as stated yesterday, but 20:00, and you are expected to be seated
by 19:00. No tickets will be given to the MPs, you will be recognised and
given your seats on your arrival at the stadium. Please enter at the VIP
gates and you will be recognised. Please keep your promise, be there and
support the Brave Warriors.

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

**FIRST READING: PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
AND AUDITORS AMENDMENT BILL [B.6 – 2013]**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move the Motion.

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

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**PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS
AMENDMENT BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

SECRETARY: *Public Accountants and Auditors Amendment Bill* [B.6 – 2013].

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

**SECOND READING: PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
AND AUDITORS AMENDMENT BILL**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Objections? None. Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to introduce the Amendment to the *Public Accountants and Auditors Act*.

The *Public Accountants and Auditors Act* of 1951 governs, amongst others, the registration and regulation of public accountants and auditors in Namibia. The functions under the Act are fulfilled by the Public Accountants and Auditors Board. The Act limits the period of appointment of members of the Board to only one year. This means that the members of the Board have to be appointed and/or reappointed every year. This procedure is not only very cumbersome but also leads to lack of continuity in important work that the Board is required to carry out.

Considering that the Act is very old, the Ministry of Finance intends to

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**PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS
AMENDMENT BILL
HON NYAMU**

completely transform and modernise it by drafting a new piece of legislation. The Ministry will, in doing so, require the Board to make input given the fact that the Board consists of professional members of the accounting and auditing fraternity. In order for the Board to effectively assist the Ministry with the transformation and modernisation of the Act, the extension of the term of office of the members of the Board has become necessary. Therefore, the Bill seeks to extend the term of office from one year to three years.

The Bill also makes provision that the current members of the Board shall be deemed to be appointed for a period of three years.

I ask the Honourable Members of the House to pass this *Amendment Bill*. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for motivating the Bill. Any further discussion? Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: The Honourable Minister just mentioned how old this Bill is. What has prevented the Minister from drawing up a completely new Bill and not to amend this old Bill from South Africa?

HON SPEAKER: Interesting question. Honourable Minister. Any further discussion? If not, then I revert the Floor back to the Minister.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I explained in my motivation that indeed the Ministry is engaged with drafting a new Law to replace this Act, but we feel that the Board

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ADJOURNMENT

members have an important contribution to make to this process and we do not want the members of the Board to be going and coming while we are in this process. We want a Board that would assist us through the whole process of drafting a new Law and having it passed and that is why, I came today with the Amendment, only to allow us to retain these Board members for as long and then we will come with a new Bill that completely overhauls the current Law. Thank you.

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

SECRETARY: *Public Accountants and Auditors Amendment Bill [B.6 – 2013].*

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, the 18th of June 2013, at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40 UNTIL 18 JUNE 2013 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
18 JUNE 2013**

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 or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:
TELECOM NAMIBIA 2011/2012**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of Telecom Namibia for the year 2011/2012.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions?

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 23:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

Thursday, 27th June 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development:

1. Is the Honourable Minister aware or does he ignore the persistent sewerage leakage in almost all houses of NDC countrywide, and Oshakati in particular?
2. When will the Minister allocate special funds in order to fix or replace the pipes to avoid the horrible smell?
3. Can the Minister explain as to why the ministry failed dismally and it took so long to repair the pipes?

QUESTION 24:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, 27th June 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry:

Recently I congratulated the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for having made it possible for water to reach many Constituencies countrywide. However, I have the following questions to the Minister:

1. Can the Minister inform this House whether NamWater abides by the terms and conditions of work of its casual employees and whether the employees get sick leave, compassionate leave and whether they are registered at Social Security, etcetera?
2. What prompted NamWater to pay its casual workers ten to fifteen days after month-end?
3. It is high time that the Ministry upholds restorative justice and implement retreat policy of the Government, that NamWater's casual employees are underpaid and that their time and patience has run out as they can no longer tolerate the meagre salaries while other employees are remunerated fairly and earn a decent salary, paid as per

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Casual Circular of 2004.

4. Is it true that casual wages were cut without any consultation or agreement signed and as a result the employees now receive peanuts? For example, some were brought down from N\$100 to N\$50, etcetera.
5. When is NamWater going to employ casual workers on a permanent basis, especially those who worked for more than eight years? When is NamWater going to refund or pay back those casual workers' right amount of salaries which they have not been receiving since May when they signed contracts with the utility?

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that leave of absence, due to other urgent official business, be granted to the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, until the 25th of June 2013. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**COMMITTEE STAGE: PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
AND AUDITORS AMENDMENT BILL [B.6 – 2013]**

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**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON
FAMILIARISATION VISIT TO CAPRIVI & KAVANGO
HON DR AMWEELO**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage – *Public Accountants and Auditors Amendment Bill* [B.6 – 2013].

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Finance is engaged in an important meeting and this item is deferred. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON FAMILIARISATION
VISIT TO CAPRIVI AND KAVANGO**

SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Familiarisation Visit to the Caprivi and Kavango.

HON DR AMWEELO: Comrade Deputy Speaker, on behalf of Honourable Amathila I would like to postpone this Report until the 25th of June.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The First Notice of Motion is by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration. We have been informed that she is on leave until the 25th of June and this Motion is deferred. The Second Notice of Motion is by the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion?

RATIFICATION: BENGUELA CURRENT CONVENTION

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BENGUELA CURRENT CONVENTION
HON ESAU

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: I
Move the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any Objection?
Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, I stand before this House seeking the ratification of the Benguela Current Convention, a treaty between Angola, Namibia and South Africa that was signed by the three countries on the 18th of March 2013 in the city of Benguela, Angola. I was honoured to have been delegated by the Cabinet to sign the Convention on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

I must emphasise from the onset that this is a multi-sectoral Convention involving four Ministries, namely, Environment and Tourism, Mines and Energy, Works and Transport and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. In the Ministerial Communiqué released at the Signing Ceremony, parties have committed themselves to promptly ratify the Convention and implement all its provisions.

This Convention is about the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) and will be implemented through the Benguela Current Commission (BCC). The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem means the large marine ecosystem associated with the Benguela Current and characterised by distinct bathymetry, hydrography, productivity and tropically dependent populations within the area of application, as set out in Article 3 of the Convention. The BCLME is an important centre of marine biodiversity and marine food production and one of the most productive ocean areas in the world, supports an important global reservoir of biodiversity and biomass of zooplankton, fish, sea birds and marine mammals. Near-shore and off-shore sediments hold rich deposits

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of precious minerals, particularly diamonds, as well as huge oil fields and gas reserves. The natural beauties of the coastal Regions, many which are still pristine by global standards, have also enabled the development of significant tourism in some areas.

Taking the BCLME as a whole, there are major transboundary problems that require to be tackled at regional level. These problems include decline in commercial-shared fish stocks, uncertain ecosystem status and yields, inadequate capacity to assess ecosystems, deterioration of water quality, habitat destruction and alteration, loss of biodiversity and harmful algal blooms. It is, therefore, logical for the three coastal countries of the BCLME to have a legal framework for cooperation and sustainable development of the BCLME region. This Convention is, therefore, aimed to fill the gap and further our vision to the benefit of our countries and our people.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, before the Independence of Namibia, the ocean governance under colonial regime was characterised by utter fragmentation, lawlessness and extremely deficient management. In the 1960s, throughout the 70s and 80s, our fishing grounds were jammed by hundreds of distant water fishing fleets from dozens of countries, mostly Europeans. These fleets plundered our resources, caused substantial depletion, notably of hake, pilchard and horse mackerel. Our rebuilding programmes implemented at Independence have resulted in significant improvement of the hake fish stocks, and the horse mackerel is in a healthy state. Since decolonisation of the region, the three countries have recognised the unique character of the BCLME, the richness and complexity of its biological and physical functioning, its significance for the socio-economic development and for the well-being of the people depending on it and the threats to it. Thus, our management approach includes consultation and close collaboration with Angola and South Africa in all areas pertinent to sustainable development of the BCLME.

Allow me to brief this august House on the glorious history and successful collaboration on ocean governance with Angola and South Africa that span over the last two decades. Realising that we share the same

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ecosystem and cognisant that the living marine resources are not confined to political boundaries, the three countries were convinced of the need to take concrete actions collectively to ensure effective long-term transboundary cooperation and the integrated sustainable management and the protection of our marine resources. Two major initiatives in marine scientific research, fisheries management and environmental monitoring of the BCLME have been undertaken by Angola, Namibia and South Africa.

The first regional initiative was the Benguela Environment Fisheries Interaction and Training Programme (BENEFIT) that was launched in 1997 with two objectives, namely; a) improve the knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of commercially important fish stocks, their environment and linkages between the environmental processes and the stocks dynamics and b) building appropriate human and material capacity for marine science and technology in the countries bordering the BCLME.

Several joint regional projects and scientific surveys have been undertaken, generating a number of publications and reports and improved understanding of the resources and the environment. Training courses in marine sciences have been held and significantly capacitated marine research institutions in the three countries. Regional working groups on living marine resources, environment and training and capacity-building were formed and scientists from Angola, Namibia and South Africa investigated complex ecosystems collaboratively and provided best scientific advice to the managers in the three countries. This initiative was financially supported by Norway and Germany.

Inspired by the success of the BENEFIT Programme, Angola, Namibia and South Africa jointly requested support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and received a grant in 1998 to develop a comprehensive project for the sustainable integrated management of the BCLME. The BCLME Programme aimed to develop enabling management mechanisms to address a broad spectrum of environmental issues, including diamond mining, offshore oil and gas exploration and production, coastal development and modification, environmental variability and ecosystem

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change, habitat loss and degradation, pollution and loss of biodiversity in addition to fisheries. Socio-economic factors played an overarching role.

About 80 project contracts worth several million dollars, focusing mainly on baseline information that is required to inform management were awarded and carried out in close cooperation with Government Ministries, universities, fishing, oil, gas and Marine Diamond Mining Industries in the region. Management recommendations from those projects have been used by the three countries for improved management decisions.

Both the BENEFIT and the BCLME Programmes were historical watersheds in joint cooperation and management in the region, instrumental in building goodwill and trust and ushered the spirit of cooperation at all levels. They have created a strong desire for working together in solving common problems in the Benguela region for sharing expertise, for building capacity and for developing a collective approach to ensure the sustainability of the Benguela ecosystem. By the wishes of the three countries, both Programmes merged into the Benguela Current Commission under an Interim Agreement by 2007. The Interim Agreement has since been in force until it will be replaced by this Convention, once ratified by the three countries.

The objective of the Convention is to promote a coordinated regional approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, to provide economic, environmental and social benefits. It is in conformity with the international and regional instruments that Namibia has signed and covers areas such as conservation and management of living marine resources, abatement of pollution, safety at sea, protection of the environment, maintenance of biological integrity and minimisation of the risk of long-term or irreversible effects by human activities.

Due to multi-sectoral nature of the Convention, it will be implemented through an ecosystem approach to ocean governance. This means that instead of managing living and non-living resources at the national level, the countries are working together at the regional level to tackle problems

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that affect the marine environment in the region.

The policy-making body of the Commission is the Ministerial Conference that comprises of Ministers responsible for Mines and Energy, Environment and Tourism, Works and Transport and Fisheries and Marine Resources. The Commissioners will provide strategic guidance to the Secretariat and other structures of the BCC. The Ecosystem Advisory Committee will provide the best available scientific information, advice and recommendations to the three countries on sustainable management, conservation and protection of the BCLME. Several regional committees and working groups will address specific issues related to the implementation of the Convention.

With the enactment of this Convention, our collaboration will be entrenched in six principles contained in Article 4 and these are:

1. Cooperation, collaboration and sovereign equality;
2. Sustainable use and management of the marine resources;
3. Precautionary approach;
4. Prevention, avoidance and mitigation of pollution;
5. Polluter pays principle; and
6. Protection of biodiversity in the marine environment and conservation of the marine ecosystem

The core mandate of the Commission, as enshrined in Article 8 of the Convention, include among others that the parties shall agree, where necessary, on measures to prevent, abate and minimise pollution caused by or resulting from dumping from ships, exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil and land-based sources.

The Convention will enable the parties to agree on, where necessary,

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conservation and management measures concerning transboundary marine resources and the environment. Further, the Convention will allow parties to agree, as appropriate, on participatory rights, such as harvest levels and sharing arrangements concerning transboundary fishery resources. Equally important, this Convention will enable the three countries to promote and support research programmes related to the transboundary marine resources and the environment.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, at this point I feel obliged to underscore tremendous benefits of the Benguela Current Commission to Namibia.

1. As a country in the middle of the BCLME, our shared fisheries resources will be sustainably utilised by collaborating with our neighbours in the north and in the south. BCC will serve as a vehicle for science to governance – using scientific data for joint management planning of shared commercially and economically important fisheries resources such as horse mackerel and sardines shared by Angola and Namibia and, Cape hakes shared by Namibia and South Africa;
2. Information and data-sharing on the environment, particularly in signals for the Benguela Ninos and climate change are of crucially importance so that Namibia can stand together with its neighbours to mitigate and adapt. The Convention is intended to facilitate data and information-sharing;
3. With the Secretariat located at the National Marine Information and Research Centre in Swakopmund, the Namibia scientists will gain valuable experience and technical know-how from visiting regional and international scholars and thus sharpen their careers and gaining comparative advantage in their professions and in return provide cutting-edge management advice to the Government on the resources and the environment;
4. As a host of this Inter-governmental Organisation (IGO) most meetings of the Commission will be held in Namibia, thereby putting Namibia in the spotlight.

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HON DR AMWEELO**

5. Overwhelming goods and services for the Commission will be procured from the Namibian sources, thereby supporting our local economy.
6. Namibians have comparative advantage in terms of employment at the Secretariat. General staff will be recruited among the Namibians and professional staff will attract more Namibians.
7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will serve a noble role as the Depository of the Convention,
8. Namibia will benefit from various training and skills development interventions by the BCC Training and Capacity Building Programmes.
9. Through collaboration in research, especially transboundary scientific cruises, resource-use effectiveness and efficiencies will be achieved.

In conclusion, let me reiterate the importance and the urgency for ratifying this Convention by this august House. The Convention provides a legal framework for cooperation on the BCLME – a region endowed with abundant natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable. We have to ensure that our generation shall not foreclose future generations from accruing benefits from the same ecosystem. The surest way to do this is to implement the Convention that I am now submitting for ratification. I thank you for your attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any discussion? Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much. I agree with the Honourable Minister that the Convention needs to be ratified very urgently, but since this is a very important Convention, I would like to

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make my contribution tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion?

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think this is a very good Convention, although we are very unhappy about the other Conventions which we have previously ratified, such as the one on security which provided for criminals hiding in Angola to be returned to Namibia. Is this a similar Convention we are expected to endorse now? I thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Lucks.

HON LUCKS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just have a small question regarding the Convention and it relates to the practical issues of the cooperation between the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and other Ministries, for example Mining. In Namibia, we have the very controversial marine phosphate mining issue and there is huge opposition to that currently. I would like the Minister to explain how this will work in practical terms. If the Ministry of Mines and Energy issues a prospecting licence to any mining company and under this Convention that mining activity is considered to be harmful to the environment, how will the cooperation between the two Ministries work in practical terms to stop the issuing of such prospecting or mining licences and to make sure that companies that want to mine in our waters do not do that in a way that is detrimental to the environment. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? This item is

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deferred to tomorrow.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Deputy Speaker, since there is no substantive item except the one for tomorrow, it would be advisable that we adjourn until Tuesday, next week.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Tuesday, next week.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that this House adjourns until Tuesday, the 25th of June 2013.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:24 UNTIL 2013.06.25 AT 14:30

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION 1:

Hon Von Wietersheim asked the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services-

1. Does the Honourable Minister recall my Motion titled, “*Providing for Namibian Care-providers*” of which I gave Notice on the first day of the Sixth Session, starting in September last year, well in time for Budget considerations with regard to the over twenty thousand Caregivers providing Voluntary Health Care and support all over Namibia?
2. Although the Honourable Minister delayed his comments on that Motion on Namibian Caregivers to the very last day of the Sixth Session, in fact to the last minute so that eventually time did not permit him to respond properly, I would like to know which immediate steps the Honourable Minister felt compelled to undertake in the light of the information provided by my Motion.
3. In particular the Motion called for the implementation as a matter of urgency of the National Policy on Community-Based Health Care of 2008 in order to be operational countrywide not later than end of March 2013. Can the Honourable Minister report on progress so far or does he feel that the policy dating from 2008 has still not matured enough to be implemented?
4. The Motion called for negotiations with experienced and proven organisations in the field of Community and Home-Based Care programmes to continue managing and supervising the delivery of CBHC programmes as well as being responsible for monitoring and reporting. Can the Honourable Minister inform the Assembly about the progress in this matter?
5. The Motion called for the retention of the services of those dedicated and proven Voluntary Care-Providers under all circumstances and to afford them the recognition due, for their selfless service. Has the Honourable Minister taken this request which originates from the caregivers and their organisations themselves seriously and can he

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

report progress on this issue to the Assembly?

6. Lastly, the Motion called for urgent identification of budgetary requirements for the implementation of all the above and for timely submission of the Ministry's request for respective Budget Allocations in order to be fully operational from the end of March 2013. In the light of the timely tabling of the Motion with regard to the Budget Cycle and the critical importance of the nationwide service of Namibian Caregivers, can the Honourable Minister report on satisfactory progress on this matter?

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I would like to thank Honourable Anton Von Wietersheim for showing interest in the matter at hand and also in the activities of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. However, I only wish to correct in his question where he alleges that I may have deliberately delayed responding, I do not think the Minister has anything to do with the Order Paper.

Community-Based Health Care is a strategy for achieving the goal of primary health care within the overall objective of national health.

Clinics, health centres and mobile outreach services as well as a number of specific Community-Based Health Interventions are the Primary Health Care services directly involved with communities, and as such they are part of Community-Based Health Care.

In addition, many Community-Based Organisations (CBO), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), Faith-Based Organisations, Private Sector Organisations and practitioners and Community-Based Health Practitioners actively complement the work of the Government in an effort to provide the much-needed support to community members, especially in the area of health and social services.

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HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis have placed a high burden on communities, which has prompted many community members to involve themselves in voluntary work. This work is very vital to the Namibian Nation and is strongly supported by Government. CBHC, is a comprehensive and integrated community programme involving health, agricultural and economic activities undertaken by individuals, families and groups within the community. Communities identify and prioritise their own problems and needs and mobilise resources to address this.

CBHC involves a number of issues, including informing, educating and training on prevailing health problems in communities and the methods of preventing and controlling them. Promotion of proper nutrition, maternal and child care, immunisation against the major infectious diseases, prevention and control of local endemic diseases, such as aerial diseases, acute respiratory infection and malaria; reproductive health services, including family planning and the prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections, with particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS, amongst many others.

Closely linked to community health outcomes, are the provision of other basic needs, improved living conditions, adequate supply of safe water and basic sanitation. In this regard my Ministry has made significant progress since 2005.

The assessment on CBHC programmes and community volunteers was conducted in 2005 and the findings were shared and discussed during the National Conference on Volunteers in December 2006 and informed all future processes. It was during that conference in March 2008, that recommendations were then made to accelerate the finalisation of the National CBHC Policy. In the same year an assessment on Community Home-Based Care kits, logistic management system was done and health extension workers concept paper drawn up the following year.

During 2010, the guidelines for implementing the National CBHC Policy and National CHBC Standards were finalised and printed, followed by the development of the National CHBC Curriculum during 2011. To date the CHBC Kits, Logistic Management SOP Manual, had been finalised and awaits printing, while the tender to train CHBC volunteers in all the

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thirteen Regions is awarded to Aid Care Trust.

On Question 3, *“Can the Honourable Minister report on progress so far or does he feel the policy dating from 2008 has still not yet matured enough to be implemented”*, I have the following:

My Ministry ensures that CBHC Policy, guidelines and other directives are in place to provide directions and guidance on the implementation of CBHC services. The CBHC Policy was launched, as I said earlier, during 2008. The implementing guidelines and CBHC Standards were finalised in 2010 and launched in 2011. To date, all these documents have been distributed in Regions and implementing partners were oriented on the same during September 2012, that is last year, in Tsumeb, Oshikoto Region.

At the oriented workshop one of the ways forwards was for Regions to go and conduct their mini orientation workshops in order to ensure that all CBHC stakeholders in each Region are properly oriented for implementation.

On Question 4, *“Can the Honourable Minister inform the Assembly on progress on continuous provision of CBHC services by experienced organisations?”*

The Ministry of Health and Social Services relies extensively on the Community Home-Based Care Organisations when it comes to the provision of care beyond the health facilities. Community Home-Based Care was originally focused on our HIV/AIDS patients but has now been expanded to include TB cases, people with disabilities and others. Our position is that all the service organisations operating this programme need continuous funding to continue their good work. To date such funding is mainly sourced from donors and especially from the US Government through PEPFAR and the Global Fund. However, my Ministry continues to provide the necessary coordination, such as supporting Regions in conducting quarterly Home-Based Care forums, provision of supplies of HBC kits and refills and HBC training, that is the manual and the funding to both organisations and volunteers alike.

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Further, my Ministry is very cognisant of the fact that donor support for the programme is declining gradually. Also, our support for the programme is equally declining gradually. Also the Global Fund Programme has experienced a number of challenges during the past year, given that the Global Fund in Geneva has not been funded very well during the past two years. Our intention is to sustain the services offered currently through Community Home-Based Care Organisations. This brings me to the new cadre and that is the Health Extension Worker Programme.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services, in its 2008-2013 Strategic Plan committed itself to formalise the fragmented CBHC services. That is how we consider going for this new cadre, the Health Extension Workers, with support of course and learning from what works best.

In addition to the existing CBHC-givers, a proposal was developed by the Ministry to establish a new staff cadre which will be an extended arm of the Ministry, reaching out to the communities, namely, the Health Extension Workers. This cadre is expected to be on the staff establishment of Government and to receive a salary. They will be trained and expected to work in their own communities under the supervision of the nearest health facility or clinic. On our Health Extension Workers, a pilot project was launched on the 12th of April 2012, in Opuwo District, Kunene Region. The first group of forty Health Extension Workers were recruited in Opuwo and have undergone six months training. The graduation for this group took place during October 2012. To date, the Kunene Health Extension Worker Pilot Project is being supported by our development partners, especially the US Government and UNICEF. The whole aim is to roll out in all the thirteen Regions. The pilot project is currently being evaluated. Subsequently the programme will be rolled out to all thirteen Regions once the required funds are made available in the MTEF for the 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 Fiscal Years.

On the Retention and Recognition of Dedicated Volunteers, I have the following to say:

My Ministry recognises and supports the work done by the Community Health Care Providers. Most of my Ministry's health facilities are already

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providing the replenishment of HBC kits on a monthly basis to over seven thousand active HBC providers countrywide. In addition, we provide them with transport reimbursements when they attend training and meetings. I commend the incentives provided by NGOs, CBOs and FBOs that manage the majority of volunteers in this country, of which most organisations fall under the umbrella of the National Association of Namibian Aid Service Organisation (NANASO).

The development of the CHBC training curriculum and standardisation of CHBC services require a lot of documentation, reporting and feedback. As a result the criteria and the characteristics of the volunteers are set as follows:

A mature male or female aged 18 years upwards (unless it is a youth programme), respected by the community, a resident of the area, able to speak a local language, able to read and write and able to hold confidential information. The other prerequisites are commitment to service providers with the aim of making a positive change to the overall well-being of the community in a sustainable manner, faithfulness to the commitment, trustworthiness, willingness to attend positively to vulnerable groups, recognition of the structures, norms, values and taboos of the community, willingness to work according to the structure of the community, accountability and responsibility. These criteria were also set to accommodate young people and to allow them to follow a career in health and to benefit from job opportunities. Elderly volunteers are retained and recognised until such time they transfer skills to the young ones. However, others have not come on board because they do not want to volunteer and claim that the programme provides too little monetary incentives.

On the last one, Budgetary Implications Under the CBHC Policy: Honourable Speaker, Sir, the implementation of the CBHC Policy is a multi-sectoral task, ranging from the Ministry of Health and Social Services to other Line Ministries, Regional Councils to Traditional Authorities. My Ministry has already been implementing this Policy in the provision of HBC kits and refills, as I illustrated earlier, launching of CBHC guidelines and national CBHC standards, establishment of the CBHC regional forums and the finalisation of the National CBHC

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Training Manuals.

There has been a significant progress and improvement in our communities' health status due to the contribution made by the community volunteers, especially in the field of HIV and TB. Some of our community members whom we thought may not survive, are now up and well and are contributing to the economy of this country, thanks to all the efforts of CBHC givers who visit and encourage some of these members of our communities.

Having said that, I now wish to urge all our CBHC partners, Line Ministries and Regional and Local Authorities to operationalize the National CBHC Policy by incorporating the policy directives in their operational plans and allocating financial resources on activities and start implementing as they work on a daily basis.

I trust I answered the Honourable Member. Thank you.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wish to thank the Minister for this really exemplary answer on my many questions. If he could comment on two little issues which go to the core of the whole question, the Health Extension Workers are, of course, a new category of Public Servants, I would say. I think the Voluntary Care-Providers are in a way afraid that they are being pushed out of their calling, if I may call it like that. You explained that they may be taken into the service, but some may not have those qualifications.

The other is that you mentioned that the HBC kits are distributed on a regular basis to over 7,000 Caregivers. That was one of the problems that came out of the field, that these kits had not been distributed for a long time and I wanted to have confirmation that that process is actually being re-implemented. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank

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you very much indeed. The challenge that Government has is that we do not have a budgetary provision that can continue supporting volunteers, it is just an allowance and in most cases Government relies heavily on the development partners, in our case, as I said, PEPFAR and the Global Fund. However, as you can see, the challenge is already forthcoming, the funds are declining.

As I said, you will learn from good practice that works elsewhere and I can give the example of Ethiopia where it is working, Malawi where it is working and Zambia. What these countries have done, is to incorporate this fragmented voluntarism into one, hence, coming up with the Health Extension Workers.

I have had an opportunity, Honourable Speaker, in January to visit Ethiopia and went into the field. They work right up to the village level. You will find some women and in fact, it is spearheaded by women in Ethiopia and they do not demand anything in that country. They only have some basics, but when you compare with ours who are getting some N\$500, which Ethiopians are not getting and henceforth they came up with this Health Extension Worker where Government is now obligated to pay them. In Ethiopia they are training them up to a year, but we decided to go for six months and it is working. It is the same with Zambia and Malawi.

Regarding the kits, I checked with my officials and the information that I received on the ground, is that the kits are being distributed. You may be correct that in some situations it may not be the same, but I think there is a need to revisit and make a follow-up as to whether the information is correct. Thank you.

QUESTION 2:

Hon Moongo asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry-

It is a natural fact that global warming has caused floods and continues causing drought in many parts of Namibia.

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1. Can the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry agree or deny that the communities of Omatjete Constituency in the Erongo Region have serious concerns on how their livestock will survive through the dry season?
2. It is high time that I propose to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to allocate all the resettlement farms in the Erongo Region and extend it to other resettlement farms in other Regions countrywide to be used for grazing purposes this year.
3. I would also like to find out from the Honourable Minister as to how many Regions and Constituencies are currently affected and devastated by the heavy drought in the country in terms of livestock grazing and human consumption?
4. I would also like to find out what practical plan does the Minister have in place to cater for and prevent extreme hunger and poverty in Namibia this year.

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am ready to answer the question, but before coming to the actual response, like Honourable Von Wietersheim stated, this response was prepared sometime back. Therefore, during the time of answering it I might have updated it with recent information here and there. In actual fact, we disposed of a Motion on the Drought here yesterday.

Question 1: Global Warming has caused above average rainfall over most parts of Namibia during the last decade. However, it is true that some isolated areas, and we now know that it is not only isolated areas, but also large parts of our country, during this year are affected by less rainfall during our normal rainy season.

Surely the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is aware that some

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areas around Omatjete and Uis in the Daures Constituency did receive below average rainfall during the previous rainy season, that is 2011/2012. Honourable Speaker, it is also true that constant over grazing and over stocking in some areas including Omatjete also led to severe land degradation, a decrease in carrying capacity and encroachment of invasive bush and weeds.

As a result the current average carrying capacity of Omatjete, as per the information coming from the experts, is above 35 hectares per large stock units. Honourable Moongo, the dry spell in Daures Constituency was already discussed at a meeting in Omatjete on Saturday, 16 February 2013. The Erongo Regional Governor, Honourable Kleophas Mutjavikua, the Daures Regional Councilor, Honourable Katjiku, the Headmen and farmers did participate in that meeting. Of course, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry was also represented. Several more meeting have already taken place all over Erongo, but so also in other parts of our country to establish the severity of the dry spell.

I must also add here that through the Office of the Prime Minister a preliminary Report was also submitted to the Cabinet on the basis of which Cabinet has already made some decisions and we are now awaiting a comprehensive Report that will again come through the Office of the Prime Minister on the basis of which the Cabinet will again make final decisions in terms of the response to the drought.

Question 2: Honourable Moongo, it is indeed a good idea if members from the Omatjete community could be encouraged to participate in the Resettlement Programme and that for sure is a duty of all us as leaders, because this could reduce land degradation in that area. However, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry does not have the mandate over resettlement farms, but that is within the mandate of the Ministry over which my neighbour, Honourable !Naruseb is the political head.

The last question; it is difficult to finalize the assessment at this point in time as we are already half way through the rainy season, but as I said even at the level of Cabinet there is already a group that was dispatched through the Office of the Prime Minister under the overall coordination of the Directorate of the Disaster Risk Management, but also composed of

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different Ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry that have been tasked to compile a comprehensive Report on the drought. When that Report comes, and I think it will come very soon, it will give the current picture of the extent of the drought in our country and appropriate decisions will be taken by the Cabinet.

Honourable Speaker, I think this is the response to the questions by the Honourable Moongo. Thank you.

QUESTION 03:

Hon Moongo asked the Minister of Works and Transport-

It is a fact that it was a very good idea that the Government provided some tractors to veterans in order to plough the communal land for the poor disadvantaged communities.

1. Can the Minister of Works and Transport agree or deny that Namibia does not have mechanical experts for the different types of tractors provided by the Ministry of Veterans Affairs?
2. If yes, when is the Ministry going to start training local mechanics so that they are also able to repair these foreign types of tractors as part of the Black Empowerment Programme?
3. Is it not high time that the Ministry of Works and Transport can request the programme of Black Empowerment from the Ministry concerned so that they can provide loans to the existing local garages in order to expand their garages in order to accommodate enough new spare parts for those many Government tractors?

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you,

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Honourable Speaker. Honourable Moongo said that it was a very good idea that the Government provided some tractors to the veterans in order to plough the communal land for the disadvantaged poor communities and in his first question asked whether the Minister could confirm or deny that Namibia does not have mechanical experts for the different types of tractors provided by the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and if so, when is the Ministry going to start training local mechanics so that they will be able to repair these foreign types of tractors as part of the Black Empowerment Programme. Lastly, the Honourable Member asked whether it is not high time that the Ministry can request the Programme of Black Empowerment from the Ministry concerned so that they can provide loans to the existing local garages in order to expand and accommodate new spare parts for the abovementioned tractors.

Honourable Speaker, I consulted with the Minister of Veterans Affairs and the types of tractors which we provided are the Holland tractors which can be repaired by many garages in Namibia, which also have representatives looking after these tractors.

It is true that we do not have mechanical experts in our country, but even the televisions we see here, the watches, Toyotas, Land Cruisers, Mercedes Benz, even bicycles were not produced here in Namibia but we know how to use it. Therefore, it is not an issue to be only isolated to the tractors but it is a reality in our country. Fortunately we have representatives attending to these tractors wherever they are. The owners can only phone, they will come and repair those tractors or even do the services.

We only need to encourage our young people and our educational institutions so that young people can be trained in all technical fields, not only for the tractors, so that we can go ahead with the development of our country. I thank you very much.

QUESTION 4:

Hon Shixwameni asked the Right Honourable Prime Minister:

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1. How much was spent on consultancy fees at the various Ministries, Agencies and Offices over the past three years?
2. Of the whole total amount, how much was spent on foreign consultants and how much on local consultants?
3. How many political and other advisors and consultants do we currently have in Government?
4. How qualitative and productive are the political advisors to the Ministers and Governors and is Government satisfied with their service and advice?

Furthermore, with the rain falling in drops and drips during the current rainy season and farmers feeling the worst of drought, has Government sent out teams to assess the situation around the country as relating to a possible drought situation in the country? If so, does Government have a plan on the table to deal ably and efficiently with a possible drought throughout the country?

ANSWER

HON SHIXWAMENI: Just a matter of advice to the Honourable Speaker. The Right Honourable Prime Minister did provide me with the responses already and I am satisfied with that unless the Right Honourable Prime Minister wants to say something, but he already provided the answers.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Shixwameni, asked a question about consultants; how many are foreign, how many are local and how much is spent? I did a research and I got answers from relevant institutions. Since the questions were not put in the House, I did provide the answers to him.

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He came back to the House and thanked me and also said that he was satisfied. However, just briefly since many of us think that the consultants are foreign, I was surprised to find out that we acquired 500 consultants and out of that 400 are local and about 100 are foreign. We spent about N\$900 million on 400 local consultants which means that Namibians have jobs and they earn money, and we only spent about N\$100 million on 100 foreign consultants. That is what happened about the consultants and I already did provide the answer.

The next question was about the political advisors; I said there were 13 Regions, 13 Governors and not all have advisors, but they all have some kind of advisors. The question was whether Government is happy that they are giving proactive advice. I would say yes, but I am not the one who is being advised, therefore, it would be difficult to say. It depends on the Minister and the Governors who are being advised, but if they are not happy they must remove them and if they are keeping them, they are perhaps happy with them. It is a difficult question to answer for me. There is a valid judgment involved. I just summarized that because I already gave you the full reply.

QUESTION 5:

Hon Shixwameni asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology-

1. Given the patchy reach of cellular phone networks around the country and in particular in the rural areas, what is Government and in particular MTC's plan to roll out the cellular network to cover the whole of Namibia?
2. When will all language radio services be receivable in all parts of Namibia?
3. Are there problems why the cellular services and the various language radio services cannot be expanded to cover the whole area map of Namibia?

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4. If there are, can the Minister state what the problems are and what monetary value they need to be resolved?

ANSWER - STOOD OVER

QUESTION 6:

Hon Shixwameni asked the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources-

1. How many fishing companies are registered with the Ministry of Trade and Industry as either private limited companies or Close Corporations and for VAT purposes with the Ministry of Finance?
2. Why and how does the Minister give fishing rights and concessions to non-registered fishing companies, as has been reported in various newspapers?
3. How many companies have not paid their fees and levies or are in arrears of paying their levies to the State and what plans does Government have to get the fees paid or have their licences or quotas rescinded or them even blacklisted?
4. How many of the companies given fishing rights and quotas have sold their rights or quotas to foreign companies?
5. How many are handling their total allowable catch or processing on land in Namibia and how many are just catching and taking the fish abroad?
6. How many workers are currently employed in the Fishing Industry and how many have been retrenched over the past two (2) years?
7. Is there a minimum wage in the Fishing Industry and if not, why not?

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ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Shixwameni posed seven questions and I will answer them as follows:

Question 1: According to our records we have 145 companies or rights holders, which are registered with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and they are registered with the Ministry of Finance for VAT purposes. However, I would like to advice the Honourable Member to also consult the two Ministries for clarity when it comes to the registration of companies as well as the registration for VAT. We are not the competent Ministry on that.

It is also very important to share with the House that in terms of the *Marine Resources Act* it is not a requirement for a company or for an institution to be registered on the onset when they apply for fishing rights and this is because we want every Namibian to participate in exploiting our natural resources.

Question 2: The Minister in terms of the *Marine Resources Act* is given for the power to call for the Public to apply for fishing rights. The Public is normally informed through the Government Gazette as well as through the media. As mentioned above, the Ministry is not compelled by any Act for an applicant to be a registered company when applying for fishing rights or concessions.

Question 3: At the end of 2012, we had about 98 right holders who still had to pay their dues to the Ministry. However, this has since changed because the seasons are also changing. We start with our fishing season in January every year. For monk and hake, the season starts in May. We will provide you with the exact figures.

Question 4: I do not promote the sale of rights. Allow me to share with the august House that the rights are not transferable as stipulated in the *Marine Resources Act* Section 42(1). The Act stipulates that; “*no rights or exploratory rights may be transferred to any person except with the*

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approval of and subject to the conditions determined by the Minister". So far the Minister has not approved any transfers or sale of fishing or exploratory rights.

With regards to quotas, no quotas for any marine resources were sold. However, companies enter into operational agreements with other operating companies with vessels or factories to utilize the allocated quotas. Therefore, if you are given a quota as a right holder, you enter into an operational agreement for that company to catch your fish and pay you for the usage of that quota.

Question 5: Honourable Speaker, I want to inform Honourable Shixwameni that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is based on commercial fisheries and not on individual company holders. With respect to the processing on land in Namibia and export we have a deliberate policy where 70% of the catches are to be processed on land and 30% onshore. This is a deliberate policy to create the necessary jobs for our people. 70% of wet fish will be landed and then it will be processed through our factories.

Question 6: The Fishing Sector is an important contributor to employment in Namibia. It employs about 13,000 people. The Hake Sector remains the biggest employer in the Namibian Fishing Industry. During 2012, employment in the Hake Sector stood at 8,557, Horse Mackerel stood at 1,350, Monk – 438, Tuna and Large Pelagic – 253. I will give you the breakdowns.

Question 7: We have not fixed any minimum wage for the Fishing Industry, because the *Labour Act* promotes collective bargaining with Unions, that are recognized to negotiate for wages. It is therefore, a very good thing where people interact and understand the dynamics of the economy and come to a common understanding in terms of concluding agreements. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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QUESTION 7:

Hon Shixwameni asked the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture-

1. Given the high level of school dropouts at both Grade 10 and 12 levels who are joining the ever-growing unemployed and sitting idle in villages, street corners and at shebeens; apart from the few privileged ones of about a thousand out of twenty thousand who get enrolled in the National Youth Service annually, what plans do Government have for our youth to get economically empowered and uplifted for them to become productive citizens and real future leaders of our country?
2. Can the Minister detail those plans and how government intends to work in the next two years to fulfil this plan?
3. Does the Ministry have a database on the Grade 10 and 12 pupils who are currently unemployed?

ANSWER - STOOD OVER

QUESTION 8:

Hon Moongo asked the Minister of Safety and Security-

1. Is the Minister aware that there are big problems with the Minister's drivers, very persistent, unfair and exploitation of the highest order of the drivers who are employed and are being underpaid? What is the good reason that such drivers who are driving Ministers are not paid other benefits like other employees, as provided for in terms of the *Labour Act* (Act 11 of 2007)? Such drivers are entitled to be paid overtime and double pay on Sundays and public holidays. Other benefits like night shifts and adequate overtime should also be paid as per the relevant provision of the aforesaid Act.

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2. I want to know whether or not the Minister will adjust the salaries and benefits during the current Financial Year and if not, can the Minister explain?

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, I wish to reply to the Question raised by Honourable Moongo, the Vice-President of the DTA.

Honourable Moongo moved on the 12th of February that I should provide information to this august House on the conditions faced by ministerial drivers. The Honourable Member pointed out that those drivers were treated unfairly, exploited, underpaid and not benefiting from the conditions as provided for under the *Labour Act* (Act 11 of 2007).

I am glad that Honourable Moongo has raised an issue which my Ministry has been tackling since the establishment of the Namibian Police Force way back in 1990. The Government, and more especially the Ministry responsible for the Police tried and is still continuing to address the working conditions of men and women in uniform. However, our efforts are also constrained by the limited resources that are sometimes allocated to the Ministry.

We are all aware that the VIP drivers of the Ministers and any other VIPs and Office-bearers who are making use of these drivers are all members appointed by the Inspector-General of the Namibian Police, which means that these drivers are Police Officers. Therefore, their conditions of service are determined in accordance with the availability of resources allocated to the Very Important Persons Directorate of the Namibian Police every Financial Year.

To answer the question by Honourable Moongo, drivers and bodyguards assigned to Ministers and Office-bearers are entitled to a host of benefits, among others, danger and clothing allowance in addition to their monthly salaries. Yes, I agree that such benefits may not necessarily be on par

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with the work they are performing on a daily basis, however, they are still being taken care of reasonably well, depending on resources availed to the entire Force and more specifically to the VIP Directorate.

Police Officers are expected to devote all their time and energy to the State, to be on duty 24 hours a day, thus rendering overtime is a non-issue when it comes to the drivers that I have just referred to who are also working on Sundays and public holidays.

Therefore, most of the Ministers' drivers were expected to be serving as Police Officers, however, there are exceptional cases whereby some Ministers and VIPs are using civilian drivers and their conditions of service are, of course, regulated by the *Labour Act*.

Before the current Budget there were consultations with the Office of the Prime Minister on the improvement of conditions of service of the lower ranks of the Force. I am happy to state that those consultations yielded positive results. By now it is history that the conditions of service of the drivers of Ministers and other VIPs have been significantly improved and we would continue as a Government to look at the conditions of not only the drivers but all Civil Servants in the Namibian Government and where resources allow, obviously the Government would always improve the conditions of such employees. I thank you very much.

QUESTION 9:

Hon Von Wietersheim asked the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology-

1. I wish to know from the Honourable Minister, the rationale behind the continued subsidisation of another bottomless pit called NAMZIM papers, which owns and publishes the weekly regional newspaper, Southern Times, which is regarded as a non-entity in our print media set-up and, therefore, does not attract meaningful and profitable advertisements and sponsorships.

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2. In the light of the above, can the Honourable Minister explain how he will enforce an improvement of the situation after Government subsidisation has, according to the last published audit, accumulated N\$32 million while the company also owes New Era Publications more than N\$14 million and Zimbabwe Newspapers another N\$3 million?
 3. Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that NAMZIM is registered under the Companies Act and is technically bankrupt? What is the Honourable Minister going to do about that?
 4. In addition, is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that NAMZIM during the year last audited deducted Pay-As-You-Earn taxes amounting to more than N\$1.1 million from its employees, which it did not pay over to the Receiver of Revenue? What is the Honourable Minister going to do about that and, for that matter, I am wondering what the Honourable Minister of Finance is going to do about that.
 5. To add insult to injury, Honourable Minister, the Board of Directors of NAMZIM is now proposing substantial increases of 30% to 38% in their annual fees and sitting allowances, which is not only contrary to the principle of remuneration for performance, but is far above the directives of the State-Owned Enterprises Council. Will the Honourable Minister accept and defend this?
 6. Can the Honourable Minister inform this Assembly in detail what the Board of Directors, under the chairmanship of Mr Ben Mulengeni, are actually doing in terms of meetings per year, travelling, etcetera, to justify their proposed increases from N\$98,000 to N\$136,000 per year for the Chairperson, from N\$96,000 to N\$132,000 per year for the Deputy Chair and from N\$92,000 to N\$120,000 per year for each of the other co-Directors, which increases the total remuneration for the Board of Directors from N\$562,000 to N\$738,000 per year, basically from half a million to three-quarter of a million, while the company is being directed deeper into bankruptcy with every passing year and our taxpayers' money is thrown after it for good measure?
-

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ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This question was supposed to be answered on the 6th of March 2013, but due to technicalities this was not done.

The Honourable Member questioned the rationale behind the continued subsidisation of *NamZim* Newspapers which owns and publishes the weekly regional newspaper, *Southern Times*, which he regards as a non-entity and which does not attract meaningful and profitable advertisements and sponsorships.

The answer is as follows:

NamZim (PTY) LTD and *Southern Times* was established jointly by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe in order to promote regional multilateral ties in the fields of politics, culture, trade, commerce, education and generally to promote regional integration. The distribution of the paper, which the Honourable Member regards as a non-entity, in the region is as follows:

Angola, 1,000 copies are distributed per week;
Botswana, 2,000 copies;
DRC, 1,000 copies;
Namibia, 5,000 copies;
Zambia, 1,000 copies;
Zimbabwe, 4,000 copies;
South Africa, 6,000 copies.

These figures are likely to improve in due course while efforts are being made to distribute the paper to Malawi, Swaziland and Lesotho once distributors in these countries are found. It is true that the *Southern Times* has not been able to attract adequate advertisements thus far, however, efforts are being made by the marketing unit to devise strategies to attract more advertisements. However, the reason for which the paper has been created has been achieved, which is to tell a story of the region from our own perspective.

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Question 2: In light of the above, can the Honourable Minister explain how will he enforce an improvement of the situation after Government subsidisation has, according to the last published audit, accumulated to N\$32 million, while the company also owes *New Era* publications more than N\$14 million and the Zimbabwe newspaper another N\$3 million?

N\$14 million allegedly owed to the *New Era* and N\$3 million to Zim Paper represent a shareholders' contribution which will be converted to share capital as agreed by the respective shareholders in order to improve the company's financial position. The two Governments are supposed to make equal contributions, 50/50 contributions. However, due to the current financial situation prevailing in Zimbabwe, the latter has been unable to make its contribution as expected. In other words, as the contributions stand at the moment and if converted into shares, it is 70% in favour of Namibia and 30% for Zimbabwe.

The major expense item for any newspaper is the printing cost. At the moment they rely on third parties, in fact our competitor, to provide printing services. Printing prices are not market related and hence, are impacting negatively on *Southern Times'* financial position.

Question 3: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that NamZim is registered under the *Companies Act* and is technically bankrupt? What is the Honourable Minister going to do about it?

The main aim of publishing the newspaper was to promote regional multilateral ties in the field of politics, culture, trade, commerce, education and generally to promote regional political stability. NamZim Paper was not established with a commercial motive. The two countries established it with the clear purpose of telling a regional story from an African perspective and NamZim Paper has been doing just that. The two countries would finance the operation of the *Southern Times* until they become financially viable. In addition, the current *Southern Times'* difficulties are exacerbated by the illegal and unwarranted Western-driven sanctions against Zimbabwe, which has affected their economy adversely. Hence Zimbabwe has not been able to make its 50% contribution to the joint venture.

Question 4: In addition, is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that

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NamZim during last year's audit deducted PAYE taxes amounting to more than N\$1.1 million from its employees which it did not pay over to the Receiver of Revenue? What is the Honourable Minister going to do about it and for that matter, I am wondering what the Honourable Minister of Finance is going to do about that.

According to the management, the issue will be discussed with the Minister of Finance in order to find an amicable modality of repaying the outstanding amount in a trade and the Ministry of Finance is looking at waiving of interest rate. There is one issue that needs to be discussed by the two parties. The Ministry of Finance owes the paper a sizeable amount in VAT which would be set off against the PAYE outstanding amount.

Question 5: To add insult to injury, Honourable Minister, the Board of Directors of NamZim is now proposing a substantial increase of 30 to 38% in their annual fees and sitting allowances, which is not only contrary to the principle of remuneration of performances, but is far above the directives of the State-owned Enterprise Council. Will the Minister accept and defend this?

I personally as the Minister did not receive such a request. However, if such a request lands on my desk, I will deal with it on its merits.

Question 6: Can the Honourable Minister inform this Assembly in detail what the Board of Directors, under the Chairmanship of Mr Ben Mulongeni, are actually doing in terms of meetings per year, travelling, etcetera, to justify the proposed increase from N\$90,000.00 to N\$136,000.00 per year for the Chairperson and from N\$96,000.00 to N\$132,000.00 per year for the Deputy Chair, from N\$92,000.00 to N\$120,000.00 per year for each of the four Directors and from N\$562,000.00 to N\$748,000.00 year while the company is being directed deeper into bankruptcy with every passing year and our taxpayers' money is thrown after it for good measure?

Honourable Member, we have not received such a request. You could imagine, this Question has been on this Order Paper and what is alleged in your question did not reach our office hitherto. In our view it is purely an

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allegation.

With this, Comrade Speaker, I rest my case.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I have a few follow-up questions. Can the Honourable Minister tell us for how many years this paper, *Southern Times*, has been in existence, because he is saying they have not been able to attract profitable advertisements thus far and I think that is quite a number of years?

The Minister mentioned the number of issues supplied to various countries, which add up to 20,000. Unfortunately I do not know how many of the normal papers in our country are distributed daily by each one of them, but it is certainly more than this number.

A major question which I think is important is that if NamZim is registered under the *Companies Act* and is technically bankrupt, is it legal to apply taxpayers' money to keep it going from one year to the next?

Lastly, the fact that the PAYE taxes have not been paid over, notwithstanding possible discussions with the Finance Minister, which are probably long overdue, is it not illegal as such and demands criminal action? Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: *Southern Times* is not a daily newspaper and secondly, NamZim (PTY) is a joint venture between two countries and knowing too well the conditions under which a sister country finds itself, it would be shameful for Namibia to withdraw from this joint venture, knowing what Zimbabwe is going through is of external creation. You say that as the Opposition, but our position is that we need to defend a friend in a difficult situation until Zimbabwe pulls itself through and definitely will be able to make a meaningful contribution and the situation you are alluding to will be a thing of the past. Thank you.

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QUESTION 10:

Hon Shixwameni asked the Minister of Education-

1. How many private schools are there in the country and are they all registered with the Ministry?
2. Do they all get a subsidy from Government, if not how many of them receive a subsidy and can we have the names of those that receive Government subsidy?
3. What amount does each subsidised school receive and what else in terms of services does the Government give these schools?

WRITTEN ANSWER PROVIDED TO HON SHIXWAMENI

QUESTION 11:

Hon Shixwameni I asked the Honourable Minister of Education-

1. Is the Ministry aware of the fact that thousands and thousands of children in the rural areas are still walking up to sometimes five to seven kilometres in one-way direction every day to attend primary school?
2. What plan, if any, does Government have to address the situation urgently, in order to ensure that there is at least a school in each village?
3. How many, for lack of a better word, stick-and-thatch schools are there around the country and in which Regions are they?
4. How many pupils, 23 years after Independence are still being taught under trees and in which Regions is this phenomenon still in

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existence?

5. Is there a plan by the Ministry and Central Government in general to do away with this phenomenon of teaching children under trees?

WRITTEN ANSWER PROVIDED TO HON SHIXWAMENI

QUESTION 12:

Hon Moongo asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry-

1. In the *Namibian* newspaper of February 21, 2013 on Page 5 appears an article that reads as follows: “*Non-compliant meat producers to lose out.*”
2. It is further stated a directive from the Directorate of Veterinary Services of February 4, 2013 placed a 40-day quarantine requirement for cattle to be marketed to the European Union.
3. This requirement is nebulous and needs the Minister to elucidate the specificities of this requirement.
4. Communal farmers south of the proverbial red line do not have quarantine camps and they are at a loss what this directive implies.
5. Can the Minister please shed light on this 40-day requirement?

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I apologise that I was outside the Chamber when this Question came up.

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I took the proactive step to come to this Chamber and gave the comprehensive factual Report concerning this matter by way of a Ministerial Statement, which I am sure is reflected in our Hansard, Honourable Speaker. I see here, although asked by Honourable Moongo, all the questions reflected on the Order Paper here are exactly the same questions that were addressed in the Ministerial Statement. I, therefore, think there is no need for a repetition as far as this matter is concerned. Thank you.

QUESTION 13:

Hon //Gowases asked the Right Honourable Prime Minister-

1. What processes are followed in filling a vacancy to ensure transparency and a balanced Public Service?
 2. Why does it take months to fill a single vacancy?
-

ANSWER

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Since I am asked a question by Honourable //Gowases, I thank her, but I will give some background.

After Independence we had eleven Governments in this country with eleven Civil Services. It was irrational and we had to rationalise that to create one service. We were also very honest, considerate and kept the former colonial Civil Servants on board. Then, to balance, we had to bring on board those who were left out unfairly and those who were left out were mostly freedom fighters, revolutionaries, those who were demanding fair-play in governance and in everything, asking for a free press, democracy. They were left out as that was a crime they committed. To be fair and balanced, we had to bring them on board and thereafter we tried to rationalise and also downsize the Public Service.

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We brought in at least a system whereby we advertised the posts. It was not there when we were left out, but we decided to advertise so that everybody in all corners of the country can know there is a vacancy. It is a novelty we brought in.

Then you also have a method of internal advertisements, so that you can allow those who are already on board, who ought to move up, to move up by applying and being promoted internally. Then, of course, you also have headhunting in some specific areas, then the advertisement comes.

We have also issued clear-cut instructions that all the Permanent Secretary posts must be advertised where possible. Why am I saying that? There are some sensitive posts. How do you advertise the post for Permanent Secretary for Intelligence? Therefore, one must understand that if we fill certain posts without advertising, we are within the Laws with headhunt.

However, in the interest of transparency we ordered that posts must be advertised and that is happening.

When I met the Permanent Secretaries at Mokuti, I told them that when they have advertised, they have gone public. People are going to apply and they have to set up interview panels which are composed of also some people outside the Public Service. When you have interviewed professionally and you have ranked them, then you must take the person who scored the highest. That is the ideal instruction given. Human beings being involved, here and there you might find some situations where it does not happen, but the person so treated can challenge that and that happens.

That is what we have done and, therefore, we think that a balanced restructuring has been achieved in the sense that those who were left out are on board without kicking out those who were serving the colonial Civil Service and that we endeavour to advertise posts because that is a good practice. It would be good that a person who is in Katima must know there is a vacancy. We are striving towards that, but we are not yet there. We are advertising posts and we are trying to balance, because we want to have people from all parts to be part of the Public Service and also to get those who may have the requisite qualifications.

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Comrade Speaker, that is my short answer to the Honourable Member.

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Right Honourable Prime Minister, I am very happy and satisfied with the information and answer. Thank you.

QUESTION 14:

Hon Tjihuiko asked the Minister of Education-

1. The Nation wants to know whether it is true that more than 400 learners at Jack Francis Primary School in Fransfontein are relieving themselves in public open spaces since their toilets at the school stopped functioning eight years ago.
 2. Can the Honourable Minister please confirm the report in one of the English daily newspapers that even girls at the same school are subjected to unhygienic conditions and daily embarrassment for them to help themselves in public whenever Mother Nature calls?
 3. Can the Honourable Minister explain in simple English, why it takes more than eight years to repair a single toilet? Is that because of lack of resources or is it perhaps lack of political will from the Ruling Party to help the poor in rural areas?
-

ANSWER - STOOD OVER

QUESTION 15:

Hon Tjihuiko asked the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural-

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1. Is it true that after 23 years of Independence the people of Fransfontein still use bucket toilets?
2. Until would these Namibians be subjected to this inhuman treatment by the Government that they have elected to improve their living conditions 23 years ago?
3. Is it true that the contractor who has been appointed to collect the waste does this once a month? Why is it not once a week?

RESPONSE PROVIDED IN THE ANSWER TO QUESTION 16.

QUESTION 16:

Hon Shixwameni asked the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development-

1. How many of our villages and settlements are still using the bucket toilet system?
2. Is it justifiable that after 23 years of Independence our people are still using the bucket system and/or relieving themselves in the bushes?
3. When does Government plan to completely do away with the bucket system in our country and build proper toilets for our people?

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very, Honourable Speaker. I would like to respond to Question 16 and I think it will also cover Question 15 since they are both the same.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question 1: The following places are still using the bucket toilet system:

- 3 towns, 6 villages and 4 settlements;
- a total of 263 households in the Otjozondjupa Region; and
- Kalkveld settlements, the Government is in the process of addressing this problem.

Question 2: The Government, through the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development has been pursuing strategies as the implementation of Programmes by proclaiming towns, villages and settlements in all the Regions of the country so that the majority of our people can enjoy social amenities and services.

If you look at what we have provided to the Regions in the last Budget, for instance, most of them were given N\$20 million to build toilets. This amount built over 1,500 toilets. In Kunene, the Council constructed 102 with and their allocated Budget was N\$14 million. The Kavango Regional Council constructed 1,314 toilets on an allocated Budget of N\$20 million.

Furthermore, Government constructed the following ventilated pit latrines:

- 71 in Nepembe;
- 89 in Eenhana; and
- 89 in Ondobe.

Sometimes some Regions or towns do not use the money they receive to build toilet facilities. People at these towns and settlements are the ones neglecting to put up structures, the Ministry allocate money to them, but then they fail to use it for the intended purposes. For example, they would use this money to settle their water and electricity bills. We always try to address this issue in our Budget, which remains a challenge to all of us. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION 17:

Hon Kaura asked the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General-

1. The Namibian Constitution under Article 6 states the following:

“Article 6: Protection of Life. The right to life shall be respected and protected. No law may prescribe death as a competent sentence. No Court or tribunal shall have the power to impose a sentence of death upon any person. No execution shall take place in Namibia.”

2. Honourable Attorney General, in the *New Era* newspaper of February 27, 2013, we read the following; *“Lynching mob suspects denied bail. The Rundu Magistrate’s Court yesterday objected to bail for the nine people who were arrested in connection with the murder of a 52 year old security guard, Peter Nambale, in a brutal mob attack on Sunday.”*

Honourable Attorney-General, this happened after the security guard shot and killed Festus Lingwe, which led to the citizens to take the law into their own hands.

In view of the constitutional provision and given the fact that Namibians are executing fellow Namibians with impunity, leading to law-abiding Namibians to take the law into their own hands, what can Parliament do to prevent what happened at Mashare Irrigation Training Centre?

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Senior Member is correct by saying of late we are experiencing a trend whereby some of our citizens are taking the Law into their own hands. It is correct to say that per *Article Six (6)* of the Constitution; *“no Court can hand down a death penalty”* as that will not be a competent sentence. However, Honourable Speaker, as

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per the call of our President, that call was also made not a long time ago here in Parliament by way of a State of the Nation Address. It is the duty of each and every Law-abiding citizen and more so our leaders, including the leaders in this august House, to preach peace and the spirit of obeying and complying with our Laws, particularly when it comes to crimes. Political leaders, religious leaders and community leaders including all the citizens, as I said, we were called upon to make sure we live in peace, order and stability in our country.

We must assist the Police whenever possible to make sure we reduce crime in our country. As soon as we go on recess, we have a Programme to tour the country to acquaint ourselves with the state of affairs with the administration of Justice, particularly at the Lower Court and Community Court levels. When we come back we will then be able to reflect and make some Amendments to the existing legislation where necessary and to strengthen the administration of Justice in our country. If there is no need of coming up with new Laws or Amendments of existing Laws, we will be able to put administrative measures in place in order to make sure our citizens live in peace and stability as per the provisions of our Constitution, the Laws of our Republic and the policies of our leaders, including political leaders, religious leaders and community leaders. This is a project for all of us wherever we go, especially during recess whenever we address meetings we must preach peace and stability and make sure that we address Gender-Based Violence and domestic violence. Honourable Speaker, I so submit.

QUESTION 18:

Hon Shixwameni asked the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development-

1. Who is responsible for the maintenance and renovation of the Traditional Authority offices around the country?
2. If it is the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, why are the offices both in the central, north-

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eastern and far north-eastern Regions in such a dilapidated state?

3. When does the Ministry plan, if they are the ones responsible, to renovate the offices?

ANSWER - STOOD OVER

QUESTION 19:

Hon Shixwameni asked the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development-

It was reported in the newspaper that the Minister told Traditional Leaders about the threat of tribalism in the country.

4. Would the Minister inform us as to how serious is the treat of tribalism, ethnicity and regionalism in the country?
5. Does Government have a programme to control the threat of tribalism and ethnic conflict breaking out in the country? In which areas are there disputes of the various ethnic and tribal groups and is there a plan for Government to settle these disputes and how?
6. Is Government considering putting a moratorium on the further recognition of new tribal or ethnic groups and new Headmen and women?

ANSWER - STOOD OVER

QUESTION 20:

Hon Shixwameni asked the Minister of Finance-

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1. Can the Minister tell the Nation as to how much TIPEEG funds each Region's Municipal Councils received during this Financial Year?
2. Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the funds town by town and per Region?
3. Has there been any improvement in the implementation of TIPEEG projects around the country and if not, why not?

ANSWER - STOOD OVER

QUESTION 21:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on Thursday, 20 June 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance the following:

Since TCL, the Tsumeb Corporation closed down in 1996/1997 there have been continued demonstrations by its former employees about their pension money.

3. Can the Minister update the Nation on what exactly happened to the pension money that is legitimately due to the former TCL workers?
4. What exactly happened to the money and is there hope that the money will be recovered and paid to the former workers?

ANSWER - STOOD OVER

QUESTION 22:

Hon Moongo asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry-

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1. Can the Minister confirm or deny that two Mangetti Associations exist; one for SWAPO and the other for RDP, in order to serve Parties' political interests and make a mockery of the farmers' interests in the north?
2. Is the struggle between the leaders of the above Associations influenced by Parties in order to enrich Parties and enrich themselves with TIPEEG funds?
3. Is it not high time that the Minister advice the two Mangetti Associations to divorce from Political Parties in order to work accurately and professionally in order to fully represent the interests of all farmers, as everybody knows that politics is a dirty game?

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Speaker, it is not my intention to respond to Honourable Moongo's questions in the letter and spirit in which the said questions were formulated and asked. The Political Parties, namely RDP and SWAPO, that Honourable Moongo is mentioning in his questions have their own competent elected leaders and spokespersons.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Minister are not the competent authority to speak on behalf of the mentioned Political Parties, as Honourable Moongo wants me to do.

Let me, nevertheless, make use of the opportunity that Honourable Moongo's questions created to educate ourselves and the public at large about Trade Unions' place in the constitutional democratic dispensation of our country.

Article 21(1)(e) of the Namibian Constitution states the following: "*All persons shall have the right to freedom of association, which shall include freedom to form and join Associations or Unions, including Trade Unions and Political Parties.*"

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Honourable Moongo, persons, including the members of the Mangetti Farmers Association, do not require ministerial permission to form their Associations or Unions. Furthermore, Farmers Associations and Unions are not integral parts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry's organisational structure. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry accepts and regards Farmers Associations and Unions as very important stakeholders and partners to advance and promote the national agenda in terms of agricultural development and food production and, therefore, I must disappoint you, that it is not my duty or "*high time now*" as you said in question 3, for me to go down and advise the two sections to work together and to regard politics as a dirty game. You could probably do that better. Thank you.

QUESTION 23:

Hon Moongo asked the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development-

1. Is the Honourable Minister aware or does he ignore the persistent sewerage leakage in almost all houses of NBC countrywide, and Oshakati in particular?
 2. When will the Minister allocate special funds in order to fix or replace the pipes to avoid the horrible smell?
 3. Can the Minister explain as to why the ministry failed dismally and it took so long to repair the pipes?
-

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Speaker, first and foremost this question is misdirected. We in the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing do not deal with the NBC buildings.

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It is like telling your child, “*let us go to church*” and then you go to a shebeen in Uukumwe. I thank you.

QUESTION 24:

Hon Moongo asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry-

Recently I congratulated the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for having made it possible for water to reach many Constituencies countrywide. However, I have the following questions to the Minister:

1. Can the Minister inform this House whether NamWater abides by the terms and conditions of work of its casual employees and whether the employees get sick leave, compassionate leave and whether they are registered at Social Security, etcetera?
 2. What prompted NamWater to pay its casual workers ten to fifteen days after month-end?
 3. It is high time that the Ministry upholds restorative justice and implement retreat policy of the Government, that NamWater’s casual employees are underpaid and that their time and patience has run out as they can no longer tolerate the meagre salaries while other employees are remunerated fairly and earn a decent salary, paid as per Casual Circular of 2004.
 4. Is it true that casual wages were cut without any consultation or agreement signed and as a result the employees now receive peanuts? For example, some were brought down from N\$100 to N\$50, etcetera.
 5. When is NamWater going to employ casual workers on a permanent basis, especially those who worked for more than eight years? When is NamWater going to refund or pay back those casual workers’ right amount of salaries which they have not been receiving since May when they signed contracts with the utility?
-

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ANSWER

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to respond to Question 24 as put by Honourable Moongo and my response will be preceded by an introduction.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and NamWater fully support the implementation of the provisions of the Labour, and the *Labour Amendment Act*. The most pertinent provisions of these Acts, which are relevant to the current matter, relate to the abolition of labour hire and same treatment for persons performing the same or comparable work. Naturally these provisions entail that changes have to be introduced and corrections made as and where needed. These changes can only be done by adopting a thorough process which will ensure that everything is done correctly and that consultations are held where necessary. As such, it takes time and money to effect these changes. NamWater Management has taken on the challenge since March 2011 to correct a problem that dated as far back as 2007. In as far as the questions posed by the Honourable Member of Parliament are concerned, my categorical response is as follows:

Question 1: Can the Minister inform this House as to whether NamWater does abide by the terms and conditions of work with its casual employees and as to whether the employees get sick leave, compassionate leave, whether they are registered with Social Security, etcetera?

My response is as follows:

All former casual workers are now on contract with NamWater since the 1st of June 2012. They enjoy all statutory benefits as per the *Labour Act* of 2007. In other words, they are registered with the Social Security Commission and get sick leave, vacation leave, etcetera.

Question 2: What prompted to pay its casual workers ten to fifteen days after month-end?

Casual employees used to get delayed payment because of the process

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whereby their payments were only processed after actual completion of work. This practice has been found wanting and since corrected. These workers were put on an additional payroll and have been receiving their salaries with all other NamWater employees since June 2012.

Question 3: Is it not high time that the Ministry upholds restorative justice and implement retreat policy, that NamWater casual employees are underpaid and that their time and patience have run out as they could not longer tolerate the meagre salaries, while other employees are remunerated fairly and are paid decent salaries as per Casual Circular of 2004?

The Ministry is aware of the concerns related to the then casual workers and fully informed about the measures which were taken in order to be in full compliance with the *Labour Act*. All these contract workers are now paid, effective from the 1st of June 2012, in accordance with approved pay rates for the different categories as per NamWater Circular 8/2004.

Question 4: Is it true that casual wages were cut without any consultation or agreement signed and as a result these employees now receive peanuts? For example, some were brought down from N\$100.00 to N\$50.00 and N\$120.00 to N\$80.00, etcetera?

The affected worker's remuneration was corrected in accordance with the approved pay rates and those who received lower pay were paid out for the difference, for leave entitlement, and an ex-gratia amount retrospectively from their respective times of appointment. Slightly more than N\$2 million were spent on this endeavour.

Question 5: When is NamWater going to employ casual workers on a permanent basis, especially those who have worked for more than eight years?

All those who had worked for more than eight years as at 31 May 2012 were actually given fulltime employment on consideration of the specific work they were performing.

Question 6: When is NamWater going to refund or pay back these casual

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workers' right amount of salaries which they have not been receiving since May when they signed contracts with the utility?

NamWater records indicate that all affected workers were in fact paid out as in Question 4 above. The company is currently busy with the third phase of a project to correct all anomalies pertaining to former casual workers who are now on contract.

The third phase relates to the implementation of the requirement of the *Labour Amendment Act*, which stipulate that casual workers should be paid the same salary and same benefits like all persons who perform the same or comparable work, regardless of them being permanent or non-permanent workers.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, all casual workers in NamWater have signed contracts on a specific duration, which spell out the relationship between the two parties. Implementing the requirements of the *Labour Amendment Act* is in progress, which will enable NamWater to be fully compliant with the Law within the next two to three months. I thank you.

QUESTION 25:

Hon Von Wietersheim asked the Right Honourable Prime Minister-

1. Can the Right Honourable Prime Minister confirm to this Assembly that the ministerial investigation into the operations and finances of Air Namibia under his chairmanship, which was announced in response to my request for an extensive parliamentary investigation into the affairs of Air Namibia, has started and is progressing satisfactorily?
2. When does the right Honourable Prime Minister expect to table his Report on the results of his investigation?

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ANSWER

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. The question is whether the Prime Minister can confirm to this Assembly that the ministerial investigation into the operations and finances of Air Namibia under his chairmanship, which was announced in response to my request for an extensive parliamentary investigation into the affairs of Air Namibia, has started and is progressing satisfactorily.

The answer is that I am not aware that the Committee I am chairing has responded to his question. The Committee is a Cabinet Standing Committee in charge of State-Owned Enterprises and is, therefore, charged to discuss everything that happens in State-Owned Enterprises. Therefore, in Air Namibia's case, obviously it is on the agenda of our Committee and, therefore, not because of his request. We approve the Budget, we approve everything and in that light we are of course meeting with them, ask them questions to explain certain things about their operations, the expenditures, etcetera. So, yes, regular meetings, like any other Cabinet Committee meeting, are taking place. We were supposed to have met even last Monday, but since the Line Minister was out of the country, we postponed that meeting. However, we have been working, we are continuing, we are progressing to our satisfaction and, therefore, we will complete the task as we have oversight over all of them.

“When does the Prime Minister expect to table this Report on the results of this investigation?”

Again, we are not investigating to come and table a Report here, we are discussing, providing oversight role as a Committee and Committees do not necessarily Report to the Parliament. Thank you very much.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I did not imply that the investigation was a response to my Motion, I said it was announced as a response, because only then we became aware. Now my question there is, in fact then that is not an investigation Committee into the affairs of Air Namibia, but a General Committee overseeing the State-

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Owned Enterprises?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: We are doing our work of oversight and, therefore, we ask questions, we require answers. If that questioning is not investigation, those are your words, choose the words. Thank you.

QUESTION 26:

Hon Von Wietersheim asked the Minister of Works and Transport-

1. Can the Honourable Minister confirm to this Assembly that the forensic audit into the financial state of affairs at Air Namibia, which he announced in response to my request for a parliamentary investigation, has started and is progressing satisfactorily?
 2. When does the Honourable Minister expect the report on the results of the forensic audit for tabling in this Assembly?
-

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. In responding to the questions by Honourable Von Wietersheim, Member of Parliament, on the questions he posed concerning Air Namibia's forensic audit:

Question 1: Can the Honourable Minister confirm to this Assembly that the forensic audit into the financial state of affairs of Namibia which he announced in response to my question for a parliamentary investigation has started and is progressing satisfactorily?

Yes, the forensic audit into the financial state of affairs at Air Namibia has commenced on Monday, the 8th of April 2013 and the progress is quite

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satisfactory. The Air Namibia Board of Directors has appointed Deloitte Namibia as successful bidder out of five tenderers. I was, however, informed that a draft report was already submitted to the management of Air Namibia on the 25th of June 2013.

The discussions between the auditors and the management took place on the 27th of June this year and by Friday, the 5th of July, which means tomorrow, the management will provide their comments to Deloitte. If convinced, Deloitte will then update the report by incorporating those comments and submit the final report to the Board of Air Namibia on the 15th of July 2013.

Question 2: When does the Honourable Minister expect the report on the result of the forensic audit?

Taking into account that the Board may need some time to study the report, I expect the report to be handed over to me as soon as they are done. I think, I have provided the information that was required.

QUESTION 27:

Hon //Gowases asked the Ministry of Health and Social Services-

In view of an article that appeared in the *Sun* newspaper on Monday, 27 May 2013, under the heading, “*Special Medical Funds lies unused*” and with a subheading: “*The Deputy Minister has blasted people who ask for donations instead of making use of State funding for specialist medical treatment.*” It was further reported that the Honourable Deputy Minister said: “*We see people on television requesting donations from the public and we go after them and tell them not to go fundraising but to make use of the Fund.*” In this regard, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services whether he is aware that the majority of the ordinary citizens of Namibia are not aware of the existence of the Fund. I base my assumption on the fact that there are disturbing reports by the media regarding people asking for public assistance, for example:

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1. Recently the NBC reported about a baby that was born without eyes, but the parent does not have money for specialist operations; and
2. A lady by the name of Loide Iyambo from Rundu who was diagnosed with heart-related problems and she is now in need of surgery. According to her medical passport a doctor wrote that; “*currently no funds available.*”

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

1. Who is responsible for ensuring that the Namibian public is fully made aware of the existence of this Fund?
2. What strategies did the Ministry put in place to publicise the existence of the Fund?

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Let me start by thanking Honourable //Gowases for the interest shown. In a way by her asking this type of a question is one way in which the general public out there are informed about this fund, so thank you for that contribution. Let me get to your questions.

I want to reiterate and I agree with the remarks by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services that yes, quite often we see some Namibians with health-related challenges appearing on NBC Television, asking for assistance as if Government is not caring, whereas we have this fund. On many occasions the Honourable Minister of Finance would call me when seeing it on NBC-TV. We have spoken to NBC to assist us, yet we keep on seeing this.

To be specific on your questions; recently the NBC reported about a baby that was born without eyes, but the parents do not have money for specialised operations. I wish to respond by saying that I personally spoke

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to NBC to assist us to inform these parents and I made a follow-up, they were informed and still they went ahead to ask for some additional assistance.

The second one is; the lady by the name of Loide Iyambo from Rundu who was diagnosed with heart related problems and who is now in need in surgery. According to her medical passport her doctor wrote, *“currently no funds available.”* This is very unfortunate. I do not know how true it is, but I do know that to this end the finances are still good. We have a sum of N\$12 million which is still intact and we have on many occasions informed the Nation about the state-of-the-art cardiac unit which is not only in Namibia, but in the SADC region. It is up and running and yet we get these types of questions.

Thirdly: *“Who is responsible for ensuring that the Namibian public is fully made aware of the existence of this Fund?”*

Honourable Speaker, I will combine this with Question 4, which reads: *“What strategies did the Ministry put in place to publicise the existence of the Fund?”*

Firstly, we have a Public Relations Officer for the Ministry and she is on record informing the Nation about this. Indeed, since the 2009/2010 Financial Year, I have on an annual basis been updating this Chamber and the Nation at large about the finance related to the special fund. You may wish to check with the Hansard, you will find it there.

The other vehicle is through the Regional Directors, the CMOs, the PMOs who are instructed to inform those who are physically challenged about where to go. We have had many press conferences with the media, NBC, *New Era*, etcetera, and on an annual basis since 2009/2010, I had been attending annual meetings of the Council of Traditional Leaders where I had taken it upon myself to inform the Traditional Leaders. I have informed the Honourable Members of Parliament and you, Honourable Member, are one of the vehicles, including the Regional Councils.

For the purpose of informing those who may not know about this Fund, and I agree with you that deep in the rural areas some certainly do not

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know, but the moment they get to the clinics, health centres and district hospitals, they will be informed how to go about it.

The following should be followed for the patient to access assistance from the Fund: If a patient presents him/herself to a clinic and the health workers at the clinic cannot treat the condition of such a client, the health practitioners will refer the patient to a health centre or district hospital. If this level cannot treat the condition of the patient, the patient will be referred to the intermediate hospital. If at that level it is also unable to treat such a patient, the next level is Windhoek Central Hospital, which is the specialised hospital in the country. Should Central Hospital then be unable to treat such a patient, specialists will identify where such a patient needs to be referred to. In SADC we normally refer to South Africa, but if South Africa does not have such a specialist, we refer them anywhere, be it USA, UK, Germany, name it. We have done so.

The specialist will then refer the patient to where he/she is going to be treated and at the same time apply for assistance from the Special Fund if Windhoek Central Hospital Budget cannot pay for the treatment, meaning that even our specialised hospital, that is Windhoek Central Hospital, has a Budget which is specifically allocated or assigned to take care of cases that may not be handled in the country. This means that only specialists at Windhoek Central Hospital can apply for financial assistance from the Special Fund. No individual patient may do so directly to the Special Fund.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, from September 2012 to the 31st of May 2013 a total number of 117 patients have benefited from the Special Fund. Sixty-three of these patients were referred to different health facilities in Cape Town for treatment, operations and various complications that we are not able to treat locally due to lack of specialised personnel in such fields. Another thirty-five patients were referred to Windhoek Kidney Dialysis Centre for haemodialysis, also with the assistance of the Fund. The recent beneficiary, as you may be aware by now, is a baby who was born with four limbs in Katima Mulilo. The baby was successfully operated in South Africa and is back in Namibia and I do know that a sum of around N\$500,000 was spent on that. These are some of the procedures that are followed. Thank you very much.

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QUESTION 28:

Hon Kaura asked the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport-

1. Have you ever travelled on the newly constructed tar road from Gobabis to Otjinene?
2. If you did, have you experienced how poorly constructed that road is, because that is the most bumpy tar road I have travelled on in Namibia and I have travelled on all the Namibian roads and the world over.
3. What company constructed that road and would that company qualify to continue with the construction of the portion from Otjinene to Grootfontein? If it is the same company, think twice, Honourable Minister.

NO ANSWER

QUESTION 29:

Hon Moongo asked the Ministry of Works and Transport-

1. Is the Honourable Minister aware or did he ignore the persistent leakage of sewerage water in almost all houses of NBC countrywide and Oshakati in particular?
2. When will the Minister allocate special funds in order to fix or replace the pipes to avoid the horrible smell?

Can the Minister explain as to why the Ministry failed dismally and it takes so long to repair the pipes?

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NO ANSWER

QUESTIONS ON STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

HON HAMUTENYA: Thank you, Your Excellency, for a wonderful delivery of the State of the Nation message. Your Excellency, you have taken some of the words out of my mouth in your speech, but for emphasis I will be repeating some of those points.

Your Excellency, you have reported on what you have received from the Commission that you have appointed for inquiry into the state of the health of our Nation. We are most grateful for that, but the situation continues to be disturbing. We have learned recently of an incident where an woman lost her baby in Oshakati Hospital due to not being assisted when she was about to deliver, as a result of which the infant baby fell and bashed her head on the floor of the hospital. That was indeed unfortunate.

We want to urge you to act on the Report by your Commission and we are happy that we have received the Report. We are studying it too but we are not mandated to act, the action is yours. We want to fast-track the actions you take on this Report. Thank you very much, that is one of the issues you took out of my mouth in terms of a question and now I just urge you to act urgently on the Report. The fact that you have already sent it to Parliament is a clear indication that you are concerned and that you want action to be taken urgently. Thank you very much.

The second question: It is quite evident, Your Excellency, that the whole country is now drought-stricken due to the poor rains we have received this year. I was in the audience when you addressed the Independence Celebrations in Oshakati. Your advice was that one of the measures you are urging the Nation to take was for the farmers to sell their animals. That is a relevant and appropriate advice, but it is not sufficient. Many people in these communities depend on their livestock and the selling of their livestock will not solve the problem. Next year if the rain comes they have no animals and stocking takes time to be successful. Do you

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have any additional measures, Your Excellency, to advise the people of Namibia on the best way to cope with the drought situation?

We are aware, Your Excellency, that recently the Government bought a new aircraft to the tune of about N\$700 million, replacing the previously used ones. At the same time we have heard that the old aircraft is still parked in one of the hangers of the Government and, obviously, depreciation is taking its course on it. What are your plans to get rid of that aircraft soonest?

My last point is one you also referred to, namely violence against women and children in this country. What measures do you recommend we take fundamentally to redeem the situation? We have to take some drastic measures to reduce, if not to stamp out, the crime in this country and I think you have been exercising your mind on how to go about it.

Those are the points I wanted to raise with you. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency, Comrade President, since you ended with mention of the SWAPO Party and also urging us to reach a zebra structure in our Parties, I wish to inform you that SWANU has already reached that level of zebra structure. The Vice-President of SWANU is a woman and the Chairperson of SWANU is also a woman and the list goes on.

My first question, Comrade President: Namibia remains the only country in the world where genocide has taken place but which has not yet erected any monument or statue in remembrance of the victims of that genocide. What is your feeling about it?

Secondly, Comrade President, during your term of office crime against women and children has continued unabated. Do you have any target as

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to, by how much and by what date you are going reduce crime against women and children in this country? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency, Comrade President, I would also like to echo those of my fellow MPs who congratulated you on the well delivered State of the Nation speech. I have very much taken note of the fact that your last remarks were about the very important issue of gender equality. However, I was taken aback that you have most probably not taken note of the fact that the Congress of Democrats have been practising this policy for the last thirteen years already.

Comrade President, as a matter of fact, I have here about thirty questions previously put on occasions like this one, but still awaiting answers. However, as it would be impractical to put all these thirty questions again, I shall limit myself just to one.

Comrade President, I appreciate the Government's fuller implementation of Article 20 of the Constitution, my question, however is, why did it have to take 23 years for our Government to decide to provide free education to learners in primary schools, seeing that this is indeed according to Article 20 of our Constitution a fundamental obligation for the government to carry out? Comrade President, I think the Nation and, indeed, myself are awaiting a proper answer to that question.

Secondly, Comrade President, given the current educational challenges and, indeed, present budgetary pressures, are you satisfied that the Government will successfully carry out this constitutional obligation I referred to in the first phase of the question and finally, Comrade President, given the importance of the Education Sector in our society and for the carrying out of Vision 2030, when do you see Government extending free and compulsory education to secondary and, indeed,

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tertiary educational institution? I thank you, Comrade President.

ANSWER

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA: Honourable Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Members and leaders of the Political Parties represented in this House.

Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya, I am happy that my speech has covered a lot of what you wanted to say. That means that you and I do think the same. You spoke about the Commission that I have established and as I have said, the Report was tabled in this House for the Honourable Members' information. My expectation is that after the Honourable Members have perused the Report, particularly the Honourable Members from the Opposition will also be able to make their contribution. In most cases this is the problem I see, that things are happening in our country to our people, but you wait until I come here after eleven months in order to pose questions, yet those things are happening. I would wish you, after reading this document today and tomorrow, to come the day after tomorrow and make your contribution on what you think should be done. Yes, there are recommendations by the commissioners, but how do you view them? I need to see you coming with your contributions on this particular Report.

You spoke about the incident that happened at Oshakati a few days ago. I read about it in the newspapers and I felt bad about it. If the allegations are true – and I believe the Ministry of Health and Social Services is investigating – something needs to be done. If I read in a newspaper is what has happened, I call it allegations until I get a Report and as I said, the Ministry normally investigates cases such as this one. We will wait until we get the Report and perhaps after that you would be able to find a way to consult me and give advice. You as leaders should also advise your President.

At Oshakati I said this country belongs to us all, therefore, in this particular case please do not wait until I come here next year, come now

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so that we attend to the situation. This situation is not good for the country, it is not good for individual Namibians.

Now you are urging me to do something. Yes, something will have to be done, but I want your advice as well in this regard.

You spoke about the poor rain and the advice that I gave at Oshakati. It is a pity that we do not have the power to control the rain and when I say “we”, I include you. We have no power to do so. The only thing we can do is to pray.

Maybe these changes are due to climate change, that instead of getting rain in November and December we will start getting rain in May, June and July. One never knows. Therefore, I had no other alternative than to advise the people to sell their animals. If it does not rain, even those who plant lucerne will not be able to do so. Instead of letting the animals die, the best way is to sell them and at least benefit from that.

You are saying that maybe when the rain comes next year, they will have no money, no cattle, etcetera. Again I say, are you sure that the rain will be coming next year, given climate change? Suppose it does not, would you still say my advice was out of order? I still feel that those who have cattle should try to sell some of them because there is no other way.

When I am giving this advice I am looking at the number of cattle and I am talking about cattle, I am not talking about goat, sheep and others, nor do I talk about the kudus, which are also important. We have more than three million cattle, all have big stomachs and to feed them is not easy. In a case like this I do not expect us as citizens, faced with this big challenge, to stand there and blame one another. No, all we need to do is to gather at the churches and pray.

You mentioned the aircraft. These aircrafts are very important assets of the State. For your information, you can make use of these aircraft as well. Even during the campaign you can use them provided you pay. They are there for anyone who wants to hire them, but you have to pay, it is not free.

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As leader of the Opposition I think you are aspiring to become President one day and you will be using those aircrafts and I can only use them when I hire them. Currently I am using them when I am going to work.

Then you spoke about violence. This is one of the points that I have taken out of your mouth. In my speech it is clear and again I am disappointed in you as fellow leaders. Why do we not come together and discuss to find a solution to the problem facing our people? Why do you not come? I challenge you to come and discuss the problem facing our people. I challenge you, Comrade Hidipo. To be President does not mean that you are the most intelligent person. I believe you are perhaps more intelligent than I am and that is why you should come to discuss. Even if you are not intelligent, why can we not meet and put our minds together to discuss the problem facing our people? I think the Nation will start laughing at you because you fail to come so that we discuss. I have made attempts to call you to the State House to talk about the problems facing our country, did I not? But you did not come. Did you ever take the initiative to come specifically to discuss the problem facing our people? Let us be serious.

During the next election I am not going to stand and this is not a way of campaigning now in the Assembly, no, I am just calling upon you to come and we discuss the problem facing our people as leaders.

Honourable Maamberua, you said you have implemented the zebra style. Behind you I see a man, next to you I see a man, on the other side I see a woman but she belongs to SWAPO. Where are they? Unless you imprint your skin with zebra stripes. Where are they currently? It is not good to talk about things that you are not able to do and doing so in Parliament is not good. My only a piece of advice is that it is not good and please take that advice.

As regards monuments, when you leave here you will see a tall building which was built at the place where our people were killed in a concentration camp. It has not yet been completed, but it is a monument for our people and it is not the last to be erected. We can have monuments but again we should assist one another with proposals. Sometimes it worries me if you people always wait for the President to make his State of the Nation Address to pose questions. We can meet and discuss about

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other places where monuments should be erected, more so when we are in the process of bringing the skulls of our people from Germany. Let us do so and your contribution on this will be important.

I have responded to the issue of violence when I responded to the question of Honourable Hamutenya.

CoD spoke about free education after 23 years. I think there is a misunderstanding, education has been free. Who pays the teachers, who pays for the schools building, who does everything? Is it not the Government? The only thing we have done is to say we want to assist the parents who have been paying towards the School Development Fund and that is all and you know that, *Comrade Ben Ulenga*. Education has been free and the money being paid is not paid for education as such, it is paid for the School Development Fund. It is not paying the teachers, it is not paying for the construction of schools or for the purchase of textbooks. Now you want to challenge me about 23 years and I challenge you, it is not true!

HON SPEAKER: Honourable //Gowases.

HON //GOWASES: Your Excellency, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is an honour to rise once again to add my voice to His Excellency's State of the Nation Address. I have a comment and a request that I would like to present to you, Your Excellency.

Firstly, I wish to commend you on your leadership for the increase in political representation of our women in Parliament, for example, the two newly appointed Deputy Ministers and other Political Office-Bearers. Your Excellency urged us as Parliamentarians during 12 February 2013 address, *“to ensure people’s participation in democratic governance by facilitating the full articulation of their aspirations, values and choices in the development process. The well-being of the people should be at the centre of all development efforts.”* Your Excellency further urged us, *“to*

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combine efforts and deliver better services to our citizens.”

It is in the light of the abovementioned request and statements by Your Excellency that we as the backbenchers, who serve on the different Standing Committees that should serve the people, humbly request a more regular platform and basis to have an audience with Your Excellency where we can express and address the views of our Namibian people. The people want their voices to be heard, they want Parliament to hear their cries and not only want justice to be done, but manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done.

Your Excellency, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I am not brave enough to ask questions on issues to which answers have already been provided by His Excellency the President, but I just want to find out from His Excellency on the issue of unemployment, whether I heard him correctly that he said unemployment now stands at 37%, reduced from 51%. That is highly commendable and very much positive.

Then on the issue of maternity mortality rate per 100,000 live births, at one point it stood at 449 and now His Excellency said it now stands at 118, which is also positive.

I wanted to ask questions on housing and things like that, but I am scared to ask those questions because, although Article 8 of the Namibian Constitution prohibits corporal punishment, His Excellency just meted out corporal punishment against Honourable Ben Ulenga.

On the drought which His Excellency also spoke about, I wanted to find out whether there is no possibility of providing fodder so that a farmer can

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retain some nucleus of core animals, even fifty cows. Would that not be helpful in this time of drought? I do not want to ask any further questions, I am scared of corporal punishment. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Kaura. Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency Mr President, let me start off by congratulating you on two issues before I get to my questions. One is to congratulate you for a real wide-ranging speech. I have been in this Parliament for quite some time and the State of the Nation Address today was very comprehensive. Indeed, as was said, you took words out of the mouth of many people.

Secondly, I would also like to congratulate you for the message that you delivered at the Independence Celebrations in Oshakati, a message of unity, of togetherness, a message of the acceptance of a multi-party democratic State. That was well-delivered and in my opinion, very well received. Thank you for that.

I would like to go to my questions. In Oshakati you were calling for action and action and repeating the late Dr Abraham Iyambo's call for service delivery and service delivery.

We know that as a country we are endowed with quite a lot of mineral resources, but these resources are exploited by mostly foreign companies, particularly in the Mining Sector, Fishing Sector, Tourism Sector and indeed in the Agricultural Sector. Last year a document was presented here twice, called, "*The Broad-Based Economic Empowerment Framework*." It was withdrawn from the Floor of this House to be discussed somewhere else and to be brought back. My question is, how long are we as indigenous Namibian people going to continue being workers of corporate mining companies, corporate agricultural companies, corporate fishing companies and not have at least 40 to 50% ownership?

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Your Excellency, I have raised this issue privately with you, but since this is the State of the Nation Address, you should be able to explain to the Nation why we are not moving in the direction of empowering our communities economically to make sure that they own shares in this company, even if we have to give our communities from the Development Bank to make sure that they indeed have majority shareholding or a sizeable number of shareholding.

Epangelo Mining was a very good step by the Government, but we are not capitalising sufficiently to ensure that it takes part in the mining and exploitation of the resources.

My second question is on land ownership and I agree with the message that you are sending out, but how long are we going to continue calling on those who own land to make land available in our own country? I think it is time that we apply the constitutional provisions on expropriation of land, so that land is expropriated in the best interest of our people. We as a Government cannot continue making calls on people who are stubborn, people who are not ready to provide land. You would agree with me, Your Excellency, that land is quite expensive and the resources that the State spends on buying farms could be well-spent on lifting people out of poverty.

I would also like to congratulate you on releasing this Report, but what is the plan going forward? You said you are studying the Report, but I read the Executive Summary and the conclusion and it is quite bad that while we have been pumping money into the Health Sector, we still get a Report that paints this gloomy picture. You promised that you will act and I have to congratulate you that this is the first time that a Report of a commission of inquiry has been released to this Chamber in such a short time and we must congratulate you that you kept your word, you brought this Report to Parliament so that the Nation is able to see value for money for the commission that has been appointed.

My last question is on performance management within the Public Sector. We have been hearing from the Founding Father's days up to your days now – and you only have a few months left of your term, next time I will be sitting in that seat – that we need to get value for money put into the

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Public Service, but it seems that we are not getting that value for our money. What is the exact concrete plan on the table at Government level to exact from all Public Servants to deliver service to our Nation? With those few remarks, I would rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I do not know what to say about what happened and before I come to my questions, I may say, Honourable Shixwameni, you want to become a baby with a dummy in your mouth. We are in a free country and first of all you must look for your EPL and find it and then come up with certain things. However, you do not go to that mining company or fishing company, you cry from here. Why? We are here to do things, action means business, talking is just rhetoric. Go and look for your EPL, you do not have to talk about it, do it and then after that you can complain that, *“Mr President, they did not give me what I wanted, what is wrong?”* The President cannot come with a dummy and say, please take this Mr Shixwameni.

Secondly, talking about erecting a statue, we do not have a museum of genocide. In a museum you can go and read about what happened. We do not want to go all the way to Luanda to look for our museum, it must be erected here. Unfortunately we do not have a journalist who can write what happened here. Unfortunately they do not write what they hear from here. Perhaps you are campaigning for yourself, I do not know. The journalists do not do their job properly. Do your job properly for which you are paid. If one goes out of this House and look at the newspaper, there is nothing in the newspaper. I am not here to beat about the bush, that is the message to you.

Another thing we have to talk about is the first freedom fighter of this country who lives in Gam and I would like the Honourable President to tell the House how he is taking care of those people who returned from abroad, from Norway. We must acknowledge those who are coming,

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those who came a long time have been taken care of. What methods do we have to take care of those who are in Eiseb? These people are newcomers who must be given assistance.

Mr President, it is now high time for us to reconcile. It is a two-way street, one goes and one comes and we must meet in the centre in order to have a humble kind of relationship with one another. We have to meet somewhere in the middle and that is a requirement for this House. Now the prices of farms have skyrocketed to 8 million, 9 million. Who raised the prices? Who has the right to do that? It is not the foreigners, it is not the people of this country, it is the Government. You must correct it, the prices are too high, we cannot afford the land. The land was not even bought from us, it was taken and what happened? Who hiked the prices so high? It has to be reduced to a point where it can meet all the requirements of this country and the people who live here.

Some people say we have to pay compensation to take some land to give to the people. It is not to grab the land by force, there is a way of doing it and to balance how it should be done. I do not come to conclusions, I leave it to the President to decide what is a good method. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Tjongarero.

HON S TJONGARERO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. His Excellency the President, I have only two questions related to drought and grazing.

His Excellency, the carrying capacity in some of the communal farming areas is heavily overloaded and the land became sensitive and exhausted long before the actual drought occurred. My question is, how successful is our Government in phasing out strong communal farmers to commercial areas to make room for the poor farmers?

My second small question is about veld fires. Do we have an effective

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programme to assist farmers to extinguish veld fires in times before it totally destroys our valuable grazing fields? That is all from my side and Thank you very much, His Excellency the President.

ANSWER

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA: *Honourable Kaura*, it was not corporal punishment, I was giving information to the Honourable Member.

As regards unemployment, I want the statistics of the 2011 census to be distributed, if it has not been done already, for Honourable Members to read for themselves. Even when we visit areas as part of our responsibility as MPs, this document will give you all the information. We have been arguing about whether the 51% unemployment figure is the correct one. I am one of those who have been arguing about that, but we had to agree to that as there were no other statistics to refer to.

However, this document I am referring to even indicates how many people are married in communal, no communal, traditionally and all these you would find there.

I only want to say that we have to read that document, it will give us information on what we have and what we still need.

As regards fodder, I have not consulted the Minister responsible for finances, but the question is, where do you think we can get fodder from? Brazil or South Africa? I do not think we will find fodder in this country. We have that problem of lack of rain which I consider to be shared by all of us. It is really a big problem and we may not be able to import fodder from other countries because it would be very expensive to do so.

Honourable Shixwameni, you spoke as a young revolutionary, especially when you talked about our people obtaining shares in some of these companies. You spoke about Epangelo. Efforts are being made to do so and we would wish to see the Namibian business people making all efforts

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to buy shares from the companies operating here.

One businessman came to me, complaining that he does not get shares. He went to a certain company, they do not want to give shares. I asked, *“how much money did you offer them?”* He said, *“no, I took my ID, I am a Namibian.”* I had a problem to advise that person, but I did, I said, *“no, it is not an ID, you need to have some resources to get shares.”* Honestly speaking, I would definitely support the idea of our business people buying shares in these companies and eventually to take over those companies to become full Namibian companies. I would really support that.

On expropriation, you would recall that I was once upon a time the Minister of Lands and as a revolutionary like yourself I said, *“let us take this farm near Omitara.”* They went to Court and the Court decided in their favour. In this country we have the Rule of Law and when that was done, I was disappointed but there was nothing I could do with respect to those particular farms. I was using Article 16 of the Constitution, but the judgment went in favour of those people. In a country where you have pledged the laws of the land and the Courts’ judgments, you have that situation. In this case I do not want to refer to anybody sitting here or maybe outside this House, it is just to tell you that we are facing those problems.

You referred to the Report of the Commission, you have to read it and advised the Government on some of the issues which I have already touched on.

In my statement I have mentioned the contract between the Government and the Civil Servants and that contract also contain the expected the performances. I hope we will definitely succeed as time goes on.

Honourable Riruako, I cannot say that the Honourable Members were making noise and I could just not comprehend everything you were saying, but the point I came grasped is about the Government raising commodity prices. Here I want to inform you that it is not done by the Government, it is done by market forces and perhaps I can advise you to get more information from Economists on what *“market forces”* mean. I

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am sure they will explain that to you.

In my opinion, you find that some of the prices are imposed on us by forces outside the borders of this country. It is not the Government but controlling the markets. I totally agree with you, because I sent somebody today to buy a 50 kg bag of maize-meal and they said, “*do not give us less than N\$300, give us at least N\$350*” and I was surprised to hear that.

Prices are rising, the price of fuel is rising and that is why we say, when it comes to food, let us go to the fields and we as leaders, Members of Parliament, should take the lead. Go to the rural areas, go to Caprivi and Kavango, leading the people to produce food. That is very important. Otherwise we will have a problem of importing food from other countries.

Another thing I have discovered is that we have Namibians who want to eat what the country does not produce and I believe this is wrong. When you give them *pap*, they do not eat *pap*, they want to eat rice, but the country does not produce rice. Yes, near Katima Mulilo we have a field, but we need to expand and I will be the happiest person to see a group of Parliamentarians going to Kalimbeza to get involved in producing our own food. Our Ministry of Agriculture is doing very well but they need encouragement and assistance from the Members of Parliament.

Honourable Tjongarero mentioned about strong farmers giving way to the not so strong farmers in the communal areas. I agree with you, but the question is, where do they have to go? The land in this country has become expensive. You may be a strong farmer in the communal areas, but would you be able to buy a commercial farm if the land is so expensive? Maybe expropriation is the solution, but I have already told Honourable Shixwameni what I did and how I failed. Therefore, you have a point, but your point may not carry weight because of this problem. I believe these people aspire to go to the commercial farms, but they are failing to do so because the farms are very expensive.

The owner of the farm where Lake Guinas is, came to me. It is a farm of 700 hectares, not even 1,000 hectares. She said, “*look, I want to sell this but I want N\$5 million.*” I said, “*Madam, I do not think you will be able to get that.*” I understand there are new people on the farm, but is that at

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the price of N\$5 million or did she compromise to sell it at a lower price? It is a farm which is not even a thousand hectares. These are the problems we as Namibians will face until Honourable Shixwameni maybe convinces everybody here to amend the Constitution. If you do that and you convince them, any change is the responsibility of this House, but currently, as the President of this country, I have to abide by what is enshrined in the Constitution of this country – period!

Honourable //Gowases, I think I am in agreement with everything you said. Thank you very much.

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ORAL QUESTIONS

QUESTION:

HON KAURA: As a point of interest, about two weeks ago there was an article in one of our daily newspapers that a child who has started school with a debilitating disease known as noma was operated on in South Africa a few years back and NamWater made that contribution and now when this child goes to school, other children are teasing that child because the face is not looking good, they refer to her as a monster. She has to go again for surgery but NamWater must pay this bill. I am surprised that the medical practitioners are not aware of this Fund where they could refer this child automatically for assistance. This child goes to hospital and one expects the hospital to automatically refer this child for treatment, but then this child is sent home and ultimately it is in the newspapers and NamWater is the Good Samaritan who assists this child. How does this happen? I am reading this in newspapers and most probably you have read it too. This child is living here in Windhoek. What is happening there with the medical practitioners?

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, and may I thank the Honourable Senior Colleague for the question. Indeed, I recall that I read it and we called on NBC to assist us if they come across this young lad.

It is about referral, I want to repeat myself that it is about referral. They must be referred to the institution and the medical doctors are aware. I want to appeal, please, the Fund is there, let the parents of this child go to Katutura Hospital and Katutura Intermediate Hospital know where to refer the child and that is Windhoek Specialised Hospital. They will certainly take care.

You may recall that about five years ago we had a similar noma case

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which was not even referred to South Africa, but was referred to Germany. Since then I have never seen that case, it was well attended to and treated and could heal. This one can still be attended to successfully. Thank you.

QUESTION:

HON MOONGO: I would like to pose an oral question to the Deputy Minister of Youth. Is it true that in Berg Aukas there are workers who have been working for more than five years as temporary workers and are only paid N\$1,000 while they have big families? Is the Ministry not adhering to the *Labour Act* in terms of Social Security and other benefits?

ANSWER

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much for the question. You mentioned that these people are from Berg Aukas which falls under the National Youth Service. Therefore, I would have to get the relevant information in that regard and come back to you.

QUESTION:

HON MOONGO: I want to pose a question to the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security concerning the thirty-one illegal farmers in Mangetti area.

These farmers request permission to be in that area until the rainy season as they will lose all their livestock if they have to be removed now. I only appeal to the farmers of that area to stop fencing and bring an end to the forceful removal of these farmers.

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ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, this is a rather confusing question which would possibly require further investigation. However, I can inform the Honourable Member that this country is governed by Laws enacted in this House and if the farmers have refused to move from the land they have occupied illegally and which they have fenced off without authorisation, the legal process will take its course.

The Land Board of the Otjozondjupa Region will soon be meeting, after which the legal process will follow and the Nation will be informed. That is what I can say for now. Thank you very much.

QUESTION:

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I wish to put an Oral Question to the Attorney-General. I just want to put two questions and I hope that the Attorney-General will answer the questions and not make political statements.

Honourable Speaker, for the last couple of weeks and yesterday we have noticed that there are a lot of articles in the newspapers reporting on the situation that our children are facing. There are still kids who are being taught in tents and yesterday kids were sent home because they do not have textbooks.

One of the senior Ministers made a Statement that the Ministers are not aware of the financial situations in their Ministries. I am asking this question because I was informed that N\$51 million of the Ministry of Youth and Sport were returned to the Treasury.

Can the Attorney-General agree with me that either the Honourable Minister does not know or intentionally ignores the plight of the young people in Namibia or would the Attorney-General agree with me that the Ruling Party has taken a do-not-care attitude towards the well-being of the

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young people?

Can the Attorney-General explain in simple English what is the position of the Ruling Party as far as the well-being of the young people are concerned, looking at all these issues that I have just mentioned? No political statement, just an answer to my question, please.

HON SPEAKER: You are putting the question specifically to the Attorney-General. I am sure you could enlighten me why the Attorney-General, why not the relevant Minister?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, since it touches on the work of the Ministries, I thought it would be appropriate for the Government Advisor to answer the question, but if that is misdirected, I will wait for the Minister of Education to put the question.

ANSWER

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Tjihuiko is one of the veterans of this House and if he asks a political question, there is no way he cannot expect a political answer. Be that as it may, Honourable Speaker, it is public knowledge that the SWAPO Party Government is a caring government by record. We were one of those very first countries to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and by none other than our Founding President.

The Constitution of our Republic is one of the very few Constitutions which protects the rights of the child. In addition, we have passed numerous Acts of Parliament protecting the rights of children. Indeed, one of those Laws will be tabled here shortly. Therefore, it cannot be said

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that the SWAPO Party Government does not care.

If one has to consider the Budget of Education, the Budget of the Ministry of Youth, the Budget of the Ministry of Gender, especially the one dedicated to Orphans and Vulnerable Children, more than 40 to 50% of this Budget is committed to the welfare of these children.

I think Nudo or may I say Honourable Tjihuiko is misinformed because it is also reflected in our SWAPO Party Election Manifesto that the welfare of our children will be first priority and we do that by action, 50% or more of our Budget is dedicated to the welfare of our children. However, as for the specific question that the Honourable Member asked, it is correct that we have a Line Minister and in terms of ministerial responsibility, I direct that maybe Honourable Tjihuiko can direct that question to the relevant Line Minister. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.
