

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Mr Hifikepunye Pohamba

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEES

Ms Doreen Sioka

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

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

Mr N Angula - *(Prime Minister)*

Dr L Amathila - *(Deputy Prime Minister)*

Dr N Iyambo – *(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)*

M N Mbumba - *(Education)*

Mr. E. Nghimtina – *(Mines and Energy)*

Ms. S. Kuugongelwa-Amadhila – *(Finance)*

Dr. A. Iyambo – *(Fisheries and Marine Resources)*

Ms. P. Iivula-Ithana – *(Justice and Attorney General)*

Mr. M. Hausiku – *(Foreign Affairs)*

Mr J Pandeni – *(Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rehabilitation)*

Mr J Ekandjo – *(Lands and Resettlement)*

Mr R Kamwi – *(Health and Social Services)*

Mr A Kawana - *(Presidential Affairs)*

Mr. W Konjore – *(Environment and Tourism)*

Mr. J Kaapanda *(Works, Transport and Communication)*

Ms. N. Ndaitwah – (*Information and Broadcasting*)
Mr. I. Ngatjizeko - (*Trade and Industry*)
Mr. P. Tsheehama – (*Safety and Security*)
Dr. N. Tjiriange – (*Minister without Portfolio*)
Mr J Mutorwa – (*Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture*)
Mr A !Naruseb – (*Labour and Social Welfare*)
Ms M Mungunda – (*Gender and Child Welfare*)
Mr P Tsheehama – (*Safety and Security*)
Ms R Nghidinwa – (*Home Affairs*)
Mr D Namoloh – (*Defence*)

DEPUTY MINISTERS

(21 March 2000 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Ms A Muharukua – (*Gender and Child Welfare*)
Mr B Esau – (*Trade and Industry*)
Ms L Lucas – (*Trade and Industry*)
Mr U Nujoma - (*Justice*)
Mr V Simunja -.-.(*Defence*)
Mr P Ilonga - (*Labour, and Social Welfare*)
Ms T Mushelenga – (*Home Affairs*)
Mr P Shifeta – (*Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture*)
Ms P Haingura – (*Health and Social Services*)
Mr I Katali- - (*Lands and Resettlement*)
Mr L Jooste. – (*Environment and Tourism*)
Mr G Shipopo – (*Safety and Security*)
Mr T Tweya – (*Finance*)
Mr K Kazenambo (*Regional and Local and Government and Housing and Rehabilitation*)
Mr R Dinyando – (*Information and Broadcasting*)
Ms R Ndjoze-Ojo – (*Education*)
Mr P Smit – (*Agriculture, Water and Forestry*)

SECRETARY

Mr. M. K. Ndjarakana

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr. F.S. Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (CoD)

Gurirab T.
Schimming-Chase N - (*Chief Whip*)
Ulenga B.
Dienda E
R K Gertze

DTA OF NAMIBIA

De Waal J
M. Venaani
Kaura K
Moongo P

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

Viljoen J - (*Chief Whip*)

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Amathila, B. – (*Chief Whip*)
Amathila, L. - (*Deputy Prime Minister*)
Amweelo M. – (*Minister*)
Angula H. – (*Minister*)
Angula N. – (*Rgt. Honourable Prime Minister*)
Ankama S
Basson L -
Booys H.
Christiaan H
Diergaardt R
Dinyando R. (*Deputy Minister*)
Ekandjo J. - (*Minister*)
Esau B. – (*Deputy Minister*)
Geingob H
Gurirab T.B. – (*Speaker of the National Assembly*)
Goreseb M
Hamutenya H.
Hausiku M. – (*Minister*)
Hoffmann I
Ilonga P. – (*Deputy Minister*)

Ithana P. – (*Minister*)
Iyambo A. – (*Minister*)
Iyambo N. – (*Minister*)
Jooste L- (*Deputy Minister*).
Kaapanda J. – (*Minister*)
Kaiyamo E.
Kamwi R. – (*Minister*)
Kasingo L. –
Katali I – (*Deputy Minister*)
Katjita L.
Kawana A. – (*Minister*)
Konjore W. (*Minister*)
Kuugongelwa-Amadhila S. – (*Minister*)
Lucas L. (*Deputy Minister*)
Mbumba N - (*Minister*)
Muharukua A (*Deputy Minister*)
Mungunda M. – (*Minister*)
Mushelenga T – (*Deputy Minister*)
Mutorwa J. - (*Minister*)
Nambinga J.
!Naruseb A. – (*Minister*)
Ndaitwah N. – (*Minister*)
Ngatjizeko I. - (*Minister*)
Nghidinwa R. – (*Minister*)
Nghimtina E. – (*Minister*)
Shihepo G. – (*Deputy Minister*)
Simunja V. – (*Deputy Minister*)
Sioka, D (*First Deputy Chief Whip*)
Smit P. – (*Deputy Minister*)
Tjiriange N. – (*Minister*)
Tsheehama P. – (*Minister*)
/Ui/o/oo R.

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr J //Garoeb
Ms G K Tjombe
Mr M B Goreseb

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
20 SEPTEMBER 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the Adjournment.

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

BILLS CONFIRMED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have been informed by the Chairman of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Article 75, Section 2 of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following Bills without amendments:

1. National Youth Service Bill, [B1-2005]
2. Animal Diseases and Parasites Amendment Bill, [B2-2005]
3. Accreditation Board of Namibia Bill, [B6-2005]
4. Transfer of Convicted Offenders Bill, [B7-2005]
5. Appropriation Bill, [B9-2005]

In terms of Article 75, Section 3, these Bills have been referred to the President, to deal with them under Articles 56 and 64 of our Constitution.

Secondly, an Attendance Register for the Second Induction Workshop has been distributed and placed on your desks. Please indicate your attendance and leave the paper on your desk. It will be collected by the Secretariat, after the House adjourns.

So much for that.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 19:

HON MUDGE: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 27 September, I shall ask the following questions to the Minister of Lands, Resettlement & Rehabilitation:

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON MUDGE**

1. Is it true that the officials of the Ministry approached the owner of Ongombo-West with an offer to purchase the farm - although the farm was not for sale?
2. Although an official Notice of Expropriation was not served on the owner of Ongombo-West, how would the Minister describe the action by the Ministry, since it is clear that the owner soon realised that she would have no choice but to sell the farm to the Government?
3. Is it safe to say that it boiled down to the same thing, namely 'expropriation', just that it was done verbally, and what is the difference there?
4. Is it true that according to a Report by the Minister himself, the average price paid thus far by Government, for commercial land purchased, was N\$158.00 per hectare?
5. Is it true that the Ministry offered and paid the amount of N\$3,7 million for the Farm Ongombo-West, which is 4 000 hectares, which means that the Ministry, in this case, was prepared to pay N\$925.00 per hectare?
6. What is the real reason why the Ministry was prepared to pay almost 6 times the average price for this farm, Ongombo-West?
7. Is it true that the purchase agreement between the Ministry and the owner of Ongombo-West, clearly stipulates that the owner of Ongombo-West had to retrench all the farm workers: in other words, that all the workers had to leave the farm, and this, in fact, has already happened?
8. Will the Farm Ongombo-West be used to resettle landless persons, and if so how many people does the Ministry intend to resettle on the farm?
9. Does the Government intend any other activities on Ongombo-West, besides commercial farming? If so, what will it be and who will be the persons involved in such activities? Will it only be *bona fide* landless persons with no other income?
10. other income?
11. Is it true that the Ministry made an offer of N\$2,5 million for the Farm Gross-Ozombotu in the Otjozondjupa Region? This farm is approximately 5 000 hectares, which also means that the Ministry is willing to pay N\$490.00 per hectare?

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON MUDGE**

12. Is the Minister aware of the fact that the owner of Gross-Ozombotu has over the years invested heavily in the different sectors in Namibia and that he cannot justly be classified *only* as an absentee land owner?
13. When targeting farms of so-called 'absentee land owners', does the Minister investigate the possibility that some of these absentee landowners could have invested in other sectors, and should their farms be expropriated, that they, for logical reasons, may decide to withdraw entirely from Namibia with the negative consequences such actions could have?
14. Can the Minister recall the wishes by His Excellency, the President, that we should do whatever possible to attract foreign investors to the country?

I thank you.

QUESTION 20:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I give Notice that on Thursday the 29th of September 2005, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

In view of Cabinet distancing itself from the Teachers' Salaries debacle, firstly:

1. Is it true that as early as January 2005, the public was made aware of the differential payments of teachers' salaries, with those joining recently being on a more beneficial scale?
2. If Cabinet, as explained by the Honourable Minister of Information, did *not* authorise this additional expenditure, then who did?
3. What were the amounts involved and were these amounts budgeted for?
4. If not, where did the money come from?
5. If, as the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting stated, some officials in the Offices of the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Ministry of Education, were responsible for the increase in salaries, in blatant disregard of the existing fiscal regulations, why are they still in office?
6. What disciplinary action is being taken?

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

7. Finally, why did it need action by the Teachers Unions before these actions came to light and correctional measures were taken? I thank you.
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QUESTION 21:

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice, that on Thursday, 29th of September, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Defence the following:

1. What agreements, if any, exist between the Financial Service - Financial Investment Services Group, Namibia (FIS) and the Ministry on any policies sold by this company to the Ministry's personnel?
 2. Whether the Ministry is involved in the deduction of any premiums for policies taken out by its staff members?
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QUESTION 22:

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 29th of September 2005, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

1. Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that, during 2003, an amount of N\$35 million was paid in advance to Nossob River System Ltd, for a project to implement the pre-paid electricity meters to 15 towns under the Equity Trust Fund – MR 16 H Project?
 2. Can the Honourable Prime Minister establish a Commission of Enquiry to investigate whether the N\$35 million was misappropriated or not?
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HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please Table the Question? Honourable Schimming-Chase.

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON GURIRAB**

QUESTION 23:

HON T GURIRAB: At the same time, Honourable Speaker, I give further Notice that I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance the following:

- 1 Whether she is satisfied with the latest investments and performance of the Development Capital Portfolio of the GIPF?
- 2 Secondly, whether she is aware of allegations that loans may have been utilised for purposes other than for which they have been granted?
- 3 Whether she should not commission an Independent Inquiry to lay these public concerns to rest?

I thank you, Sir.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

HON KAURA: I give Notice that on the 11th of October 2005, I shall ask that:

This House takes a serious review of our Education System from Grade 1 to Grade 12 and to pass Legislation to allow Grade 10 failures to repeat Grade 10 next year and other years to follow and to revamp the whole Education System in our Country, including the teachers' training, salaries and other relevant Conditions of Service.

I further give Notice that on the 27th of September 2005, I shall ask:

This Honourable House to discuss the dire situation prevailing at a number of Municipalities, but especially at Opuwo in the Kunene Region, due to the disconnection of water by NamWater for the last three months and to implement emergency measures to rectify the situation before the outbreak of cholera and any other diseases, due to the fact that the people are relieving themselves on the streets.

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**NOTICES OF MOTIONS
HON KAURA**

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 4th of October 2005, I shall ask this Honourable House:

To discuss, as a matter of extreme urgency, the plight of our senior citizens who are taking care of so many orphans, owing to the scourge of Aids and to increase the old-age pension to N\$500.00 Namibian Dollars per month.

I so move.

HON GERTZE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 4th of October 2005, I shall Move:

That this Honourable Assembly debates the appropriateness of the current financial burden placed on the public and also that of penalties against default payments or dishonoured cheques by banks and creditors and their adverse effect on both businesses and the public.

Honourable Speaker, the existing exorbitant bank charges and determinations by the Financial Institutions on the one hand and punitive measures meted out to defaulting clients, on the other, is weighing heavily on the public, the end-user. Amidst inefficiency, high charges, poor communication and ignorance, it is difficult to know what we pay for every minute and the gravity of the defaults and the justification of the punitive measures.

It is therefore my wish that this Assembly resolves to look into our Financial Sector, banking and Transactional Regulations, and their application and to take appropriate action.

I so Move, Sir.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I rise to give Notice that on Wednesday, 28 September 2005, my Colleague, Honourable Ulenga will Move:

1. That this Assembly, in the face of serious and widely held public concern regarding corruption in the running of our Public affairs, and in the Public and Private Sectors of our economy, further in the face of recent widely reported alleged acts of corruption involving Public Officials, Politicians and other individuals, in accordance with its representative nature, duties, powers and functions as provided for in Articles 45, 60 and 63 of our Constitution, will

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- vigorously debate the state of corruption and abuse of Public Funds and other Public Assets in our Country.
2. Devise appropriate recommendations for the Government to put an immediate stop to corruption and the misuse of public funds and other assets, and specifically advise the President of the Republic, in accordance with his powers and functions referred to under Article 63 of the said Constitution, and in accordance with the Constitutional responsibility of the Executive Branch of Government, to the Legislative Branch to make public and release for public scrutiny, the various Reports of Presidential Commissions of Enquiries into the affairs of various parastatals, and to take further requisite action in this regard.

I so Move, Sir.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Will the Honourable Member Table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motion? Any message from the State House? Any Ministerial Statements?

It has been a productive day, but before I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House, a reminder – information - from the Chair, that the Induction Workshop will start at 08:00 tomorrow morning in Conference Room C1, 21st September and will continue until Friday. It is intended for *all* Members of the House, including the Speaker, and particularly for the new Members. I now call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Tuesday next week, 27th September 2005.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I would like to welcome the Members of the House, and to propose that we adjourn the substantial business for now, until Tuesday the 27th of this month at the same time. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: The House then adjourns until Tuesday.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED AT 14:55 UNTIL TUESDAY 2005.09.27

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
27 SEPTEMBER 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the Adjournment.

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

**TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION**

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I should like to lay upon the Table the Annual Report 2004/2005 from the Employment Equity Commission.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please Table the Report? Any further Reports? Any Notices of Questions? Honourable Ulenga?

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 24:

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 29th of September 2005, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

1. Can the Minister agree or deny that poor HIV/AIDS victims in Namibia, especially in Oshakati in particular, are asked to pay hospital fees?
 2. Is it true that those who cannot afford payment of fees are denied their anti-retroviral drugs?
 3. What is the correct method countrywide regarding these problems?
 4. When is the Ministry going to expand the Oshakati Clinics, which cater for thousands of victims of HIV/AIDS? (Interjections)
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QUESTION 25:

HON ULENGA: Mr Speaker, I further give Notice that on Thursday the 6th of October 2005, I shall ask the Right Honourable Nahas Angula, Prime Minister, the following Questions:

1. Can the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Nahas Angula, confirm or deny that on his trip to Gobabis, on the weekend of the 16th to the 18th September 2005, the President of SWAPO Party and former President of the Republic, Mr Sam Nujoma, used a Government helicopter for his trip to Gobabis, where he addressed a SWAPO Rally and appeared publicly on behalf of the Sam Nujoma Foundation?
 2. Who paid for that trip?
 3. Is it true, as alleged in some of the local media, that the SWAPO Party President used Government transport for party political purposes?
 4. What measures does the Government plan to take to put a stop to this highly irregular and possibly corrupt practice?
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QUESTION 26:

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 6th of October, I shall ask the Minister of Mines and Energy, the Honourable Erkki Nghimtina, the following Questions:

1. Before giving the go-ahead for the Langer Heinrich Uranium Project, in the Namib-Naukluft Park, which particular steps did the Government take, in ensuring that the said Uranium Mining Project will not endanger the health and lives of workers, tourists and members of the public, both now and in the long term?
2. Can the Minister outline the scale of benefits as opposed - or contrasted to - present and future threats, presented by the Langer Heinrich Uranium Mining Project?
3. In the light of the Chernobyl experience, what assurance and guarantees can the Namibian Government give to its citizens, both present and future, of protection against the hazards connected to the mining and handling of uranium and its related by-products?

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON ULENGA**

4. In the light of the Chernobyl experience, what are the future prospects of uranium mining in Namibia?
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QUESTION 27:

HON ULENGA: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday the 6th of October 2005, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Nahas Angula, the following Questions:

What is the role of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, in the Sam Nujoma Foundation?

1. What is the nature of the Sam Nujoma Foundation really?
2. Is the Sam Nujoma Foundation a non-partisan and a non-political Welfare Organisation?
3. Or is it an organisation that is affiliated to, pursues, and promotes the partisan agenda of the SWAPO Party?
4. Why was the SWAPO Party President, Mr Sam Nujoma, distributing money and food in Gobabis on behalf of, and in the name of, the Sam Nujoma Foundation, while dressed in full SWAPO Party colours?
5. In the light of that incident referred to above in Question 4, how should other Namibians who are not members or supporters of the SWAPO Party relate to the Sam Nujoma Foundation?

I would like to Move, Sir.

HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member table the Questions? Order in the House. Any further Notices of Questions? Ministers will have tea breaks for bilateral exchanges. Any Notices of Motions? Minister of Trade and Industry?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 4th of October 2005, I shall Move:

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That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the promotion, regulation and maintenance of standardisation relating to quality of commodities; to establish the Namibian Standards Institution for the purpose of acting as the Authority responsible for determining of Namibian Standards; to determine the functions of the Namibian Standards Institution; publish and constitute the Namibian Standards Council for the purpose of managing and controlling the affairs of the Namibian Standards Institution; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday the 4th of October, I shall Move:

That this Assembly ratifies the Phyto-sanitary Convention for Africa, and the International Plant Protection Convention.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

MOTION ON WATER CRISIS IN OPUWO

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I Moved a Motion last week, on the 20th of September 2005, that we must look in all earnestness at the water crisis at Opuwo that has lasted for the last three months.

Honourable Speaker, there are several clichés describing water, such as “*Water is life*”, which is extremely relevant in a dry Country such as ours, and the latest is: “Not a drop of water - without *NamWater*”.

I have a problem, though, with that statement that *deifies NamWater*. God provides water free of charge. *NamWater* is only placed there by Government to act as a facilitator and to execute a social function by distributing water to Communities that need that function. Thousands of commercial farmers provide themselves with water, that life sustaining liquid, H₂O, not *NamWater*. Many water points in communal areas have been handed over to local residents, and they are buying their own diesel, engines and spare parts, not *NamWater*.

Thousands of Namibians are getting their water from the Kavango River, Zambezi River, Kunene River, Fish River, Orange River - free of charge, and not from *NamWater*. Therefore that statement of “*Not a drop of water without NamWater*” is preposterous,

self-righteous, asinine and must be removed immediately.

This self-righteousness of *NamWater* has exposed us to a new experience: of water being cut to towns such as Katima Mulilo, Karibib, Okakarara and now Opuwo. This situation is recorded nowhere in the annals of Namibian history, since the days of colonialism dating back to 1904, when Germany took over Namibia by force, abandoning the pretext of bringing Christianity to the savages, when the Bible was replaced by the Martini Henry Rifle, machine guns and cannons.

Yes, during the period of three years 1904 to 1907, when Lothar Von Trotha was pursuing the Hereros into the Kalahari Desert, there was tampering with water. Water wells were poisoned and thousands of Hereros perished but, after the end of the war, the practice stopped. However, 105 years later, *NamWater* is rekindling that sad memory by cutting water to towns and villages. Hundreds of cattle died along the eastern water carrier, when the water was disconnected in the areas of Otjituuu, Okamatapati and Okakarara. This is a new experience in the Independent Republic of Namibia, in a Government of the People, by the People - or to be precise, the SWAPO Party Government, as we are constantly reminded by Honourable Kapia: The SWAPO Party Government.

Honourable Speaker, Opuwo *stinks*. Flushing toilets are blocked; the pipes are calcified, owing to the high lime content in the water; the people are relieving themselves on the streets at night, especially the adults. Honourable Speaker, I am reliably informed by the Mayor of Opuwo, His Worship, Mr Kakuva, that the Opuwo water is classified as Category D, which is not fit for human consumption.

There are four schools in Opuwo, namely:

1. Mureti Secondary School, with a hostel;
2. Opuwo Primary School, with a hostel;
3. Oputuavanga Junior Secondary School, with a hostel;
4. Kameru Primary School, without a hostel.

Three schools are with hostels, and without water. Is that normal in an Independent Namibia? In broad daylight these schoolchildren go into the veld and relieve themselves. The following Ministries are represented in Opuwo. They can bear witness to this.

1. Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development.
2. Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture.

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**MOTION ON WATER CRISIS IN OPUWO
HON KAURA**

3. Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Information and Broadcasting.
5. Ministry of Health and Social Services.
6. Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation.
7. Ministry of Home Affairs.
8. Ministry of Lands and Resettlement.
9. Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing.
10. Ministry of Trade and Industry.
11. Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare.
12. Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication.

All these are listed in the telephone directory, with telephone numbers. Go and look in the telephone directory; they are listed in the telephone directory with telephone numbers; they are in Opuwo. (Interjections).

HON RIRUAKO: I am not here to speak. It is the order of the day, how we can run the country?

HON KAURA: Amongst all these Ministries, I should like to single out the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare to take this issue seriously. Four schools are in Opuwo, from lower primary to senior secondary schools, and their welfare is your unwavering responsibility.

These women and children are your *unwavering* responsibility. Look into this issue. Please do something. I hope your Ministry is not listed among the defaulters that do not pay their bills to the Opuwo Municipality. Make sure you come clean on that one: of the non-payment of water bills in Opuwo.

I was surprised to learn from our daily newspapers that *NamWater* is saying that they cannot put up a Water Purification Plant at Opuwo because it is going to cost N\$12 Million, and they do not have those funds available. They do not have N\$12 Million: not N\$30 Million, not N\$100 Million, not N\$650 Million, but N\$12 Million. They do not have it. What a shame. To provide clean drinking water to more than 5 000 people, pensioners, orphans, women and children, there is no money to put up a N\$12 Million Water Purification Plant at Opuwo.

N\$3 Million disappeared in the Army, to buy weapons and is not accounted for; N\$10 million - NANDO'S - gone with the wind yet, yet no money to purify water for

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**MOTION ON WATER CRISIS IN OPUWO
HON KAURA**

fellow human beings.

Honourable Speaker, what are our priorities in this country? Is it to look after a few Black Economic Empowerment Gurus or to look after the interests of the previously disadvantaged Namibians?

Honourable Speaker, the Kunene Region is extremely attractive to tourists: there is needed cash flowing into that region and the Namibian Nation at large, but the town of Opuwo, the capital of the Kunene Region, with its stench and lack of water, would be *avoided* by the tourists, and that is lost capital to the Kunene Region and Namibia as a whole.

I therefore request this House to discuss this issue in all earnest and to take remedial steps to rectify the water problem, before we are confronted by other severe problems of outbreaks of diseases and so on.

Thank you for listening, and I thank you for your anticipated support of this Motion, especially the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Honourable Speaker, I would like to adjourn this discussion until tomorrow afternoon. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: That brings us to the end of the business scheduled for today. I call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you. Honourable Speaker, with this efficiency we are going to make progress, and I propose we adjourn until tomorrow. Thank you.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED AT 15:03 UNTIL WEDNESDAY 2005.09.28

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
28 SEPTEMBER 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the Adjournment.

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read the Prayers and the Affirmation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I should like to acknowledge the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of distinguished Members from the National Assembly of Kenya, representing the Committee on Health, Housing, Labour and Social Welfare. They are Honourable Manduku, Leader of the Delegation, Honourable Nkosi, Honourable Opere and Honourable Indile. Honourable Members of the National Assembly of Kenya, your presence enriches the life of our Parliament and confirms the friendship and solidarity that so happily co-exist between the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Namibia.

TABLING: SUMMARY REPORT OF TRAINING WORKSHOP

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table a Summary Report on the training workshop of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts that was held at Okahandja Lodge from the 1st to 3rd July 2005.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR GENERAL

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

- (a) Town Council of Ondangwa for the Financial Year which ended on 30 June 2003.
- (b) Veterinary Council for the Financial Year which ended on 31st March 2003.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON TWEYA**

- (c) Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture for the Financial Years 1999 to 2002.
- (d) Government of Namibia for the Financial Year which ended on 31st March 2002.
- (e) The Ministry of Prisons and Correctional Services for the Financial Year which ended on 31st March 2003.
- (f) The National Council for the Financial Year which ended on 31st March 2003.
- (g) The Office of the President for the Financial Year which ended on 31st March 2003.
- (h) Ministry of Labour for the Financial Year which ended on 31st March 2003.
- (i) Department of Civic Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs for the Financial Year which ended on 31st March 2003
- (j) The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development for the Financial Year which ended on 31st March 2003.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance. Would the Honourable Member please Table the Reports? Are there any further Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Honourable Venaani?

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 28:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I further give Notice that on Thursday the 6th October 2005, I shall ask the Minister of Education the following:

1. Whether it is true that the Ministry of Education defaulted in paying a N\$1,6 Million water bill at the Augustineum Secondary School, with the result that the students are without water at the Augustineum Secondary School Hostel because it was disconnected by the City of Windhoek?

QUESTION 29:

HON VENAANI: I further give Notice that on the 6th October 2005 I shall ask the Minister of Finance the following:

1. Can the Minister inform this House as to how much Namibian public funds are invested in National and International Financial Institutions?
 2. Can the Minister further name the Institutions in which these funds are invested, and when returns are expected? Would the Minister inform this House as to how much funds were invested during the last five Financial Years, and how much profits or losses were accrued from these investments?
 3. Can the Minister reiterate the Treasury Provisions relating to Public Funds investments and, in her opinion, does she think that the system has loopholes, and what can be done to improve it, if the answer is affirmative?
-

QUESTION 30:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday 6th October 2005, I shall I ask the Minister of Mines and Energy the following:

1. In view of the fact that our country is often implicated in the United Nations Reports as one of the countries involved in 'blood diamonds' trading, would the Honourable Minister answer the following:
2. Does our Government have any shares, or companies owning diamond mines or owning shares in mining companies that are in operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo?
3. Does the August 26 Company, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Defence, have any involvement in the DRC diamond trade, or other related trade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo?
4. When did the August 26 Company cease its operations in the Congo? How much profit was generated by this Company from the operations thereof?
5. How many Namibian companies are operating in mining-related activities in the DRC? May the Minister please name the companies and their shareholders?

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QUESTION 31:

HON VENAANI: Lastly, Honourable Speaker, I further give Notice that on Thursday, 6th October 2005, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

1. Is the Honourable Minister aware of a Report that was in the media two weeks ago about a San resident of the Otjozondjupa Region who fell ill in the Okamatapati Area, which is in the Okakarara Constituency, and who was rushed to Okakarara Hospital and later transferred to Otjiwarongo Hospital where he ultimately passed away? This poor San man was transported in a plastic bag from the hospital back to Okamatapati - and he was buried in the plastic bag.
2. Has your Ministry no compassionate provisions to provide a coffin for such a poor person in order for him to be given a decent burial?

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member Table the questions? Any further Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Honourable Moongo?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on the 12th October 2005, I shall Move that this Honourable House, as a matter of extreme urgency, discusses, revisits and adjusts the remuneration and other benefits, and to regulate the allowances, of the Traditional Leaders countrywide.

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member Table the Motion? Well, nothing seems to be wrong. Honourable Minister, under what do you rise? A Point of Order? Everything seems to be in Order. Point of Order?

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HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I have been observing the Honourable Member since yesterday. When he Tables his papers he does not give due respect to the Speaker as all the other Members do. We have Rules and Regulations in this House. We have to follow them. Can the Honourable Member give that due respect which every Member gives in this House? Yes, he must Table it. He must come back and Table it. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. If what is alleged is in order - the Honourable Member being a veteran of the House - that all due respect should be paid to the Speaker, I advise the Table in front of me to draw the attention of any Member who should so violate the established Rules and Orders of the House. The Speaker did not notice, but I respect the observation made.

Any further Notices of Motions? Any message from State House? Any Ministerial Statements? Thank you.

The Notice of a Motion before the House is the one by Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

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HON ULENGA: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. I give the floor to Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: I thank you, Honourable Speaker. You will have to bear with me this afternoon. In the hurry of the morning I neglected to take a second pair of eyes.

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HON SPEAKER: There is an offer from the front table.

HON ULENGA: Thank you very much. I do not think those will help me. I think it will take some time to settle, so let me try the first pair. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, but it seems even heavier and it makes things more blurred. The sub-theme of the Motion or the Motivation I am getting into this afternoon, Honourable Speaker, goes as follows: *‘Those who sow the wind will reap the hurricane.’*

The Motion I am moving today is no cause for celebration. However, at least I am happy to say I do not stand here to speak on behalf of my Party only, or to express sentiments which are party-political in nature. I have no doubt that my Party’s position on corruption, its causes, pre-conditions and remedies are well-known and clear. I can also say with confidence today that my statement and views on the issue are shared by many beyond the membership of the Congress of Democrats.

Mr Speaker, in the aftermath of recent media revelations regarding alleged corrupt dealings in the Country involving Public Officials, Politicians and other Stakeholders in the public sphere, many Namibians have individually expressed their anger and dismay at what was going on and have cried out for action.

The Nation has watched, with disbelief and dismay, what is going on and how their affairs and assets are being mismanaged and even stolen, and have waited with increasing frustration to see something done, to see a stop to this corruption that involves Public Officials and Politicians, as I said before. Particularly, it was a statement issued by the Catholic Archbishop of Windhoek, His Holiness Archbishop Ndumbukuti Nashenda, OMI, which brought together national sentiments in one expression, in saying the following and I would like to quote him:

“ Nothing appears to be sacred: not the hard- earned money of the Namibian worker paid into a pension fund; nor the foodstuffs destined for hungry Namibians living in drought-stricken areas, nor the lands destined for neighbourhoods in our Municipalities – are there no bounds to greed?”

Honourable Speaker, it is not surprising to note that the Church has found it necessary to make its voice heard in this present moral crisis that the Nation is facing.

Alarmingly, stolen public funds have found their way into to the accounts of more than one otherwise reputable and innocent organisation and charitable bodies, including Churches. Tens of thousands of Namibian dollars in stolen public money

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have allegedly been spent on Pastors and other Holy Persons of the Cloth. Church bells to summon the just and the faithful have been acquired with dishonest or by dishonest means. On the other hand, I must mention that, though we stood with bowed heads, some courageous people have now started to give back those ill-begotten gifts - at least this is what it says in the local media.

Mr Speaker, in the face of this moral crisis enveloping the whole Nation, we, as the Nation's foremost representatives must take the lead; must take a stand. We must take the lead in turning the tide on corruption. We must express ourselves unreservedly against the evil of corruption and the perversion of our society's morals. No one should be left in any doubt regarding our condemnation of any kind of corruption, irrespective of whether it involves money or not. Honourable Speaker, we must also lead in ensuring that the necessary conditions exist to stop corruption in its tracks, or that such conditions are brought into existence. If needs be we must, as the leading legislative body, create the necessary weapons to fight and destroy this evil because words of condemnation may not in themselves be enough.

The Nation expects that from us. Indeed, they demand action from us, their elected Representatives: otherwise we have no business being here.

Above all, we need to act in support of the Head of State, President Pohamba, who has attempted much to change the political atmosphere in this regard in the Country: but his efforts clearly seem to be hampered by unknown and hidden forces.

Mr Speaker, the President of the Country has been sharing in the Nation's frustration regarding the amazingly slow turning of the wheels of State. He is clearly disappointed that not everybody is giving him the necessary support in this regard. In a recent statement attributed to President Pohamba, the Head of State spoke in a manner that revealed some degree of this frustration. According to local media, President Pohamba was addressing thousands of volunteers at the Northern Railway Project near Ondangwa, during the weekend of 26th to the 28th August 2005, and he spoke revealingly about his state of mind on the matter, and I should like to quote him at length: He spoke as follows: *"Everyday I read in the newspapers about the Namibian Nation's assets having been stolen from them. All the public money that has gone missing in dubious deals must be returned as soon as possible ..."*

Honourable Speaker, if I can interrupt the quotation: that was not just any idle statement from anybody; that was a veritable directive from the Head of State. On the issue of not just talking, but acting on corruption, he goes on as follows: *"...Some years ago, we were talking about the Social Security Commission's money that had*

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been squandered by those who were working there. This was the money of the people of this Country. We then let those involved go, and we employed others, and we brought in new people, but now N\$30 Million is gone again."

Honourable Speaker, after referring to all kinds of Reports on stolen or misappropriated Public Assets, the President then said the following and I quote again: *"The Anti-Corruption Commission would be created to combat this evil, and then we will see what those who are challenging me, that there is no corruption in Namibia, have to say"*. The President says further, and I again quote: *"Some people want to call it negligence, the NDF's N\$3 million - Negligence? The drought relief food rotting - Negligence? It would be unfair to allow those responsible to go unpunished."*

Mr Speaker, who are these people who the President says are challenging him on the presence of corruption in Namibia today? Who are they, those who prefer to call it negligence, instead of calling a spade a spade?

Honourable Speaker, it is worth mentioning that it is nice to hear that Political Parties from the Opposition benches have spoken out loud and clear, unequivocally, against corruption. They express support to the Government in fighting corruption. Civil society has spoken, and even petitioned Government, to act urgently on corruption. The highest voices from the Country's spiritual and moral guardians, as I quoted a few minutes ago, have spoken in condemnation of corruption and have urged Government to follow word with action in this regard.

Honourable Speaker, may I add that this very House, in the person of its Speaker, only recently spoke out unequivocally in warning those who might be thinking, and in the words of the Speaker himself *"that they can steal and then hide behind exemptions, immunities or privileges that do not apply"*.

Honourable Speaker, suffice it to say that these hidden forces, who, according to the President himself, are challenging him, are doing so against the overwhelmingly sentiments of the Namibian Nation, expressed from the widest of fronts. No one at all should ignore such a united stand as expressed by the Nation through its various representatives. It is a remarkable convergence of national sentiments, not seen for a long time and that no one should ignore.

Honourable Speaker, it would be wrong for us to want to single out economic corruption or greed for money and other material goods as being corruption, and treat these as evil while excluding other aspects of corruption. The dictionary synonym of

corruption is “perversion”. To corrupt is to change from good to bad, either morally or even physically, to change, debase or degrade with unsound principles. For 15 years Namibians have kept quiet, while debasing unsound principles nestled themselves into our society’s bosom. Whatever the game is of an ethical culture which was there at the beginning, was quickly eroded, Honourable Speaker. It was argued that some people who have participated in the “struggle”, - I put *struggle* in inverted commas because it has been used in a dubious way in this sense - or those who have participated in the struggle were entitled to certain social goods, entitled more than others. Thus the unsound principle of entitlement was allowed to come in with its perverting tendencies. Then, for various reasons, we were told that those in top Government positions could decide who should receive social goods, and they could allocate these goods to themselves. In other words, the shepherd thus became indistinguishable from the wolf, while the wolf suddenly also qualified to be shepherd.

Honourable Speaker, as a Nation we have crossed a few murky pools but did not complain too much - and I am now talking about what has happened during the last 15 years or so. Remember the famous *Borehole episode*? There was also something called the *Veterinary vaccine episode* along the years. Then of course, there was the *Pidico episode* which many of you will remember. Then the *Wedding of the Century* or was it the *Wedding of the Millennium* and so on and so forth, Honourable Speaker. Instead of focusing public interest we were told about the discretion of the so-called “*Appointing Authority*”: in other words, it was all left to the appointing authority at its discretion to do either this or that, to be dismissed or not be dismissed, to reveal or not to reveal, to publicise or not to publicise, to promote or not to promote- because there were never any demotions.

Honourable Speaker, even after Commissions of Enquiry, it was still left to the so-called *appointing authority* if they wanted to publicise any report or not. Now, if we look at the very concept of the Commission of Enquiry which is supposed to recommend corrective measures that should be undertaken when people smell a rat. The idea is that whenever there is smoke, there could be fire, and a Commission of Enquiry is brought in to determine with public funds whether there is fire or not. It is only fair that people receive full publicity of whatever results came from a Commission of Enquiry, whether it was Presidential or otherwise.

There would be no sense for Government that represents the people to find out the wrongs and to discover the rat - or not to discover anything and then to hide it. In the first place, it does a great disservice to the Government itself as a representative body of the People, not to mention the disservice that is served on the People themselves.

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Honourable Speaker, I said *‘Those who sow the wind will certainly reap the hurricane*

To make sound political and/or social programmes serve political allies, to use the position of public trust to serve the interest of self, of one’s family members, of one’s clan members, or members of one’s ethnic brotherhood or sisterhood, is corruption. It is despicable and should be condemned with great force as the Nation today, wherever you go, condemns corruption that involves money.

Some of these aspects have unfortunately become acceptable in Namibia - so much so that we no longer even raise an eyebrow when we see, or hear about, instances of corruption. Namibians have come to accept that you would not get employment in the civil service, you would not have your passport or ID processed, unless you knew somebody influential in the SWAPO party or influential in Government or even influential in the COD.

When people do not succeed with SWAPO they go to the next and the next party for assistance. They may even go to the court; they go everywhere. They believe they cannot do it without the assistance of somebody who may have some keys somewhere. Yes, they do come to me, saying: *you may know people in Government who can do this for us*. They come every day, in increasing numbers. Many Government officials and ruling party spokespersons have openly declared that they will give out employment according to political affiliation or party membership. Even the highest in the Country have said there should be such kind of preference.

I remember a few years ago, during a local by-election in Rehoboth, that members of the Public, who were members of the CoD, showed me their SWAPO cards. They said that -and these things were not done through decisions of any ruling party or any other party - somebody was writing them at night, because they were told that when the factories started to be built in Rehoboth, they would not get jobs unless they were members of the SWAPO party. The issue is: the *perception* of the people is that this is true and they cannot do otherwise.

Honourable Speaker, this is corruption unadulterated, the degrading of a system by introducing unsound principles. And this is the evil system which I urge you that we should fight tooth and nail. Therefore, Honourable Speaker, I propose that this House:

- (1) debate and express its unreserved condemnation of the practice of corruption in Namibia;

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- (2) undertake to advise the Executive to draw up appropriate guidelines to regulate the business involvement of Government and Ruling Party officials, throw these guidelines open for debate and final adoption in the National Assembly;
- (3) advise the President and Cabinet to release all Reports of Presidential and other Commissions of Enquiry, which were set up with taxpayers' money, for public scrutiny, at the latest six months from the completion of such enquiry and submission of such reports to the appointing authority;
- (4) urge the Government to expedite the setting up and finalisation of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you, Honourable Member. I now give the floor to Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I have not yet prepared a speech. Quite obviously it is the habit of the day, like some meal on the table that you can reach from the appetite you have. I did my best for my own political party. I have tried to attain what I think is right, but I Move to add *action* to what has happened today. I started to remove those who praise themselves without actions. Thank God, the action has taken place after me. We are here to prove to ourselves that we are capable of harnessing the actions. For that matter, I do not want any accusations of political purpose or for political gain. We are here to lead the Nation, not to politicise the issue. It is quite a clear message to those who habitually just move, to add information about our action. I did not do this for the sake of NUDO but for the sake of the Nation - that's why I support the incumbent President. His own actions and initiative will express itself for the Member who cannot join. What we are saying here is that we do not want sweet words without action. We want action. We are not here to listen to Presidential Commissions of Enquiries without their Reports being tabled in this House. Sometimes it happens - it shouldn't happen again.

Should it happen again we are going to call a spade a spade. As the Honourable Minister said - a spade would be a spade today and always.

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Honourable Speaker, we are not criticising. We pointed out what had happened and we tried to stop it immediately. We cannot have people here in this House participating in corruption without being punished. I am sorry to say this but straight talk breaks no friendship. Honourable Speaker, as the Ruling Party, you must be exemplary. You cannot hide behind the décor; you must come up and talk about what you are doing, where we are going and how we should do it. That is a demand of this House. Honourable Speaker, we are not here to place this issue on the House blindly without involving individuals. (interjection)

HON GURIRAB: I did not want to interrupt the Honourable Member's contribution, but I was listening to him, and I wanted to know whether Epango could be used to fight corruption?

HON RIRUAKO: I thought the Honourable Colleague was serious, but if you believe in making jokes we are at the funeral of the fight against corruption. Now we are joking at that funeral. I did not know that you were so weak. We talk about corruption, not jokes. We cannot point fingers at others and then we do the same. What do you want to condemn? What do you want to achieve with this Motion? As a Member of COD, your leader spoke clearly and now you talk and disrupt at the same time. Honourable Speaker, we are talking about a serious issue and we are supposed to be serious, regardless of what the Member wants to achieve. It is time we prove that we are capable to defend this country: its human rights, its individual rights, not group rights, not political rights.

Honourable Speaker, it is high time for us to tell our Colleagues that we are bluffing ourselves that we are doing this for the youth. For the youth outside it is shocking news. They want to hear their leaders coming up something tangible for them to lean on. Honourable Speaker, as an Opposition Party we said what was supposed to be said. Now we need action from your side. I think it is a clear and honest opinion. Those who think SWAPO Party cannot be challenged should bear in mind that this is not only a SWAPO Party Government but also a National Government. This is the Namibian Government. It belongs to all of us and if something happens, even to me, it is your duty to come to my rescue and defend me. That is the right of everybody in this country.

We are talking about people who bribe officials. Did you know that in the United States you are not supposed to be issued with a visa unless you have paid somebody some money in order to obtain what you want? The habit blew over from there, but we are now an Independent country.

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Just forget about that habit. We are now independent. We now have to prove other capabilities and our righteousness that belongs to us. Let us do this as a Nation, not as an individual political party - here in this House. For that matter I need serious people, I do not want to hear anybody joking. This is serious.

Mr Speaker, the motto is that we are supposed to join one another. You must learn that from now onwards you are not only a Member of SWAPO or of a political party. You belong to this House and to this Nation. That is the way you are supposed to learn and to lean to. A SWAPO Government without a Nation is no Government. It is a National Government and you voted for that National Government. We regard it as a National Government and, irrespective of what happened to SWAPO, we will try to defend the National Government in our own way - and you know that.

Honourable Speaker, this habit must be created here. If you do it openly, there is no beating about the bush. I said - and SWAPO Government did not say it either on television or on the radio - that the railway line to Kaokoland is a National issue. It is not a NUDO or DTA or SWAPO issue to develop this Country to its full potential. We must do that journey together. Whoever commits any crime or anything - which was the idea behind the scene - must be confronted. That way it is not a one-way street. Mr. Speaker, we are here to defend this country's remotest corners: from the South to the North, from the West to the East - not according to individualistic habits.

We want Herero Chiefs to be recognised like other Chiefs. Why am I saying this - it is corruption? For 15 years we lived under corrupted Ministries which couldn't do their jobs properly. How on earth can you create a kind of clannish Chief? A clan is a clan, it is not a Nation. (Interjection). Well, Herero Chiefs but not Clannish Chiefs - Chiefs created by their own Government for their own sake to meet all their demands: that is not fair. That Clan does not have a right to go and try the other Clan. It defined its remedies or areas or quarters, but its existence is illegal.

Mr Speaker, what I am saying is: one has to bear in mind that one knows what one is doing is illegal. If one challenges that kind of leadership, that leadership is going to find itself in jeopardy, because it was considered in illegal ways. It is illegal Law. I have to mention my Honourable Colleague, Honourable Kawana. Did you read where, and place that Law in the Constitution, which I read and had found full of loopholes which are not called for?

Honourable Speaker, you know that you made a mistake, but you did not even correct it. Why? Honourable Speaker, this is the way we do in our own Government. We created corruption which is just corruption. Is that fair? As Law Makers, if you criticise anybody else your side must be clean. Honourable Speaker, this is not to

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investigate anyone, I want to remedy the situation the way it is. Go and read the Laws, and perhaps do not go home without being challenged. Mr. Speaker, there is a way it is supposed to be and to do things on your own... I apologise, we shall welcome your ideas - if you did not do it. If someone came from another country and studied our Laws that someone was going to find the irregularities in them; it is part of the corruption. I know what I am talking about and my Colleagues know what I am talking about. You heard about it and you placed it in the Gazette for the President and then to sign it into Law. It is wrong. It is part of corruption. I know of corruption created by the Law Makers. We are criticising highly respected individuals whom this whole country knows about and thus start to oppose. They have been challenging the (Indistinct), to defend itself too. What is that?

Mr. Speaker, I needed these things to be dealt with very urgently. How can you say: *Riruako is the Head of the Kwaimas, he must go and tell other people there to report to us*. That is unfair - an endorsement to tell a person to sign? It is not fair. This or this - correct yourself before you are being accused of irregularities. I appreciate that you do understand me. I do not want to create commotion or chaos. I need these things to be done secretly, and then you come back. I think the message got across, Mr Speaker, and I hope everyone knows what I am talking about - those who are involved in these kinds of activities. I hope this was the message that you wanted to hear, and not to harness but correct it. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Chief. Are there any further discussions? Honourable Venaani?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, if there are no other speakers, I want to adjourn the Debate until next week Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Seeing none, the Debate stands adjourned, until Tuesday, October the 4th. The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE DIRE SITUATION AT OPUWO DUE
TO THE DISCONNECTION OF WATER BY NAMWATER**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, 27th September 2005, the question before Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. The

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Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare adjourned the Debate. I now give the Floor to Honourable Mungunda.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I thank you, Comrade Speaker, and Members of this August House. Before I deliberate on my adjournment, I should like to make an announcement. Today is the *Day of the Namibian Child*. I should also like to appreciate the Key Note Address which was delivered this morning by the First Lady - the Mother of the Nation. It is not coincidence that the *Day of the Namibian Child* falls on September 28th, which is the anniversary of Namibia's ratification of the *African Charter* and the *Rights of the Child* and the *Welfare of the Child*. It implies that the Parliamentarians and the Government have committed themselves to observe and guarantee non-discrimination for children as the Charter states and I quote: "*Every child shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed in this Charter irrespective of the child's* (Interjection).

HON ULENGA: Point of Order, Honourable Speaker, and with due respect to the Member who presently has the floor. What is she talking about? You allowed her to talk while she is out of order, because she is not addressing the Motion on the Floor. A Preamble? It is a very long preamble.

HON SPEAKER: No, the Honourable Member is not out of order. I gave her the floor. Continue.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE I thank you, Comrade Speaker. "*Every child shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed in this Charter irrespective of the choice of parents or his or her guardian, race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national and social origin, (indistinct), birth or other status*". I also request the Members of Parliament to watch the six o'clock news this afternoon, because on the television the children themselves will read the news and there will be a Children's Bulletin. As my Ministry is also responsible for the abuse against women, children and men, I would also like to take this opportunity to recall a slogan from the Struggle, "*An injury to one is an injury to all*". Another young life of a woman (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, the Motion that was adjourned was very specific about the situation in Opuwo. I remember the Minister responding to the Motivation of the Motion vigorously, and that is really what the House would like to hear. When Honourable Ulenga rose on a Point of Order, I thought that the Minister was busy with introductory comments leading up to responding to the Motion. Could you respond to the Motion, please?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am a humble servant and very obedient. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, water is life, and we Namibians know it better than anybody else as we live in one of the most arid countries in the world. Today, the whole planet is experiencing climate changes and water is becoming one of the most precious resources, more precious than gold - so much so that some experts predict inter-state wars over water in the near future. I mention this to highlight the fact that we must approach the issue with the seriousness it deserves. It is not a matter of cheap politicking. It is true that NamWater has been pursuing strict policies towards those who fail to settle their water bills on time. But that is the *only* way. It is absurd to compare the situation today - at the beginning of the 21st Century - with the situation of the early 20th Century and Colonial days when no water infrastructure existed in the Country: when people depended only on rain, rivers and wells, when the population was smaller, and there were no huge water consumers such as big industries. Today, water consumption is much higher because the needs are higher. Water is needed for developments in agriculture... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I am not going to ask any questions; I am going to give certain information. Now the whole Nation, the poor Nation, must suffer because of industrial development. The industries must take the burden themselves, not the poor individual people. There must be a balance. We cannot go on and on because NamWater wants their coffers to be filled with the poor people's money. That is not the way to do it. And if you do not know how to do it, you better have a Committee or a Commission of Investigations to find tangible solutions for that (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, that sounds more like a Point of Order than a correction.

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HON RIRUAKO: Thank you for your information. You must look for experts.

HON SPEAKER: With that information you may proceed.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I thank you, Comrade Chief. Water is needed for development in Agriculture, Tourism, Manufacturing, Construction Industry, the Food Industry among others and indeed for household consumption and community consumption generally. To be able to expand the water supply to all areas of the Country, to meet people's expectations as well as maintaining the existing network, NamWater needs resources and cannot afford to forgive debts of non-payers. Honourable Kaura obviously lives in the past and not in the present. Another proof is that he has singled out "*The Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare*" to take these issues seriously - Honourable Kaura, my uncle.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, do not make it a family affair, but the question is accepted.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to find out - if the water to Augustineum was cut off on this World Child's Day and the children did not have water - does that not amount to child abuse? What is the reaction of the Minister to that?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: There were a number of issues, Uncle, and that is also part of my speech. It is coming. Honourable Kaura, allow me to inform you that there is no *Ministry of Women Affairs* anymore. We have outgrown that whole concept of "women affairs", and this Government pursues the *policy of gender equality*. That is why we now have the *Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare*. Being honoured with the responsibility of heading this Ministry, I can tell you that the issues of water supply, water use, water quality and accessibility are considered extremely important, because the well being of Namibian families and children are closely connected to them. However, we are aware of the broader context, which we may call the developmental context.

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I feel bad, for instance, about the fact reported in today's press, that water had been cut off to Augustineum School and Hostel.

HON SPEAKER: On that note, the House will rise for tea.

**THE HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
THE HOUSE MET PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I feel bad, for instance, that water had been cut off to Augustineum School and Hostel - but can NamWater afford to waive the alleged N\$1 Million plus debt? Its ability to deliver services and participate in the National development would be seriously hampered by that kind of generous forgiveness. It would even be unlawful. This Nation needs to learn discipline at all levels, from families to schools, to Parastatals, to businesses, to Public Administration and Government itself. As leaders we must all join hands to help our Nation learn to take responsibility. It also includes each and every one of us, the Members of Parliament. Let us be part of the solution ... (Interjection).

HON KAURA: Honourable Minister, who is responsible for paying the N\$1.6 Million water bill at Augustineum? Is it not the Ministry of Education? Are you trying to instil discipline in that Ministry?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Uncle, but that is what I have just mentioned. I said "*even the Government itself.*" I mentioned that. Now let us be part of the solution and let us ask what we can do, instead of what the Government can do.

To refresh your memory, Honourable Kaura, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is not responsible for the provision of water. I do not see how you can refer in your last paragraph that our Ministry should especially take care of the situation. As far as our Ministry is concerned, we have a clear vision and a mission

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and mandate under which we operate. The achievements within that scope are clear testimonies of the success story of our Ministry.

As the Ministry, we ‘walk the talk’, therefore please leave us alone. Do not scratch where it is not itching.

HON SPEAKER: Is that it? I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Muharukua?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, for granting me this opportunity to respond to some issues mentioned under the pretext of water problems in Opuwo, but directed at the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, which does not deal with water problems. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Kaura raised the issue of water problems in Opuwo, but suggested that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare takes a leading role in solving these problems. I would like to state that the water problem is the same as in other Regions and towns like Okakarara - from where he originates - Usakos, Karibib and Katima Mulilo had the same problems. The Honourable Kaura did not bring those problems to the Chamber for discussion - why only in the case of Opuwo?

Honourable Members, what is so special about Opuwo? Why does Honourable Kaura thought it important to bring its water problems to this August House? The Honourable Kaura had a mission to go to Opuwo to a funeral. He went to Otuni to the funeral in Okaoko - Otuni is an area in Kaoko - where he, *inter alia*, advised people to reject the proposed railway project (intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Point of Order, may I say this without asking permission?

HON SPEAKER: You should stick to the Rules. Points of Order should address the issue raised by the Honourable Member.

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HON RIRUAKO: There is a balance to everything, Mr Speaker. Honourable Kaura rejects it, I accept it and I say it openly and loudly too. It is the time for you to say it now openly. I thank you

HON SPEAKER: You may continue, Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I want Honourable Riruako to listen to what I am saying now. Honourable Kaura did the same with the Epupa Project. Honourable Kaura, from today on, stop mobilising my community against development!

HON RIRUAKO: The Order itself was rejected, but (indistinct) it was accepted. Something is supposed to be done now, if anyone is serious about it.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, I know why the Honourable Members are divided in the DTA that is made (interjections). Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, water is part of development, yet he went to mobilize people against it. I would like to urge the Honourable Kaura to first stop development in his own area, Okakarara.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, On a Point of Order, may I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, how many kilometres are there between Calueque to Opuwo? And, how many kilometres of pipeline would be required to bring water to Opuwo? Do you have any idea? Thank you.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as I said earlier, water is part of development, and he went to mobilize people against it. I said that.

HON KAURA: Honourable Member, allow me a chance to put a question. Honourable Speaker, I just wanted to find out - in view of the fact that the Honourable Minister is now farming in the Outjo District - owning two farms - she is oblivious to what is happening in Opuwo. She is totally not in the know about what is going on in Opuwo.

HON SPEAKER: The Deputy Minister still farms in the Outjo area? Deputy Minister?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I know that when Honourable Kaura looks at me, he looks at me as if I was the heavens. He thinks that I am rich. Kaura, I am going to become rich from now onwards. To answer the question about the distance between Kaoko and Calueque - I never drove from Opuwo to Angola. I went to Angola by plane, not by road. I would like to add, Honourable Kaura, first stop development in your own area of Okakarara. Oppose it there rather than in Okaoko.

Honourable Members, I believe that the SWAPO Government will solve the problems through the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. They have agreed to resolve the water problem in Opuwo. The Opuwo Town Council had a meeting with the business community and community leaders last Monday, September 26, 2005, to solve the water problem in Opuwo. The Honourable Member went to Otjitanda, where he was rejected by Senior Councillor Kozongombe. He should not use that disappointment here in the Chamber.

Honourable Members, Comrade Speaker, I am representing my Region and I work tirelessly for their well-being, whether it is water problems or not. The solution to most of the problems faced by this country is fast development. If we developed our country and its people, they will have money to pay for water.

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It is true that water is given by God through rain and springs, but He does not put water into pipes. NamWater drills for it and supplies it to the consumers and the consumer has to pay for it so that it can continue being supplied.

Comrade Speaker, I want Kaura and his colleague Honourable Chief Riruako to listen. I will not get involved in the responsibility given to other Ministries. I know my responsibilities, firstly as a person, and as a Member of Parliament and a Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. The Honourable Kaura, did not suggest to the Ministry to solve water problems in Katima Mulilo, Okakarara, Usakos and Karibib. Why should he request it for Opuwo only? This Ministry therefore came out, it is responsible, but it will not get involved in issues raised by disappointed Honourable Members. Honourable Kaura, raised the issues because he was rejected by (intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, we have a water issue - not Kaura, Kaura.

HON SPEAKER: Would the Deputy Minister address the Motion around the issue of water scarcity in Opuwo?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, I am talking because Kaura is not addressing water. Kaura was indirectly talking to me. Honourable Kaura was not talking about water only; he is talking to Muharukua indirectly.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, let us not personalise it.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: As I said this, Ministry will carry out its responsibility, and not to get involved in issues raised by a disappointed Member - who raised something - because he was rejected by people of Otjitanda. Comrade Speaker, whenever Kaura knows that the Government is going to take action on a particular issue, (intervention)

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HON VENAANI: Honourable Muharukua, knowing that you and Honourable Kaura are kissing cousins, is it allowed to play *Otjiramue* in the National Assembly, in the Chambers.

HON SPEAKER: Deputy Minister, could you respond to the question and explain what the Honourable Member meant?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Comrade Speaker, I am not going to respond to what Venaani asked me. I want to say, when Honourable Kaura heard that the Government was going to take action – like the present increase in pension for the old people - he came with a Motion to the Chamber, proposing that the Old Age pensions be increased. People are not stupid; they know what the Government did for them. Even though he knew that the Ministry of Regional and Local Government was going solve that problem, he still brought the Motion to the Chamber. Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I would like you to stop Motions like those of Honourable Kaura. I thank you.

HON NCUBE: Honourable Speaker, with due respect to you as well as to the Honourable Member Kaura, I think I will fail in my duty if I do not respond to what I think is a misconception, contained in the Motion by the Honourable Member.

I think to compare this event that happened 105 years ago to the real event which is happening now in an Independent Namibia. I think the Honourable Member is emotionalising, - if not politicising - the issue, because we are living in a different environment and circumstances. The Honourable Member mentioned hundred heads of cattle which died as a result of the disconnection of the eastern water carrier. I think perhaps it would have been wiser if these cattle were sold in order to pay the water and other expenses. He also again mentioned that he was reliably informed by the Mayor of Opuwo, Mr Kakuva, that the water is classified as category D, which, according to the Honourable Member, is not fit for human consumption. So I would like the Honourable Member to tell this Honourable House: “How many people became sick or have died perhaps as a result of this water which is not fit for human consumption.” We should also be honest with ourselves. I would like the Honourable Member to really acknowledge the differences which are now obvious in Opuwo, under the Government of the day. I am convinced that there is a big difference - from

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then when the Government was headed by the DTA - if we are comparing it from that time and now. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Ncube. Honourable Kazenambo? Honourable Ndjoze, you are next on the list.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Thank you, Honourable Members. Nation building is a great challenge: it places challenges of responsibility. It calls for sacrifices, it calls for patience and it calls for honesty.

Honourable Speaker, when I listened to Honourable Kaura talking on the issue of Opuwo and the water situation in Opuwo, my feelings were mixed. Some of his comments touched on moral values and on the behaviour of Namibians - how they respond to issues and how they go about their daily life. Amongst other things, I do not think that it is Namibian, - I will say it is un-Namibian - for Namibians from any corner of this country to relieve themselves in the street. It is not true that the people in Opuwo relieve themselves in the streets. Namibians do not do that. It is un-Namibian.

While I will agree or share the sentiments that there may be problems due to water, I do not think that it is a correct to say that people relieve themselves in the streets. Depending on how it is captured in the media, I do not think it is true that Namibians everywhere in this country relieve themselves on the streets. That statement is devoid of any truth.

Coming to the issue of water, I said that Nation building placed a high responsibility and challenges on all of us. NamWater did not fall out of the blue. It came through processes; through an enactment of an Act and so on. We should understand the responsibility of NamWater and the duties that are assigned to it. I do not suggest companies should not have social responsibility. We are busy building a Nation; we must try to distinguish between responsibilities and the roles of institutions. We must challenge their actions, analyse their actions, criticise their actions, and compliment their actions in an honest manner.

We are living in a modernised world. Comparing a town to a farm - a farm has a population of a family or perhaps twenty to a hundred people - comparing a farm

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situation with a situation of a town, which perhaps has fifty thousand or ten thousand people, is not justified.

HON RIRUAKO: It is not the farmers or citizens of Opuwo that did not pay the money. It is a certain department and parastatal - that is the company. No matter how you want to defend it, it is you who did not pay the money, and now the poor people have to suffer for that. It is controversial. You became overdue and now you want to defend it. I thank you.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, ignorance is bliss. Honourable Deputy Minister Kazenambo is speaking out of pure ignorance. If you want we can drive to Opuwo now and I will show you the human faeces on the streets of Opuwo - so do not talk about something you know nothing about. Another point: there are six thousand farms in this country and there are three hundred and fifty thousand people working on those farms; drinking water on those farms provided by people independently - three hundred and fifty thousand: almost the population of Windhoek.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Kazenambo, you are aware that the problem of water is not limited to one area; it is the whole country. My question to you is why the Honourable Kaura, the mover of the Motion and a representative of the Namibian Nation, did not talk about the whole Nation? Why is it Opuwo only?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: I start with the question of my senior leader before I go to the question of ignorance. I am continuing with my intervention. In the crisis of the DTA/NUDO civil war, the last bastion of the DTA, under my uncle Kaura, remains Opuwo and that was where they have garnered support. He really has to concentrate on that because he lost ground in Okakarara and other areas. That is the answer to your question.

On the issue of ignorance, I do not actually believe what Honourable Kaura said, and there is no need for us to drive to Opuwo to look because I say that Namibian people know how to behave, and the Namibian people respect themselves whether they are in Opuwo or elsewhere.

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HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Hon Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Kazenambo, I came from Opuwo two weeks ago. The water situation was just as the Honourable Member described it - it was worse. About four water points are open and there are also other areas where people collect water. I am sure you will agree that people cannot even clean their utilities, such as toilets. They do not have a regular water flow but it does not mean that it is closed and they do not have water. The situation was the same and we have water. My question is: How different is the situation now from what you and me found, before Ongulumbashe and after Ongulumbashe? Is the situation the same because we had water? How did it come to be a different thing?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: I will answer the question of faeces floating in the streets of Opuwo. I said the Namibian people are not like that and I deny that statement. People in Opuwo are responsible and they know where to go. They know how to do things, just like in Okakarara and just like everywhere else. Perhaps the incidents that the Honourable Kaura is referring to are found elsewhere. I used to find it under the bridges in London - you find people sleeping there - and you will find human faeces, even in New York. Sometimes you come across those faeces, those are incidental, why not Opuwo?

Now coming to the issue of water and NamWater - I am saying that NamWater - apart from the water situation in Opuwo - the Ministry or the Council and the whole community of Opuwo are busy with certain modalities or ways of addressing the problem.

HON RIRUAKO: The Department said they do not have the money to allocate for that purpose, quiet clear and loud. We heard about that. I am not happy about these kids in Ohangwena. During the raining season they sit in the open air. I cannot be happy even if I am from Aminuis, Okakarara or anywhere. A human being is a human being; each must be treated equally and correctly. So, be honest and tell me where the problem is? Try and take care of that problem. That is how national courtesy is supposed to be. I thank you.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: I was saying that the negotiations, between the stakeholders in Opuwo and Government officials, regarding the water situation are going on and the people are working hard around the clock trying to rectify the situation. It is very unfortunate that leaders like Honourable Kaura, instead of educating the Namibian people as we all have the responsibility and address the situation, are politicising, they are trying to score cheap political mileage out of the of the precarious situation (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. Now in SWAPO we say, when I am with Sam Nujoma “*me tuwarara, me i kombanda*”, and I say VIVA SWAPO. The people in Kaoko are not stupid any more; their eyes are open to SWAPO. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: I was saying that the situation in Opuwo, just like in all those struggling towns and small Municipalities (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: There are so many Points of Order. Points of Order but we must address what the speaker has said. If you want the floor, prescribe and I will give the floor to make your contribution. Points of Order are not intended to disrupt the flow of business. If you take the floor on a Point of Order, let it be a Point of Order, correct the mistake and provide information. Honourable Booy's?

HON BOOYS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. My Point of Order is on Honourable Kaura's words *you are useless* which he just used here. I think this Parliament has many young people who (intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura is not on the floor. It is the Deputy Minister.

HON BOOYS: I want him to withdraw the words he was using.

HON SPEAKER: What did he say?

HON BOOYS: I want Honourable Kaura to withdraw the words “*you are useless*”. What I meant was; this House has a lot of young people who look up to elderly Members of Parliament, the veterans.

HON SPEAKER: If indeed Honourable Member Kaura has used the words *you are useless*, I shall ask him to withdraw.

HON RIRUAKO: Point of Order. I do not want to be a partisan; in this House you are supposed to develop the image of the House, not of parties. It can also be found that you are here just for the parties. We are here to develop the Nation as a whole, not to develop what you want to say. The fact is, I am not talking about Opuwo, I am talking about human life and the way it ought to be. I know that in their politics they forget that we are in Parliament. We are here, discussing the issue. The issue is water. Are we defending what happened, or do we want to develop (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Chief. Honourable Speaker, I want you to question the issue of water.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue of water is being addressed and it involves a number of stakeholders: NamWater, Ministries, residents and all the others. We need to look

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into this situation without trying to bring in other issues, although it is our democratic right to do so.

Water is provided by God, yes, water is provided by God, there is no doubt about that Water is processed in a modern society like ours. To have potable water we need to process that water into potable water. Problems are being expressed by companies like NamWater that the infrastructure is old. They brought out a report on a chemical water analysis conducted at Opuwo on 24th February of this year. They are busy analysing these problems and the nature of the water in that part of the world. You go into some areas to find (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member is responding to some of your concerns. Honourable Member, please continue.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION:** NamWater did chemical water analysis and expressed their findings publicly. It is we, the Parliamentarians, who call for transparency. NamWater did not in any way suggest that they were not going to address the problem in Opuwo. However, they highlighted the route we need to take in order to address those problems.

They highlighted the issue of the plant; the nature of the water there; the process that needs to be taken - that is what they highlighted and the Council also. On the other hand, everybody who uses water in Opuwo - be it the community or the residents, the Ministries, political parties - be it SWAPO, DTA, NUDO, CoD and all others, including all other stakeholders, ought to know that water need to be paid for. If we are billed we need to pay. This payment would go for the processing of water and for ensuring that everybody is receiving water. Yes, it is unfair on those residents of Opuwo who paid, and all the people, who live in that part of the world or anywhere in the country, who pay their dues. There are those who do not pay and then they make others to suffer, but we are saying that that suffering is not deliberate. So to try to paint (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. A question for the Hon Deputy Minister? Hon Kaura?

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HON KAURA: I just want to find out from Honourable Deputy Minister - do you accept the collective punishment of school children at four schools at Opuwo which are the responsibility of the Ministry of Education? They are collectively punished with everybody else who does not pay water and they are the school going children. They are going to start examinations next month, but they do not have water. They walk with plastic water bottles to school in Opuwo. Do you accept that?

HON SPEAKER: You may continue, Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: I was about to wrap up. To answer my uncle, the Honourable Member Kaura, directly: I spent my entire youth, I risked my life, and I was in the line of battle for fairness, for justice and for a fair society. I do not believe in collective punishment whatsoever, because collective punishment means that there is no justice, there is no fairness, because you are punishing those who are innocent. However, I am qualifying that, I am not speaking in a vacuum, listen to my qualification.

My qualification is that, while I do not believe in collective punishment, unfortunately in certain circumstances all of us tend to suffer, because the situation is not avoidable. I have stated earlier on that there are mechanisms and processes being employed in Opuwo on how to provide water to the community of Opuwo. It may be a process of rationing water while we are addressing the issue, we should be honest, that was what I appealed for earlier - but to say to the world that the people of Opuwo are not receiving water in whatever way, is also not true. We need honesty. So there are processes and mechanisms in place trying to resolve this problem. We, as responsible leaders, should approach problems by being honest and also by trying to understand the processes, the overall problems, the mechanisms and approaches that are being employed in order to address the problem in the final analysis.

Yes, the situation in Opuwo remains a concern to all of us, and yes, all of us, including Honourable Kaura, should educate the people on responsibility; that we

should be responsible. School children are not - we do not have an orphanage of school children in Opuwo, they come from houses.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Deputy Minister of Gender Equality?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Member, are you aware that the Roads Authority in Opuwo is helping to bring water to the people in Opuwo. It is the Town Council which stopped the Roads Authority from taking water to the people, because the Town Council wants the people to pay. Now, I do not know why Mr. Kaura was talking about the Mayor yesterday, even though he did not mention that the Mayor does not live in town - he lives approximately 80 kilometres from Opuwo - and that is why the Mayor told him lies. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON KAURA: On a Point of Information - on the 14th of September I was in Opuwo and the Roads Authority Company was delivering water to the people in Opuwo. People were lining up with cans to get water from the Road Construction Company truck inside Opuwo. The Honourable Deputy Minister is ignorant about what is going on in Opuwo, and in this House she is telling things that are untrue; when she says it was stopped by the Municipality - it is not true.

HON SPEAKER: Deputy Minister, continue and wrap up, please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: I want to say to the residents of Opuwo and the Namibian people and to the world at large, that neither the Namibian Government nor the Ministry involved, are punishing anybody collectively. NamWater is not doing it. Our Ministry, which was mentioned, is not doing it. There is no deliberate intent, but we have to rectify the problem. We cannot address the situation on an *ad-hoc* basis. Unfortunately, sometimes we have to face the bitter reality to arrive at the solution. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Minister. Honourable Ndjoze-Ojo?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, water is life. I just cannot believe that we can politicise it. At the same time, just as water is life, language is power. I want to address something which I have just observed on the floor of this House.

The Namibian Constitution which is the grand vision of this Nation makes provision for a language policy which recognises English as the official language of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. At the same time it also recognises the use of our indigenous languages in Government and in this House. I want to say that, as we are discussing water, sometimes Honourable Members in this House will find it much easier to express themselves in the languages they know best. And I really believe that, for us not to lose sight of the important issues that we are discussing, people should be allowed to speak in their indigenous languages with a translation.

Now, I also feel that, Honourable Speaker, there are issues that are touching on education, the responsibility perhaps of the Ministry of Education - my Minister is not here, he is travelling. Right at this moment and from what I read in the newspaper, it is not very clear whose responsibility it was to settle the N\$1.6 or so million for Augustineum, and for the schools affected in the Kunene Region. I want to do an investigation today and tomorrow and I shall answer as to the responsibility or not of the Ministry of Education concerning these issues.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable. Direct and to the point. I appreciate that. Honourable Nambahu?

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. It was not my intention to make a contribution to this debate, but I think it would do us much good, if we were to check our facts before we make contributions on this very sensitive issue of water. I tend to agree that there seems to be a little bit of politicisation of the issue, because studies exist that will help us understand why what is happening, is happening.

As far back as 1996 a study was carried out in this country, and Opuwo was found to be one of the towns which had a lot of unaccounted for water. It means water disappears from the point, the supplier, from the supplier to the consumer, in between.

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HON NAMBAHU

This unaccounted for water means that water disappears from the supplier to the end user. That means that there is a lot of infrastructure investment that needed to be made. When we speak without addressing this issue, we will not be doing a service to those people out here who are really suffering.

When we try to politicise and score points that is also not going to be helpful. Then there is the issue of Education, where we are all supposed to be stakeholders.

What does *educating our people* mean? Water comes from the rain - good and fine, but who puts chlorine in it? Who puts it in a pipeline? What about reclamation? These are issues that we, as political leaders and stakeholders, are supposed to engage our voters and our populace in, in order to educate them, so that they can contribute consciously to the payment and settling of their bills. If these issues are not being addressed, or if we do not address and read the studies that exist, then we shall be speaking in a vacuum. So I would really like to see us politicians addressing these issues. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Nambahu. Honourable Iyambo, Minister of Agriculture?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. If there is nobody who is prepared to make a contribution today, I would like the debate to be postponed for me to make a contribution on Tuesday the 4th.

HON SPEAKER: I still have a Member. Honourable Mudge?

HON MUDGE: Honourable Speaker, I have listened to what the Honourable Member said. It is so, one could say one should not politicise the issue, and I do not think it should be politicised. But then, everything that is happening in the country is important and to look for excuses and to say that it is being politicised is just not good enough.

The fact is that Opuwo has a problem. I would love to see what the reaction of these Honourable Members would be if we had that same problem right here in Windhoek.

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I think something would have been done about it very quickly. But Opuwo is far away and people have been accusing one another. One thing that I know is the fact that the pipes are clogging up. It is shocking to hear that the Honourable Deputy Minister received the report on the quality of the water in February of this year, while we all have known for 10, 15 years about the problem that Opuwo has. In other words, the problem is not necessarily that you cannot drink the water: it is the fact that the pipes are clogging up, and, as the Honourable Member said, that water is disappearing between the supplier and the end user.

I want to say, it is shocking to hear that the Deputy Minister only heard about this at the beginning of this year, or that the Government, for that matter and with all due respect, - he is indeed...(Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order, just specifically to correct that, (intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On a Point of Information, specifically to Honourable Mudge, he is distorting it again. I said mechanical analysis and I also mentioned about the issue of the ailing infrastructure. He is just repeating what I said in another form.

HON MUDGE: The biggest problem in Opuwo is that the pipes are clogging up. It is 15 years after Independence, and to say that *something is going to be done now* is not acceptable. In the end the buck stops with the Minister. We have a new Minister and a new Deputy Minister, I agree, but in the end the buck stops with the Minister, and he should be able and willing to take responsibility for something like this.

It should have been budgeted for a long, long time ago, because the situation of Opuwo should never have happened. There are no excuses for that.

The point is - something must be done as soon as possible because people are sitting on the streets and I know that. I have the report from people in Opuwo - they are using the open areas for toilets.

There are businesses being erected, costing N\$10 Million. The people's fresh goods are rotting; they cannot keep those goods fresh to be sold to the customers. There are no toilet facilities, and these people built those facilities for the people of Opuwo.

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Now they are being penalised, despite the fact that they have paid their accounts. In conclusion, you cannot now come and make excuses. We must do something about that problem quickly, because it is unacceptable 15 years after Independence.

HON SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, there is no crime in what the Honourable Members called politicisation or issues of politicking. We represent political parties and every time that you rise you are speaking to an audience out there. The duty of Members of Parliament is to be factual. If politicking leads to providing facts, correcting facts and providing information - that is correct. Because if the Honourable Members are just politicking for the sake of politicking, people out there can tell the difference. If you are factual, they will do this for you. Honourable Moongo?

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I wanted to adjourn the debate until next Tuesday if there is no one who would like to participate now.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iyambo, since you asked for an adjournment earlier, perhaps I shall give you the floor to adjourn.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WATER AND FORESTRY:: Honourable Speaker, as I stated earlier, if there was nobody else prepared to make a contribution today, I will request a postponement of this debate until Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: I am sorry. I believe before we get there, I actually disappeared from the list. I am sorry. Honourable Tjiuiko had earlier prescribed the Speaker. He is back now again. Honourable Tjiuiko?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I do not mind. It is a mistake and understandable. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this August house, I rise in support of the abovementioned Motion on the water crises in Opuwo. I am not here to try and politicise the issue. I will try to call a spade a spade.

Honourable Speaker, water is a God-given commodity that has been given to all of us: all of His creatures on mother earth, them having four legs, or two legs. It is indeed a sin in the eyes of our living God that those who were supposed to care for those who couldn't afford to pay for water, because of the policy of yesteryear, are the ones who are turning off water taps and who are allowing people in peace to perish of thirst in an Independent Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Article 8 of the Namibian Constitution *inter alia*, provides that no persons shall be subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. That is the Constitution of Namibia. It seems as if we are withholding an essential commodity, such as water, from the most helpless and vulnerable citizens of the 'Land of the Brave'. It appears as nothing less than a State function, punishment and degradation.

The SWAPO Party Government, and its parastatal NamWater, has proven beyond reasonable doubt... (Intervention).

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, I just want to be absolutely sure that I have heard Mr Tjihuiko properly, and that is why I am rising to pose a question - if I may? Thank you.

Now Honourable Tjihuiko, my friend knows that there is no connotations to whether I call him Honourable or Mr. Can you please repeat what you said in terms of those destitute people, whether it is in Opuwo or elsewhere, where we might have a problem of water having being cut. You said that people have perished. Now, because we are Honourable Members, could we be provided with statistics? Speaking about the facts - you are trying to inform this House and the Namibian Nation at large about - in terms of statistics of people who perished because water was cut. Thank you?

HON SPEAKER: Unless the Honourable Member wishes to answer the question, I give you the floor.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Members, maybe I should repeat. *Be it as on our four legs or two legs, it is indeed a great sin in the eyes of our living God, that those people who were supposed to care, for those who cannot afford to pay for water, because of the policy of yesteryears, are the one who are turning off water taps, and allow people or beasts to perish from thirst, in an Independent Namibia.* Beasts have perished in Otjituuo, in Okamatapati and those areas. I am not talking about Opuwo

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alone; I am talking about water scarcity in general. Honourable Speaker, I went on in saying that Article 8 of the Namibian Constitution, *inter alia*, provides that (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Riruako?

HON RIRUAKO: I want to say this. I do not want to hear the words “SWAPO Party Government”. It must be ruled out. And I am staying put. Incumbent Government? I do not see this Government of the Ministries or all combined. If anything happens, I can accuse SWAPO Government (indistinct). What is the result? That is what SWAPO wants, but they are not very sure as you make it (indistinct). This is something that can create individualities and I am not here to promote that. That is why I say that.

HON SPEAKER: You made your point, Chief. You prefer to talk about the Government of the day, but there is nothing wrong for if some want to talk about SWAPO Party Government.

HON NAMBINGA: Honourable Members, on a very serious Point of Order, can the Honourable Speaker allow the Members of NUDO to go outside and sort out their problems? Then let them come back again.

HON TJIHUIKO: We do not have a problem. It is only that the Honourable Paramount Chief is advising the younger people to say certain right things. I understand that the SWAPO led Government, and its parastatal NamWater, has proven beyond reasonable doubt that they have completely lost touch with the reality of the situation in Namibia. They have become rich, powerful and corrupt, to the extent that they do not even care about the position of the poorest of the poor.

It is indeed regrettable and shameful that an independent, democratic, black-led Government, through its *get rich scheme called NamWater*, has committed the biggest crime of modern times - equal to the action of the notorious German General Lothar Von Trotha against the Herero people back in 1904, when he ordered that all the waterholes in the Omaheke Region must be poisoned.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Finance?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Can we please have clarity on one issue. As an Independent Namibia we should not be talking of a Black-led Government; there is no such thing. Can the Honourable Member tell us where he has discovered this vocabulary? Black-led Government - where is it?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable, I would try to answer that question. We decided to see the Namibian people as equals; whether they are black or white they must be treated equally. Look at Ongombo Farm's expropriation: it belonged to a white person, and Otjiku Farm belonged to SWAPO card carrying members. People were chased off the farm and up to now nothing has happened. That is exactly what I am talking about. It is indeed regrettable and shameful that an independent, democratic, black led Government, through its get rich scheme called NamPower, has committed the biggest crime of modern times - equal to the action of the notorious German General, Luther Von Trotha against the Ovaherero people back in 1904. When he ordered, (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Agriculture?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. The Point of Information is that the issue is related to NamWater and to the water problem. Now the Honourable Member, if I heard him correctly, said *NamPower*. It is a bit confusing. Which is which, water or electricity?

HON TJIHUIKO: NamWater, yes. When he ordered that all waterholes, in Omaheke Region should be ... (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Minister of Finance?

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. I thought that the Honourable Member would check himself when he was called to order by the Minister of Agriculture and make his point differently; whatever point he was trying to make. But the point that the Honourable Member is trying to make now, is to say that the measures by NamWater to get people to comply and pay for their water bills, is equal to the extermination order of Von Trotha against the Hereros. I find that unacceptable and it cannot be made in this Honourable House. I think it is an insult. It is a belittling of the suffering of the people and an insult to the people of Namibia. I think the Honourable Member should just withdraw that.

HON SPEAKER: I concur with the Minister. I think it is a very weighty allegation. It implies intention on the part of the Government and the responsible Ministries that they would like to have those results. It implies also as to a deliberate thing; it would amount to the intention of General Von Trotha to kill Namibian people. I think if you could perhaps rephrase what you were trying to say. That part, actually, I think you should withdraw.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister of Finance, thank you very much for the kind advice. I hope that I will be excused on the grounds of being a new Member. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: No, let him continue. Point of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: Point of Order. I agree with the House, I agree with the Speaker. The fact is, do not push people to that end then cry when they retort. That is not fair. (Interjection). Now, I am not talking to the individual who just want to disrupt me, I speak to people who understand what I am saying. If you push a person to a wall, in return they may do something which is wrong. Now, let us limit ourselves and thereby anyone can feel at home. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you, Chief.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, when we were living under the racist apartheid South African regime... (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON NAMBINGA: Comrade Speaker, I think we have a problem. The Honourable Minister of Finance moved that the Honourable Member should withdraw his statement and the Honourable Speaker also agreed. The Honourable Member also agreed to that - owing to the fact that he is a new member. He never withdrew. Can he just withdraw and continue.

HON SPEAKER: Can you withdraw your statement, Honourable Member, and then continue?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I withdraw that part. I was saying that even under the racist apartheid South African regime, they have never denied God's creatures' water. In fact, they provided water to rural communities, some of us who grew up in rural community, know that. They provided water to poor rural communities (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: I do not want the discussion to degenerate as we are nearing the end. Members should indicate if they wished to take the floor and make a point. I want the Honourable Member to continue.

HON TJIHUIKO: They provided free water to the rural poor of our communities, but under the current Government, animals are dying in Otjituuo and in Okamatapati. Water has been disconnected in Karibib and in Opuwo. The vulnerable and the poorest of the poor families, the San people, orphans and pensioners suffer the most, because they have committed the crime of being poor. I was surprised to see, (intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Ithana

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL: It was really not my intention to participate in this Motion. Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member is telling this Honourable House, and the Nation at large, and referring back to the South African regime; we did not have water in our villages. Our Government is taking responsibility for every soul in this country to get clean water. So the facts must be clear and correct.

HON TJIHUIKO: I appreciate the comment by the Honourable Minister. You did not have water in your community then. I do not have water in my community now. Honourable Speaker, I wonder what would have happened if the Government of the day was a white led Government, doing these things to the black people, I am sure that farms would have been expropriated by now. Adding insult to injury, last year 2004, Cabinet approved a National Policy ... (Intervention).

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, I am also watching the time, but really, these things are going out to the people who are listening. We should intervene and correct what is said here. Comrade Honourable Kaura was saying (Interjection) on the same issue that no water was cut in the past. The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs in her speech cleared it already that there was no infrastructure. Let me tell you, water is now cut in these different local authorities because of non-payment.

In 1985 in Mariental, when the so-called white Government and the local authorities were in power, the price of water was increased by the Municipality. We in Aimablaagte refused to pay, especially the Women's Council League. Then the water was cut off because we said we couldn't pay. That was inhuman. If you did not pay, water was cut. How can you compare these two? For people not paying ... (intervention).

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, this time I am going to deny you the floor. You will have the last word; it is your Motion.

HON TJIHUIKO: I thank you very much Honourable Speaker. Adding insult to injury, last year, 2004, Cabinet approved a *National Policy on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children*, in which they recognised the need to reinforce the coping capacity of communities and Government services, which was a very good thing. However, instead of Government providing water to the very same poor communities to start things like community gardens, in order for them to be able to survive, they decided to cut off the water. I am not surprised to learn that a Government company appears to have exempted itself from providing (indistinct) 12 Million to set up a purification plant needed by thousands of elderly, women and children in Opuwo. For this company, calling itself NamWater, it seems entirely appropriate just when they told us of denying water while bank rolling hefty salaries and benefits for its officials.

First, one is tempted to feel that, perhaps, NamWater does not seem to comprehend its mission and purpose. Or could it be a crystal testimony of a Government without vision? Each and everything that this current Government is doing, is begun with one thing in mind - and that is creating jobs for the trusted and tested party cadres, regardless of the impact this has on the poor and vulnerable of this country.

The Governing party is at a loss. They have completely lost control of the situation. Nobody knows what is happening in Ministries. Agreements have been signed left, right and centre with trade unions, without the political leadership of the ruling party knowing anything about it. Who is doing what with GIPF, ODC and SSC money? Money is being wasted on un-researched and ill-planned projects, mainly from the trusted SWAPO Youth League Leadership Elites, the Kapia's.

Honourable Speaker, it is indeed criminal of the SWAPO party led Government and its parastatal to deny God's creatures water. Government should therefore resume its responsibility of providing water to communities as a matter of urgency. Water is too essential a commodity for it to be left in the hands of a profit oriented group of people - even if NamWater is by law denied from making profit. Another way of making and hiding profit would be to increase expenditure such as salaries and fringe benefits. Water should be treated like Education, Health, Defence and the Police Force. These essential services cannot and should not be left in the hands of people with only one thing in mind: profit, profit, profit. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Government should (intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: The Honourable Tjihuiko knows very well that NamWater does not only employ SWAPO card members alone. It is rumour mongering, it is hypocrisy of the highest order and it cannot be proven. NamWater and other parastatals are national public institutions and they employ Namibians. The criteria are not card-carrying members; that one is not true.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I hope Honourable Kazenambo has said it when Honourable Paulus Kapia made the official announcement about *only trusted SWAPO* - not every SWAPO member, *trusted SWAPO* - not some of the people here. You must be SWAPO trusted in order for you to get a higher position. Some of you are not surprised that some of you scored the high position that you have now. Water should be treated like Education, Health, Defence and Police Force. These essential services (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Minister of Finance?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I would like to ask the Honourable Member two related questions. The first one is about the misuse of public funds. Does the Honourable Member consider the handling of public funds by senior NUDO officials recently to be efficient use of public funds? Does he consider it justifiable to discontinue public funding to NUDO? Does the Honourable Member think the Namibian citizens should pay their utility bills? Does he think that it is a burden from Government for citizens to be expected to contribute to the cost of service delivery?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Honourable Member?

HON TJIHUIKO: Maybe I should try to answer the first question. Perhaps I should just continue and answer the first question. The point is: NUDO party, - NUDO of

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Namibia - is the first-ever political party in this August House to take the action that it has taken, especially looking at the seniority of people that has been suspended from the party. On top of this, Honourable Speaker, even though the SWAPO party, through its Secretary General, has promised the people of this country that those who have involved themselves in dubious investments will not be sitting in this August House - Kapia is back. Thank you.

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

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker, in all those towns - local authorities - where NamWater has suspended the water - the unemployment rate in those towns is beyond 62%. So we have serious problem. It is not that people do not want to pay for the water that they are consuming. We also have another issue: one of development of people who do not have employment in this country. It is reality, go to Katima Mulilo and look at the unemployment rate, go to Okakarara, Karibib, go to Opuwo, (intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I am not here to please anyone, but I am not here for you, as you probably know. Honourable Speaker, we want the water distribution function to go back to Government. Simple - that profit break the incumbent Government - into individual pockets and not to the Government itself. What money goes into individual pockets? It is money of the parastatals, especially water. I want to be clear and fair that all these money - one billion lost even today - but water is part of it, because it suppresses anyone in the country, and this is where the money goes. What kind of budget do we have out of the water parastatal to Government? Thank you.

HON TJIHUIKO: I think the Honourable Member should remember that, if people are not paying for water it is not that they do not want to pay; it is simply that they cannot afford to pay. If you go to areas like Okakarara and Okamatapati and see the kind of development and job opportunities that have been created there, in order for people to be able to pay for water - you can see for yourself. I know that 80%, if not 90 %, of the Honourable Members sitting in this House have never been to some of these places. They have never been to places like Gibeon, Aminuis and these places. Honourable Members, Government should very urgently control NamWater

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sufficiently or subsidise the provision of water, as they are doing with other essential services, particularly to rural communities.

This issue should be addressed once and for all. It is unthinkable that we are sitting with a hot potato which we have created ourselves. Or was the water crisis in our community also created by imperialists?

Honourable Speaker, allow me to conclude my contribution by reminding this August House about NUDO's position on water. NUDO of Namibia advocates that Government should repeal the NamWater Corporation Act in the interest of the Namibian people and to make the water the sole responsibility of the Central Government as they have done with Education, Health and other essential services.

This should be under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Gurirab?

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, in view of the time, I wish to adjourn the debate until tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We have no sitting scheduled for tomorrow. If that is the request of Honourable Member then that will be the only business for which we will be sitting tomorrow.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, this is the only business for Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Gurirab has also advanced his name to speak. If I look at the clock to the left, that brings us to the end of the business schedule for today. First, would one of the Honourable Members adjourn the debate on this item until Tuesday?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WATER AND FORESTRY:
Honourable Speaker, seeing that this is the only item that we have on the floor and

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our time for debating is up, I would thus consequently request the adjournment of this debate until Tuesday the 4th October, in the afternoon.

HON SPEAKER: We do also adjourn the House. I would have liked to give other Members the opportunity to speak but our time is up. Thus - automatic adjournment under the appropriate Rule; the House stands adjourned until Tuesday 4th October 14h30.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED AT 17:45 UNTIL TUESDAY 2005.10.04

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
04 OCTOBER 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the Adjournment

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read the Prayers and the Affirmation.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions, any Reports of Standing or Select Committees?
Other Reports and Papers? Minister of young people?

**TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORTS
2003/2004 AND 2004/2005 NAMIBIAN SPORTS COMMISSION
2004 NATIONAL MONUMENT COUNCIL**

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I would like to lay on the Table of this August House Annual Reports 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 of the Namibian Sports Commission and further, Comrade Speaker, I would also like to lay on the Table of this August House the Annual Report 2004 of the National Monument Council known since the 1st September as the National Heritage Council of Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister Table the Reports? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Works and Transport?

**TABLING: YEAR REPORT 2003/04
NAMIBIA POST LIMITED**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:
Thank you Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table the Year Report 2003/2004 of *Namibia Post Limited*. I so move, Mr Speaker.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2003/04:
TELECOM NAMIBIA**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:

Further, Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report 2003/2004 of *Telecom Namibia*.

I so Move, Mr Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister Table the report? Any more Reports and Papers? None. Minister of Finance?

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR GENERAL

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

- (a) Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare: Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.
- (b) Department of Transport of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication: Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.
- (c) Ministry of Finance: Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.
- (d) Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation: Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.
- (e) Town Council of Ongwediva: Financial Year ended 30th June 2003.
- (f) Ministry of Mines and Energy: Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.
- (g) Ministry of Regional Local Government and Housing: Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.

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- (h) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Information and Broadcasting: Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.
- (i) Department of Police of the Ministry of Home Affairs: Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.
- (j) Ministry of Health and Social Services: Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.
- (k) Ministry of Environment and Tourism: Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister Table the Reports? Any Notices of Questions. Honourable Viljoen?

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS.

QUESTION 31:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Mr Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 13th of October 2005, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry the following questions:

The *Offshore Development Company Limited* was formed under Section 26(1) of the Export Processing Zone Act of 1995, and registered as a company under the Companies Act Registration 95/293, with the Government of Namibia holding 95.5% of its shares.

The *Namibia Development Corporation - NDC* - was established under the Namibia Development Corporation Act, Act 18 of 1993, with the Government of the Republic of Namibia holding 100% shares.

According to media reports, Mr Speaker, the *ODC* and the *NDC* invested a total amount of N\$99 872 853,31 with two unknown investment companies, *Great Triangle Investments* and *Comserve Investments Pty Ltd*, operating from Botswana and South Africa respectively.

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The maturity date for this investment was apparently the 31st of May 2004, but to date neither the investment amount, nor the interests was returned to Namibia and several investigations were launched to trace those investments.

- (1) In view of this, can the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Ngatjizeko, inform this House as to the exact nature, terms and conditions of these investments and whether any due diligence or *bona fide* checks were done on the investment companies involved?
- (2) Is it true as reported in the Media, that the previous Minister was not aware of these investments contrary to stipulations in the various Acts that the Minister must be consulted on or authorise such investments?
- (3) Does Government know exactly where these funds are, namely special funds and industrial parts of the Ministry of Trade and Industry? Where are they at the moment? What are the reasons for the delay in returning the investment to Namibia?
- (4) Serious allegations of corruption and self-enrichment were levelled against top officials in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the NDC and the ODC in connection with this investment. In what timeframe is it envisaged for these investigations to be completed? Various Government Ministries and Agencies are now involved with these investments.
- (5) Is it true that the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the ODC and the NDC which were the Principal Officers involved in all three entities are now busy with an investigation against themselves? Can we therefore expect an Independent investigation into this matter, and when will it happen?

I so Move.

QUESTION 32:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 14th October 2005, I shall I ask the Minister of Works, Transport and Communication the following question:

- (1) Does the Minister agree that it is not fair that people living in Auasblick be kept further in the dark regarding the future of their properties? It has been more than a year since they were instructed not to sell, expand or improve their homes pending the outcome of this issue.

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON VILJOEN**

- (2) Can the Honourable Minister give an indication when this uncertainty will be resolved to enable these people to go on with their normal lives?
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member Table the question? Any further Notices of Questions? Honourable Schimming-Chase?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member Table the Question? Honourable Moongo?

QUESTION 33:

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, 13th October 2005, I will ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry the following:

- (1) Does the Minister of Agriculture agree that many regions received less rainfall this year? Is it not high time that the Ministry assists small farmers with livestock feed in the affected areas?
- (2) I strongly appeal to the Ministry to provide farmers with manure in order to produce enough crops.
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member Table the Question? Any further Notices of Questions? Notices of Motions. Minister of Trade?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I give Notice that on Tuesday the 11th of October, I shall Move that leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Trade Metrology Act of 1973 so as:

- To define or redefine certain expressions,

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NOTICES OF MOTIONS

- To extend the functions of the Director of Metrology,
- Establish a Metrology Advisory Board, and to provide for its Constitution,
- To empower the Minister to enter into agreements with Metrology Agencies,
- To provide certain services relating to measuring instruments,
- To incorporate certain provisions of the Measuring Units and National Measure and Standards Act of 1973, relating to measuring units and national measure and standards and
- To repeal that Act.
- To provide for National Departmental inspection and other measuring standards and for the inspection and testing thereof.
- To abolish the regional measuring standards,
- To further provide for the approval of measuring instruments,
- To make available measuring instruments subject to certain conditions,
- To amend the short title, and to substitute the long title of the first mentioned Act, and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister Table the Motion? Any Ministerial Statements? Minister?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I rise to provide to the Namibian population and others, in our Country and beyond, some information about and relevant to the operations of the National Youth Service of Namibia.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

It is now an undeniable fact - the National Youth Service Act, 2005, Act No. 6 of 2005, as gazetted in July 2005. Furthermore Comrade Speaker, it is also a fact that, *de facto* and at the practical level, the National Youth Service has been functional and operational on the basis of the relevant Government policies and Cabinet Decisions, at least for the past seven years.

The main document of VISION 2030 on page 12 has the following to say about *Youth Development in Namibia*. *“One of the five priority areas of action of the National Youth Policy focuses on environment and agriculture, especially environmental degradation as a result of deforestation, desertification and soil erosion. Young people have a responsibility to be actively involved in the protection and conservation of the natural resources of Namibia. There are a number of existing programmes for youths and further opportunities that can be accessed by youths in the areas of Agriculture and the Environment. Some of these specific programmes, and others within Government, NGO’s and the private sector have been designed to provide Urban and Rural youth with training to enhance their preparedness for formal employment, or to generate their own income through self-employment.*

Others aim to provide an experiential learning environment to enhance the youths self-esteem, self-confidence, self-discipline, sense of responsibility, ability to identify, analyse and help solve problems, and to encourage a commitment to the country’s development.

The youth’s ideas on democracy and politics allow one to predict the political future of the country. The opinions they form at present will impact on this generation of opinion-makers and voters as they grow older and assume their positions in the economy and political system. The youth are often perceived as being more progressive than the rest of the society.

Higher literacy rates and exposure to modern Education also mean that today’s youth will be able to access and digest more information and will be better informed about public authorities and policy choices. Students, in particular, are important because they are best equipped to articulate current policy, shortcomings and shape the demands of youth.”

Detailing the aims and objectives, Comrade Speaker, of the National Youth Service, the National Youth Service Act in Section 4(c), amongst others, has the following to say: *“to contribute to the socio-economic development of Namibia, and the alleviation of poverty in our country.”*

Currently, consultations are being conducted and ways and means considered to eventually appointing a Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

Section 5 to 10 of the National Youth Service Act. National Youth Service, and that is the important part, so far has succeeded in their agricultural activities, especially at their Headquarters in Berg Aukas, a place that is physically situated approximately 20 kilometres north of the town of Grootfontein.

As we speak, Honourable Members, the National Youth Service is able to demonstrate and to show a variety of fresh agricultural products that they have produced and which are available. These include tons of maize and different fresh vegetables.

Through this Honourable House, I am extending a cordial invitation to all, particularly catering companies, supermarket outlets, business organisations, the National Emergency Management Unit, but also individuals to physically visit Berg Aukas and see what is available there. I further encourage all to support the commendable efforts of our youth, through the National Youth Service, by spending our money in Berg Aukas and buying these fresh local and 'lekker' Namibian agricultural products; local and 'lekker' Namibian products produced by our Namibia's youth meant to develop our country and all her people.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member, there is no debate on Ministerial Statements. If Honourable Members wish to put questions for clarification purposes to further enrich understanding that is in order. Seeing none. Minister of Energy and Mines and Minerals?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, in supporting Honourable John Mutorwa who is dealing with the youth, I think this House needs to pass a resolution that produce by the youth, National Youth (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Is the Honourable Minister just seeking clarification or is it an addition to the statement of the Minister. Do not debate the issue, Minister (Intervention)

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHIMTINA**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: We see now that the National Youth Service is producing a lot of vegetables and maize - who is taking all these bags? I have seen it even on TV, saying that there is a lot of maize. Has anybody taken it up to now? This is taxpayers' money. The energy of our youth - but who is taking it? Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Speaker, I would like to clarify it to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy. In response to that: what was actually the essence of my statement is to say that the products that are available there are first consumed by the people who are there in Berg Aukas. But the point is that there is enough also for others who might be interested to buy. That is why I made that statement, that appeal. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Any further Ministerial Statements? None. The first Notice of a Motion is the one by Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion?

**STANDARDS BILL
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? The Secretary will read the Bill for the First Time.

SECRETARY: *Standards Bill.*

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SECOND READING - STANDARDS BILL
HON NGATJIZEKO

SECOND READING - STANDARDS BILL

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

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I so Move, Honourable Speaker, for it to be read for the Second Time.

HON SPEAKER: I give the floor to the Minister to motivate.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I rise this time to introduce before this August House the Standards Bill for consideration. As Namibia continues to trade in Regional and International markets, the country cannot ignore the link between standards, access to markets and development.

The country faces critical challenges in improving the capacity of the domestic quality standards that are required, especially by the foreign markets. Non-compliance with international standards deprives many developing countries including Namibia, access to International Markets and further reduces the continent's global market share especially in agricultural products like Horticulture, Fisheries and light manufacturers, especially textiles.

I am convinced that compliance with international standards essentially creates a symbiotic relationship between the duty of developed countries' trading partners to develop and maintain conducive and accommodating trading policies on the one hand, and the tasks of developing countries to develop and establish national quality infrastructures, in the promotion of quality assurance and management systems.

Namibia is expected to create an effective system that would monitor, evaluate and use product testing and packaging methods that respond to the changing technical requirements of the country's trading partners. Hence, the need to establish the requisite institutional infrastructure, legal framework, and to invest in human capital who would run test laboratories in certain strategic sectors of the economy.

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SECOND READING - STANDARDS BILL
HON NGATJIZEKO

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia as a signatory to the *World Trade Organisation*, *Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement*, and as a State party to the *Protocol on Trade of the Southern African Development Community* has to establish a 'National Quality Infrastructure' that is based on international standards in order to effectively use both the regional and international trading systems. The Ministry of Trade and Industry on the 1st December 1997 embarked upon a process of developing and promoting the National quality infrastructure in Namibia. This process was also necessary in view of increased globalisation and competitiveness of Regional and International Markets. The Standards Bill is the second of three pieces of legislation readied by the Ministry for passage by the National Assembly, in order to complete Namibia's compliance with the requirements of the WTO and the SADC *Protocol on Trade*.

Compliance to International Standards also requires a paradigm shift in the development strategies of developing countries. For example, Namibia is expected to move away from manual and low-skilled labour practices to more sophisticated best practices comparable to those found in the developed countries.

Namibia is required to invest in the development and application of standards that require better enterprise-wide supply management techniques, record systems and equipment, including detailed labelling and traceability systems.

In implementing and managing internationally accepted standardisation systems, such as Good Agricultural Practice and the famous *Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point* methods, both Government and the private sector must invest in the development of human capital resources and infrastructure. Failure to meet the costs of such investments and for meeting the application of multiple standards and technical requirements effectively would prevent the entry into global markets of Namibian products and services - especially those from small and medium sized enterprises and emergent farmers.

Honourable Speaker, the Standards Bill is arranged into 34 clauses providing for:

- The promotion, regulation and maintenance of standardisation relating to the quality of commodities, and
- Establishes the Namibian Standards Institution as a juristic person.

The Namibia Standards Institution shall be governed, supervised and controlled by the Namibian Standards Council, established by Clause 5. The Namibian Standards Council will consist of a suitably qualified and experienced person appointed as the

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SECOND READING - STANDARDS BILL
HON NGATJIZEKO

Chief Executive Officer in terms of Clause 14, plus four persons representing Government and four other persons representing different Stakeholders' interests in the private sector and who have particular knowledge of, or experience, in one or more of the fields of commercial standards, commerce, industry, consumer and labour matters.

Non-Namibian citizens or persons not in possession of Namibian Permanent Residence Certificates are disqualified from appointment to the Namibian Standards Council. The Namibian Standards Council may establish advisory committees and/or technical committees to perform such functions as the Council may determine.

Most importantly, the Bill makes provision for the NSI to declare, by Notice in the Gazette, any mark to be an *NSI Mark of Conformity* that may be applied to any commodity or system falling within the scope of the Namibian Standards which has been set, established and issued in respect of that commodity or system. Clause 19 prohibits the application of the *NSI Mark of Conformity* to any commodity, system or document, except:

1. If the commodity or system complies with the specifications of the Namibian Standards relating to that Mark of Conformity; and
2. In terms of a licence granted and issued by the NSI in accordance with the provisions of the Bill.

I would like to emphasise that the *NSI Mark of Conformity* is actually a quality mark and its use shall have enormous impact on the profitability of a business unit as it shall symbolise the continuous improvement of its products and services.

The award of the *NSI Mark of Conformity* shall be based on the National Quality Policy of the Republic of Namibia, adopted by Cabinet Decision No. 1 of June 1999, and shall employ Internationally Approved criteria on quality awards.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, in conclusion, I Move that this August House carefully studies the Bill and consider it for adoption.

I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now read for the Second Time?

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SECOND READING - STANDARDS BILL

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? None. Adjourn the debate. Honourable Gurirab?

HON GURIRAB: I move that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday next week.

HON SPEAKER: The debate on this Bill stands adjourned until Tuesday next week, 11 October 2005. The second Notice of Motion is the one by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Does the Honourable Deputy Minister Move the Motion?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the ratification of this Convention temporarily be suspended from the House proceedings to do some housekeeping matters and it will be produced later on.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister adjourn the debate indefinitely? The consideration of this Motion is suspended temporarily?

MOTION ON INCREASE OF OLD-AGE PENSION

HON SPEAKER: The third Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Kaura. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion? Any objection? None. Agreed to. I give the floor to Honourable Kaura.

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MOTION ON INCREASE OF OLD-AGE PENSIONS
HON KAURA

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is time now to be realistic and to get our priorities right if we do not want to be judged as hypocrites.

We are all well aware of the fact that we have over 30 000 orphans in Namibia today and the number is increasing on a daily basis due to the scourge of AIDS. We know that in Namibia, as is the case in the rest of Africa, we consist of extended families, not nuclear families as in Europe and other western countries.

In the past, before the arrival of Colonialism and urbanisation, there were truly no orphans because an orphaned child was never told that he or she was an orphan. That was kept a top secret. Life went on as usual and the orphaned child was showered with love and care more than the children who had living parents. The child found out in later years as an adult that his or her mother passed away some time in the past.

This sociological phenomenon still continues albeit the prevailing changed economic circumstances. The grandparents are performing this function irrespective of the economic constraints in our rapidly urbanising social milieu. Therefore we must do something about this problem so that our children will not eat from the garbage cans - which is a sociological phenomenon we confront on a daily basis on the streets of our Capital, Windhoek.

I believe it is imperative that we must empower our senior citizens to continue fulfilling this role of providing shelter and proper care and upbringing for our children. I am convinced that our priority is to look after the children of Namibia because the future depends on them. That is the reason why I feel that we must increase the Old Age Pension to N\$500-00 per month. Honourable Speaker, the argument is always raised that *where would the money come from*, but when the old age pension was N\$150-00, I Tabled a Motion in Parliament to increase the pension to N\$300-00 per month. The question was where would the money come from? Money was found and Old Age Pension was increased to N\$200-00 per month. I Tabled another Motion; it was increased to N\$250-00 per month. I Tabled another Motion; it was increased to N\$300-00 per month. Where did the money come from, that is my question, Honourable Speaker? Where did it come from?

I know many will again jump up like 'a jack in a box' and ask the question: *where would the money come from?* Next year in the budget there will be an increase without saying that Kaura was right, we are increasing and we are honouring the request. However Honourable Speaker, I do not care as long as there is an increase. This time I will tell you where the money should come from.

Honourable Speaker, reduce the Defence budget which has increased to a staggering N\$1.2 Billion in a country surrounded by peaceful SADC neighbours. There is no

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MOTION ON INCREASE OF OLD-AGE PENSIONS
HON KAURA

threat of an invasion, there is no tension internally. What are we doing with a bloated Army which is wasting ammunition shooting at mountains at Ozoserekaze?

Let us look at the size of armies and budgetary allocations of some developed countries.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, on a Point of Motivating.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: No, not motivating but he used a strange term, let people understand.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. A suggestion by the Attorney-General; let us hear?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member mentioned the fact that the Army is shooting at women - in my language. I want to understand whether he really meant that the Army is shooting at women?

HON SPEAKER: The Speaker did not understand it that way. You may continue.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, shooting at mountains at a place known as Ozoserekaze; not shooting at women. Let us look the size of the armies and budgetary allocations of some developed countries. Unfortunately many of the Embassies are in South Africa and I could not get all the relevant information. Let us take Belgium with 42 600 soldiers and a budget allocation 2.6 Billion Euros. Finland - with 490 000 soldiers and a budget of 1.6 Billion Euros. Namibia with plus minus 27 000 soldiers and a budget of N\$1.2 Billion. Finland 1.6 Billion Euros - Namibia N\$1.2 Billion.

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HON KAURA

I did not get the exact figures of Japan, Norway, Sweden and The Netherlands, but it is well known that their armies are comparatively negligible. They concentrate more on an efficient Police Force and *that* is my recommendation.

Let us concentrate on an efficient Police Force and not on a bloated Army. After all, the war is not won by the heavy armaments but by the human factor. The Vietnam War is a classical example. All the B52 bombers and the usage of defoliants did not determine the outcome of the war, but the human factor. The war in Iraq is a daily glaring example that big armaments did not determine the outcome of the war but the human being who turns himself into a deadly bomb. America and Great Britain are having their hands full in Iraq; therefore a small country like Namibia should concentrate on an efficient Police Force instead of buying N\$ 3 million armaments - that are gone with the wind.

Honourable Speaker, we can also save money if we cut down on the bloated Cabinet. A Country like Namibia with 1.8 million people does not need a Cabinet of 23 Ministers and their Deputies, amounting to 46, plus the Prime Minister and a Deputy Prime Minister - having 48 members of the Executive, thus ending up with an Executive Legislature. This Cabinet can operate just as efficiently with 12 Ministers and their Deputies - amounting to 24 Cabinet Members - plus the Prime Minister and Deputy - 26 is good enough. The money saved by reducing Cabinet can be used to pay Old Age Pensions and to invest in capital projects that can generate funds and add more income to the Fiscal by increasing employment possibilities.

Honourable Speaker, I have provided the solution and no one needs to ask the question where the money would come from. Cut down on Cabinet and the Army and we will have enough to pay Old Age Pensions.

Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Any further discussion?
Honourable Viljoen?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, in my culture it is the ideal situation that children should look after the elderly parents. But life has changed and it is no longer possible due to many factors. Most black people spend their money and time with devotion to care for orphans and the elderly people and this is a praiseworthy sacrifice.

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HON VILJOEN

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Speaker, not disputing the Honourable Member's culture, may I pose a question? Honourable Viljoen, will you enlighten this Honourable House - if that is your culture, where does all these old -age homes come from? The concept of having old-age homes, where did it come from? Can you tell us that?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Minister, I spoke about the ideal situation, but due to many factors that is no longer possible. The Namibian Government has embarked on a system of minimum salaries for workers in the private sector and for farm workers also. This measure was taken to enable people to maintain a reasonable standard of living. Honourable Speaker, for those who attended the *Induction Course for Parliamentarians* recently - it means the Ruling Party and the Opposition Parties - the Government does not practise what it preaches. Senior people can hardly exist on N\$300-00 per month. Farm workers, for instance, get two twice that amount. Therefore I wish to support the Motion of (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Can you sit down, Honourable Member?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Comrade Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON SPEAKER: Will you take the question, Honourable Member? Question taken.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Member, it might be true that the old people are no longer able to live on N\$300-00. Can you remind this House how much the non-white old-aged received at Independence or somewhere around there?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, with all respect to the Honourable Member, I think it is not relevant to answer that question. I repeat, senior people can

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HON VILJOEN

hardly live on N\$300.00 per month. Farm workers, for instance, get twice that amount. Therefore I wish to support the Motion of Honourable Kaura with my whole heart that the amount be raised to N\$500.00.

Thank you.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, we are talking about old age pension increment, but we are not talking about how corrupt we are and that we have taken out of the Government coffers 1.5 Billion to go and fight. 1.5 Billion. Nobody bothers, everybody is at ease. I really do not know. Somewhere, somebody knows about this, while we are calm like this when we are talking about this. 1.5 Billion - those people. This money is for the children. We are not going to put it back; those who have it are calm and casual. Honourable Speaker, let us say this - this is not something to discuss. N\$500-00 per old age pensioner - that is like peanuts to your own mother, to your own father. It is not every day that your father grows old. We have to go back and book out the tickets - we did that as well.

But this time they had to leave in order to bless us. We have to save them. Let us forget about the past. Let us get a new method to live on. You heard what I am saying, what I am proposing. If you do not understand my English, please ask your Colleagues there. Mr Speaker, it is wonderful for us to just get rid of Honourable Kaura's Motion all the time. The old age people received money once he complained, but he is complaining in this House now.

Are you going to take N\$500.00 to an old person here? This is our duty and I want to say yes, thank you, Honourable Kaura, this is a national issue for all of us to do that. But not to think about - you only want to increase your own salary - that is all I know. I know you want an increment now - that is why you are talking about it.

HON DEPUTY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, my Chief said Honourable Kaura is a good man when it comes to debating the money for the Old Age Pensioners. Why did the Chief leave the DTA if Kaura is a good man? Why did you leave him?

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HON RIRUAKO

HON RIRUAKO: I am not going to beat about the bush. I repeat. I have policies to follow and principles to obey and I am not going to deviate from my principles.

HON KAURA: Honourable Chief Riruako, why is Kapia here? What is he doing here?

HON SPEAKER: It is an irrelevant question. You may proceed.

HON RIRUAKO: I had a question on both sides. And I want to talk. Let us think about what is good for us, not what is good for individuals, but for the House. That is the topic.

HON SPEAKER: On that the House rises for tea.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
THE HOUSE MET PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT AT 16:05

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief Riruako, you still have the floor. You were wrapping up.

HON RIRUAKO: Conflict of interest. Young people call us old people. Our pension is reduced and reduced - because of what? I am not going to say by whom - I put it on the table, it is there for one to grab. Honourable Speaker, this is not the way to treat your elders. They are getting old and they have served this country and they thought whatever they have is going to increase accordingly. Once we abided by the law.

It was deducted illegally - I am over 70. Whoever deducted from my pension did it illegally. That is wrong and I am worried about Honourable Ya Toivo's deductions.

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A man who suffered for this country and those deductions are beyond measure. That is not fair at all. And that is not official, beyond 60 - I do not want to argue with you. Beyond 60 - go and read your laws. If you do not, ask other people to advise you.

Honourable Speaker, there is a conflict of interest in this case, and therefore let us save one manner to stick to rules and principles. Defending our country's assets in order to let us survive equally - but not to reduce what we are supposed to get. That is something the House ought to know.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Chief, you are talking about pensions. In 1989 you were a Minister for the Interim Government. What did you do about our old people?

HON RIRUAKO: I am not going to reply to that. You own two farms. You were keen to accumulate the assets in the years you were here. You are a person who is not supposed to say anything here, you rather keep quiet.

Honourable Speaker, let us increase the old age pension and I'll have tell the House where the conflict comes from. Look at the way in which the young is treated. Treat us the way you treat the young ones. We treat them very well and we ought to be blessed with that kind of treatment. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Chief. Any other discussion? Honourable Nujoma?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On the Motion of Honourable Kaura, I wish to contribute to the Debate as follows. I agree with Honourable Kaura that Government has the primary responsibility for the welfare of its people, and in particular vulnerable orphans and old age people. As you know very well, Honourable Kaura, despite its limited resources Government has lived up to its responsibility. As you are aware currently Namibia, South Africa and possibly Botswana are the only countries in sub-Saharan Africa that contribute generously to old people.

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HON NUJOMA

It is important for Honourable Kaura to realise that in the current climate of international terrorism and threats to international peace and security, we need to strengthen our security by modernising our Armed Forces by equipping them thoroughly so that they can serve as a deterrent. Honourable Kaura, you are aware that recently Tanzania and Kenya were attacked and as a result many lives were lost and property damaged. So anything can happen in Namibia.

So it does not make sense to say we do not need to modernise our Armed Forces and to spend money on security. Peace and stability, Honourable Kaura, is the only guarantee for an environment conducive for business to flourish and to make profits – and to plough these profits back into community projects such as orphans and old age people. We need to work hard Honourable Kaura, to reduce the *genii co-efficient*. I shall not explain that to you because you did not attend the workshop for Parliamentarians. We need to reduce these *genii co-efficient* from 7 to 3 so that we can be on par with the other developed countries such as Singapore and Malaysia. Then we will be in a position to raise these pensions to affordable levels. But first you need to work hard. You do not just ask for money without working. So that is the SWAPO Policy that we need to work hard ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Member, I think you have said something valuable that one can depend on; at least one point. If we misuse our own assets, how are we going to develop our country the way you say? That is the point.

HON SPEAKER: You may continue, Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I was saying that if we work hard that is the only way we could create an environment conducive for business to flourish so that we can plough these profits back into the community. It does not work to just demand and demand and demand. We have to lead by example by working hard so that we can put this money to good use. The Government will continue to live up to its responsibility by continuing to review the situation as money becomes available. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**MOTION ON INCREASE OF OLD-AGE PENSIONS
HON NUJOMA**

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Moongo?

HON MOONGO: I would like to adjourn this Debate until tomorrow if there is no one who wants to participate now.

HON SPEAKER: The debate on this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow after 14:30. The fourth Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Gertze. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

**MOTION ON FINANCE BURDEN PLACED ON PUBLIC
BY BANKS AND CREDITORS**

HON GERTZE: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

HON GERTZE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members of the House, at this time I found it safe to presume that it is public knowledge that we experience exorbitant bank charges, and punitive banking regulations and credit control measures placed to control dishonoured cheques and default sales agreements.

This may happen when a client has either not paid his or her instalments on time or has failed to pay regularly due to circumstances; of which some may perhaps be understandable and others not. This is a concern that seems to be shared by the majority of customers who, in one way or another, falls victim to the unending cycle of financial exploitation and subsequent suspensions by businesses and financial institutions. Apart from the normal bank charges, an extra charge is levied against such customers making the service fees we pay unbearable.

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It is necessary that there are methods in place to regulate, control and maintain what is called an effective and credible payment system, domestically and internationally. But at what cost and at whose expense is this done?

Honourable Speaker, I could have spoken for hours about Payment Systems and financial burdens that Namibians have to live with when it comes to charges imposed by, to mention a few, estate agents; lawyers; water utilities and others, making inconceivable profit margins, but I will limit myself to bank charges and punitive financial measures.

Honourable Speaker, I do not rise to criticise our financial institutions and the determinations issued by our Central Bank, neither do I rise to blindly support or condone defaulting members of the public. I am simply critical of the application of the determinations, which are putting in place by way of the Banking Institutions Act, Act No. 2 of 1998. I also do so believing that we will be able to rectify and or clarify, or even reinforce what is correctly applied in our systems. What is paramount for all of us it is to formulate and apply systems that would best serve the interest of all Stakeholders in a satisfactory manner.

The main stakeholders here are businesses, financial institutions and the clients, which I would also like to call the Public. The measures that are applied by banks and retailers are based on a circular of June 2000 as issued by the Bank of Namibia. titled: *“Clarification relating to the Implementation of Determinations on the Compulsory Suspension of Cheque Accounts by Banking Institutions”*. It is also BIT 12.

It appears that the Circular is written in response to a concern raised by some banking institutions with regard to dishonoured cheques, commonly known as R/D Cheques. A cheque is R/D when someone issues a cheque without sufficient funds in the account. This action is a criminal offence and is therefore punishable by Law. In this regard what seems to be important for the Bank of Namibia is to raise general public awareness of the determinations under the BIT 12 and as a major step towards educating the public.

The Bank seems satisfied with public awareness of the consequences and the implications of the actions undertaken by the banking institutions and that is quoted from its document. The determinations clearly stipulate the actions, procedures and circumstances. For example, it states that a banking institution should only suspend a cheque account in respect of which five cheques were referred to the drawer - which are R/D cheques - due to insufficient funds over a period of three months. It further states clearly that a banking institution which came to know about the suspension of

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one of its customers' cheques at another banking institution has no basis on which it can suspend the cheque account of the same customer at its institution.

Another example, an R/D cheque can be presented several times; the determination states that such a repetitive presentation should be treated as one contravention, irrespective of the number of times the cheque was presented and referred to the drawer.

With regard to communication gaps between officials - be they from the banks to offices of salaries, or from bank to bank or system failures in a banking institution and so on - the determinations also state that it is important to understand that customers should not unfairly be prejudiced because of events for which they were not responsible.

In the event where, due to miscommunication and neglect or as a result of system failure a customers' cheque is accidentally dishonoured, such a cheque should not be regarded as a contravention. There are inter-bank confirmations that are also an allowable practice which we know and with which I do not have a problem.

I think even some of the important and common parts of the determinations as issued by the Bank of Namibia - I shall now look at the manner in which determinations are implemented by various institutions. It is my firm believe that some methods used to implement these important determinations, and the extent to which these methods encroach on the integrity of the citizen, raise serious concerns. Seemingly, not all financial institutions treat their customers in an undesired manner. I am a citizen too, aware of my rights and of that of others. I must say that there is a general degeneration of enterprising public relations practice in our business institutions. I am informed that banks are required to report on the compulsory suspended cheque accounts in which the value and the number of the five cheques, over three months, are recorded.

In fact, the aforementioned measures are understandable when one looks at the necessity of the credible conduit of Namibia's payment system. I think that we have overdone these determinations in some cases and I believe that some businesses even suffer owing to this. They seem to carry these measures out in a very antagonistic way. That should be enough about RD Cheques *vis-à-vis* the BIT12 document.

Now, I would like to turn to the system or Hire Purchase and the listing of customers and potential customers by this infamous ITC or Credit Bureau in Namibia. Often one hears on NBC's chat show and from people on street about the ITC. When one applies for a new account for hire purchase, all such applications are subjected to the following screening process.

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- 1) Inter Bank confirmation of previous cheque account status,
- 2) Checking ITC record,
- 3) Monthly income, and
- 4) References on previous financial commitments.

This measure is in line with BIT12. Other methods of checking are what is rampant in retail shops, - when a customer wants to pay per cheque a long list is drawn and the verification done on the spot by the attendant or cashier. All these measures could be of substance perhaps, however one thing appears to be disturbing and that is the legitimacy and credibility of the practice of the ITC system. According to the Bank of Namibia it is not known who regulates the so-called Credit Bureau - this ITC - it is also clear that ITC makes no appropriate follow-ups to verify when it is asked to suspend a customer, because some customers are suspended falsely and for insignificant amounts which warrant the value of a telephone call.

It should be fair to doubt if there are appropriate procedures for suspending or de-suspending the client. Many paid up clients remain on the black list and a fee of N\$50-00 is payable to open the ITC system for verification if a customer requests it.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this House, as much as I would like to support any credible payment system, I believe that the decency and the merits by which some measures are carried out are doubtful and not justifiable.

The Bank of Namibia says that it is responsible for the safety of and soundness of the Payment System in Namibia. Honourable Speaker, the question then is: "Who then is responsible for the protection of the citizen, when he or she is not in default, but being the victim of the process?"

It is difficult for the public to know why such high bank charges, for example, and why all the severe punitive measures should be executed against them. I must also admit that our communities may not always comply with Notices or they may fail to communicate timely with their creditors. It is important to bring some kind of harmony between the Buyer and the Seller. It is worrisome to note the level of inefficiency of many banking and financial institutions and their ways of co-ordination with other partners in relevant transactions. All Financial Institutions seem to be complacent about their operations. Home Loans and Insurance Departments of some banks and their co-ordination with other relevant partners are not exempted of inefficiencies which may often lead to suspensions of clients. The bad thing is that most of the institutions involved in a transaction on behalf of the client, seldom take responsibility when something goes wrong. It is always the customer that has to pay up for wrongs committed even by machines. It sad to note that due to inefficiency of the Salary Offices in certain cases, delays in cheque clearances or money transfers

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from one financial institution to another many inadvertent clients are punished and make to be bear the brunt of suspension ranging from six months to five years.

Honourable Speaker, where did these penalties originate from? How are they applied? Are they applied fairly and correctly? Unfortunately, it is the economically vulnerable sector of our population which goes through these suspensions, which to my observation, seems to remain chronic to some families. While they are the mainstay of the Loan and Hire Purchase enterprise, a major part of our poorer people cannot do without Hire Purchase because they cannot afford to buy their furniture, etc. on a cash basis.

It does not seem to matter whether the defaulting client has paid up arrears to date by settling the outstanding balance. The client's name is often not cleared from the black list – which appears to be quite chronic.

Honourable Members of this House, the individual cases that I have so far seen and in fact the entire process of overdrawn accounts - the RD cheques, suspensions, bank service fees, interest, etc., - does not happen without making super profit in themselves. Unfortunately, for reasons of conspicuous consumption and attachment to unfounded statuses, the citizen suffers heavily because it is regarded taboo or scandalous to be on the ITC black list. The Citizens do not know their rights. Someone should break the silence to ensure protection of the citizen's right. There should be a way in which this August House could resolve, discuss and revisit the fair implementation of charges and determinations while at the same time protecting the rights of the citizen. And that could be done by:

(1) Referring this matter to the Standing Committee for Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration, to take stock of the situation on the ground so as to determine the fairness of the bank charges we have to pay, and the extent to which the punitive measures affect not only the common client, but business community themselves who in most cases are depended on transactions and hire purchases from the Public; and then report back to this August House.

(2) Assign a study team to launch an investigation and reveal the fairness of bank charges and the modalities, and how the above punitive measures could be correctly and justly applied for the benefit of all the Stakeholders.

I so Move, Sir.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for a very constructive and enlightening contribution. Any further discussion? Honourable Mushelenga?

HON MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, if there is no further discussion, I would like to adjourn the Debate until next week Wednesday.

HON SPEAKER: There is a further delay - I will get back to you. . Honourable Chief Riruako?

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I do not know how he did his research. Honourable Gertze, I think this worries those who are sitting all over here. You put the worries out in public. Those who are doing this to them are quite aware of their tricky methods and attitude towards their fellow human beings.

Mr Speaker, it is not the way to handle your kith and kin. (indistinct) so cute, so selected, even if you want to get richer and richer alone, eventually you are going to be bankrupted alone because the buyer will just be in default. They don't have anything to do. They do not have anything to do, they are not actually (indistinct) are working there. (Indistinct) how are you going to make a profit out of these sales.

I do not want to add anything to this document; I am going to dilute it. It was well said, well polished and well published. It must be in newspapers all over the country, even in the Rapport, so that they can be aware how we live skinning one another. I have a method. Since we came here from abroad, I had to go there. We came (indistinct) it appears and then cut off the throats, all of us sitting here. Now who is going to make business with you? That is a question. The method is well done; the money is flowing into your pocket - for how long?

It is a query again. You make profit in order to give (Indistinct) buyers to make profit, also to enjoy it. Your method of understanding - Why can you reveal yourself i(Indistinct) of balance and check yourself; that is a problem.

I lost my farm; out of 300 000 - and my house. I had to pay a lot of money, but I paid. I had to pay money which I did not get 'out of the blue'. This money is something they skimmed from individuals. It was a big fish to be just cut off.

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I know you have are more fortunate and you have a place; nobody is against you. They are going to be pleased if they hurt you. Mr Speaker, (Indistinct) I share the principles. You are supposed to protect me when I am share those principles. This is how we live; we live in jeopardy, but our own Colleagues laugh at us and enjoy it. Whoever smokes the first cigarette out of this box will finish the whole box eventually. What is the point? Today it is me but tomorrow it is you because the smoker has some habits and appetites that must be harnessed and also tested. It is ideas. That is how it is. There is no way 'to beat about the bush' We suffer (Indistinct) for what we have gathered in order to keep it and for what got out of our hand on a methodical way of doing things whereby somebody who is hurting you - hurting you and not be criticized for it. That is how it is.

Honourable Speaker, I thank the Honourable gentleman who brought this. It must be published all over Country, even abroad, so that the people outside can know how we are treating each other in this Country. That is an honourable paper and I am here to endorse it. Thank God that whatever happens behind the scenes, we have one day come home - that is the home here. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mushelenga. Honourable Tjiriange?

HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I rise to congratulate Honourable Gertze for bringing this issue here and for the well researched paper that he have just read. I think is timely; it is a serious issue which warrants serious discussion. I am not in a position to discuss it now because he did the research - I did not do any research. Whatever he says is true and nothing but the truth and it ought to be dealt with in a very serious manner so that we can correct our system which brings all those suffering and ills that he has just mentioned.

Therefore I rise to agree with him that this issue has to be followed up, perhaps after discussion here in the fashion that he has suggested. I am inclined to support the second option because that particular body that will be set up will be specifically for that, while the Committee might have other things it has to attend to that will also however be scheduled as work. This means if it was specifically set for that it would do a better job. Then it can be brought here and we can see how we can solve this problem in order to alleviate the suffering of our people.

I thank you very much.

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HON SPEAKER: If there are no further contributions, I shall revert back to Honourable Mushelenga.

HON MUSHELENGA: Yes, Honourable Speaker, in the absence of further discussion I would like to adjourn the Debate until next Wednesday the 12th October 2005.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, no, Wednesday next week. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

DEBATE ON THE DIRE SITUATION IN OPUWO DUE TO THE DISCONNECTION OF WATER BY NAMWATER

SECRETARY: Debate on the dire situation in Opuwo due to the disconnection of water by NamWater.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 28th September 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. The Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry adjourned the Debate and I now give the floor to the Minister.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to make my contribution to this Debate before this August House. The problem of water in Opuwo, like in so many similar kinds of towns in the country, started some time ago.

Water is life. I would describe water as an essential chemical component for the sustenance of life. We need water for drinking, cooking, washing for many other things to sustain ourselves. Water comes from rain and part of that water is often deposited underground, which we then extract for use. The physiological characteristics of the rock around Opuwo, is the so-called dolomite. In many respects

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dolomite rocks are characterized by a higher content of magnesium and calcium. This type of rock is to be found around Opuwo, Khorixas, Otjiwarongo, Otavi, Outjo, Tsumeb and other areas in the Country. The quality of much of the water in those areas is classified as C, although you may find Class B water at some points, particularly at the point where boreholes are sunk directly to the veins of the river.

Magnesium and Calcium are the chemical components of our blood constitution. Normally the body regulates the amount of calcium and magnesium that it needs. What is not needed by the body is expelled through sweating, urinating and by other means. These chemicals can cause health conditions, usually referred to as *hyper magnesiam* or *hyper calcimia*, but only when there is renal failure. For the majority of farmers in this Country the water which is available on most of the farms is classified as C, therefore having a magnesium and calcium content. Since this content is so essential for the blood and bones in our body, it is no wonder that most of the farmers are regarded as healthy and strong people. It is also important to mention, when taking the population at random, you may find very few farmers, even in their old age, that suffer from the condition known as *Osteoporosis*. I mention all these facts to come to the point to qualify the content of the water in Opuwo.

My information reveals that there is no record in the hospital in Opuwo that reveal that the water in Opuwo is causing health problems. Of course it can happen from time to time like for all other conditions. Honourable Kaura claims that his information informed him that the water in Opuwo is class D. Honourable Kaura, that is not true. The average content of magnesium in Opuwo is about 800 mg per litre and according to tests and records that are available, that figure was exceeded once in August 2004 when the magnesium content of water in Opuwo was found to be 900 mg per litre. I must say that class C water is by and large the water that you find also in North-Central and North-Eastern regions, also in places such as Mupini, Linyanti, Ohaiyanda and Anker.

Let us look at the profile of water payments to *NamWater* in Opuwo by the Opuwo Town Council. By September 2004, Opuwo had a debt to *NamWater* of N\$5, 5 Million; which amount the town was supposed to have paid to *NamWater*. This amount was ring-fenced by *NamWater*, and then it was decided, by an agreement with the Town Council, that the Town Council henceforth would provide water on a prepaid basis. Their records indicate that in October 2004 not a single payment was made by that Council: January 2005 - zero payment; February 2005 - zero payment; March 2005 - zero payment; May 2005 - equally zero payment; June 2005 - zero payment; August 2005 - zero payment; September 2005 - zero payment. Now, even if there were a high unemployment rate in Opuwo, it is just too difficult to believe that all businesses in Opuwo, all Administrators in that town, all nurses and other officials and individuals could not even pay a single dollar to the Town Council

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which could be passed on to *NamWater*. Today, the town of Opuwo owes *NamWater* N\$576 459-00 in debts after ring-fencing. For a company that is supposed to provide water on service recovery: when will *NamWater* be paid and be able to sustain its own obligations?

On 12th September 2005 *NamWater* sent a Management Agreement Proposal to be signed by the Town Council of Opuwo. *NamWater* indicated that on the day and time that *that* Management agreement was signed water would be restored entirely to all people of that town.

Honourable Members may recall the same situation at Karibib, but the leadership in Karibib signed the Agreement within one week. Why does that one of Opuwo have to take so long? I think that it is important that the leadership of the Town Council of Opuwo take charge of the situation and act in the interest of the inhabitants of that town; as opposed to blaming other people for their inactivity. I must remind the Honourable Members that the town of Rehoboth used to have chronic situation of non-payment that even led to the Town Council's suspension from the office for six months. Today, Rehoboth is the best customer of both *NamWater* and *NamPower*. It has even embarked on tarring the streets of the town - with its own funds. It is often said by some Members of this House that the provision of public water must be returned to Government. Such a situation will be not entertained because people want that in order to continue their non-payment behaviour for services provided to them. As a matter of fact, Cabinet has formally approved the procedures for the suspension or termination of water services due to non-payment and the line Ministers are being informed accordingly.

Honourable Kaura, please amend your own Motion to read as follows: "That this August Assembly impress and urge the Council of the town of Opuwo to immediately sign an Agreement with *NamWater* in order for *NamWater* to restore the water to the residents immediately". If Honourable Kaura fails to amend his Motion then, at the end of this Debate, I propose to the Honourable Members - those that have the interest of this country at heart - to reject this Motion. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Honourable Nambinga.

HON NAMBINGA: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I also rise to add my voice to those who have spoken before me regarding the Motion which has been Tabled by Honourable Kaura.

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There is one thing which always disturbs me when it comes to Motions Tabled by Honourable Kaura. Since I came here in 1995 it appears that most of his Motions are tribally based. Honourable Kaura, being the President of DTA, should have divorced himself from tribal politics and should argue as a National leader. I am sure you would recall that most of his Motions are about Otjiherero speaking people - as if he is the spokesperson of the Herero speaking; which is not true.

Honourable Speaker, let me come to the water issue.

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON MOONGO: Is the Honourable Member aware that in Opuwo there are different ethnic tribes? It is not only Otjiherero speaking people.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nambinga? Honourable Nambinga has the floor.

HON NAMBINGA: Honourable Speaker, water (Interjection)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable a question? Honourable Nambinga, the Motion that Honourable Kaura is well-known for is the Motion on Social Pensions. How tribal is that Motion?

HON NAMBINGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Venaani, I wish you have listened; I am concentrating on this specific Motion. You can take the floor and say whatever you want to say.

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HON SPEAKER: Order. Honourable Nambinga has the floor!

HON NAMBINGA: Be as it may, Honourable Speaker, water is life indeed (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Information.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of information, Honourable Speaker. I am only just standing to inform this August House. In Kaoko; only Otjihimba speaking and Otjiherero Headmen - no Oshiwambo, no Damara, no other tribal headmen are in Kaoko.

HON NAMBINGA: I hope I still have the floor.

HON SPEAKER: One person at a time. Honourable Nambinga has the floor.

HON NAMBINGA: I said be it as it may, Comrade Speaker, I agree with those who say water is life because I believe one cannot live without water. Honourable Kaura is alleging that water is a commodity which is God-given free of charge. To me, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, this appears to be a narrow argument and I would like to know from Honourable Kaura as to which water he is referring to? Is he talking of water in the natural pan after the rainfalls, or the water in the Kavango, Zambezi, Kunene and other rivers? Water gets there just as it is. If he is referring to that then he probably has a point.

Judging from the contents of his speech I do not think that Honourable Kaura is just referring to that. I do not think that *NamWater* will prevent anybody from taking water from the pan or from the river. If he is talking about water which is purified by *NamWater* and brought to the people through the pipelines at costs, then the Honourable Member is totally out of order.

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NamWater, Comrade Speaker and Honourable Members, was created by an Act of Parliament, the *Namibia Water Corporation Act, No 12 of 1997*. I remember Honourable Kaura was a Member of Parliament when that Statute was passed by this August House. It was the mandate given by this House for *NamWater* to regulate the supply of water and, amongst many other functions, to charge levies for the supply and distribution of purified water. I need not go into the specific details of Act 12 of 1997, but I will refer Honourable Kaura to Parts II, III and IV of this Act. There the establishment, objectives, duties and powers of *NamWater* are fully set out; that he is very much aware of.

I have had the opportunity to travel through the length and breadth of this Country and I have never seen anywhere God given, free, purified water that is made available to the people through the pipeline, nor have I heard of it before. It is therefore highly misleading to state that *NamWater* is preventing or cutting people from their God given rights - particularly when such a statement is made by a leader. As leaders of this Government, irrespective of our political affiliation, we must be careful and responsible in whatever we say. We must also be careful to state, as Honourable Kaura seems to imply, that our people were treated better under the Apartheid Regime. That is an insult.

We should also remind ourselves that quite a number of African countries today do not have proper water provision that is consumable, or even provided through pipelines. I am sure most of you who have travelled, know that if you go into a certain hotel, you cannot just open the tap and drink. I believe this could be partly because the leaders might not have been careful in those counties. The simple reason is that such water infrastructure comes at a cost and should also be properly maintained by the Government.

If we, as leaders, encourage people not to pay for water for the sole reason that water is a God given, free commodity, then I am afraid, Honourable Speaker, we will enter an era where *NamWater* becomes an institution which is unable to purify, supply and regulate water. The question is: "Where shall we be heading to?"

I am sympathetic to those school children who are suffering, either at Opuwo or elsewhere, because I know this problem is not only at Opuwo. I am equally sympathetic and understanding of the difficulties of those people who have lost their livestock because of the water that may have been cut off. However, the question remains as to what led to this situation? If water to the schools was cut off, then I think the blame does not lie with *NamWater*. It certainly lies somewhere else and that is where the Honourable Kaura should address his blame.

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When it comes to livestock, such as cattle and whatever you have, I want to know whose livestock we are talking about. I know there is a tendency, particularly after Independence, amongst fellow men and women in rural areas that everything should be provided by the Government free of charge, while they simply sit idle and boast about being rich people. I know, for example, that you can find someone who owns 200 head of cattle and whose wishes and dreams are that the livestock must just keep on multiplying. You find at a certain places a person poses as a rich man or woman; but just take five or ten head of cattle to slaughter so as to get money - he will never do it, because apparently the Government should provide for everything.

The same people are to enjoy the supply of water free of charge without any form of payment. Are we to expect everybody to continue paying for water when they can also claim for that God given right? I am also a Citizen of this Country, created by God in his own image, so I shall also demand that if others cannot pay, why should I pay? We know that as an independent Country our economic base is small. We are not in a position to provide free services, I am afraid we are not. We all know that in order for us to provide certain services we are depended on loans from the International Community. Will it not look stupid for us to campaign for donations on the one hand while on the other hand we are providing services free of charge, which we know we cannot afford? Honourable (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON NAMBINGA: You must be logical?

HON MOONGO: Honourable Colleague, I would like to know whether the Honourable Member is aware that the majority of those who live in Opuwo are unemployed and they do not have any means to survive and to pay for water - that salty water.

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HON NAMBINGA: Honourable Speaker, the problem with the Honourable Member is that he is not listening. I am not going to waste my time. Honourable Kaura further went to say that he was surprised to have learnt from the daily newspaper that *NamWater* was saying that they couldn't afford to put up a water purification plant, because it does not have N\$12 Million. He further went on to link the N\$12 Million needed with the N\$30 Million, the N\$100 Million and other monies that might have been squandered or wrongly invested by some of our people in whatever way they did.

Honourable Kaura should know that theft and corruption can happen anywhere. What is important is that Government did not sanction any such conduct. We did not. As a parent you can try to be good, but there is no guarantee that one of your children will not do something wrong. We simply cannot do that. So these were individual people who have acted fraudulently without the consent and approval of the Government.

Government has expressed itself and all that we need to do is to support. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, against this background, I think we are dealing with an ill founded Motion whose sole purpose is to tarnish the image of the Government, and it should not found itself in this Honourable Chamber. I therefore like to propose that, unless the Honourable Member amends his Motion, as Honourable Minister of Agriculture has proposed, it *must* be rejected. I thank you very much.

HON MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to make my humble contribution to the Motion on the water crises at Opuwo as introduced by Honourable Katuutire Kaura of the DTA.

I have listened carefully to the Motion by Honourable Kaura and went to read a copy of his speech afterwards. In his Motion Honourable Kaura gave the impression that *NamWater* is entirely and solely, not only responsible for but also guilty of the alarming situation at Opuwo for not properly handling the supply of water; firstly, for supplying water that is not suitable for human consumption; and secondly for cutting the water supply to that town.

Having listened to Honourable Kaura's lament in his Motion, I was tempted to find out why there was a disruption in the water supply to Opuwo by *NamWater*. Eventually, I have established that Honourable Kaura has done a disservice to this Debate by keeping some information away from this August House. Another possibility is that he did not do his homework properly before introducing this Motion. I will not commit the same error, by omission or commission. I want the

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people to know what has happened and what is happening. This will help us to comprehend the situation at Opuwo and to avoid making errors of judgment on the basis of insufficient information.

In his contribution to the Debate, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Dr Nickey Iyambo, has refuted allegations, made by Honourable Kaura, regarding the quality of water being supplied to Opuwo and gave a correct version thereof. He further gave us information on the genesis of problems surrounding the water supply to the town. He has, thus, enriched the quality of the Debate on this important and life driving resource.

Honourable Speaker, I want to explain something in layman's language. *NamWater* sells water to Opuwo Town Council. The Town Council in return sells water to the town residents who are the end customers. From the information given by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture - that the Town Council had owed *NamWater*, before October 2004, an amount of N\$5,5 Million which has been ring-fenced - and thereafter it owed *NamWater* N\$528 736-94. It means that the cumulative debts that Opuwo Town Council owes *NamWater* are well above N\$6 Million. While the cumulative debts of Opuwo to *NamWater* are above N\$6 Million, my information reveals that the end customers in Opuwo only owe the Town Council about N\$1, 6 Million. Now, this picture tells us the something is wrong with the way the Town Council handles the funds of water payments. It is ill-advised that Honourable Kaura should come and, misleadingly, put up a show in Parliament while failing to tell us that something is amiss with the DTA controlled Town Council of Opuwo regarding the management of funds.

I would like to further caution that we should guard against making propaganda about water while underplaying the issue of the costs of water supply. In this respect, I would like to draw the attention of Honourable Kaura, through you, Comrade Speaker Sir, to the fact that the supply of water will not be possible if our water utility does not have enough funds. Currently, *NamWater* sells water to Opuwo for N\$4-84 per cubic metre. Per month, *NamWater* supplies between 37 000 to 40 000 cubic metres of water to Opuwo, which translates into between N\$180 000-00 to N\$190 000-00 per month. *NamWater* has three full time staff members at Opuwo, plus a fourth employee, who is a Supervisor based at Ruacana, and who spends 10% of his work time supervising Opuwo. The cost of three fulltime employees, excluding the fourth supervisor, is about N\$200 000-00 per month. . Now this means that *NamWater* subsidises the staff at Opuwo from the revenue of Opuwo with over 10 000 per month. Honourable Speaker, in view of what Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo presented, I find it (intervention)

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HON MUSHELENGA

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order. I am very sorry to have interrupted the Honourable Member currently having the floor - would he please just go over the figures he just supplied and indicate what the ten thousand is? What is it? Is it litres? Is it money? Is it money they subsidised? Is it Namibian dollars - N\$10 000-00? Just go over the figures again and indicate as I did not get the picture. Are you talking about money or are you talking something else, please? The 200 000 -00, for example, what is it? Yes, that's right, I was sleeping. Are you happy now?

HON MUSHELENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, let me lecture the Honourable Member about the issues of the costs of water supply. What I was trying to say is that the revenue that *NamWater* gets from Opuwo Town Council per month, ranges between N\$180 000-00 to N\$190 000-00. Now the costs of maintaining staff there is about N\$200 000-00 per month, that tells you that (intervention) We are talking about salaries plus benefits. Now, Honourable Speaker, in view of what Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo has presented, I find it improper that Honourable Kaura has decided to play politics with a very serious issue.

The Honourable Member has taken an Oath of Office to serve the people of the Republic of Namibia to the best of his ability. Is this how the Honourable Member serves the Namibian people better by bringing inaccurate information to this Honourable House, and by concealing other vital information? Should this trend continue, Honourable Speaker, I will be left with no other option than to introduce a Motion one day in this House calling for the impeachment of the Honourable Member, in terms of Article 48, 1 (d) of the Namibian Constitution.

Water is a precious natural resource (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: Can we please listen to the Honourable Member?

HON MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, water is a precious natural resource without which human beings and animals cannot do anything. All of us from the SWAPO Party attach great value to water supply and its accessibility. It pains me a

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great deal when people try to use the issue of water supply inappropriately, more so, when inaccurate information is presented to this August House for public consumption. The point is that the SWAPO Party Government is committed to supplying water and from what the Honourable Minister has presented, the situation at Opuwo is currently being attended to. Therefore, I cannot support the Motion by Honourable Kaura, unless amended as advised by the Honourable Minister. I thank you.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, “Water is Life!” I hope at the end of my contribution I will have the meaning of it. As Lawmakers of this country we have to admit that things went wrong with the privatisation of water. It is our responsibility to correct our mistakes. There is no single person on earth who does not make mistakes. Instead of denying it we must rather correct it. We, as Parliamentarians, do have a responsibility towards the electorate and (Interjection)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The question goes like this and it is on the issue of what the Honourable Member alleged - the privatisation of the water and that means that if water is privatised therefore the tariff is set by the company. Does the Honourable Member know that *NamWater* only collects the fees - the tariffs - that Government has decided upon and does not put the tariffs itself?

Does the Honourable Member know that? Therefore, what is the difference of the water being with Government or the tariffs being collected by *NamWater*?

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Minister. I know about it, but I am also wondering, because every time after the rains have fallen there is an increment in the

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water supply. It is true that during the Colonial Regime water was not available to all the Namibian people, but now 15 years after Independence water is available but not affordable. I agree with the Deputy Minister of Regional & Local Government and Housing that water comes from God, but the maintenance of the infrastructure is done by *NamWater*, but Honourable Deputy Minister, please, we are also praying for water. Opuwo residents, just like the rest of the Country, are suffering

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, I am very sorry that I have interrupted my sister who joined the Parliament this year. I need to be clear on privatisation and commercialisation. If we say that water has been privatised it is Government that is the 100% shareholder. So if it is privatised it means it is in private hands. Can she just correct the two issues?

HON DIENDA: The Opuwo residents, just like the rest of the Country, are suffering because of *NamWater's* failures to maintain the infrastructure and also because of the water being cut owing to non-payments of water bills. We, the Namibian people, can no longer afford paying for the luxurious lifestyles of *NamWater's* employees.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. We are approaching the end of the day with too many Points of Order. We will never be able to conclude.

HON RIRUAKO: We have a canal, Mr Speaker, from Kunene into the Northern Province and that canal is not paid at all. I am sure that water is free. I know sometimes you say that only N\$20-00 – you, yourselves here. I am not talking from the roof; I am talking from what I know. Therefore that canal is free of charge, - I do not know from Heaven or from where. I want to know from the Minister; this water has not been given free of charge, therefore money must be put into an account in order to let this water function - that canal is free of charge. When my time comes I shall elaborate on why I have said that.

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Member.

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HON DIENDA: We, the Namibian people, can no longer afford paying for the luxury lifestyles of *NamWater's* employees. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with due respect, let us look into the loopholes in the system. Where do we fail as the Government of this Country? We are elected by the people to serve them and not to sell them out to companies whose aims and objectives are to make huge profits. Our people cannot afford water in Namibian anymore.

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Member aware that where SWAPO fails that is where he gets a higher promotion?

HON DIENDA: Even here in Windhoek we are facing the same problems. People are evicted from their houses because of water bills which they cannot pay. Let us join hands and see how we can solve the problem instead of fighting each other; while the problem is with the system and not with individuals. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. The next speaker on my list is Honourable Booys and after him it is Honourable Riruako.

HON BOOYS: Maybe I pressed the button on the question of privatisation and commercialisation? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako?

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, let me say this. During the session Honourable Dr Iyambo expressed himself quite professionally. I do understand. I did not force other people not to speak. Honourable Speaker, what happened? You did not talk about Government Administrations that did not pay their bills. You said everything is known in Opuwo about those who are supposed to pay their bills. Individual people but also the Government itself failed to pay its bill.

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HON DIENDA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable, I think you are repeating what you have already said. Take your seat, Honourable Chief. I will give the floor to Honourable Moongo. Or did you not ask for the floor?

HON MOONGO: I ask the floor for adjournment if the Chief (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: I will come there. Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND REHABILITATION: Honourable Speaker, I raised a Point of Order

HON SPEAKER: There is nobody now on the floor. If I am really out of order Chief, you should not debate it with me. I did not give you the floor. I now give the floor to Honourable Moongo to adjourn the Debate.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to adjourn the Debate until tomorrow afternoon. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14h30. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF
CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF PUBLIC FUNDS AND ASSETS.**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate to discuss the state of corruption and abuse of public funds and assets.

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MOTION ON CORRUPTION

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 28th September 2005, the question before the National Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Ulena. Honourable Venaani adjourned the debate and I give him the floor now.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I pray for your indulgence to adjourn the debate until tomorrow due to the lateness of the hour

HON SPEAKER: It is not worth taking the floor. The Debate therefore stands adjourned until tomorrow, 5th October 2005, and that brings us to at the end of the business schedule for today. Accordingly I invite the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I propose that we adjourn now and return here by tomorrow at 14h30.

HON SPEAKER: We return tomorrow 14h30. The House stands adjourned.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 17H40 TO RESUME ON 05/10/2005

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
05 OCTOBER 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the Adjournment

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read the Prayers and the Affirmation.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Any other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Honourable Boos?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that leave of absence due to official business be granted to the Minister of Works, Transport and Communication from 6 October 2005 until 18 October 2005.

I so Move, Mr Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member Table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? None. Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister without Portfolio?

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. The SWAPO Party and its Government has learnt with dismay and disbelief of the recent brutal murder and decapitation of the late Juanita Mabula, a 21 year old female. We condemn in the strongest terms this barbaric and senseless killing of yet another woman at the hands of unknown killers. There is no justification for taking the life of

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON TJIRIANGE**

an innocent citizen going about her pursuits; in our free and Independent Republic. Our Constitution guarantees the sanctity of life and does not condone the taking of a life in unnatural circumstance. Sadly, unnatural deaths continue to take place at an alarming rate. The brutal killing and brutalisation of women and children has reached unprecedented levels and calls for a critical examination of our moral psyche. The latest killing is of particular concern in the light of the fact that the head of the deceased has not been recovered yet.

Laws have been put in place to prescribe appropriate punitive measures for perpetrators when duly arraigned before our Courts.

On behalf of the SWAPO Party and its Government, I strongly urge our Law Enforcement Agencies to spare no effort in tracking the brutal perpetrators of the wanton and unprovoked killing of Miss Juanita Mabula. We also urge our Police to step up crime prevention activities and so to minimize opportunities for criminals to prey on the most vulnerable members of our society. Steps must be taken to ensure that crime prevention measures are visible in all potential hot spots of crime such as isolated areas and in and around our cities and towns.

We welcome the announcement by the Police yesterday that they made good progress in tracking the killers. We commend their tireless efforts in this regard.

I also wish to convey the SWAPO Party's heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the late Juanita Mabula. We share their grief and bereavement. Your loss is shared by the rank and file of SWAPO Party and its Government and the country at large. May the good Almighty God give you renewed strength to cope with your loss during the difficult period you are going through.

Having said that, I have a small announcement to make. One of our Members in this House has lost his mother-in-law and that is Comrade Diergaardt. I think it will be also an appropriate time to give him our condolences. I thank you very much

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for the Statement and join him, and through him the Government and the Ruling Party, in the sentiments of outrage and condolences that he has expressed on the two issues about which he spoke.

Any further Ministerial Statements? None. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**MOTION ON INCREASE OF OLD-AGE PENSIONS
HON MOONGO**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE TO DISCUSS THE PLIGHT OF
SENIOR CITIZENS AND TO INCREASE THE OLD-AGE
PENSION TO N\$500-00 PER MONTH**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate to discuss the plight of senior citizens and to increase the old-age pension to N\$500-00 per month.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 4 October 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. The Honourable Moongo adjourned the Debate and he now has the floor

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in support of my Colleague's Motion I would like to say '*a good Samaritan is the one who helps the right person at the right time*'. Allow me to salute the Minister of Gender Equality who acted at the right time to give help to orphans and vulnerable children. Thousands of orphans received blankets to cover themselves with. Thanks to the Minister of Gender Equality who positively responded at the right time, even old age pensioners were beneficiaries of this process. Congratulations, Honourable Minister, her Deputy and the entire staff. Let me hope this Ministry recognise the need and continue to help provide food and school uniforms to the abovementioned children. I hope the old aged persons will also benefit from the orphan food.

Mr Speaker, I propose that the old aged people should be taken care of by the good hearted 'Samaritan', the Minister of Gender Equality, who has humanitarian feelings.

Pensioners are entitled to 50 kg maize, cooking oil and rice monthly. I am shocked by the Minister of Health who ignored senior citizens recently, which resulted in the destruction of food, worth millions of Namibian Dollars, for old age people; because it rotted in the Caprivi and the Kavango. It was supposed to be given to the old age people.

It is better to give the food to the old age people rather than let thousands of bags rot. Mr Speaker, if the old aged with the orphans get rations every month, then they can get N\$500-00 per month to buy meat, soap and other basic needs. It is true younger women and men are victims of HIV and because of it they are weak and cannot help the orphans and many of them died. All who remain are the old age people who are]

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HON MOONGO

left with the orphans. Therefore, if you do not pay a visit to these old age people and see how they attend to these orphans, you will not understand what the problem is. You should rather meet your parents - your old age people - who take care of not a few, but of several children or orphans who are under the care of the old age people and therefore, they need help.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I just want to tell the Honourable Member not to think that by speaking about orphans and old age people, he is the only one affected by that. It is also not true, Comrade Speaker, saying that perhaps we do not know how orphans are looked after. The Honourable Member should come straight to the point of pensions; not mention many other things.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Ilonga. The Motion is taken. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I take note, but I was just motivating the Motion, as I was supposed to, so that you understand why we are demanding N\$ 500.00. It is because the elderly people are the only ones left behind with the hundreds and thousands of orphans.

HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: Honourable Speaker, is the Member aware of the fact that, in addition to the old age pension, there is a provision in the law for children – like those that he is referring to - to be given additional money a month, if they have so applied, and for those who are looking after them?

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HON MOONGO

HON MOONGO: I am aware of it, but the problem is that N\$300-00 is not enough to keep somebody alive. It is not enough and therefore we need additional (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. I want the Honourable Member just to subscribe and stick to the issues.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Does the Honourable Member know that on top of the N \$300-00, we are also giving something to the orphans and *also* the funeral benefit which we are giving to the old people?

HON SPEAKER: It is the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services; she knows what she is talking about.

HON MOONGO: The Minister did not understand me. At the beginning I said *to assist at the right time*. You do not hang on until an elderly person has died so that you provide only coffins. You are supposed to help the old age people when they are still alive.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Your Comrade gave me compliments. Perhaps he is looking for a job at the Ministry of Gender Equality; but I did assist his group. But as my number one said: *do not mix the orphans with the old-aged*. What we are doing is a package. Apart from the N\$300-00, when they travel on public transport they get a huge discount, and if they do not have money they can travel free of charge. When old people go to hospitals for very expensive operations, or whatsoever, it is free of charge. The people just do not talk and do things in the communities, even in the community where I am coming from. We 'walk the talk'. We have feeding schemes for old age people so that they

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can have food. Some of the Municipalities are also exempting old age people from paying water, or are subsidising it. So, this is a package. We must not just look at the N\$300-00; we do not say it is enough. The old people taking care of the orphaned children are getting a foster parent grant apart from the N\$200-00 the orphan is getting. So it is a package. Let us come up with alternatives and not criticisms. Rather say: "Let us do that and I am going to contribute". That is the culture.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, you may proceed.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much. I take note of what my Minister said, although I do not agree in all. I was shocked to hear of the thousands of bags of maize meal which rotted in the Caprivi and also in Rundu while people were starving. This is inhuman of those who do not consider life; they do not worry. To many of us – really, thousands of bags to rot just like that. (Intervention) I will come to that. The Government is drunk: because of high corruption their eyes at heart are blind. They cannot distinguish between good and bad, between corrupt and incorrupt, between the needy and those who do not need anything. So that everything remains wrong. Therefore they do not see though they have eyes. They cannot hear though they have ears. N\$300-00 is not enough. The old aged and the orphans are starving. They need a Samaritan from heaven if mother Government is deaf. Stop dancing - the Minister danced in front of the old age people who are starving. They are happy and they are dancing. This is an indication that they are ignorant – to dance in front of the poor people, in front of the elderly people. Suffer with the suffering people, starve with the starving people: then you are a Government of the people. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Riruako?

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, if you also come to the graveyard and say *what we have reaped from you, we have to be joyful on your grave*. That is a habit of the House. Old people have served this country by doing their part, but now it has become the joke of the day in this House. People are laughing about the argument how to settle their future. They are old, they have served their part and it is time for them to enjoy what they deserve. I am worried. I have read and I have discovered the

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kind of package that was given to Honourable Toivo Ya Toivo. Tax deduction from his pension is an insult; tax deduction at that age, eighty - a tax deduction. We cannot worry about this? We are worried about ourselves. I am not going to give them any rights.

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. I do not know under which Rule the Chief spoke two times on one Motion. I want this House to inform me. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Yes. The Honourable Member is correct - I thought nobody was going to react. Actually, that is the point on which we adjourned yesterday. I am ruling you Out of Order, Honourable Member, because you had spoken already on the same Motion. You are not allowed to speak on the same Motion twice. I will let you finish the thought but you were not allowed to speak.

HON RIRUAKO: It is not the House that privileged me.

HON SPEAKER: Just abide by the Rules; we must abide by the Rules.

HON RIRUAKO: I abide by the Rules, but the logic must also be followed.

HON SPEAKER: We stick to the Rules.

HON RIRUAKO: I will stick to the Rules. I am talking about what happen in this House. We do not protect our old people. I have the instance of Honourable Toivo ya

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Toivo's package and I am against those deductions. For that matter, I am not going to say that I agree with those kinds of conditions to deduct that amount of money from the man who has served this country (Indistinct) We are worried about our own package, but not individual. Old age people will suffer from that. That is quite fair enough. I am not here to listen to somebody else who is worried about himself. But the other people - if they go anywhere, if they suffer anywhere, this is not my problem. I have listened to you several times; I am not here to talk to you.

Mr Speaker, let us finish this part about the Old Age Pension amount. We know that we want to do this, but it is not coming from the Ruling Party. If Honourable Kaura wants to accommodate the House as a whole let us say this Motion comes from all of us. It is a National issue, not a political party issue. Let us agree on that. The amount called for is logical - N\$500-00 from the House, as a whole, combined, because here we debate this issue. Let us forget about politics and face reality. I am saying that it is a National issue and all of us together should join efforts.

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, may I ask my Chief and my second husband a question in Otjiherero? Honourable Chief, you are saying that the Motion comes from the Opposition benches. You thought that the SWAPO Party only helps people who arrive there and the youth; we do not have old people? Now, why are you saying that we are refusing or rejecting the Motion because it did not come from the SWAPO Party?

HON SPEAKER: Is it a question, Honourable Member?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Yes. It is a question. Tell me that the SWAPO Party do not have old people – only young people. Why do you say that?

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HON SPEAKER: You got the question, Honourable Chief?

HON RIRUAKO: The question is that we had to distinguish between a national issue and political issues. I have to say this. Think about old people. I did not mention about the deduction from the package of Honourable Toivo Ya Toivo - you are not concerned about it, but I am concerned. Age must tell how you are supposed to deduct from that package: 80 years old you and you deduct from it like from a 55 or 60 year old. I mean there must be a distinction - if you understand what I am saying. If you did not understand what I was saying, ask your Colleague to let you know what I meant.

Honourable Speaker, these sorts of things happen now and then here. But you are not concerned at all because you are not concerned about the old age package. The facts remain that - let us accept the N\$500.00 as a package for the old age people, but not from an individual political party as it is a national issue. Well, it comes from me but let us make it a national issue. You are not the only one who has old people. On that matter we have to agree to disagree. I think you probably have that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Goreseb?

HON GORESEB: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I rise to make my humble contribution towards the issue at hand: the plight of our senior citizens. I was shocked when I scanned through certain documents, in particular the latest statistics, which reveal that the orphan population is expected to reach 200 000 within a couple of years. The burden of responsibility for the children is expected to be shared among family members, but as I know Namibia, it will be their grandparents.

This whole burden is found already at all corners of our country. Our people are dying due to AIDS related illnesses. Well we know that there are various Care Centres in certain big cities of our country, but they are not enough to take care of all the children who are going to be orphaned. Our grandparents will have to take care of these children and provide the much needed shelter. They are going to provide the care and they will impart good moral values to such vulnerable children in order to prevent them from ending up on the streets with all its evils of drug abuse, commercial sex, theft and murder, to mention but a few.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this House, the high inflation rate in our country and the recent increase in fuel prices, also have a very negative impact on our currency and each and every citizen of this country is feeling the pain of such increases. Such increases have a chain reaction. Transport costs are escalating, the cost of commodities is going up, and usually the producers and the service providers send those costs to the end users of such goods and services. Bread used to cost N\$2-00 – N\$3-00 two or three years ago, but today it is about N\$5-00 something. Transport cost from here to Usakos is N\$90-00 if you make use of the Mainliner.

Honourable Members, our senior citizens do not get preferential treatments when it comes to making use of these services and commodities. They have to obtain it at the very same price. When they get sick and need medication, they have to buy the drugs for high blood pressure and all chronic illnesses. You will know that most of them do not enjoy the luxury of Medical Aid. They have to pay their municipal bills, they have to buy food and clothing for all the children: just from the meagre N\$300-00. Therefore, Honourable House, there is an urgent need to upgrade the social grant for the senior citizens as put by the Mover of this Motion. It does not matter from which side the Motion came; the reality is that our senior citizens really need more instead of just N\$300-00.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, money invested in senior citizens can be viewed as money well spent. Such grants are spent locally and it stimulates the local economy. As more buying power circulates particularly in the rural areas, it ends up to the benefit of our whole Nation. Therefore, I will support the increment from N\$300-00 to N\$500-00. I support the Motion.

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Schimming-Chase?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Mr Speaker, I pray your indulgence - if there is nobody else who wants to contribute to the debate, I would like to adjourn.

HON SPEAKER: There are others on the list. Honourable Namoloh?

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HON NAMOLOH

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this August House, I rise to respond to Honourable Katuutire Kaura's suggestion to increase pension for the senior citizens to N\$500-00 at the expense of the Defence budget.

It is well known that the Namibian Government has the interest of the people of Namibia at heart. When we fought to liberate Namibia the aim was to improve the well being of the people of this Country and we had not even spared our lives to do this.

SWAPO had mobilised, inspired and organised the broad masses of the Namibian people to fight in order for the Namibian people, regardless of race, religion, age or ethnic origin, to live better.

It is unacceptable to use the elderly people's well being to gain political points, as Honourable Kaura is doing now. Namibia is one of the few countries in the Region that give pensions to its senior citizens and this is done despite limited resources at the Government's disposal.

HON SPEAKER: On a Point or Order.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Lieutenant-General retired a question?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Normally Generals are not interrupted.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Lieutenant General retired, is it acceptable, as a member of the Ruling Party, to use this pension issue to lose political points?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, you may continue.

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HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, on Honourable Katuutire Kaura's suggestion to increase pensions for our senior citizens from the Defence budget, let me remind the Honourable Member, unless he has forgotten that he was part of the Parliamentary team which visited Military Bases and which saw the deterioration ... (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, the name is Katuutire not Katutura.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Well, I find little difference between Katutura and Katuutire. I am sorry. Katuutire Kaura's suggestion to increase pensions for our senior citizens from the Defence Budget; let me remind the Honourable Member unless he has forgotten, that he was part of the Parliamentary team which visited Military Bases, and have seen the deterioration of infrastructures and equipment of the Defence Force and recommended the improvement thereof. Now, I wonder whether he wants to disassociate himself, or why this contradiction?

Honourable Kaura, being one of the veteran politicians and a long serving MP, should know better the role of the Defence Force in this country. During the Tabling of the Defence Budget in this August House many Honourable Members including the Opposition benches, expressed the view that much needs to be done to improve our Defence Forces equipment and infrastructure. It is regrettable that Honourable Kaura seems to forget the needs and roles of this Defence Force.

Honourable Katuutire Kaura further maintained that the country should focus on strengthening the Police Force rather than the army and that that Defence Force is wasting ammunition by shooting at mountains. Let me again remind the Honourable Member that the roles of the Police and the Defence Force are not the same although they are complimentary. Therefore, they cannot substitute one another. At this moment we have about 900 members of the Defence Force actively participating in Peace Missions contributing to World Peace.

The Honourable Member should also be advised that the main activities of soldiers during peacetime are training and providing assistance to civil authority. This is the norm in many Defence Forces worldwide. He must have seen the Defence Force recently, as shown on TV, fighting wild fires. Previously they also helped with floods and other duties. He should also take note that 95% of weapons and ammunition in the NDF was donated by the SWAPO Party.

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Soldiers' skills take time to develop and it must be rehearsed from time to time. He compared Belgium and Finland. I think he knows that Belgium has an old army. These are Old World countries. They formed their armies in the 12th Century. We are only 15 years old and we cannot be compared with other armies in the world. Belgium was a coloniser; the Finnish were fighting the Russians many, many years ago. Their infrastructures, arms and equipment cannot be compared to the Namibian Army.

Soldiers' skills take time to develop and it must be rehearsed from time to time. It is not like a torch which you switch on and off as circumstances dictate. We like to criticize the Brave Warriors, the football team which they are not performing well because they are inactive and practise only at short notice before a match. That is why they always fail. We cannot train an army on the eve of a battle. This is the same with soldiers: without training and rehearsals they are not expected to win in battle. That is why we say, *"more sweat on training, less blood on the battle field."* Soldiers should be ready for any eventuality anytime. Their preparation includes rehearsal and training, which unfortunately cost money.

Honourable Kaura, I need to warn you, because when the soldiers hear you say that the Defence budget must be cut, it means to them, if you translate it, go home and be unemployed. They may get offended.

As I said earlier on, the Honourable Member further compares budget allocations between other countries and Namibia. Although I do not agree with him about the sizes of the armies that he quoted, the Honourable Member should be reminded that those armies have been there for quite a long time and have infrastructure which they developed over many decades. Reducing our Defence Force will also send many soldiers to the streets and deprive young people of a chance of employment.

I know that there was a question by Honourable Venaani questioning the hierarchy of the NDF: "Why are there no other people in this hierarchy". Yes, you did that and you know that we have now adopted a quota system for each Region. If the budget is cut now, then the quota system will have to go because only a few people will be recruited. All this will not only affect the soldiers' dependants which include senior citizens, but also have the potential to create instability, which will affect us all.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Riruako.

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HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, without our small contribution of arguments you would not have done what you have done. I am pleased to hear from you that you have changed your motto. And that is the motto we wanted. If you did not listen to him that is not my problem, it is yours. I have to thank you for that change. We are expecting more afterwards. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Please continue, Minister.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this August House, I said earlier on that reducing the Defence Force will send many soldiers to the streets and deprive young people of a chance of employment. All this will not only affect the soldiers' dependants which include senior citizens, but also have the potential to create instability, which will affect us all. Therefore I am aware and convinced that the Government of the Republic of Namibia will, as always, improve the well-being of its people, including its senior citizens; but not at the expense of its soldiers. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Honourable Mungunda?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. It was not my intention to participate but as I want to say more I decided to take the floor. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of this August House, the SWAPO Government is one amongst a few countries in the world which provide grants to senior citizens ... (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Chief?

HON RIRUAKO: Our Government? Is our Government here? We are part and parcel of it. Not just the SWAPO Government. It is our Government; whenever this Government is mentioned, it is our Government. The Members of this House must

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also learn how to put that – our Government. Is our Government here! I told you – I stopped it and I said it was our Government. Do not keep on saying *SWAPO Government*. It was Honourable Kawana who had that habit here. It is our Government.

HON SPEAKER: Point taken. Honourable Mungunda?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I am happy that I am not from NUDO and that I am not being taken up in the next election. I am from the SWAPO Party and I will keep on saying *the SWAPO Government*. I have the right. I will say it outside, upside, anywhere. Now, the SWAPO Government is one amongst a few countries in the world which offered grants, social grants, to the old age people.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Information.

HON KAURA: Who is the President of Namibia now? The SWAPO President or the President? Who is the President?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Schimming-Chase has the floor.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I think it is very dangerous that the person who has responsibility, like the Honourable Minister has, deliberately to give false information. Governments that give social grants to old age pensioners are not few. So we cannot be one of the few. Let us get our facts straight.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:
Comrade Speaker, I have my statistics, because these things - since I joined the

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Parliament - every time when the Human Resource Committee looks into the plight of the old aged to increase the pension, then Comrade Kaura comes in with these things and I have my real statistics. I have them, Comrade, and I can (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Information.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Few countries in Africa ... (Interjection) Africa is part of the world, yes, part of the world. There are only two countries and I know they use to say *two countries* and perhaps Botswana. It is not really confirmed, which means in Africa where you have more than 50 countries, only 3 give old age pensions and you want to deny that there are *few*. Even in the world - not all countries in the world - which you now want to have - regarding the one from Africa, given that responsibility.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I thank my number one husband. We are on top of the information because we are the Ruling Party. There are only a few countries in the world which offers social grants. It is actually not a pension. A pension is when you have worked and then retire, *then* you get a pension. This is a social grant. So first of all, we must know the difference. Namibia is one of the few countries in the world which offers social grants to the old aged. Amongst them only two - Botswana is not yet confirmed - but only two countries in Africa which are offering social grants and they are Namibia and South Africa. It is the only two.

Namibia even went a step further. It made the social grant a Constitutional right and this provision can be seen on page 58 of Article 95 of the Constitution. I quote. "Ensurance that senior citizens are entitled to, and do receive a regular and adequate grant for the maintenance of a decent standard of living, and the enjoyment of social and cultural opportunities." Therefore, we must not let the people look at us as if we, as the SWAPO Party, are against the social grants. We are the ones - it is a Constitutional provision in the Constitution ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order. Will you accept a question, Honourable Minister?

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HON MOONGO: Is it allowed in this House for a Minister to misquote the Constitution. That same Article says *they are entitled to adequate*, now she omitted the word *adequate*.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: No. I did not. I think, Comrade Moongo, you are perhaps a little deaf. Check the sign language tonight and you will see what I was saying there now. Comrade Kaura, my uncle, I do support you on this one. If there is one person in Namibia who supports a bigger grant for the old aged, then it is Comrade Mungunda. I am looking, I am going (indistinct) and I am not just talking. I am looking after many, many old people in my community. You must not ask what the Government is going to do. You must say *what am I going to do for my old people*. While you are doing something, then you can ask. Vulnerable Namibians are very close to the heart of the SWAPO Government. I quote that one. I would like to tell you what we did after Independence, Comrades, because it is a Constitutional provision.

When we took over Namibia, the Oshiwambo people and the others were not getting any grants - in that "rommel tafel se tyd" - it was only Damara/Namas and the Coloureds and the Whites who got that grant in the past from "Suid-Afrika." What I know was, because in my area there are Damara/Nama people, that they got R55-00 every three months. The Coloureds got R200-00 monthly and the Whites, who really did not even need it, got R300-00. So look at that logic. The ones who really did not need it got the highest every month. The ones who really needed it, the vulnerable ones, they were not taken care of. And some of you, like my uncle, were sitting amongst the decision makers of that time. You were the Ministers of Finance and whatever it was, but you never thought of an increment for your people. Now you are; and if someone calls you a dog and you do not bark that stuff ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: Do not misquote me, Honourable Minister. I was against it publicly. I was against those amounts given to the vulnerable people who never made any cent out of nothing. I was against it. I declared that and I did it openly. I did not distinguish between Damara/Namas/Owambo's. Not me. I was against it openly. I did speak of it loudly, and that is why I was hated so much. Yes. You read about what I have done. I am most hated by those people now.

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The fact is that I am the most hated person because of that and I know that. You know what I am talking about. I am the most hated person for that. Now you read what I have done.

HON SPEAKER: Make your Point of Order, Honourable Chief.

HON RIRUAKO: I am the most hated person for that. I had fought for that openly and now you just cannot say anything about what happened in the past. Read your Hansard - yes, you have it. You do not have to hear it from my mouth, go and read it. But the fact remains that you want to put yourself so high: I fought for that ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, I do not want you to say *Point of Order* and then make a speech.

HON RIRUAKO: I am sorry about that. Tell the House to come with the quotes at hand. Do not take other people's work and tell the public it is yours.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, I am a teacher by profession, and when teachers have to present something, they must tell the people where they came from and where they are going to.

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Intervention.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, I would like to mention here that the Honourable Chief Riruako, Honourable Kaura and Honourable Moongo were part and parcel of the Interim Government. They were part

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of the collective decisions taken there: when they were discriminating against other groups and other Namibian blacks; other SWAPO people; when some groups were given more grants than other groups. Now you want to tell this August House that you were not part of that decision-making. Why did you not resign at that time? That is my question to the Chief. Why did you not resign? Forming part of those collective decisions.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUME PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT AT 16:08

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma was wrapping up his question or are you satisfied?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister, you may continue.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Now, after the SWAPO Party Government took over this Country the first thing they did - because it is a Constitutional provision - they equalised. I said previously that the darker, or the “bantuer” you were, the less you got. So the SWAPO Government made all the grants equal. They started with N\$160-00 and everybody, all old age people, was getting the grants. It is not only old age people but people with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children who receive these grants. So when we talk about the social grants, we must include the broader picture, because, when the Ministry concerned budgets for these grants - for the old age people; the people with disabilities; the vulnerable children ... We are even giving grants to children, for example, when the father is a criminal and in jail for more than a year, then those children are also taken care of by the Government. We are also giving them grants. So it is a very broad picture, a very, very broad picture where the Government is taking care of the social grants of the vulnerable people in Namibia. And then they equalised it to N\$160-00.

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HON SPEAKER: A Point of Order. Honourable Minister?

HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: The Comrade is making a very important point but I wanted to ask something. Honourable Mungunda, through the Speaker, I do not know whether you are aware that some of us, and I am deliberately being vague, some of us are contributing to the difficulties that the old aged people are facing today. People flock to cities, make babies, go back to the Reserves, and drop them with the old parents without even giving them anything to look after the children. They come back; do the same thing, drop the second one, and then the old people are left with the dilemma - to sit with this problem.

These people are also employed here but they use their money for other things and dump the children on the old people, thus making the life of those people even more difficult. Are you aware of it?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Secretary-General. I am fully aware of it and during previous discussions which we had in Parliament and - even when Honourable Libertine Amathila was the Minister of Health - I even brought a picture of a grandmother feeding many children around her. The picture was here. I would also like to make it clear that the old age pensions are taken care of by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in the new Government under President Pohamba. As you are still referring to the Minister of Health I think you are still confused. I do not know but it is very difficult for people who want to be blind to try and give them an eye operation; which is also free of charge for the old people.

We made all the pensions across the board, for those who are indeed the vulnerable people, including the old age, N\$160-00. Then there was an increment to N\$200-00 and another increment to N\$250-00. Nobody told us to do that: the SWAPO Government did it because they know it is a Constitutional provision. Then we came up to N\$300-00 and we are ready to go up again. We know what we are doing. There is no need for us to politicise this very sensitive issue - and let it look like when we are trying to give you the correct information as we as the SWAPO people, right from the beginning, brought it in the Constitution because we care for our people - that we are resisting. It is going out like that and the people outside think that we are resisting, but we are not people outside there. When you listen to this we are the ones: Old people, you know I am always with you on the grassroots. You know we are the ones who bring in this increment.

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Now apart from the N\$300-00; there are benefits. There are benefits, endless benefits and that is where we talk about the package: the N\$300-00 per month; then we have the foster parent grant, if a child is an orphan staying with the grandparent and the grandparent get a foster parent grant ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. A question for the Honourable Minister.

HON MOONGO: Is the Honourable Minister aware that some of the elderly people are carried in wheelbarrows to their pension point. Is the Minister aware that they are carried in wheelbarrows to the pay point?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade, that shows that there is variety in transport. It is a movable thing “n kruise” so that just shows the creativeness. It just shows the creativity, because some of us sitting here have Government cars and we cannot take our parents with Government cars there. And if there is no vehicle; it just shows how creative the Namibian people are using the “kruise”.

So apart from the N\$300-00 per month; they get a foster parent grant per child when they look after orphans; they are getting free health care; they are getting free public travel; they are subsidised with water and electricity in the Municipal areas; they are getting funeral benefits - in the past when old people died we walked from home to home collecting some money in order to bury them, now we are burying them in a decent way, outstanding and dignity... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. May I ask my sister a question? Honourable Minister, are you aware that all old pensioners are SWAPO members? That is why we are winning elections all the time. Even though they are crying crocodile tears (indistinct) but we are winning because these

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pensioners are all SWAPO voters; they are voting for SWAPO. Are you aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Very much, my sister, very, very much. That is why, even apart from the old age grants, we have a Veteran Fund. I do not know if they are aware that there is a Veteran Fund which was passed in the Parliament here. Exactly based on that move, SWAPO is 'walking the talk' or even flying it some times. There are economic housing provided for old age people who can take care of them. I can take you to them here in Windhoek.

Then we have Government subsidised old age homes. We have Government subsidised feeding schemes for the groups of people who stand up and want to make a difference in the life of these people.

Lastly, I would like to say, Comrade Kaura, we win. Omo, I really make categorically clear: if we had stood for 15 years at the N\$55-00 level and you did the comparison, then I would have jumped over and joined you. Unfortunately we are doers. We are showing that we have the effort to do the things. It is crystal clear and the old people know it. That is why they easily - even those ones who are blind - when you take them and say: "Let us join hands, my dear Omo." As servants of the Nation ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, I know Churchill won the Second World War and one year after that he was defeated by (Indistinct) The Honourable Member said we are here to take care of the old people. We do have certain houses subsidised by Government. Who lives there? Who lives there in these SWAPO houses? Not other citizens. Honourable, you said SWAPO Government or SWAPO members, you said that. SWAPO Pensioners only (indistinct) that way otherwise you crucified yourself. That is wrong; so correct yourself now in the open air. If you fail to do that we are going to crucify you for that. I thank you.

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HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Unfortunately, when you are a Religious Leader and when you are a SWAPO Leader you never retire. By the time you cannot move anymore and you retire a Chief then you can join SWAPO so that you can be subsidised with economic housing. Now let us join hands ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: If you fail to treat Honourable Ya Toivo right, what are you going to do to me? You fail because I am against what you have done to him.

HON SPEAKER: You made that point earlier, Chief.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Now I am totally confused, but I will not let me be confused. Now let us join hands, my dear Omo, because we are not leaders but servants of the Nation and with our humble contributions we can make differences, and this you can see. The party of which I am a full Member, the SWAPO Party, are making these differences in the lives of people. Let us not use these sensitive issues while we cannot also stand up and speak. I start with Comrade Moongo - I will take off my hat for him. That is why he gave me a compliment. He came, he did not criticise the Minister of Gender Equality for not assisting children or came in with a Motion for children suffering.

He got rural women together and saw the plight of the children. He put it together and then brought the needs to me. When I saw that I assisted him because that is what our Government do. I did not say he was from the Opposition. I saw that he was trying to do something and that is exactly what the Government is doing. They did not bring a Motion in criticising me; that is why he gave me compliments when he started with that. I was looking for him and did not find him because he is not my friend. He came with something which is really for the Nation - the children of this Nation, one who can be the next President, and so on, of this country. So let us do something. Let us act and do something and then say *please support this group* so that we can fill up the package ourselves instead of just talking for the sake of talking and not knowing the agenda with which you want to get more people. I can assure you, Comrade, the old

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people are praying for the Government. They are praying for the Government - therefore I suggest that all the servants here, from their salaries, give N\$1000-00 a month to the Old Age Fund.

You remember the coffin scheme that was started by Former President Nujoma. It is actually not a Government Programme; it is just subsidised by the Government, but it is a programme which was started by President Nujoma. It is a private project he started when he saw that when old people died, people come and collect (Indistinct) "President, we cannot bury the people. Help!" The President is an example - Comrade Nujoma - and I am also a trustee of that funeral benefit. It is something which was started by the President when he saw the plight. So let us start with things and then say *support this one*, and say *I am willing to contribute each month*. I am talking freely because I contribute, I do. I make differences in peoples' lives. I do not just talk blindly for the sake of talking. The party in which I am is the one who is future people's Government. It is a people's party.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Honourable Number One, may I ask you a question? You asked him to make an amendment as the Minister of Agriculture requested, that we can only go along, otherwise we will reject. Is that what you are asking about?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: We can contribute N\$1000-00 from our salaries. When we have some cattle we can give monthly. That is what the President, the former President, is doing. When he goes hunting he gives to the old age homes in Katutura and those houses. The things he hunted he did not eat himself but he gave to those people. We also see other people, business people, contributing blankets and when they have a garden they bring the fruit and the vegetables. So let us do that as leaders so that the people without being told to do so will follow. They will follow when we do the right things, Comrades. So let us just do that instead of now saying *Government, Government*. Who is the Government? We are the Government.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, you have exhausted the point.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: In conclusion “*Viva Die Mannetjie*”.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Dienda?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Taxation money is a limited resource that is never sufficient for fulfilling all the demands made on it. It is always necessary to balance different demands against each other, taking into account the overriding demands of Justice, and equally high quality for everybody. We must correct the injustice caused by the Colonial Regime by taking into consideration the inflation rate. Everybody in Namibia has the right to the basic needs; these are good housing at a reasonable cost, water, health, *and etcetera*.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I hope that somebody here in this August House will do me the favour of drawing up a budget for N\$300-00. Miracles do happen; but not in this case. Honourable Members, I am convinced that this August House can do better than this. We need to look at other ways of helping our elderly people.

I just want to give an example; because you are saying we must come with alternatives. The Standing Committee on Human Resources visited South Africa in May this year. At the airport we were charged for the bags - because we bought some things - and they charged us 20 cent per bag. I asked them why I had to pay for the bag; you must have customer service. They told me that the 20 cents go to the elderly for their pension. So that is their way of contributing. What I am saying is that the Namibian Government can look at other ways, instead of just looking at the budget by the Government, on how to deal with this matter.

Honourable Members, let us look into this matter and see how we can solve the problem. This is not a Kaura Motion; this is a national issue. We all have responsibility towards our elderly. I support Honourable Kaura's Motion. I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Schimming-Chase?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE Thank you, Honourable Speaker. If there is nobody else who wants to take the floor, I would like to adjourn this Debate to next Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday next week. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE DIRE SITUATION AT OPUWO, DUE
TO THE DISCONNECTION OF WATER BY NAMWATER.**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the dire situation at Opuwo, due to the disconnection of water by NamWater.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on 4 October 2005 the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. Honourable Moongo adjourned the Debate and he now has the floor.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable Members, in support of President Kaura's Motion, I would like to say that any Government institution depriving the community of potable water is a tyrannical institution.

HON SPEAKER: I think, Honourable Member, it is understood. Point of Order.

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**MOTION ON WATER CRISIS IN OPUWO
HON MOONGO**

HON NAMBINGA: Comrade Speaker, I think it is very important for the purposes of those who are not Members of this Honourable House, but who has access to read what we are saying. When we say *President* - is it now the President of the State? It is important for the Honourable Member to say *the President of the DTA party*, so that the people can know whom we are talking about.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, when you rise, would you identify the Presidency of Honourable Kaura.

HON MOONGO: He is the President of the Party, a well-known national party - this is party well-known to everybody; the DTA party.

The NamWater Act of 1997, Part III, Section 5, Aims and Functions shall be, "*to provide water and carry out efficient services in the best interest of Namibians, to supply water to customers in higher quality suitable for customers and rendering water related services upon their request*". Sub-Section 6 deals with plans, designs, contracts, extensions, maintenance, repairs and the operation and control of waterworks.

Mr Speaker, NamWater does not perform its functions according to the Act and does not give effect to the relevant policies of the Government relating to water supply as stipulated in Sub-section 5. The Minister does not fulfil his duty according to the NamWater Act and the Minister does not control the Corporation on tariffs and cost recovery basis. The Minister ignores Section 7 which deals with the borrowing of funds from outside Namibia to improve the quality of water. Like we said, the water is bad in Opuwo. He is supposed to ask donations from overseas and then the Ministry is supposed to use that. It is in the Act. Everything that I referred to is in the Act. So, the Ministry ignores all this. Mr Speaker, Part III, Section 10, Sub-section 1, deals with the "*Corporation to interrupt or reduce water supply, only after consulting with affected customers*". Only when there is a breakdown in the waterworks shall the Corporation interrupt or reduce water supply, after giving Notice in the Gazette by writing a letter not less than 14 days. All these steps were ignored; they just cut the water ruthlessly without even informing the customers. In the Act it says that *that* might not be done.

So I shall request the Minister to take this seriously; that the Corporation must not do whatever they want to do with water. To cut water like that - like they cut it

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everywhere - is against the Act. It is stipulated here. Read the Act, and know what to say.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker, I listen to Honourable Councillor of the Traditional Authority there. He says that my Minister did not even follow what NamWater (Indistinct) Why did he not go to Opuwo and tell the people to pay for water? The people in Kaoko are just like people in other areas. Yesterday we had a problem with water at the Augustineum and we kept quiet because the Government told those people to pay their water. What about the people in Opuwo?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, continue.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Member comes from the affected area and we were elected by the people of Opuwo. She is against the Rules of which I said that the Minister is supposed to be informed about. The Minister is not supposed to do this. Then she is supporting that the people must stay without water.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Point of Order. I want ... (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable, I did not give you the floor. Will you please sit down? The Honourable Member was busy responding to the earlier Point of Order. Why do you not allow him to finish and then I certainly will give the floor to supplement the earlier question. Continue, Honourable.

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HON MOONGO: I was saying, in the Act, before the water is cut off or reduced, the Minister has to give approval first, before they can do that, but the Corporation just cut off.

HON SPEAKER: On a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Point of Order. The people in Opuwo are part and parcel of the Namibian Nation. We are not going to treat them like that. Honourable Members, when you do not want to talk to the people in Opuwo, please keep quiet.

I do not want you to say that the people of Kaoko are the only ones that are going to be helped by the Government. Why do you not want those people to be like the others?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, let us debate issues; not shout at one another. Continue, Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: The Honourable Member is supposed to know whom she is talking to. I was a freedom fighter and I fought for the freedom of expression. Even SWAPO failed to silence me in exile. You cannot silence me from whatever I am telling ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, address the issue, Honourable Moongo. Stick to the issue. Honourable Moongo, continue with your statement.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. It is a pity that the Honourable wants to interrupt me unnecessarily while I am handling the ignorance of the Minister on the side of the Government. The Minister is supposed to approve ... (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: The House will come to Order. Honourable Moongo, continue.

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the water crisis in Opuwo is really disturbing the peace of the people in Namibia. We want improvements; not only in Opuwo but in many other areas where water was ruthlessly cut off without approval of the Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Muharukua, would you press the button and inscribe to take the floor and make your contribution? The House would appreciate such constructive participation. Yes, continue.

HON MOONGO: I was saying; the crisis of water in Opuwo is really disturbing; while money of the State is corrupted by many money mongers: the N\$100 Million of the ODC; Social Security N\$30 Million; the GIPF; the Defence money; and N\$35 Million of Local Government and Housing. This money was squandered; it was supposed to have provided free water for poor, unemployed people of Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order, and let it be a Point of Order, Honourable Muharukua. Point of Order. Stick to the issue. You have the floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. When you are talking about the water crisis in Opuwo, please do not involve the N\$30 Million or the N\$100 Million. I thank you.

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, when I was a Freedom Fighter I fought against injustice. (Interjection)

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, I also want you to stick to the Motion and not raise history and other issues that are irrelevant to the substance of the Motion. Stick to the Motion.

HON MOONGO: I was saying; millions of dollars were wasted which were supposed to build dams to hold water for the people. Now water is cut off ruthlessly. A big dam was supposed to be constructed to catch the water which is wasted in the Caprivi. The water which flows from Angola was supposed to be used in future, so that everybody could have water. Therefore, I feel these millions of dollars which were wasted were supposed to be used in the interest of the people.

Mr Speaker, there is supposed to be an Advisory Committee from the Community to advise the Minister on how to use water and how to maintain water. It is now in vain, and therefore I propose that water should be under the Government so that everybody who is unemployed can get water free; because millions are wasted. Mr Speaker, the fact is that the majority of people living in Opuwo are blacks. It was the attitude of the white minority Government that wherever blacks are, they did not take care. The water was ignored to be classified as proper water. That is why the water in Opuwo remained classified as C - because there were only a few whites there. This was the minority white Government.

HON SEAKER: Point of Order.

HON NAMBINGA: May I ask the Honourable Vice President of the DTA a question? Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is one thing to speak in this Honourable House, but it is totally a different ball game to present your Party to the electorate outside. The Honourable Member is known for having been critical against the Government. My question to him therefore is: "Honourable Moongo, you appear to be so sympathetic to the people, the way you project yourself. Why do you think the electorate continue to reject DTA when it comes to elections? Is it because you think they are stupid, or why do you think they continue to reject to put you to power?"

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HON MOONGO: Thank you. It is just because they were indoctrinated by SWAPO, therefore they were misled by SWAPO. They cannot distinguish now who is doing the best for them. That is the reason why they are confused. As I said, those who have eyes yet they cannot see.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: The Namibian people outside this House are intelligent people. I do not think that the Honourable Member can say that they are indoctrinated for them not to vote like the Honourable Member implied. He is implying that the Namibian people do not know the good and the bad. This is not true. They know exactly. They know how you have treated them during the Colonial time. Do not forget history; it judges you.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much. Honourable Speaker, I do not want to continue answering those questions. As I said - they are blind so that things have remained wrong. The SWAPO sides are blind so that everything goes wrong. So all you SWAPOs better go to Dr Dume to treat you, in order to see what is wrong and what is correct.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, address the Motion.

HON MOONGO: I would like to give awareness to the many angry communities who vandalise water in the areas. They vandalise the big pipes and the pans and valleys are full of water. They would rather not do that; so that they better go to the Government and ask to be subsidised and to be given free water, because millions are lost and wasted. I would also like to call upon the community members who vandalise the other people's water pipes - yes, they are stealing the other people's water because the Government has turned the taps off - so they turn their anger to the other colleagues and they steal water from the neighbours. I appeal to them not to do that. Let them rather face the Government. Government is the guilty party. They are supposed to provide water to the unemployed and to every citizen of Namibia; and not only to squander money like they do.

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Namibia is not only for SWAPO: it is for all for us. We fought for it and we fought against injustices in Namibia and we are determined to fight against injustices. This is injustice; you squandered the money, you all are supposed to be locked up in prison. You are squandering the money while people are suffering.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, are you done? Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I believe that the ongoing generalisation about SWAPO and the finger-pointing is unparliamentary. If the Honourable Member could refrain from that and still say what he wants to say. I thank you.

HON MOONGO: I would like to say some of your colleagues are corrupt. They need to repent and to adhere to justice.

HON SPEAKER: Stick to the Motion, Honourable Member.

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, lastly I want to say that NamWater Corporation Act, 1997, must be amended to cater for the unemployed and the poor. The huge profit must be subsidised to the poor and the employed and, of course, to provide water to their livestock. Let NamWater be under the Government and let quality water be provided to Opuwo town now - not tomorrow. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Booyis

HON BOOYIS: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I rise also to take part in the deliberations on the Motion of Honourable Kaura of the DTA. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I rise to contribute on the Motion of

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Honourable Kaura, on the disconnection of water to the town of Opuwo by *NamWater*. Honourable Speaker, I would like to put the record straight from the onset - there is no water crisis in Opuwo. *NamWater* has not yet reported to us that there is no more underground water, or water supply, to Opuwo. *NamWater* can still supply water to Opuwo provided that the services rendered are paid for. There is enough water in Opuwo: provided they pay, they can get water. So there is no water crisis in Opuwo. The situation which we have in Opuwo is that *NamWater* stopped providing water to Opuwo because of non-payment by the Municipality of Opuwo. Opuwo is a town like any other town in Namibia, with its elected leaders, and I assume they have competent staff. The SWAPO party and its Government have proposed in this House that Opuwo become the capital of the Kunene Region - changing the status of Opuwo at that point in time.

The SWAPO Party Government is serious about bringing infrastructure and infrastructural development to the town of Opuwo. Having said that, Honourable Speaker, I must strongly object, with the contempt it deserves, to NUDO's statement last week in this House, of comparing *NamWater* to Van Trotha. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Town Council of Opuwo has failed the people of Opuwo - and not *NamWater*. When you do not pay for services it is taken away or cut. Go to a furniture shop and buy some furniture; if you do not pay, they come and repossess. Borrow money from the Banks; if you do not pay they will come back and repossess - anything to get back their money. *NamWater* is a commercial company 100% owned by the Government, by an Act of Parliament enacted in this House, and is therefore a legitimate company to deal with bulk water supply, not only in Opuwo, but all over Namibia, including Okakarara, Karibib, Usakos, Otjimbingwe, and Rehoboth.

Mr. Speaker, what people know in Opuwo is that they are continuously paying for the water services, but the problem is that after receiving the money for payment, the Town Council does not pay to *NamWater* what is due to *NamWater*.

Honourable Speaker, it is a known fact that in the middle or at the end of every month you receive a statement which shows what you owe for electricity, water services, refuse removal and for Municipal services. But I think there is an agreement between *NamWater* and the Municipalities: *collect the money, take a certain percentage and give the rest to me*. This is an agreement which is not honoured by the Municipalities and this where the problem is.

Opuwo, like any other town, has people who are employed - nurses, teachers, soldiers, Police, even business people, and even those who are not employed, but who can afford to pay for their water services. These are the people who are paying their

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dues every month. Now, are the DTA Council staff members incompetent? Or because we are talking too much about corruption, squandering money?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am sorry to disrupt this very enlightening speech, but can I ask Honourable Booy's a question? Are you aware that, as we are sitting here, the very people of Opuwo are buying water from the trucks of *Grinacker* on the street? Are you aware of that? The people of Opuwo ... (intervention). *Grinacker Company* ferries water and brings it to Opuwo and people are buying this water on the street, right now as we are sitting here, and they are prepared to pay for water. But the problem is exactly what you are saying: the DTA controlled Municipal Councillors.

HON BOOYS: Right Honourable Prime Minister, I spoke to somebody this morning and I was informed that the issue is not about people not being able to afford to pay. People can afford to pay but the problem is the Town Council of Opuwo. We have a tendency of always referring to people *being poor, they cannot afford*. We are not the ones that are feeding them. When you visit them you will see some of them eating their meal once a day and then they go to bed and sleep. We never ask them where they got the money to buy food. There are people who can pay for their services.

I think it is good of Honourable Kaura to bring up Motions, but sometimes if there are consultations - Honourable Kaura is a very senior Opposition Parliamentarian; I used to talk to him about farming. He can give you good advice. I have implemented some of his good advice on my farm and I am successful. If Honourable Kaura can take these problems and consult the Minister and NamWater, I do not think this building will collapse. I think the right procedure is that when we as community leaders see problems we should go straight to the Minister. The Minister can even take that political decision and say that this is a *NamWater* case; if it is really a problem. But do not come to this House with all kinds of 30 Million, 100 Million stories which have nothing to do with Opuwo.

Now, if you are really serious; the 100 Million and the 30 Million have nothing to do with people in Opuwo - people in Opuwo are suffering heavily. It was not even money for NamWater, but it proves that you are making jokes of the people's suffering. This is where we as Members of Parliament are making mistakes. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

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HON NAMBINGA: Comrade Booy's, you have just said that Honourable Kaura is a wise man and that he has been giving you advice which you implemented on your farm. Are you suggesting that the best he could do is to advise his Councillors in Opuwo so that they could rectify the situation. Is that what you are implying?

HON BOOYS: Honourable Nambinga, you are 100% correct. Honourable Kaura, as the leader of the DTA, could even call his Councillors and discipline them. If we pay N\$100-00 this month to the Municipality and ten more people have paid N\$100-00 - it is N\$1 000-00, is it not? If there are 100 who paid, it is N\$10 000-00. I am sure there are more than a hundred people who are employed in Opuwo and a hundred more who can afford, even if they are unemployed, to pay for their portion of water.

Then the Municipality of Opuwo can pay on a monthly basis N\$10 000-00 to *NamWater* to continue providing water to the residents of Opuwo. The problem is, as you have heard yesterday, that since last year October, and as the Minister stated, up to this year September, not a single cent has been paid over. Now if you collected money for water and you did not pay it over to *NamWater* - where did the money go? Why do you not go and tell them that they are squandering money? Where does the money go? We do not know where the money goes. This is where the words of corruption and squandering should come in. I would rather prefer, Honourable Kaura, that you withdraw this Motion and take up consultation with the Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Booy's, you are speaking so eloquently. Are you aware that even people who paid for their services also had their water suspended in Opuwo?

HON BOOYS: Honourable young Venaani, you should listen when elders talk. I said; these people are paying for their water services, but the problem is that the Town Council does not pay it over, so *NamWater* has to cut the water services. When you have always negotiated silently the time comes when you say you are going public. Once you have gone public your problems are solved. We have seen

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Okakarara, Karibib - these problems were there but they never called them water crises. People negotiated.

I think these things are political. Last week Friday, I saw on television a NUDO gathering and as I was listening they said 100 people joined NUDO in Opuwo. These things can be confirmed. That is why I prefer Honourable Kaura to withdraw this Motion and, like a seasoned politician, go to the Minister and to NamWater and solve those problems. The way they run business; they are not really concerned about Opuwo. So Honourable Speaker, this is in short my intervention. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Geingob.

HON GEINGOB: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I know Honourable Kaura very well. We grew up together. He is a seasoned politician and a Parliamentarian for over twenty years, so I know that this building is a place where we can make politics. And being a seasoned person he came to move this Motion; to make a point to people out there. As the Honourable Member just said, if he were really serious, he would have consulted.

I am standing up to raise one issue that slipped in the debate both yesterday and today, whereby the speakers from minority parties are implying that there is corruption, that money is lost and the Government is to be blamed for that and is part and parcel of that. My worry in this is being watched or followed by outsiders. I am implying to the world that the President of this country, who is on record having said that he has zero tolerance for corruption - is endorsing this? We are talking about the Government; Government is part and parcel of it. In any society there are thieves, there are crooks. It does not mean the Government or the Ministers approve of that. We are saying we must get the thieves, but the way we are debating here and attributing it to - as if the Government is part and parcel of it and condoning; that does not send a good message to the outside.

So I think we should separate the two things. Yes, there is corruption, money has been wrongly invested. It does not mean the Government is approving it. But now, the Honourables are saying that you are corrupt; money is missing; Avid and so on. Is that approved by President Pohamba? Please let us build up the new Government - it is our Government, as you said, and we must distinguish between helping

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Government to build on and to continue with what President Nujoma left behind. It is the same SWAPO Government; it is a continuation.

They also keep on asking who is in charge. That is also the answer: it is not fair to try to create a clash between the President of the SWAPO Party and the President of the Republic. Anyway, that is the intention and that is not going to auger well for the country. We are clear on this: there is a President of the Republic who took the oath on 21st March and who is in charge of this country. You wrongly said *which President*, Honourable Venaani, so therefore please, because we are representatives of the people, we as leaders should make a distinction between politicking, which is allowed, and also sending wrong signals that the Government is condoning corruption.

The President says he has zero tolerance for corruption; let us be clear about that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I suppose the last speaker in this debate would be Honourable Riruako?

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I am not going to speak on behalf of anybody else, but on behalf of myself ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Chief took part; he spoke on two occasions yesterday. Why is he always allowed? Let our Secretariat please record who spoke and if we do not know we can consult our Secretariat who deals with the computer. He spoke on this Motion already.

HON SPEAKER: Yesterday Honourable Riruako spoke on a different Motion, but it is true that today he spoke on this Motion more than once. According to the Rules I

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decline to give Honourable Member the floor again. I give the floor to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you Comrade Speaker. This Motion of Honourable Kaura is most unfortunate because we are trying not to be learning from experience. Once upon a time there was a group elected in a town called Rehoboth to run that Municipality. That group decided they were not going to collect service charges from the residents of Rehoboth. Therefore, it was said that the residents of Rehoboth should receive free services; whether water, garbage collection, electricity and so forth. The Minister responsible decided to take over the governing of Rehoboth and put a system in place. People were willing to pay and they paid until Rehoboth cleared up its debt to service providers, whether *NamWater*, *NamPower* or anybody else. I am informed that Rehoboth today is one of the towns which are up to date with the payment of their service charges.

We are supposed to learn a lesson from there. Honourable Kaura was supposed to learn a lesson from there. Opuwo town is being governed by the DTA. These Councillors are trying to do the same thing as the former Councillors in Rehoboth did - hiding behind poverty and refusing to pay for services; and their President is supporting them.

The person who calls himself the President in waiting - do you think that you will win votes by convincing people that everything will be given free of charge? Who will believe you? Nobody will believe you. Everybody would say that this leader is irresponsible, totally irresponsible. Honourable Kaura, a seasoned politician I am told, was supposed to be on the forefront of encouraging his Councillors to run the Municipality of Opuwo in a professional, transparent and effective manner, so that in future he can convince voters in other towns to vote for the DTA because they have the skill to run municipalities. He was supposed to encourage them. I know for sure that institutions in Opuwo, like schools, hospitals, guest houses - I understand there is also a big hotel now - that these institutions are paying for their water. The DTA Councillors should answer about what they are doing with this money. What do they do with this money? The DTA Councillors are the once who are messing up the lives of the people of Opuwo. People are paying ... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Point of Order.

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HON SPEAKER: I want to hear what the Point of Order is.

HON RIRUAKO: It is to get clarity. I do not have to argue with you, Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order. I was in Opuwo just recently - you saw me on the television - and the water was collected from somewhere else, not from the pipes, for the guest houses, hospitals and everywhere. What Honourable Booyis said what happened there, is a clear view point of my presence there. I am not talking about something I do not know about. The fact that people are complaining because I have spoken a lot; how much have I spoken on the same issue?

HON SPEAKER: Point taken now. It was a Point of Order

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The question of pipes is a different question altogether because that is capital investment. We are not talking about capital investment now. We are talking about supplying water. Councillors are supposed to call in civil engineers so that they can investigate all these problems of pipes, water storage, water pumping, quality of water, and to document it and to bring the documentation to the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Rural Development so that they can put this program on the Capital Budget. Then that would be dealt with.

But now we are talking about the supply of water to the residents; and the DTA Councillors have really betrayed the trust - it is a trust betrayed. There was no Katrina or Rita there, there was no tsunami. The only tsunami that was there is a DTA tsunami. That is what is there. I want to call on the local authorities all over Namibia never to elect the DTA to rule them because they will end up in a situation like Opuwo. It is a disaster and even their President does not call their people to order. Please, Honourable Kaura, this motion of yours is a shame - coming from you and a brother of mine, a fellow scholar from Columbia University which is Ivy League.

You were supposed to call your people to order there and tell them when they receive water fees, *NamWater* must be paid and when they receive energy fees, *NamPower* must be paid, and when they receive fees for garbage collection those people must be paid. That is what administration is all about. That is what the leadership is all about. You have not shown the leadership you are supposed to show. The Opuwo tsunami is a DTA generated tsunami and DTA should go back and call their people to order.

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Give leadership, Honourable Kaura, give leadership to your people. You are a leader; you say that you are the President in waiting. Are you going to encourage people not to pay tax when you are being paid by taxpayers? So everybody cares, the only people who do not care are the Councillors of the DTA in Opuwo. They are the ones who are letting the Opuwo residents down. Please, Honourable Kaura, withdraw your Motion. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussions? Honourable Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Aquaculture.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to take part in this discussion on Opuwo. I will take the angle as briefly mentioned by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. When we had a problem in Rehoboth because of incompetence and because of the fact that those people were unable to rule that town Government took a bold decision and acted to rectify the situation. The Government put in place the machinery and now the town is vibrant. With respect to Opuwo, Honourable Speaker, I would like to propose that in order to rescue and for Government to serve the people of Opuwo - as per our mandate as per the oath that we took - that we also act. We act and for at least 10 days perhaps we put aside the Councillors and we implement and restore the water to the Municipality of the town of Opuwo.

In the long run this will be a very clear message to all towns that are mismanaged by coalitions of the DTA which are not to be trusted with these serious responsibilities. We take over - if it is possible for the Minister of Local Government and Housing to take over immediately, or to bring in a certain law immediately. I am referring to this week that we take over. We cannot allow the people of Opuwo to suffer. We know what the problem is. It is the Councillors. The people are suffering and that is why I am recommending that we take over for 10 days. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Question accepted.

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HON A IYAMBO

HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: Can you please refresh my mind, which people from which party were running Rehoboth at that time when we took over? I do not remember.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Speaker, I was informed there were too many flyers-by-night, I do not know them, but they should be the same colour, the same breed. It is definitely the same breed of the DTA. I just want to conclude that ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of order, may I ask my Mannetjie a question? Comrade Mannetjie, you are aware that there is electricity in Opuwo town and you do not hear about any problem of black outs. You never heard anything mentioned in Honourable Kaura's Motion about the restoring of power. You know why? The people of Opuwo have power but they have water after four every day. They are said to maintain electricity. Can you maybe find yourself the answer there?

HON SPEAKER: Minister, the floor is yours.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Speaker, I am not conversant with that topic, but considering they have a new company there, *Nored*, and you do not have these Councillors from the coalition, I am sure things are going very well on that front. Just to add - this DTA controlled Municipality is a mess, it is a disaster, it is unfortunate and this is DTA. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion. Does the Honourable Mr Kaura wish to reply? Honourable Venaani?

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HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I want to adjourn the debate until next week Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: The debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, 11th October 2005. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**STATE OF CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF
PUBLIC FUNDS AND ASSETS**

SECRETARY: Debate on state of corruption and abuse of public funds and assets.

HON SPEAKER: When this debate was adjourned on Wednesday 28th September 2005, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga, whose presence is conspicuous. Honourable Venaani adjourned the debate and he now has the floor.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this August House, I rise to register my support for the Motion brought before the Assembly by Honourable Ben Ulenga of the COD. Although I do not share his party beliefs and do not support his convictions on many occasions, however, I want to thank him for tabling this important Motion before us. By doing so he reminds me of the words once said in a speech by Deng Ziaoping. At the turning point of modern Chinese history at the (Indistinct) of the eleventh Central Committee of the Communist Party, 1978, he said the following and I quote: "Black cat or white cat, as long as it catches mice it is a good cat."

Our party, the DTA of Namibia, and all the other progressive people of this country have on various occasions expressed our dismay and rejected all forms of corruption, which was previously mentioned by the Mover of this Motion, and others, that are perpetrated in our Country. Honourable Members, good governance depends on: how

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much the general citizen perceives the Government to be committed to improving the general public welfare; its competence to maintain law and order and to deliver public services; its ability to create and to make policies conducive for productive activities; and equitability of conduct, favouring no special interests groups.

Corruption is often regarded as the antithesis of good governance. There exist inherently various forms of (Indistinct) that you find in corruption.

However, for the purpose of the Mover and my own submission, corruption is defined as the use of public office for private gain. Corrupt acts are inherently undemocratic. It involves the exercise of the public duty contrary to the wishes of the electorate which has determined that duty and employs the relevant officials to perform it properly. There is no simple correlation between levels of democracy and levels of corruption. However, it is believed that in the long run democratic regimes ultimately generate more powerful anti-bodies against corruption and against systems in which political liberties are stifled. While democratisation involves respect of political and civil freedoms, it can also open an area of licence without responsibility which benefits existing nominations, economic and political elites.

Democratic systems also provide incentives and sometimes greater opportunities for corrupt behaviour, notably the tremendous cost amounts of election campaigns - as an example. The politicisation of state apparatus by elected officials are phenomenal particularly strong inflicting democracy and Namibia has a point of reference. Honourable Speaker, merely a few days ago the Mover of this Motion raised a very important question in Parliament, asking about the helicopter that was used by the former Head of State, the current President of SWAPO, during a recent trip in the Omaheke region. The Government quickly responded, through their Deputy Permanent Secretary of Works, who attempted to rescue the situation by providing some clarification. However, the more he attempted to clarify the issue the more he unravelled greater levels of corruption that is condoned by the political elite in this country.

The fact of the matter is that the former Head of State, a respected politician and leader of this country, was *not* on an official mission. He was on a purely political mission. The second fact of the matter is that the Permanent Secretary, as I was informed, provided a quotation of the cost price and in doing so attempted to justify it as an invoice.

Furthermore, comparing commercial flight prices of helicopters to that destination the quoted price cannot match the said amount, not by any chance. He went further and said that the Office of the former President would carry the cost. Who funds the

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Office of the former President? The taxpayers. Why should the taxpayer fund SWAPO rallies in the Omaheke Region?

Are Government helicopters for hire? They are not. If they were for hire when was that advertisement ever publicised in this country? No other party can hire a Government plane in this country besides SWAPO. Yes, Honourable Kaura has travelled on various occasion on helicopters - no other Party in this country has ever hired a Government helicopter. Although we support the great efforts of the incumbent Government, headed by the Head of State and the Prime Minister, with their crusade of fighting against corruption, we need to be convinced unequivocally ...

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The issue of the use of the helicopter is on the Order Paper. There is a question still to be answered about that and I would suggest that the Honourable Member refrain from raising it here until it is answered.

HON VENAANI: This issue is not a *sub-judice* issue. It is an open issue. I think I have the right just to explain my point. There is nothing in the Rules regarding that, Honourable Prime Minister. Although we support your crusade, we need you to be convinced unequivocally that when someone is corrupt actions will be taken regardless of his standing in the Ruling Party, or his standing in the country as such. We must collectively bring and end to State sponsored and supported corruption, for example, utilising State resources for campaign purposes; you call it many other names but it comes down to one fact, *it is corruption*. You are using money for purposes it is not intended for. Political parties receive ... (intervention)

HON BOOYS: Sorry to disturb the young, energetic and electrified Honourable Venaani. Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order, can I ask Honourable Venaani a small question? Honourable Venaani, can you please explain to this House what corruption is. Nowadays it seems to be anything. Just tell us?

HON SPEAKER: You may continue, Honourable Member.

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HON VENAANI: I gave you the definition of corruption. During the last election drought relief food was given to society members in the South; there was not even a drought situation. It was used for political purposes by the Government and by the Ruling Party. I will explain. I will never accuse you of something that I cannot explain. I am thoroughly accusing this Government; we went into the DRC trying to assist a very good effort, trying to assist the people of the DRC from a coup. But we went and plundered ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. I will ask that question (Indistinct)

HON VENAANI: I will say whatever I want to say.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Talking about the South; the same DTA leader in Bethanie, when old people die, goes to Keetmanshoop and gets the funeral benefit which comes from the SWAPO Government. He takes it and tells the people it comes from the DTA - you here in the DTA are against it. Another CoD member in Gibeon, also during the drought, started a Committee and dished out the drought food saying it was coming from CoD.

HON SPEAKER: I thought the Point of Order was to refute the information being given by Honourable Venaani to the House.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I think the behaviour of the Senior Executive Members should be that all of us are supporting the efforts of the Government to fight against corruption. When you show defensive behaviour when the Opposition speaks about corruption, it becomes a very questionable issue whether we are all united in fighting against corruption. Honourable Speaker, during the past fifteen years our country has created a culture of State sponsored and supported corruption. With regard to allocating tenders in the name of Black Economic Empowerment ... (intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, may I ask a question? Honourable Venaani, I want to know, when you are the Head of State you are given recognition. When the power goes to somebody else, as in the case of the Founding President, is there no recognition for him or what?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, if the Honourable Member listened to me very carefully, I said *the respected former Head of the State*. I am respecting him. His role is known. To show the respect we passed a bill for him - an Act of Parliament that looks after the work and life of the retired President.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, AND NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I would like to make sure that I heard the Honourable Venaani correctly, and therefore I want to direct a question to him just to get clarification. Thank you very much Honourable Venaani. Did I hear you correctly talking about State sponsored corruption? If the answer is in the affirmative, would you go a step further to clarify and explain the concept of State sponsored corruption. Honourable Speaker, I think it is very important, because we are not speaking to ourselves here. We are speaking to people outside also and we are leaving a record through the Hansard. If he cannot clarify, probably the best that can be done under the circumstances is to graciously withdraw that particular statement.

HON SPEAKER: State sponsored corruption.

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HON VENAANI: It is correct that I said that. When a country such as Namibia with our record, goes into a war situation in the DRC and starts mining operations in the name of recovering military expenses, it is State sponsored corruption. What you are doing is corruption. You are plundering diamonds of a foreign country. You could decide to help or not to help, but the people that have the audacity to cover your expenses should be the DRC Government. It is not for you to receive a diamond mine in return for services. What is that? It is State sponsored corruption. It is State sponsored corrupt behaviour.

Every business delegation - and I am talking about the culture - every business delegation, nearly every business delegation that visits this country first pays a courtesy call to the State House. It is a very wrong culture. It is a very wrong business culture for every business delegation to go to the State House. What do they go and do there? It is the work of the Ministry of Trade and Industry to facilitate trade in this country. It is not corruption but is behaviour that is tantamount to corruption. Yes, Honourable Speaker Sir.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order, Minister of Labour.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask my distant cousin a question?

HON SPEAKER: Does the distant cousin accept a question? Question accepted.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, is it correct to imply that every visitor who pays a courtesy call to State House wants to engage in corrupt practices? Is it the impression that we want to leave?

HON VENAANI: No, that is not what I am saying. It is very wrong behaviour that is very close to corruption.

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HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: I am not here to be stirred up by Members who cannot listen to each other anymore. Point of Order. If you mean to root out corruption follow my example and cut down. You want to see it for yourself. Kerina is not here and he will never come back here, and if you all join hands it is up to you. Corruption means you must make examples of corruption if you want to root it out. Start with yourself. It is for you to start with yourself, do not blame each other for nothing

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned - automatic adjournment until tomorrow 14:30.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED AT 17:45 UNTIL 2005.10.06

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
06 OCTOBER 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the Adjournment

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read the Prayers and the Affirmation.

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

TABLING – REPORTS OF AUDITOR GENERAL

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

- (a) Municipality of Walvis Bay for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2003.
- (b) Regional Council for the Hardap Region for the Financial Year ended 31st March 1999.
- (c) Municipality of Keetmanshoop for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2004.
- (d) The Regional Council of the Omusati Region for the Financial Years ended 31st March 1998 and 1999.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Deputy Minister Table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? None. Notices of Questions? None. Notices of Motions? None. Any Ministerial Statements? None. This day, Thursday, the business of the House is initiated by the Opposition with questions.

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QUESTION 19:

HON MUDGE: I put the Question. (Page 5 of these Debates).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of this August House, I am taking this opportunity to respond to the questions as they were put by Honourable Henk Mudge of the Republican Party on Thursday, 22 September 2005. Allow me please not to repeat the questions asked, but to rather provide answers by mentioning only the number of the question.

Question 1:

Honourable Speaker, at the onset I would like to inform the Honourable Member that the Ministry has been following the *willing seller/willing buyer* approach in acquiring land for land reform purposes. This process has proven to be cumbersome and slow to the extent that suitable farms are not forthcoming in the quantity and quality required for resettlement purposes. As such, the Ministry was faced with no other option other than to go for expropriation of agricultural land in terms of the Agricultural Commercial Land Reform Act No. 6 of 1995.

In March last year the Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia informed the Nation about the need to accelerate the pace of land reform. Equally the Minister of Lands and Resettlement then thoroughly briefed this August House about the details of how expropriation was going to be handled. In both addresses assurances were given that this programme was going to be implemented concurrently with the willing-seller/willing-buyer principle.

Furthermore, assurances were given that the programme was going to be embarked upon within the parameters of the Constitution of the Republic and the laws governing the land reform.

Yes, it is true that the Minister, and not the officials of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, approached the owner of Ongombo-West with a *Letter of Intent* to acquire the property. This is in line with the Agricultural Commercial Land Reform Act that requires that attempts first be made to secure acquisition of the property by mutual agreement, with the owner offering to sell the property to the State. In this

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respect, the owner in the framework of the Law agreed to sell her property to the State.

Question 2:

The difference is that nothing was done verbally between the Minister and the former owner of Ongombo-West as alleged by the Honourable Member. Again, a *Letter of Intent* to acquire is totally different from a *Notice of Expropriation*. However, if the Honourable Member is busy with an academic debate he will hardly see these differences.

The negotiations with the owner of Ongombo-West were carried out in good faith and both parties genuinely agreed on the sale of the property.

Question 3:

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the average price paid for commercial farms is statistically a dynamic figure that changes on a daily basis as new farms are acquired. The Honourable Members are aware of the ecological diversity of our country and that this diversity is a major determinant of agricultural land prices which are linked to the capacity of land to produce agricultural products.

The Southern part of our country, which is predominantly extremely arid, is characterised by land values that are generally in the N\$50-00 to N\$60-00 per hectare range, compared to the Northern areas with prices averaging between the range of N\$500-00 and N\$600-00 per hectare. The average is therefore affected by the number of farms acquired in each of these areas. The average of N\$158-00 per hectare clearly indicates that most of the offers have been received from less productive areas of the country, that is the South, and therefore more farms have been acquired in the South than in the northern areas where prices are generally much higher.

Question 4:

It should therefore be noted that the farm Ongombo-West is not an average commercial farm. Ongombo-West has abundant water resources which are easily accessible through shallow wells and has a history of intensive irrigation mixed with livestock farming.

The Honourable Members should also take note that although the owner finally agreed to the price of N\$3.7 Million her initial asking price was N\$9.5 Million. The

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negotiated position was mutually agreed between the parties as a fair consideration for the open market value of the farm considering its special characteristics. Therefore, yes indeed, paying N\$3.7 Million for this property is justified.

Question 5:

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not accurate to say that the Minister paid almost 6 times the average price. It is more accurate to refer to this relationship in light of the fact that the bulk of the farms that have been acquired are located in low value ecological zones, mainly the Southern areas of our country. The correct relationship of Ongombo-West to other farms acquired by the Ministry can only be computed with regard to farms acquired within areas of the same productivity.

Ongombo-West cannot be compared to an average farm and therefore will statistically be termed an *outlier* as it does not fall within the limits of the “line of perfect fit” where the average farm would statistically be found. The amount N\$3.7 Million is the fair market value of the farm Ongombo-West, considering its attributes and the possible income that can be generated from such a property. The infrastructures that contributed to the value are appertaining to farming activities and it is the considered opinion that the farm Ongombo-West is not a case of overcapitalisation. Ongombo-West is adequately developed as a horticulture and flower production unit, and is competitively located in relation to the market for perishables.

The Minister was therefore prepared to pay a fair market value for this property as determined by the land valuers.

Question 6:

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not correct that the purchase agreement between the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and Ongombo-West has a provision to retrench all the farm workers. It is also not true that all farm workers had to leave the farm and that, “that has already happened.”

The Ministry has always taken care of the farm workers. Ongombo-West can therefore not expect to be an exemption to this practice. As provided for in the Sale Agreement and implemented in line with the Labour Act, the farm workers are entitled to their severance package due from the current owner of Ongombo-West. We know this is what has been provided for in the Sale Agreement. It is also senseless to think that the Government would acquire a farm and then chase out people who are also part and parcel of categories earmarked for resettlement.

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Therefore, Honourable Mudge is not well informed despite him, when he appeared on television, claiming that he spoke to the owners of the farm and saying what he said.

Question 7:

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the process of resettlement is well defined in the Act and other relevant documents of the Ministry. For your information, as prescribed by Section 14 of the Act, the acquired land will be used to resettle the landless Namibian people. In line with the procedures, Land Use Planners will proceed to the farm and assess it with the view of demarcating it into economic units or allotments, which shall then accordingly be allocated to the identified beneficiaries including applicants from among the current farm workers, if they do apply.

Question 8:

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the Government does not intend any other activities on Ongombo-West farm and the beneficiaries will be selected from the *bona fide* landless persons.

Question 9:

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, this matter is before the Court and we have to wait for the ruling. I shall be at liberty to give more light on the issue at the appropriate time.

The same applies to question 10.

Question 11:

Comrade Speaker, before I provide answers to this question, let me ask Honourable Mudge and using his own words: “Why he thinks the so-called absentee landowners should double own land in Namibia and in their countries while Namibians do not own land in their own country?”

The Ministry is fully aware of the importance to have Namibians and foreign investors alike to participate in the economic development of the country.

Therefore it is also the duty of the Ministry to be always at liberty to support any sectors that contribute to economic growth that will uplift the needs and aspirations of the Namibian people. Although we may not always be aware of all investments made by absentee landowners, foreigners and Namibians are encouraged, through different platforms of Government, to continue investing in our country.

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However, genuine, honest, and serious investors do not invest only when there are large tracks of land available to them. It should also be noted that our people come first before investors. We cannot afford to leave the land in the hands of foreign investors while our people live in abject poverty. We must therefore get some of the land back, not tomorrow, but now.

Question 12:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my understanding is that foreign investment is not equal to give or allow big tracks of lands to be owned by foreigners at the expense of Namibians. If and I say if, that is what it means, then I do not buy into such foreign investment.

Honourable Speaker, there are hidden messages in the questions of the Honourable Member. One of them is that indeed the price paid by the Ministry when acquiring farms is attractive; to his surprise. Another is that the Ministry should rather pay less when acquiring farms. From these two messages, I would like to urge the farm owners to offer their farms to the Government while the price is good and before Honourable Mudge determines a lower price to be paid for farmland.

I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Minister. Any follow up supplementary questions for clarification?

HON MUDGE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am not going into details; I am saying with all respect that the Deputy Minister made some contradictory remarks, but one can react to that later. The only thing that I would like to get clarity on is question no. 6, where I asked the Honourable Minister whether they have stipulated that the farm workers should be retrenched.

Perhaps he can enlighten us on the contract signed with the owners. In paragraph 16 of that contract the *Special Conditions* read as follows: "The seller shall comply with the provisions of the Labour Act, No. 6 of 1992, relating to the retrenchment of the farm workers which was caused by the sale of the property, by the seller to the purchaser". This was also understood by the owner that they had to retrench the workers and the fact is that most of the workers have already left the farm. Only those who were responsible for the upheaval last year are still on the farm. Perhaps

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the Minister could just especially explain that to us; unless we all understood it wrongly. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. The Minister is here, he wants to assist you by answering the question. Honourable Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. First of all we have signed an Agreement with the owner through her Lawyers. Clause 15 of the Agreement mentions special conditions: “The seller shall comply with the provisions of the Labour Act No. 6 of 1992, relating to the retrenchment of the farm workers which was caused by the sale of the property by the seller to the purchaser.”

If the Honourable Member wants to know he must just consult the Labour Act and then he will get the answers there. In the Labour Act it is clear. The seller signed that they will comply with the Labour Act. So, to get the answer just go the Labour Act and check what are the conditions in the case where a farm is sold. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I am sure Honourable Mudge will have another look at the Labour Act.

QUESTION 20:

HON DIENDA: I put the Question on behalf of Honourable Schimming-Chase. (Page 7 of these Debates).

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, the answer is as follows, and I hope that Honourable Dienda will transmit the information because I am going to read it. The information in possession of the Honourable Member is not true. Any system, and above all an Education system, cannot survive and it is not right if it discriminates against its long serving members, which are teachers. The facts are as follows:

The Policies and Directives were erroneously, and I emphasise the word erroneously, approved by the Department of Pubic Service Management of the Office of the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission on 18th

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December 2003, for implementation from 1st January 2004. As from January 2005, 191 new teachers benefited from this policy directive, while more than 6 434 serving teachers were due for translation to the new salary grades and levels. However, they have found that the date of implementation of the revised requirements for the appointment of teachers carried huge financial implications that were beyond the budget allocated to the Ministry of Education in the financial year, and also for the remainder of the medium term expenditure framework. During 2005 the Minister was therefore obliged to consult and have engaged other appropriate Government Ministries, including Cabinet, to ensure compliance with relevant provisions of the Appropriation Act, the State Finance Act, as well as the Treasury Regulations. As you know the matter is currently being investigated internally to identify the wrongdoers, and to recommend punitive measures to Cabinet aimed at dealing with officials who dealt with this matter.

However, it must be noted that Cabinet, in taking this decision, did not dispute the right of teachers to claim whatever benefits are due to them but only pointed out the fact that the relevant legislative framework was not followed. For example, the request by the Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture was accepted by the Public Service Commission knowing that conditions of service for teachers, in terms of the Recognition Agreement, need to be regulated at the relevant platform; namely with recognised Teachers' Unions.

The instructions of the Department of Public Service Management of the Office of the Prime Minister to the Ministry to implement decisions, without considering the greater financial impact that this Treasury authorisation will have on the entire system; on the entire teaching profession. The Ministry of Education partially implemented the revised grading structure knowing it was illegal as Treasury approval was not obtained beforehand, and therefore creating expectations among the greater teaching fraternity. Finally, the core issue with regard to the re-grading accompanied by the revised requirements for the appointment of teachers represents a major policy shift from the current pay policy of the Public Service of Namibia, unlike other job categories approved in the same manner, but in full compliance with applicable laws. Therefore, such an important issue with serious policy and financial implications is supposed to have been considered and decided upon by the Cabinet.

The amounts involved were N\$7 Million and N\$523 Million for partial and full implementation respectively, which as indicated earlier, was never budgeted for. Those who have already benefited might have been paid from savings or perhaps out of ignorance, but again the investigation might shed more light on this aspect. Well, they are all still in Office because the matter is yet to be concluded as Cabinet instructed the Deputy Secretary to Cabinet to investigate. Upon identification of the culprits, appropriate punitive measures in terms of the existing Staff Rules will be

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taken. As the Honourable Member is aware, Teacher Unions are there to protect the rights of their members, but, and that is a big but, despite that, this matter only came to Cabinet during August 2005, hence the Cabinet decision in question. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Right Honourable Prime Minister. Honourable Members, a question and answer as fashion of the House is one of the most important aspects of our business. Exceptions should not be allowed to become the rule. Of the remaining questions, and there are several of them, with the exception of Honourable Venaani, all the questions are of Members who are not present in the Chamber. I hope that we will improve on this situation in future. Question 21 is by Honourable T Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member on behalf of Honourable Gurirab put the question?

QUESTION 21:

HON DIENDA: I put the Question on behalf of Honourable Gurirab. (Page 8 of these Debates).

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, I would have liked to respond if Honourable Tsudao was here, because this is the second time this question is being asked. Possibly when I provided the answers to the same questions he was still absent, and today he is still absent. I do not know if it is appropriate for me to say anything in the absence of Honourable Tsudao; otherwise he will still ask the same question. This year I heard the same question from different Members ... (Interjection)

HON SPEAKER: The question will stand over. Question 22 is by Honourable Moongo.

QUESTION 22:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question. (Page 8 of these Debates).

HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes. Honourable Moongo, your obsessed information is false. Thank you for your concern regarding the operations of towns and villages with

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specific reference to the administration of water services. In order to enhance revenue collection by towns and villages, the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rural Development engaged the services of *Environment Engineering Services Consulting Company* - that was in the year 2000 - to conduct a survey in towns and villages on none revenue collection from water, including litter, and data survey. On the basis of the outcome of this study the Ministry decided to introduce the prepaid water metering system in Katima Mulilo, Arandis, Rehoboth, Opuwo, Eenhana, Rundu, Ondangwa, Oshakati, Okakarara, Uutapi, Khorixas, Gibeon, Berseba, Kalkrand, Kamanjab, Stampriet, Tses and Uis. The tender was advertised in the year 2002. *Nossob River Systems (Pty) Ltd* was awarded this tender. The company sourced the prepaid metre systems from a South African Company, called *TecNovo (Pty) Ltd*. The amount of the tender was worth N\$35 Million, contractual amount, and N\$115 000-00 maintenance amount per year. After the installation of the prepaid metering system it was found that system was defective. *Nossob* then made a legal case again *TecNovo (Pty) Ltd* in an effort to recover the money. Up to date no money has been recovered, either from *Nossob* or *TecNovo*.

The Ministry has therefore decided to seek legal advice from the Attorney-General's Chambers. To date no legal advice has been received by the said Ministry from the Office of the Attorney General. Since the case is in the capable hands of the Attorney-General the demand to appoint a Commission of Enquiry into the *Nossob/TecNovo* business debacle is premature. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Right Honourable Prime Minister. Question 23, as prematurely indicated, is by Honourable Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member put the question?

QUESTION 23:

HON DIENDA: I put the Question. (Page 9 of these Debates).

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance or her Deputy wish to reply?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, Honourable Speaker, may I ask to defer this question to next week?

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HON SPEAKER: The question stands over. Question 24 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member or his representative put the question?

QUESTION 24:

HON VENAANI: I put the Question on behalf of Honourable Moongo. (Page 12 of these Debates).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Honourable Speaker, I rise to respond to the question of Honourable Moongo even though he is not available in the Chamber.

Question 1: The Hospital and Health Facility Act, 1994, Act 36 of 1994, does not make provision for poor patients, be it HIV/AIDS or any other disease, to be exempted from paying fees. Exemptions are for mothers and children who are getting prevention and promotion services - services like antenatal care, immunisation and post-natal care. The answer is that all patients who come to Oshakati Hospital for services are requested to pay, except those who are coming for exempted services.

Question 2: It is not true. Customary a patient is not refused services if the patient is unable to pay the required fees and if the patient says that he or she does not have money to pay at the time. He can be requested to pay when he has money but services, including medicine, are given.

Question 3: I assume that Honourable Moongo was referring to the payment of hospital fees. If that is the case, I would once again reiterate that the correct procedure is that a patient is expected to pay the required hospital fees in terms of the Act I have referred to already. Once they have present themselves at any health facility and they cannot afford to pay at that particular time, they can make arrangements to pay later. The provisions of the said Act are applicable to all public health facilities countrywide.

Question 4: The need for expansion has already been identified by our Ministry. Money is allocated for expansion and the site is identified. If everything goes well the construction will start during this financial year. In conclusion, I want to ask

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Honourable Moongo next time just to come and visit my office if he needs such information. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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

QUESTION 25:

HON ULENGA: I put the Question. (Page 13 of these Debates).

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, Honourable Speaker. I hope Honourable Ulenga is listening. The answer is as follows: I would like to thank Honourable Ben Ulenga of the CoD for his interest in the work of His Excellency, Comrade Sam Nujoma, Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, and the President of the SWAPO party. I would like to confirm that the Founding President did travel to Gobabis, Otjombinde, Epukiro and Otjinene from the 16th to the 17th September 2005. During his visit the Founding President held meetings with Regional Councillors, commercial farmers, traditional leaders, workers and members of communities in the areas he visited. Amongst others the meetings dealt with issues with socio-economic development, unfair labour practices, speedy implementation of the SWAPO party election manifesto, etc. During his visit some commercial farmers donated meat, blankets, and other foods stuffs to the Founding President's *Sam Nujoma Foundation*. The Founding President requested the Local Councillors and Traditional Leaders to identify the vulnerable members of their communities who could share these donations. Those identified included members of the *Lironga Eparu*, HIV/AIDS orphans, San children and other vulnerable groups. The Founding President donated the items given to him to these groups in terms of the aims of the *Sam Nujoma Foundation*; which amongst others are and I quote "to identify Namibian children with exceptional needs, particularly orphans, and mistreated children and placing them in orphanages for foster homes". That is one of the aims of the *Sam Nujoma Foundation*.

These were therefore humanitarian donations. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the *Sam Nujoma Foundation* I would like to thank all those who made donations to the Foundation. The Foundation has also received a large donation of food items and blankets from Namib Mills and others. The Foundation is currently negotiating with

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the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to identify vulnerable children to whom these items could be distributed.

Regarding the use of the Government AV131 helicopter, Cabinet by decision 17/02,08,05/008, directed that the Government Air fleet be made available to all Namibian citizens who could afford to hire them. The goal of the decision is to maximise the use of the fleet and to mobilise resources for the upkeep. If Honourable Ulenga is able to afford the Lear Jet, for example, he should apply to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication for permission to use this aircraft. Such use should however be within the borders of Namibia, unless somebody is on official business. In the case of the Founding President's trip, the costs was N\$27 679-07. The costs will be deducted from the Founding President's budget which this Honourable House approved earlier this year; we approved that money. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Question 26 was from the same Honourable Ulenga. Does Honourable put the question? Does the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy wish to reply? Any other Minister? Any Deputy Minister? The question stands over. Question 27 is one by Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member put the question?

QUESTION 27:

HON ULENGA: I put the Question. (Page 14 of these Debates).

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you. I would like to thank the faithful servant of the CoD but the (indistinct) is false. Once again I would sincerely like to thank Honourable Ben Ulenga for his keen interest in the vision, mission and activities of the *Sam Nujoma Foundation*. Before I answer his specific questions ... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Right Honourable Prime Minister, I take it that given the fact that the quorum is under serious threat, that with the concurrence of the House, which I see is unanimous, we should continue.

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RIGHT HON PRIME MINISTER: Before I answer his specific questions I would like to give my own background regarding my involvement in trusts and foundations for non-governmental organisations. My involvement in civil organisation stems from two experiences: firstly, I was educated in Mission Schools - and I was also educated through public sources - secondly, my experience as a founder teacher of the Namibian schools-in-exile exposed me to the important contribution that State actors can make to the welfare of the people, especially people in distress. My exposure as Minister of Education cultivated a sense of doing the public good without the motivation of gain or profit. The work of the Missionaries had a lasting impact on me regarding my public conduct. Through being the Minister of Education I developed a sense of public duty. Moreover, my education was sponsored by public resources. I do always remind myself of the public debt I owe to other people.

When I was entrusted with the task of establishing Namibian schools-in-exile, I was at the same time offered a teaching job by the Zambian Ministry of Education. I chose the SWAPO assignment. I was motivated by public duty and all this was purely voluntary and an unpaid job. This assignment however, brought me in contact with many Non-Governmental Organisations. In fact, the education reform which we implemented after Independence was forged through active collaboration between SWAPO and Non-Governmental Organisations, especially in Western Europe. As I said earlier, this interaction with Non-State actors revealed to me the importance of such actors in social upliftment.

With that background, I do belong to a number of trusts and foundations. For example, at Independence I created an Educational Trust to assist the youth returning from exile with training. The Trust was funded with the residual funds from the SWAPO Voters' Education Programme. This Trust, though short of funds, continue to assist youth in distress, not only those who were in exile, but many others.

In the same vein, I established the Namibian Human Resources Development Fund out of the residual funds of the United Nations Council for Namibia Trust Fund. Today this fund supports many Namibians to study for advanced degrees.

When I was appointed as Minister responsible for Vocational Education and Training, I requested Cabinet to authorize me to establish the Community Skills Development Foundation. This Foundation in turn helped a number of communities to establish Community Skills Development Centres, the COSDEC's. These centres are currently benefiting many young unemployed in our communities.

I further belong to the Onankali Community Trust which is concerned with environment protection and community upliftment. Recently I was asked by a group

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of craft artists to help organise a meeting for people interested in a glass recycling project. We hope this meeting will result in a community empowerment project.

My participation in the Sam Nujoma Foundation was therefore motivated by this deep held sense of public duty without gain. Therefore, I feel greatly honoured by the Founding President for bestowing on me the responsibility of chairing the Board of Trustees of the Sam Nujoma Foundation. The Sam Nujoma Foundation seeks to:

- a) Offer scholarships to deserving students to study in the fields of science, mathematics and technology.
- b) Foster a sense of common purpose and collective destiny among the Namibian people, irrespective of race, religion, gender, creed or ethnic origin.
- c) To identify Namibian children with exceptional needs, particularly abandoned orphans and mistreated children, and placing them in orphanages or foster homes.
- d) To promote the study of mathematics and the development of science and technology in Namibia.
- e) To provide financial assistance, such as study grants, loans and bursaries, to deserving Namibian school-going pupils and students to enable them to pursue education and training, to give them training, particularly in the fields of mathematics, science and technology.
- f) To facilitate and organise seminars, conferences, lectures, workshops and similar events relating to the promotions of mathematics, science or support the establishment of libraries and archives, where schools and students may conduct research into the history of Namibia, particularly the history of the liberation struggle.
- g) To promote the arts and culture in Namibia by supporting training and other institutions engaged in the promotion of the arts and culture.
- h) To participate in capacity-building and information sharing activities facilitated by other organisations and institutions within and outside Namibia.

The Honourable Members will agree that these are noble objectives. These objectives are supported by many people. It is against this background that the Foundation receives donations in cash and kind. One of the objectives of our Foundation is to support vulnerable children. It is not surprising that the Founding President distributed foodstuffs to vulnerable children in the Omaheke Region. Other

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Namibians wishing to benefit from the Foundation should contact the Foundation at Private Bag 132200, Windhoek.

Honourable Dienda, you can write there. I believe we should all support efforts of those who are ready to offer their services to our communities on a voluntary basis. In this way human solidarity will have been expressed. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 28 is one by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member put the question? Does the Honourable Minister of Education or his Deputy or any other Minister wish to reply?

QUESTION 28:

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Comrade Speaker, may I request the indulgence of the Honourable Venaani to defer the question until the return of the Honourable Minister or Deputy Minister for a proper response.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Question 29 is one by Honourable Venaani. Does the Honourable Member put the question?

QUESTION 29:

HON VENAANI: I put the Question. (Page 21 of these Debates).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, with the indulgence of the Honourable Member, this is not a small assignment. I would like to give him a proper answer. Can we defer this question while we are working on it?

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DEBATE ON CORRUPTION

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE STATE OF CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF PUBLIC FUND AND ASSETS.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned yesterday, in terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Ulenga. The Honourable Venaani has the floor and I now call on the Honourable Member to continue.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I want to adjourn this debate because of the lack of quorum in the House until next week Tuesday, in consultation with the Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: The debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, 11 October 2005. That brings us to the end of the business schedule for today. I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Tuesday.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, may I propose that we adjourn until Tuesday, the 11th of October at 14:30. I so Propose.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 15:50 UNTIL 2005.10.11

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
11 OCTOBER 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the Adjournment.

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read the Prayers and the Affirmation.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let us all rise and observe a minute in silent prayer and meditation, in memory of many thousands of people in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan, who perished as a result of the terrible earthquake, as well as in solidarity with those who have sustained injuries. May their souls rest in Peace, and may others be consoled by this act of solidarity and sympathy with them. Thank you.

The House observes a minute of silence.

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

TABLING – REPORTS OF AUDITOR GENERAL

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

Ministry of Defence, for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.

Municipality of Outjo, for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2004.

Municipality of Mariental, for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2004.

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**TABLING - REPORTS
HON TWEYA**

Town Council of Ongwediva, for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2004.

Town Council of Eenhana, for the Financial Year ended 30th of June 2003.

Municipality of Walvis Bay, for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2002.

Municipality of Karasburg, for the Financial Year ended June 2004.

Agricultural Bank of Namibia, for the Year ended 31st March 2004.

And finally the Government of Namibia, for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2003.

I so Move, Mr Speaker.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 34:

HON KAURA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday the 20th of October 2005, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

In view of the unending regurgitation of the SWAPO Party of Namibia, the former President Nujoma being the President of the SWAPO Party, what is the position of His Excellency President Pohamba in this SWAPO Presidential dichotomy?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member Table the Question? Any further Notices of Questions? Honourable TjiHuiko?

QUESTION 35:

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday the 20th of October 2005, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional, Local Government and Housing and Rural Development the following questions:

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON TJIHUIKO**

Article 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia clearly states that the Republic of Namibia is hereby established as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State founded upon the principles of democracy, the Rule of Law and justice for all.

- (1) How is it possible that a number of Herero Traditional Authorities are recognised, as Royal Houses in a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State and they are ruling as such?
- (2) Why is it that only the Herero Royal Houses have been recognised as such in a unitary state, but the rest of the ethnic groups, such as Namas, Masubia, Ndongas, Kwanyamas, are only recognised as Traditional Authorities?
- (3) Is it that perhaps the principles of a unitary state only apply to other tribal groups in Namibia but not to the Hereros?
- (4) Does the Minister not think that in line with Article 10(1) and (2) of our Supreme Law, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, all Royal Houses, kingdoms, be recognised equally and have the same representation of 14 people in the Traditional Council?
- (5) Does the Minister think that the Traditional Authority Act of 2000 no. 4 (a) and (b) which states: *“One person from the royal House or the royal Family, of that Traditional Community, who shall be instituted as the Chief or Head, as the case may be, of that Traditional Community or (b) if such community has no royal Family any member of that Traditional Community who shall be instituted as head of that Traditional Community”* – is this not in direct conflict with Article 1(1) of the Namibian Constitution?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON BOOYS: Mr Speaker, I Move without Notice for leave of absence due to official business, be granted to the Minister of Education, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba until the 30th of October 2005 and to Honourable Chief Ankama until October 31st 2005.

I so Move, Mr Speaker.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MUDGE**

HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member Table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motion? Honourable Mudge?

HON MUDGE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice on Tuesday 25th of October 2005, I shall Move that this Assembly takes cognisance thereof that by reason of provisions of Article 23 of the Namibian Constitution, this Assembly, Parliament, was empowered to enact Legislation and to implement Policies and Programmes to advance previously disadvantaged persons in Namibia.

The Assembly further takes cognisance that, during the 15 years since Independence, various Policies and Programmes were implemented in this regard, including, and among others, a balanced structuring of the Public Service and a Land Reform Policy.

The Assembly accepts that with a balanced structuring of the Public Service, it was intended to restructure a previously white-dominated Public Service, to accommodate on an equitable basis previously disadvantaged black persons.

It further accepts that a substantial number of the new appointees were trained here and abroad and delivered excellent services, but that a large number were appointed and are still being appointed solely because of their affiliation to the Ruling Party, without being subjected to a credible merit test. It appears that to be appointed as a member of a Board of Directors of semi-state organisations, committees and commissions, no special qualifications are required, other than being black and a member of the Ruling Party.

It is alarmed and embarrassed by the continuing revelations of inefficiency and corruption while Commissions of Enquiry thus far had no effect to put an end to this tragic state of affairs, which mainly affect the poor citizens of our country negatively.

It is noticed in disbelief that persons found to be responsible and to be involved with such corrupt practices are allowed to continue as Members of this August House.

It resolves that 16 years after Independence, the initial policy regarding the restructuring of the Civil Service is often misused to discriminate against members of certain ethnic groups and implementation of the policy has been adequately achieved; henceforth, appointments in the Civil Service will be made solely on the basis of merit. By doing this the new generation in Namibia will be encouraged to qualify themselves properly to serve their country and not to emigrate to other countries.

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MUDGE

That after proper discussion by this August House, the responsible Standing Committee or Committees should be instructed to make proposals to this Assembly regarding possible Amendments to the Civil Service Act and other relevant Legislation (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Mudge. A Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Just on the procedure: I wanted to enquire whether the Honourable Mudge is already motivating the Motion or is he just giving the intention to table a Motion?

HON SPEAKER: The way which I understand it, it is perhaps a long-handed formulation of a Motion. (laughter) You can continue, Honourable Mudge.

HON MUDGE: That, after proper discussion by this August House, the responsible Standing Committee or Committees should be instructed to make proposals to this Assembly, regarding possible Amendments to the Civil Service Act, and other Legislation to ensure a clean, responsible, effective and transparent Civil Service.

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member Table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The first Notice of a Motion is the one by Honourable Kaura. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

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**MOTION TO REVIEW EDUCATION SYSTEM
HON KAURA**

MOTION TO REVIEW EDUCATION SYSTEM

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Mr Speaker, I Tabled the Motion in Parliament, requesting this House to take a serious look at our Education System from Grade 1 to 12 and to pass Legislation to allow Grade 10 failures to repeat Grade 10 next year and other years to follow, and to revamp the whole Education System in our Country, including the Teachers' Training, salaries and other relevant Conditions of Service.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you for the opportunity to address the Motion before this House. Education is a matter that is of the greatest importance to every one of us, whether we have children or grandchildren at school, for ourselves, or whether we are concerned citizens of Namibia.

Mr Speaker in my Motion I am asking this House to undertake a serious review of our education system from start to finish. Let me hasten to add that I am well aware of the huge amounts of money being sought by the Honourable Minister of Education in order to reform the Education System, under the acronym ETSIP.

While this is good and well, I somehow have the feeling that with this hugely expensive exercise, we are once again overlooking the basics which is where the real problem lies.

Mr Speaker, the DTA of Namibia has been highlighting the shortcomings in the Education System for the past 12 years. In that time, sadly, our suggestions and comments have been largely ignored, being considered to be nothing more than politicking or point-scoring. Now, almost 16 years after Independence, the 'chickens seem to becoming home to roost' with a vengeance.

Even the SWAPO Elders Councillors started to raise their concerns in public about the shocking state of Education, and many of the suggestions they are making read like the document prepared by the DTA of Namibia on this topic, some five years ago.

Mr Speaker, Education is too important to all of us for it to remain, as it has been since Independence, in the domain of one political party. When Namibia became Independent, the majority party used Education, as it did during its Independence campaign, to further its political aims. To this end it introduced the Cambridge system, to replace the former Cape Senior Certificate for Grade 11 and 12, regardless of whether it was a better system or not. It replaced Afrikaans with English across the

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board, regardless of whether teachers and learners could communicate effectively in this language. It lowered standards to ensure that as many children as possible were pushed through the schools and onto the streets, regardless of whether they had actually learnt anything or not; it pushed children out of school after Grade 10 regardless of whether they were equipped to fulfil any useful role in our Society at this point in their lives.

It turned thousands of young people into potential vagrants, criminals and burdens on Society, by denying them access to the Education System, without offering them anything useable in its place. If a child cannot succeed during full-time, face-to-face schooling, why do we think he or she will do better through distance learning with NAMCOL? It ensured that discipline would collapse, to the disadvantage of both learners and teachers, by annually forcing more and more children into classrooms. It ensured that the *very* children who were most disadvantaged during the colonial era, namely black children with uneducated parents who make up the majority of the population, would continue to be disadvantaged when it came to Education by summarily getting rid of all Government-run pre-primary schools where these children could have caught up to their contemporaries regarding the skills that children from disadvantaged background learn as a matter of course in their homes.

Mr Speaker, the DTA of Namibia has been speaking to the parents as well as to the learners, and it seems that they are gradually starting to realize that something is drastically wrong. They have been fooled for the past 15 years into believing that the Education that the children are receiving is a good one.

Now the parents are starting to talk about the fact that their children do not seem to be learning anything much at school, not even the basics like writing legibly, reading with understanding and being able to do simple calculations without a calculator. This is apart from the fact that these learners are unable to make themselves understood, either verbally or in writing, in a language they are forced to use, namely English.

Teachers in our Secondary Schools are pointing out that children are arriving in Grade 8 without these basic skills, which makes it almost impossible for the average child to make real progress between Grade 8 and 10. This is hidden from public view by the fact that learners may only fail once and this only happens if they achieve less than 30% or so in more than two subjects, after which they are automatically promoted.

This means that these learners progress to Grade 10, not on merit but by default, and arrive there still lacking the basic skills needed to pass Grade 10. This, of course, explains the unacceptably high failure rate in Grade 10.

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Mr Speaker, this problem is solved by the Government that needs about 21 000 learners to progress to Grade 11 every year, not by improving the Education the learners receive, although this is the impression being created by raising the number of points required to progress to Grade 11.

No, Mr Speaker, what is done to 'pull the wool over the public eye' is to lower the standards of the exams written by the learners in Grade 10. This explains why so many learners who do manage to progress to Grade 11, and ultimately write the Cambridge- monitored Grade 12 exam, fail to make the grade. According to a Government survey, of all the Grade 10 learners who obtained 23 points in 2001, 88% were unsuccessful in Grade 12 in 2003. However, and you will forgive my cynicism, I take it this will also change as more and more subjects are 'Namibianised' and examined locally.

Mr Speaker, I know that what I have said will not make welcome hearing for many, especially those involved in drawing up our Education System. The fact is that sometimes it is necessary to 'bite the bullet' and accept that mistakes have been made. Namibia is not Britain or the United States. We need our own system, based on the realities of our Country and its people, and there are Namibians available who, despite their colonial background, are sincere about the welfare of Namibian children and their Education. I think they have proved this by the fact that they are still here 15 years after Independence, and many of them are still working in the Education System despite the poor salaries and problems with discipline. We should be using them and listening to them about how to address our problems. Mr Speaker, allow me to elaborate briefly on each of the allegations I made earlier.

(a) **The Cambridge system** for Grade 11 and 12: this exam, I might point out, is written by learners in British Schools at the age of 16, thus at the level of our Grade 10 learners. Our schools give learners two years to master the syllabus, which leads to the practical situation in many schools that, because the Grade 11 learners know they cannot fail at the end of that year and will progress automatically to Grade 12, they do almost no work throughout Grade 11, creating disciplinary problems, and demotivating the teachers, as well as those few learners who are working for good marks in order to apply for university entrance.

Apart from this, only about 450 children throughout the whole Country undertake the exams at the higher level, mainly because there is a lack of teachers who are well enough qualified and have enough experience to teach at this level.

This situation disadvantages learners throughout the Country who might have the talent and desire to further their studies outside the Country. The DTA of Namibia

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would like to suggest that learners be brought back to reality, by allowing them to fail at the end of Grade 11 thereafter allowing them to repeat Grade 11.

(b) **Teaching of English:** There seems to be an attitude in the Ministry of Education that any form of English, no matter how incorrect or incomprehensible, is better than no English or, for that matter, any other language our children and teachers may actually have mastered. It is not too difficult to grasp that, if a child enters Grade 1 at the age of 7 years, and hears everything for the *first* time in a language he or she has never heard before, very little learning will take place.

This situation is exacerbated when the teacher doing the teaching is also unable to speak more than a smattering of that language.

You cannot teach somebody a foreign language, which is what English is to most people in Namibia, in a few months or even a few years. The proof is to be seen in our schools, where after 12 years in a classroom in which the learners are taught English, the majority of them, according to a Survey done by the Government itself, are still unable to use the language effectively.

According to the Survey, 89% of candidates who wrote Grade 10 in 2001 dropped between 1 and 3 grades in 2003 Grade 12 exams. The survey concludes that learners' performances in *all* their subjects in Grade 12 are affected by their grasp of English, which is the equivalent of about 30 % or less.

In this regard, it is interesting to note that the subjects in which learners traditionally perform worst - namely Biology, Geography, Business Studies and History - are exactly those subjects where reading and understanding of language are most crucial.

(c) **Pushing learners through school** to make room for those coming up from below, has long been a source of concern for parents, because it does not provide for those disadvantaged children who must learn English as well as all the skills required for basic education when they enter Grade 1. Government's excuse is always the expense, the huge costs involved in allowing learners to repeat, of building more schools, of classrooms, of paying more teachers. We accept that these are *real* problems, but this is where the snowball starts rolling, Mr Speaker. Primary Education is the most important part of a child's education. If it is not done more than well, that child will experience the disadvantage for the rest of his or her life. Forcing them out of school and onto the streets after Grade 10 is simply the result of the failure to educate them effectively in the primary school.

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(d) **The collapse of discipline** in our schools goes hand in hand with the point I have just mentioned. Mr Speaker, there is not a teacher alive, no matter how much experience he or she may have or how well qualified he or she may be, who can effectively teach 35 to 40 children of whatever age. It is impossible in the secondary school, where children can think for themselves, so how much more ineffectual will it be in Grade 1 or 2, where every child must learn everything from scratch? Inevitably, the strong ones, the children from advantaged backgrounds, with parents who take an interest and can help them at home, will succeed, while others, who need extra help and attention and receive no help at home from possibly illiterate parents, will fall by the wayside. We are perpetuating Apartheid by cramming more and more children into our classrooms at all levels in order to save money. This is a counter-productive solution to a very serious problem.

(e) **Pre-Primary Education:** Mr Speaker, I seem to recall that the Right Honourable Prime Minister, when he was Minister of Education, immediately after Independence, decreed that all Government-run Pre-Primary Schools attached to Government Primary Schools were to be summarily closed. I further seem to recall that his argument was that these schools were only to the advantage of the rich, white community.

Mr Speaker, at that time the former Department of National Education had come to the conclusion that pre-primary education for all Namibian children, was of crucial importance and had introduced a Programme gradually to attach a Pre-Primary section to every Government Primary School in the Country. Perhaps with hindsight, we should agree that it would have been better for us to have taken over this policy and continued with it. I think it would be true to say, today that the former Government Pre-Primary Schools, now all in private hands, have continued to advantage the children of those parents, *not* necessarily white, who can afford the often exorbitant fees, while the majority of Namibian children continue to suffer from a lack of preparation for Grade 1.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, allow me to summarise by saying that the problems experienced in our Education System stem from the following:

1. Lack of Pre-Primary Education that is aimed especially at preparing disadvantaged children for Grade 1.
2. Lack of teachers with the necessary skills and experience to teach at the various levels. This is particularly true of language skills.
3. Too many children in too few classrooms, leading to inevitable disruption and lack of effective learning.

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4. The medium of instruction: children learn more effectively in a language they know well, at least for the first four years of their lives.
5. Automatic promotions that allow learners to progress without the necessary skills.

Mr Speaker, the DTA of Namibia has suggested a solution to these problems before, but to no avail. Please allow me to make the suggestion again: perhaps after 15 years there are those who are willing to listen.

There are thousand of skilled, well-qualified English-speaking teachers in our SADC neighbours who could be recruited to help us. I am referring to those teachers in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi, who have left the teaching profession for various reasons and who could be recruited to teach in our schools, at all levels, on contracts for five years.

During this time, the Ministry of Education should select the best of our Grade 12 learners, and send them for Teacher Training at the best institutions throughout SADC. It seems to me that the donor countries who are now being asked to provide billions of Dollars to reform our Education System might rather be persuaded to pay the bill for such a Programme, because at the end of it Namibia will have thousands of well-trained teachers, as well as a generation of learners who have been taught effectively for at least five years. This exercise can be repeated as often as necessary over the next twenty years, thereby kick-starting a really effective Education process in Namibia. In view of the fact stated above, it is a categorical imperative that Grade 10 failures should be allowed to repeat Grade 10, and not be relegated to NAMCOL where teachers at times do not show up for weeks on end.

Honourable Speaker, you know that I was a teacher in America for six years, at both High School and University levels. In High School learners fail subjects, but not the Grade. They proceed to the next Grade in the subjects they have passed and repeat the subjects they have failed at the previous level. When they reach Grade 12, they are availed an additional year to complete the subjects they have carried along at the lower grade.

At the University level, a student with less than a C-average in two subsequent semesters is placed on probation for an extra year to bring up his average. Only if he or she fails to reach a C-average in two years is he or she thrown out of the University. Even at the University level, a student is not thrown out of the University for failing once. However, at the tender age of 16 years, learners are thrown out of school in Namibia, if they fail Grade 10.

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Mr Speaker, this is absolutely ridiculous and our Education System is a total disaster. I appeal to you Honourable Members, for the sake of our children, let us allow the Grade 10 failures to repeat next year, and review our whole Education System so that it can serve our Nation better.

And finally Mr Speaker, the DTA of Namibia will be very keen to participate in any further discussion of our Proposal in the future.

Thank you, very much.

HON SPEAKER: A concerned teacher has spoken, and caring teachers have been listening and I now gave the Floor to a retired Inspector. Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. With all respect to Honourable Kaura, and without trying to diminish the Motion on Education, it reminds me of a shotgun.

The Motion tries to cover a lot of issues of which some are very relevant, others not.

Any Education System is as strong as those implementing such system. I am convinced that the outcome of any system, including the so-called previous 'colonial' Cape Educational System, the Independent Examination Board or any other system in the world, would function alike within our specific circumstances.

Grades 1 to 10 include a system of Education for All. It does however, not carry a Cambridge Education system-badge, but that of one designed by Namibians for Namibian learners. It is not hard to progress within this mentioned system as it leaves room for a learner to fail once in every phase. Ranging between Grades 1 to 10, a learner would be allowed to fail up to three times, without depriving him or her of the right to return to school. It is also not necessary that Legislation should be passed to enable a failed Grade 10 learner to go back to school.

Any Grade 10 learner may repeat Grade 10, provided that:

- (a) he or she is younger than 17 years of age;
- (b) unfortunate circumstances, such as illness and/or death of close relatives, occurred during the examination; and

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- (c) the behaviour of the learner was very good, together with a keen interest shown in his or her schoolwork;
- (d) the specific school has the resources and infrastructure, like textbooks and desks for example, to accommodate such returning learner, and in the last place
- (e) the return of such a learner does not cause overcrowded classrooms. In other words Grade 10 learner can go back to school.

My personal feeling is that a learner who is dedicated to his or her work should patently not stand a chance of failing Grade 10. A learner who fails Grade 10 might just be one who does not plan ahead whilst working consistently throughout the academic year. Should we allow all Grade 10 failures to repeat, whether meeting the required criteria or not, we should be allowing such learners, to the detriment of other learners, since we are well aware of the fact that enough vacant school places for all the learners in this Country is already an issue. If I had to choose between a dropout who wishes to repeat, and a first time candidate, I should most certainly choose the latter.

Grades 11 and 12 are based on the so-called Cambridge System, although almost all subjects in these two grades have been 'Namibianised' in order to suit our circumstances and preferences. History has proven itself that those learners who passed Grade 12 are well prepared to take up further tertiary studies and work opportunities. Those who criticize only the System as such are not well informed. Such so-called critics of the system should be invited to come up with (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Leader of MAG a question? Honourable Viljoen, you spoke so eloquently about learners repeating Grade 10. Now the Question is as follows: how many learners in terms of percentage were allowed to repeat Grade 10 during the past 12 years in this Country?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I do not have the number of learners, but it is part of the Policy of pass requirements that learners under certain conditions can repeat Grade 10. (Intervention: "*At Windhoek High School*") Honourable Speaker, Education as I think (Intervention)

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HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker: on a Point of Information. Children who have been allowed to repeat Grade 10 have constituted less than 3% in this country for the past 12 years. And I shall give you the proof.

HON SPEAKER: Before the day is over, we shall know the truth. Honourable Viljoen, you may continue.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, allow me to finish and then some of these issues will be clear. Education, as I see it, functions like a car. If you bring the fuel and the spark together, something is sure to be happening in the engine.

In many schools it is a problem to get the teachers in the classroom or to get the learners in the classroom, but above all to get both teachers and learners for the same period in the same classroom.

Honourable Speaker, we have excellent and qualified school principals and teachers in this country, but we also have those who are not dedicated at all. Some are merely involved in Education to earn a salary and are not motivated by a full-time commitment and calling. Do you know the difference between involved and committed? The very next time when you have bacon and eggs for breakfast, do keep in mind that the hen was involved, but the pig was committed.

A few weeks ago, the SWAPO Party Elders' Council pointed out the realm of the whole problem, and they stated in a Report that some teachers go to work drunk, or so hungover that they cannot properly teach the learners. They also accused some principals and teachers of owning cuca-shops. Some of the role players who are in the ideal position of making a difference, be it the teacher, principal, inspector or Regional Director, are not able to effectively drive these Education cars of ours.

Many of these afore-mentioned officials are not disciplined and their behaviour tends not to be professional at all. May I mention some examples to demonstrate my point?

(a) A few years ago, we visited a School on Examination irregularities, where a teacher took the Grade 12 answer papers from the strong room, took them to the Hostel, where learners were invited to make the necessary corrections. The case was investigated, and the results of the learners involved were declared null and void. No action, however, was taken against the specific teacher; she is now (or he) a Principal-in- waiting.

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I once discussed the problem of teenage pregnancy with a senior official at a Regional Office, just to be informed at a later stage, that even that specific official had impregnated a schoolgirl.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, can I ask the Hon. Member a question please? I just wanted to find out about this teacher. Is this person a teacher now or was this person a teacher during the time of your tenure?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, the teacher is a Principal-in-waiting. I just want to repeat this paragraph. Discussed the problem of teenage pregnancy with a senior official, just be informed at a later stage that even that specific official had impregnated a schoolgirl.

Some time ago, a Committee was appointed by the Permanent Secretary to investigate allegations of affairs between teachers and schoolgirls at a certain hostel or at a school. We had spent two weeks at that school and found proof of serious irregularities. One of them was a male teacher supervising in the girls' hostel. A few teachers brought their relationships with schoolgirls into the open, even by spending weekends together at holiday resorts. We had completed our reports with strong recommendations at the end of this investigation but nothing had happened to the culprits.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, would the Honourable Member accept a question. Honourable Speaker, I am alarmed by the information which the former Inspector is sharing with us. What I wish to know is, when these kinds of reports or investigations are commissioned, what is your experience? Is the responsible Minister informed about this? What is your experience? Did the Minister then react on these kinds of reports? Who were the Ministers when you were an Inspector?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, when you visit a Region, the report goes to the Regional Office, and I think they must in the first place do the necessary (indistinct) and then send in the report to the Permanent Secretary.

Honourable Speaker, I invite you to drive through certain parts of the country on a Friday morning where you would find large numbers of learners on the road,

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heading home or at the roadside waiting for a lift home. Thousands of learners pretend that Namibia has a four-day school week only.

Should you arrive at some schools, especially in the rural areas, you would find that learners are outside sunning themselves during winter months or playing soccer. When confronting the Principal, should you be lucky enough to get hold of him, you would be informed that it is break time.

Overall, discipline at schools appears to be our main problem. Without discipline (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. I want to inform this House that, during the colonial past, I think Honourable Members will remember that teachers and students used to be taken by your Government by then to the colonial Army. What is he talking about right now?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, with all respect, it is not necessary to re-invent the past to build a better future.

The afore-mentioned are some of the reasons that already more than 90 private schools are mushrooming in this country. Some of these schools are Afrikaans-medium, established with the goal of providing better education, most certainly not for so-called Apartheid reasons.

How can Education be improved?

It was said in this House that the Police sometimes work hand in hand with the criminals owing to their low salaries. The teachers are also not satisfied with the pending salary issue. How about paying our teachers what they deserve? We might just see our money adding value to their efforts.

White teachers are not better teachers than other Namibians. Nevertheless, history has shown that they are fond of teaching, and that they have played an effective role in Education. Remove the shackles of Affirmative Action in Education and make it possible for these people (Intervention).

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HON MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: Can I please ask the Honourable Member a Question? I am sorry if I am interrupting you. You are addressing very serious issues. However, I just wanted to know: you mentioned that some teachers were taking children to Resorts. I suppose you mentioned this fact in your reports. Did you identify them: that there is this phenomenon and it is carried out by *these* teachers from *which* school? Did you do that? Or was it just a general statement that there may be teachers who are doing this?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, it was a Committee set-up. The person will not mind if I mention his name. The Chairperson, the person who spearheaded this investigation was Mr Wilbardt Uusiku.

We came up with recommendations, we approved but it is a question why nothing happened afterwards. Honourable Speaker, may I continue? I am still at white teachers. Remove the shackles of Affirmative Action in Education and make it possible for these people to return: it can make a difference.

Presently learners receive Education through their mother tongue from Grades 1 to 3. We should embark on a system of mother-tongue Education throughout the Primary phase: let us not make the language medium of instruction such a holy cow. Who knows? If I look around in Namibia nowadays, I cannot help but wonder what will the language medium of instruction be in 50 years? Possibly Chinese? Our children may just then ask: what went wrong?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order: may I ask the Honourable a Question? Honourable Viljoen, you are talking about the people who should go back to their mother tongue like Muharukua to speak Otjihimba. Now you are speaking English. Are you from London or what is your mother tongue? Today you are speaking English here. Why are you speaking English?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, with all respect, the Honourable Member and I suffer with English - but we try. Certain norms, which only did (indistinct) have been decided upon, are still not been implemented in full.

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a Question? The Honourable Member is advocating that the children should learn in the first grades in their mother tongue and I agree with him. Does he intend to make an exception to this rule and, if he does not, what does the Honourable Member propose for schools like St George's to use as the mother tongue for the learners there?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I think it is presently the Policy that the community of the specific school should determine the mother tongue of the group. So I know it is a complicated, but it would be ideal that the first of the Primary phase should be done in the mother tongue.

That is what I meant. Resources are not always the 'alpha and omega' for good Education but they do add to the value of teaching. For example in 1998, our Division at the Ministry of Education purchased the following equipment: a large number of overhead projectors, many tape recorders and at least one video player for every Secondary School in the country. We distributed these resources to the schools, and after six months, we visited some schools to look into the effectiveness of these teaching aids. The tape recorders were maximally applied to record the oral examinations in languages and thus teachers were forced to use those, because they were required to send in recorded tapes to the Director of Examinations. To our disappointment, the overhead projectors which you use in the classrooms were at some schools still intact in their boxes and nobody had used them. Another misfortune was the fact that some of the video players ended up in the homes of the Principals. To make a success of Grade 11 and 12, learners need research for further studies. The post of Librarian was, however, abolished and schools lost many books owing to lack of control.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I do agree with the last part of the Motion: Teacher Training; teacher salaries. If all the teachers in Namibian were well trained, well paid, self-disciplined, dedicated and had a professional attitude, then there should be no reason why we cannot make a success of Education in Namibia. Do I accept the Motion? Yes, but only part of it, as I explained. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: That was a contribution by the Leader of MAG in the House, the former Inspector of the Education System in our country. This House is replete with teachers with enormous experience; this is a very important Motion, and the House

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will rise and 'Education for All' shall continue. Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Kaura wish to reply? Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: I Move that the Debate on this Motion be adjourned until next week on Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week.

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

HON SPEAKER: The Second Notice of a Motion is the one by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I move the motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Is there no objection? Will the Honourable Minister please Table the Bill? The Secretary will read the Bill a First Time.

SECRETARY: Metrology Amendment Bill.

SECOND READING – METROLOGY AMENDMENT BILL

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY : Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Members of the House, allow me to introduce before this House the

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Metrology Amendment Bill for consideration. As Namibia continues to trade in Regional and International markets, the country cannot ignore the link between standards, accreditations, certification, testing, Metrology, access to markets and development.

All these concepts form the very foundation of the working national form and the very foundation of national quality infrastructure: the link between the concepts may be illustrated as follows:

1. The competitiveness of a product or service produced, according to certain standards, depends on its quality: that is the totality of features and characteristics that bear on its ability to satisfy given needs.
2. The product must be inspected, tested and certified as complying with the standards.
3. Thirdly, the competencies of inspection, testing and certification bodies are proven through accreditation
4. and, fourthly, the tests of products traded in the market must be based on measurements units, that are legally certain, the National Standard that is traceable to the International units of standards.

The intertwined concepts illustrated above, constitute the umbrella of the national quality infrastructure. Hence the introduction of the Metrology Amendment Bill, in addition to the Accreditation Board of Namibia Act of 2005, that is Act 8 of 2005 and the Standards Bill that has also been recently Tabled here.

Comrade Speaker, Metrology, as the Science of Measurement, supports the National Industries such as food, Fisheries, beef, textile and clothing, Tourism, plus health and information, and Communication Technologies (ICT) with the aim of improving their competence. Metrology also plays a central role in the promotion of international trade, consumer protection and the protection of the environment. Thus, for the first time since Independence, Namibia is establishing a legal framework for a National Measurement System that shall be fit for the purpose, that is able to address the needs of the Country *and* meet the requirements of the industries by demonstrating equivalence of the Namibian system to the standards of other Nations and traceability to International standards.

An example where the National Measurement infrastructure plays an important role is in the area of trade in seafood, where widespread use of antibiotics in animals near aquaculture farms poses danger of nitro-furan contamination in the shellfish.

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Analytical chemistry laboratories testing for nitro-furans rely heavily on metrology for their accuracy determination, where the levels measured *must* be correct, because exported shellfish must have nitro-furans within the legally permissible levels, set by the importing countries. This compliance is crucial as it prevents products from being rejected which could result in other subsequent rejections and even suspicion of all other products from Namibia as the exporting country. That is one rejection of a bad product which has a flow-on effect on other clean products.

Furthermore, it must be stressed that foreign direct investment is often made contingent upon the reliability of the national quality infrastructure. The winner is that Nation that has demonstrated through International Measurement Programmes, that it does have an appropriately reliable capability. Companies usually invest there, with a resulting major economic boost to the host Nation, despite other disadvantages.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Metrology Amendment Bill is a relatively short piece of Legislation, arranged into 21 clauses, providing for the Amendment of the Trade Metrology Act of 1973, so as to substitute the long title and to amend the short title. The Bill defines, or redefines, certain expressions, extends and clarifies the duties of the Director of Trade Metrology, establishes a Metrology Advisory Board, makes provision for Agreements with Metrology agencies; it inserts certain provisions of the Measuring Units and National Measuring Standard Act of 1973 and it repeals that Act. It also provides for National, Departmental and other measuring standards and for the inspection thereof. Further, it provides for the approval of measuring instruments and it makes available measuring instruments, subject to certain conditions and provides for matters incidental thereto. The Bill unifies, in one piece of Legislation, aspects of Legal Metrology and measurement traceability or Industrial Metrology.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, in conclusion, I Move that this House carefully study the Bill and consider it for adoption. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussion? Honourable Tsudao Gurirab?

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, unless there are others who wish to take the Floor now, and in view of the complexity of matters involved, I Move for an Adjournment of this Debate to Thursday next week. I so Move, Sir.

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**SECOND READING – STANDARDS BILL
HON GURIRAB**

HON SPEAKER: Any Objection? The discussion on this Motion stands adjourned until Thursday next week. The Secretary will read the first Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING –
STANDARDS BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Standards Bill*

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 4th October 2005, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry that the Bill be now read a Second Time. The Honourable Tsudao Gurirab adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as a former native of this Ministry, I rise to speak in support of very important Bill Tabled by the Minister last week Tuesday here. Honourable Speaker, the importance of the Bill is that an experts' consultative body would be set up (indistinct) which would objectively set the standards against which goods and services originated from our shores can be judged. As the Minister said last week, in motivating the Bill, Namibia is expected to create an effective system that would monitor, evaluate and use product testing from packaging methods that respond to the change in technical requirements of the Country's trading partners. This Bill help us to set that: it is a commendable effort.

Honourable Speaker, in a globalising world, but the countries particularly to the North still attempt to use non-trade barriers, such a phyto-sanitary rules as barriers for entry of products emanating from our countries. By adopting an Act of Parliament which meets the most stringent standards in a transparent and scientific manner, we can call the bluff of these developed countries. So, for reasons of market access, we must craft an environment where our standards meet the best within the limitation of our resources. However, Honourable Speaker, that we are able to do this is demonstratively proven by our beef, fish and grape exports on standards set by the EU to their markets.

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HON T GURIRAB**

Having sat back and expressed our wholehearted support for the Bill in front of this House, we have a few issues to raise for clarification. The first and substantive one, Honourable Speaker, is one of governance. The Bill sets out to establish and dictate two Institutions: there is a Research Institute and then a National Council.

I am not so sure about this or exactly understand what the differences are between the functions of these two, except to say that it would appear as if the NSI will be the body that would, on a day-to-day basis, operate the functions of the standards body whilst the NSC is supposed to provide some kind of an oversight function in the form of the Board of Directors and that is where my first question arises. In terms of Clause 9 on the appointment of persons to NSI one of the criteria for disqualification is that persons who are not Namibian Citizens or non-residents in Namibia would not qualify as members of NSC. Honourable Speaker, the reason I am raising this is that the very purpose and the very reason that they are putting this very Act into place is because of globalisation and to help us to find our feet in this globalising world.

Now, I should have thought that the interest would be best served if we can draw from as much as expertise as possible and, on the face of it, I cannot think why we would not want to have those who are knowledgeable from within our Region or without, who can help us in setting up and running an Institution of this nature. Take, Honourable Speaker, most the big companies here and some institutions where, almost half in some cases, the greater parts of the Boards of Directors are from people from outside our country, and in this area of quality and standards settings, where the base of knowledge and expertise is not in our country I should have thought that we should not have this kind of disqualification, but for argument's sake, if you will, that a Chief Executive Officer of the Standards body in Zimbabwe or South Africa could be invited to be a member of NSC. I thought that by opening it up in that manner we can only benefit rather than be restricted to exclusively to those of us here in the confines of our country.

So that is something which I think we may need to look at. Again, on the face of it, in the same clause, Honourable Speaker, we still need to decipher why reaching the age of 65 would automatically disqualify him from contributing to a body of this nature. There is also this stress, Honourable Speaker, again on drawing from the national pool. If you are a body and Institution of this nature we feel that it must serve the best interest of our country.

Honourable Speaker, again on Section 11 of the Bill, on pages 9 and 10: on the issue of a quorum of the NSC, if you read sub-section 8 of 11, it reads "*a decision taken by majority of the voting members of the NSC present at the meeting*" so it is not clear whether they want say the 'majority of those present at the meeting' or the 'majority of the Members will constitute a quorum'. I thought there is some confusion here,

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because we believe there is a difference between the majority of those who constitute the Boards and the majority of those who may be present at any one time at the meeting and this is something that people *vis-à-vis* may want to look at again.

Honourable Speaker, again on Clause or Section 15 of the Bill, again there is confusion again about the exact limits of the NSI and NSC; again the competencies which are being assigned both under 15 and 16, one would have thought that somewhere the NSC could also be assigned some of these functions but for some reason the NSC is absent and it is only the Management of the Institute which is being assigned those tasks, so perhaps the Minister would, in his reply, try to tell us why that is the case: the same, Honourable Speaker, in respect of the Rules and Regulations on page 24; again in terms the administration. If the NSC is the governing body, is the overseeing body, again one would have thought that these sort of responsibilities should be assigned to the NSC rather than the NSI.

Honourable Speaker, with those few observations, we wholeheartedly support the intent of the Bill and hope that it would be set up as soon as possible in this important area, and that we shall acquire the skills necessary to set the standards and quality of products leaving our country. Having said that, I would say that on the disqualifying Clause, I think we should still re-visit that clause, and draw from the experience of others who have worked longer than **ourselves** in this area. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member, do we have further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, may I reply to this on Thursday? Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: The Minister's reply is deferred until Thursday next week. This week: the day after tomorrow, that is. So decided. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the day.

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**MOTION ON INCREASE OF OLD-AGE PENSIONS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE PLIGHT OF OUR
SENIOR CITIZENS AND TO INCREASE THE OLD-AGE
PENSION TO N\$500-00 PER MONTH**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the plight of our senior citizens and to increase the old-age pension to N\$500-00 per month.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday 5th October 2005, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. The Honourable Ms Schimming-Chase adjourned the Debate, and I now give her the Floor.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to contribute to the Debate on the Motion of the Honourable Katuutire Kaura on Old-Age Pensions.

We, the Members of this August House, took an Oath where we committed ourselves to uphold and defend the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia to the best of our respective abilities. We also open every session with a Prayer and an Affirmation of this Oath. Allow me, therefore, Mr Speaker, to quote the relevant Article of the Constitution, which we have all pledged to uphold and defend. Article 95 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia states the following and I quote: “*The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people*”.

The same Article continues in Sub-Section (f), and I quote once again: “*The State shall actively promote insurance that senior citizens are entitled to and receive a regular pension adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living and the enjoyment of social and cultural opportunities*”.

Mr Speaker, *all* the Members of this House, irrespective of party loyalties, have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution. In other words, all of us are honour and duty bound by our own Oath by this Article 95 (f). Not a single one of us, if taking this Oath seriously, can therefore have any objection to the Motion of Honourable Kaura. Let me draw the attention of the House to the operative stipulations of clause (f): namely, the insurance to which senior citizens are entitled and that they should receive a regular pension.

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Mr Speaker, it is true that this Motion has been Moved repeatedly. It is also true that during all the debates on the Appropriations Bill and the Additional Appropriations Bill of the last five years, Members on this side of the House repeatedly referred to the Old-Age Pensions. From the Government side, we are repeatedly told - and only last week to prove the case, the Honourable Minister Mungunda repeated that our senior citizens receive a grant, not a pension, although the Constitution explicitly refers to a pension.

This, Mr Speaker Sir, will remain a bone of contention, and we justifiably will raise the issue in this House, even if, with every consecutive debate, we shall try to find new argumentations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Article 95 (f) further states and I quote, "*that these pensioners should have a pension which is adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living*". Perhaps the time has come for us, the elected representatives of our senior citizens, to state unequivocally what we understand to be a decent standard of living. In fact, Mr Speaker, I wish to issue a challenge today, to every Member of Parliament, to get up and state publicly, that you believe that N\$300-00 today is sufficient to enable any individual to maintain a decent standard of living. It is a challenge that will not be answered by heckling. It is a challenge that you have to stand up and face the music – because, Mr Speaker, that income is litmus test in this debate: that and nothing else.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, may I ask my mother-in-law a question? The question relates to the notion that my Honourable mother-in-Law would like to challenge the House, as to who will stand up and say N\$300-00 is decent; this is repeatedly said, just like the Motion. No one in this House, especially the SWAPO party Members, said that the pension is enough. Why does she want to come up with that question? What does she want to achieve?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable son-in-law, what I wish with this challenge is for you to get up and say it is adequate for a decent standard of living, and if the Honourable Member feels that it is not adequate, then I should like the Honourable Member to support the Motion - because that is what the Motion is about. As I am saying, Honourable Speaker, it is the litmus test in this debate. It is *not* the Opposition; it is *not* Honourable Kaura; it is *not* Honourable Schimming-Chase that puts it down; it is the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia - nothing more; nothing less.

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In fact, it is only if one feels that the N\$300-00, as I said before, is indeed adequate that such a person can oppose this Motion and all the rationalisations that have been made over the years for trying to make the measly sum of N\$300-00 acceptable are nothing else but a cheap cop-out. If we feel that this amount is enough to maintain a decent standard of living, why do *we* in this House, allow CEOs of parastatals to earn millions annually? What standard of living do we approve for the few at the cost of the many? We are talking about a *full* standard of living, not a decent standard of living. Mr Speaker, let us look back (Intervention).

RT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER: Pardon me, Ms Chase, can I ask you a small question? Do you not think that you and I and Kaura should not talk on this Motion, because it would be a conflict of interest? (Laughter)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Right Honourable Prime Minister, in a sense I totally agree with you because you will listen to my argument that follows; I do not think that those of us in this House should ever avail ourselves of the State pension. I totally agree with you. We must not look at us, but the question that arises is: who are these senior citizens that we are talking about today? What is the difference between them and us? Why are they so dependent on a pension?

Let me answer the questions. The people we are talking about are the people who spent the most constructive years of their lives working under an Apartheid system, receiving nothing more than slave wages. We are living in an Independent State, where some of us have become millionaires within 15 years.

We are living at a time when we have Social Security benefits, when we have insurances and pension contributions that we can pay for, which will enable us when we get pensioned, to live a life as good as, if not better than what we are living for. However, these are not the people we pleading for; we are pleading for our parents who never had Social Security, who never had life insurances, who spent all their money on *our* education and now, in the twilight of their lives, even do us the favour of electing us to represent them in this House, and then we say N\$300-00 is enough. The senior citizens of today have *not* had the opportunities that we have (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I ask a question? Mr Speaker, since this Motion has been introduced 10 years ago - since I came here in this Parliament, 15

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years ago almost - there was no Member of Parliament who has mentioned the increment of the old-age pension by saying that it is sufficient. I should like to challenge the Honourable Member by asking her to pinpoint a person who said that this pension is enough? Who said so in this House? Thank you.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Marlene Mungunda last week did not even say it is enough; she said it is so good that the people are grateful that they even get money when they are dead.

She went on to quote that the people are coming to her to thank her for this amount. Let me assure you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, with respect, that the senior citizens who we speak to are not grateful for the pittance. They have no choice, but it is not their wish. There are others whom I can name. Can I answer the one question before the other one comes?

RT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER: I was here when Honourable Mungunda made her presentation. What I heard is not what she is saying. Honourable Mungunda simply said that, yes this N\$300-00 may not be enough, but there are other things Government is doing for pensioners. That is what she said.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: We can go back to the Hansard, because the Honourable Minister went as far as to say, “*SWAPO is walking the walk and talking the talk*”. She even said the people are grateful. She even went on to violate the Constitution by saying it is a grant not a pension, when the Constitution stipulates that it should be a pension. Let us ‘walk the talk’ today.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, what I also heard Honourable Mungunda state is that every time whenever Government prepares to increase old age pensions, Honourable Kaura always intervenes in this House. I heard Honourable Mungunda say that, a week before last week, so it means that her Ministry right now was preparing to increase the Pension Fund. Somebody tipped off Honourable Kaura here. Thank you.

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Thank you Honourable Booyis. Although Honourable Mungunda's Ministry is not the Ministry responsible for pensions, we have collective leadership, so she has that information. We are only too grateful, because the point I am trying to make, Honourable Booyis, through the Speaker, is not a party political issue.

It is a *moral* issue for all us to stick to the Constitution, and give our parents a decent pension; that is why I am saying Honourable Speaker, that the senior citizens of today (Intervention).

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Point of Information, Honourable Speaker. Unfortunately, I was not present when Honourable Mungunda was speaking. However, I should also like to indicate in this House that there are members of our Society, the senior citizens, who appreciate and are grateful for the effort the Government is making and there is no full stop to this N\$300-00 to our senior citizens. In addition, the Constitution is a principle Law which is a vision and we should like to see our senior citizens one day have that decent standard of living. We know it is not yet enough and that is why it has been increased since we started this Government.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, it would be sad day in the history of Namibia if our Constitution is relegated to a vision instead of the Supreme Law. The fact that the senior citizens are grateful is possibly because they do not realise that it is a Constitutional obligation; it is not the Ruling Party doing them favours. It is the Supreme Law of this country, and it is because of that challenge that this type of heckling is coming because the Members there do not want to 'walk the walk', and 'talk the talk' in terms of money.

RT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER: I should like the Honourable Schimming-Chase to read Article 101 of Chapter 11; if you could read this aloud, we would appreciate it.

HON SCHIMMING -CHASE: There are many things that I am going to do, but I am not the Personal Assistant of the Right Honourable Prime Minister. The Personal

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Assistant can read it aloud, but what I can say is Article 101 does not obviate Article 95 and its obligations to the State. That is why I am saying the senior citizens of today who we are talking about have not had the opportunity to prepare adequately for their old age.

That is why *we* must provide for them. That is what Independence and self-government is all about.

In the future when we, the future senior citizens of this country, get to the point of receiving a pension, we can reveal that situation because our pensions will be more than Government can ever give, but for our parents, (Intervention).

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On the Point of Information. I know the Honourable Member is getting carried away and it is understandable; anybody understands. The information to the House is that Namibia, South Africa and Botswana are probably the only three countries that give a pension to the old aged; no other countries on the African continent do this. Now when the Honourable Member is hammering the point that since the old, the pensioners, did not prepare themselves for this period, what has happened to the old aged in other countries that went through same colonial deprivation as Namibia? However, they do not get the pension. We have not messed up; we remember our old aged, we pay them a pension.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I suppose that was a point of misinformation; I shall correct it subsequently. I shall continue by saying it make no sense, no sense; indeed it is the ultimate insult to compare a post-independence pension to that which was paid by an oppressive racist regime that we fought against. In fact it is obscene to make that comparison if one considers the increase in the cost of living since Independence, because if one does and you consult an Economist, one will realise in economic terms N\$300-00 today is even less than the amount that the oppressive racist Government gave them, in terms of its buying power.

Mr Speaker, another rationalisation that is bandied about in this House is that there is no money. Namibia has just been mentioned at the United Nations as the country with the worst Gini Co-efficient in the world - the country where the gap between the rich and the poor is the largest in the world. This is adequate proof, Mr Speaker Sir, that it is not lack of money *per se*, that accounts for the poverty that is affecting not

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only the majority of our population but *especially* our senior citizens. It is not lack of money; it is the way in which the national cake is divided that makes it difficult to increase pensions. If we pay CEOs of Parastatals N\$1,2 Million or a N\$100 000-00 per month, not based on performance or bringing profits, we know what it is based on. If we pay them, surely we can afford to help our senior citizens by adding a measly N\$200-00 per month to their pension.

We have been elected by them, amongst others, to rule Namibia and all its citizens. It does not help us to feel good; it does not help us to feel good about being one of two countries or three countries in Africa, because in fact, Honourable Minister of Justice it is four: Lesotho also has an old age pension. Yes, but that is not the point: that is not the point because I do not know the Constitutions of the other countries - whether they have an Article 95 (f) which *enjoins* the Government to provide adequate pensions, and, even if it were the case in other countries, it is not my concern. I have not been elected by the people of Lesotho; I have not been elected by senior citizens of South Africa; I was elected by the Namibian People.

HON MOONGO: Can I ask Honourable Member a Question? Is it allowed for the Honourable Minister Justice and Attorney-General to interpret the Namibian Constitution wrongly which states, “adequate pension” and then she interprets that wrongly?

HON SCHIMMING CHASE: I think the Honourable she, Mr Speaker, the Honourable she, has a double responsibility not to misinterpret the Constitution. However, I am saying in conclusion that it is not the comparison with other countries that is important; it is our commitment to the wonderful Constitution that we wrote. Most of us *here* only gave background research information; most of us *there* wrote the Constitution, like the former Prime Minister (Intervention)

HON GEINGOB: May I ask the Honourable a question? Honourable Nora is talking about the Gini Co-efficient which was now learned, apparently, in the last two weeks. This has always been there. Are the Members aware that there are three countries where this is so high: these are South Africa, Namibia and Brazil and the reason is the racial factor and also the Gini Co-efficient is very unfair because it is considered before tax. If you were first to take the tax out, and then consider disposable income, the gap becomes narrower.

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HON SCHIMMING -CHASE: Honestly, Honourable Hage, it is not what is important in this discussion but let me answer. I am not afraid to answer. Are we to feel proud that we are together with South Africa and Brazil? I do not, and that is what makes me excited, Honourable Minister. It is because we want to cover ourselves with jackets of other countries when *we* fought the liberation struggle, not the others. And the second point is not racial, because if one looks at the millionaires acquired in the past 15 years, if you look at the *highest* paid people, if we look at the companies that obtain every single tender, they are not white. The qualification is different; it is party membership not colour. Let us *not* get into that debate. The rich one's today are black, young, 'xomchas', not you and I who are ready to be pensioned. Young people who have not reached 40 are millionaires today; that is what is giving the problem in this (indistinct). Therefore, before I become more excited, before I get interrupted again (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: I have a long list; others wait to be excited too. You have the Floor. Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order, may I ask my Honourable Member a Question? Honourable Member, you said that companies which are getting tenders are those belonging SWAPO; if it were so -Ulenga, Tsudao and your Secretary-General - could they have run away from where they could become millionaires?

HON SPEAKER: Can Honourable Schimming-Chase answer the Question please?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Yes Honourable Speaker, I do not think the answer to the question is why they ran away; the answer to the question will come when we finalise the Motion of Honourable Ben Ulenga, when we publicly open the Reports of *all* Presidential Commissions of Enquiry that will show the Honourable Members who have benefited and what party they belong to.

In conclusion, therefore, I support this Motion and I call on all Members of Parliament who take the Oath to protect Article 95(f), to protect and defend that Article of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia to do the same. I thank you.

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

HON NAMBINGA: I am rising *not* to say that the N\$300-00 that our senior citizens are getting is enough but to state my case. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as has already been indicated, we all know this is not a new Motion. I remember very well that Honourable Kaura Tabled this Motion in September 2003, when he suggested at that time that the pension money of our senior citizens should be increased from N\$250-00 to N\$550-00. That was in September 2003. This we all know. Honourable Kaura did it as an attempt to win the hearts of the senior citizens of our country by convincing them that his party, the DTA, is worth voting for. We all know that our Ministry applied for social services (Intervention).

HON ULENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? My question to Honourable Nambinga, since he likes to repeat this particular one, is to ask what is so wrong for the Honourable Kaura to want to persuade the Namibian people to vote for his Party?

HON NAMBINGA: I shall come to that in my speech. We all know that our Ministry of Works and Social Services, on numerous occasions, has demonstrated its commitment towards the senior citizens through a number of efforts, which were reported at this very August Assembly. Thus allow me, once again, to shed a light on this *specific* issue that appears to be a very important one. If my Colleague could remember - and I want this House to bear with me - the explanation to (indistinct) was brought to this House. However, there still seems to be greater need for us as people and, particularly as Members of Parliament, to analyse our situations. We know that, prior to Independence, even after 1978 when the Government of Honourable Kaura was in power, after they came to power, the Namibian senior citizens were paid in terms of the Social Pension Act, Act 37 of 1973. This system was characterised by extreme inequalities, where advantaged groups received N\$382.00, compared to as little as N\$55.00 per month to the disadvantaged groups.

In 1992 the National Pension Act, Act 10 of 1992, was promulgated by Government *Gazette* number 46. Through the introduction of this Act, the Government brought about harmony that alleviated all forms of discrimination and put all beneficiaries as equals. That is after we came to power.

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Order Comrade Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Comrade a question? Comrade Nambinga, you mentioned the era in which Honourable Kaura played a vital role in discriminating and depriving the senior citizens of their livelihood. The same person is sitting with us here, moving his Motion several times. What do you think motivates this Honourable Member to move this Motion?

HON NAMBINGA: In fact, I shall be coming to that part. Let me just say the following, before I come to that. Honourable Kaura and his Party have run out of place and means to rescue themselves as a Party from total collapse, so the only alternative left to them is, apparently, to mislead the senior citizens, but I will come to that at a later stage. In 1994, the rates were revised to N\$135 for all Namibians of sixty years and older. This implies a 145% increase in just four years' time. In April 1996, the amount was again increased to N\$160-00 per month, which represents 19% increase in just two years. That is a responsible Government by the SWAPO Party. In the year 2000, we again increased from N\$160-00 to N\$200-00. Of course all these have been done systematically, depending on the improvement of our economic pace. This is an increase of 12.5%.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Is the Honourable former Deputy Minister aware of the percentage increase in the salary of the CEO of Trans-Namib in terms of percentages?

HON NAMBINGA: Honourable Speaker, I am very capable of answering the question if the Honourable Member Tables a Motion on Trans-Namib. In 2002, it was again increased to an amount of N\$250-00, representing an increase of 25% and in April 2004 it was yet again increased to N\$300-00 per month, representing 20% increase.

Currently the Ministry has 129 949 pensioners of which 114 819 are old-aged pensioners. This number of pensioners requires currently about N\$426 Million.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Can I ask the Honourable Member a Question? Comrade, are you aware that some of the statistics

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that you have given even Honourable Kaura has learned from the then Minister of Health and Social Services and that we shall be increasing this pension to the extent that, now every time the Budget anticipates an increase he makes it a Motion to claim that we are reacting to his Motion?

HON NAMBINGA: As I have told the Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, one must understand the situation in which the Honourable Members live: they are desperate, politically speaking. I said that this number of pensioners requires, currently, about N\$467 816 400 per annum to effect the payment. However, the Ministry also anticipates with certainty about 5 000 new applications this year. Thus an additional N\$18 Million would be required to effect the annual payment if an increase now to N\$500 were to be considered. Complementary to the above, the Ministry and the Government at large never sat in satisfaction. They went further to introduce a Funeral Policy plan in 2001. Under this plan, all pensioners are covered and are entitled to a funeral claim. Currently an amount of N\$18 712 656 is spent per annum on the insurance premiums, and with the addition of the projected new applications up to the end of this financial year, an amount of N\$19 432 656 would be required. Furthermore, should the current pension be increased to N\$500, as previously mentioned, it will require that the Government would need about N\$809 694 000 for the 134 949 000 pensioners who will be on the payroll, excluding, of course, the children's grants and the anticipated new applications in the following year.

Should one add the amount to be needed for the Funeral Benefit, the total sum will be N\$829 126 656. Currently the Budget of the Ministry (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Can I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Nambinga, is it allowed for you, as a Member of Parliament, to use information that you have received from Ananias Nghifitikeko, in this House?

HON NAMBINGA: As a Member of Parliament, I am entitled to do research on my own and to give appropriate information. So currently the Budget of the Ministry is about N\$1.3 Billion. Add the above-mentioned costs, the Budget of the Ministry will exceed its projected target. Thus payment of pensions allowance will take almost 60%.

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To this end, the afore-mentioned would warrant an increase of these State grants up to N\$500 in the foreseeable future. This might be possible, but it may not be possible. However, let us hope that, in our tradition as a Government and a Party, we shall always be able to meet our senior citizens. However, Comrade Speaker and Honourable Members, sometimes one wonders why Honourable Kaura is always bombarding this August Assembly with the same issues. Sometimes one comes to a point of asking oneself as to who the hell is Honourable Kaura and the Party DTA that he represents? You all know that Honourable Kaura is one of the Namibian Citizens who was fortunate enough to be supported by the international community to go to one of the best Universities at that stage. The purpose was to equip him so that he could come back and liberate the country from the yoke of colonialism. However, the Honourable Member came back and started to co-operate with the then South African Government. His Party was formed by the then South African Government: this information is important, particularly to people who are not in this August House.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nambinga, can we please stick to the old-aged pension issue? Go ahead. You may continue but let us stick to the issue.

HON NAMBINGA: No, it is a point: you see this information is very important because we cannot allow ourselves to be bombarded by people.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker: on a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is posing as if he never collaborated but the money that he used to study came from ENOK. Was that not collaborators' money?

HON NAMBINGA: Honourable Speaker, I do not want to go to that, but I can tell you I have a clean record. Even how I started my business is not a secret and it is not a sin either. You can come and see for yourself how I started; I never collaborated; I never borrowed money from ENOK.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order

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HON ULENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a Question? Well I know you; I am sure you never collaborated. I also agree with you. May I ask you did you read the latest letter, number 11, of Ananias Nghifitekeko? Did you really read it?

HON NAMBINGA: I am not interested in Ananias; you might be Ananias yourself. I was saying this is very important for the people to know this Party that keeps on bombarding us; this party was created with the main purpose of deceiving the Namibian people and in particular the International Community. The Namibians were happy with the set-up and there was no need for the war that was spearheaded by the SWAPO party. We all know that, through Honourable Kaura's collaboration as a leader in the Interim Government, many Namibians died; this interim Government destroyed the properties of the elderly people, the same people he now wants to pretend to support. We remember the lives of our dear ones who were lost Cassinga, for example - on the instructions of the DTA Government. We also remember and speak with pain of the people who went missing at the hands of Dr Death, who indeed was instructed by that Government of which Honourable Kaura was a leader. How come that the Honourable Member who did all this damage to the Namibian people - and particularly the elderly people for whom he is now posing as a patriot. Since then, unless he is a chameleon (we know that a chameleon can change colour) but since when has he realised the importance of the Namibian people?

Honourable Kaura should hear that the Namibian people, dead and alive, are standing in unison to reject whatever political manoeuvres he is doing. The (indistinct), Hosea Kutako, the Witboois, and the Jacob Marengas, and the Kapuwas are there standing in unison, condemning the political manoeuvres because you will never ever succeed. Against this background I suggest that this Motion be rejected by all progressive-minded Namibian people. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Lempy Lucas.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I wish to thank the Honourable Speaker for giving me an opportunity to contribute to the Debate on old age pensions Tabled in this House by Honourable Kaura. It is no surprise that the DTA throughout its existence has always been playing political drama behind the

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issue of old age pensions, hoping that they will gain more support but instead they are digging their own graves.

Honourable Kaura knows very well that during the first democratic elections in 1989, the DTA obtained 21 seats because they were able to buy votes with Brötchens and Boerewors. Then came the second election in 1994; they have dropped from 21 to 15 seats. In 1999 the DTA further dropped from 15 to 7 seats, and, as I speak, they have 4 seats *only* in the current Parliament, despite the rumour that the increment to the old pensions is DTA-driven. The then Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Libertine Amathila, now Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, took it upon herself to inform this August House of the plans of the SWAPO Government as far as the old age pension and other social grants to the vulnerable groups are concerned. She said and I quote: *“As long as the economic status improves, the SWAPO Government will continue to improve on the old age pension.”* I recall very well the Honourable President of the DTA was present in the Chamber and he was acknowledging by saying *“Okuhepa”*. The Mover of this Motion has singled out the Namibian Defence Force as an entity from where the money can be drawn to foot the bill of the elderly people. I wish to remind this Honourable House that the Namibian Defence Force was established by an Act of Parliament, with the primary responsibility and I quote: *“To defend the territory and Namibian interests and National interests on Namibia”*.

Namibia has, for the past 15 years, been enjoying relative peace and tranquillity, and this credit goes to the Namibian sons and daughters of this soil, the members of the Namibian Defence Force, who performed their constitutional duty with vigour and determination, despite the harsh and poor conditions under which they operate.

It should be emphasized that the Defence Force needs to be properly and adequately equipped, in times of war and during peacetime. It must be borne in mind that, apart from defending the Namibian territory, the Defence Force is expected to participate in peacekeeping operations at regional, continental, as well as a global level. In accordance with Article 43 of the United Nations' Charter which states *inter alia*: *“All members of the United Nations in order to contribute to the maintenance of International peace and security, undertake to make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with special agreement or agreements, armed forces, assistance and facilities, including rights of passage, necessary for the purpose of maintaining International peace and security.”*

Back home Namibian Defence Force is also further expected to perform other tasks such as rescue in National disasters and other civil military operations, for which they must be well equipped. How do you expect members of the Defence Force to confront their

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daily challenges with most rudimentary armaments and ill-equipped personnel?

It should be further emphasized that SWAPO Government should remove all bottlenecks aiming at undermining and discouraging the capability of the Namibian Defence Force. I should like to urge the Namibian people to support the Namibian Defence Force in their National responsibility and ensure that all matters associated with National security and defence, should be treated with unanimity.

The Mover of the Motion has suggested money to increase the pension fund should come from the Defence Budget, as well as from cutting the Members of Cabinet, but he, as the President of the DTA, has not informed this August House as to what his party is offering as a contribution to the Old-Age Pension Fund if he is seriously concerned.

I therefore Move that the DTA of Namibia should contribute 5% per month of the amount appropriated to it by Parliament through the years of its existence in this August House. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. I now give the Floor to Honourable !Naruseb.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, if there is no other Member of this August House who is willing to take the Floor, I should like to adjourn the Debate until probably tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: Before that: the Right Honourable Prime Minister as a SWAPO man; I give him the Floor.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: At my tender age of 60 plus, this is my Motion. It is the Motion of the people like myself. However, I want to put this Motion into perspective, in the context of our situation. The context is as follows:

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1. According to the Household Survey of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, 61% of our People are living below the bread line - meaning that they are
1. very poor. Whatever they receive, they cannot save from hand to mouth. If one gets N\$1-00 a day – fine - which Dollar I do not know. If you are talking about US Dollars that is N\$6-00 a day times 30 days. So we are talking about 61% of poor people. That is number one. That percentage (61%) of poor people needs assistance to be lifted out of poverty.
2. 35% of the youth between the ages of 25 to 35 are unemployed. They need jobs.
3. More than 200 000 or around that number of our People are HIV positive. Eventually they might become AIDS patients. Currently I am told that close to 6 000 AIDS patients are on anti-retroviral treatment and that number will increase, as more people who are HIV positive become sick.

The group of HIV-related orphans is increasing and other vulnerable children need assistance. Many of the San Communities remain marginalised: they need housing; they need income; they need clothing; and they also need a decent pension. Some of them do not even have national cards. Yes accommodation yes, Comrade /Ui/o/oo. I am mentioning this to demonstrate the level of our vulnerability in our Society. My age group is not the only group of vulnerable people. There are many other vulnerable people, and they need assistance in one form or another. That assistance has to come through the Budget. That single Budget we Vote has to provide for *all* these vulnerable groups, whether they are pensioners, orphans, people on anti-retroviral therapy, unemployed youth. All of them need assistance from here.

The question is the competing demands of the vulnerable groups: that is the problem. And these competing demands have to be seen in the context of the economic growth. Some of us, as we sit here, are so unproductive. We do not add anything towards the national cake. I add that on twenty tons of Omahangu that I have every year, 5 tons of beans I have them, those special beans and a couple of chickens too. However, some of us add nothing: we only consume. *Who* is going to produce?

The first Question we should ask ourselves is: how can we increase productivity? Grow the economy? Once we grow the economy the cake will be big and we can cut it in such a way that everybody gets a fair share. Honourable Schimming-Chase is worried about the salary of Chief Executives of State-Owned Enterprises. Very soon I will bring a Bill here which is going to regulate the State-Owned Enterprises and that Bill will give power to the owner of the State-owned enterprises to regulate also the remuneration packages of these people. We are dealing with that; we are not oblivious to that.

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So let us leave that one aside, but the question of the old age pension should be seen in a broader context of the vulnerable groups in our society. Let us not just focus on one section; let us look at all of them totally. When we look at them all in totality, then we can make a decision whether what the orphans are receiving is adequate or inadequate; what the unemployed youth are receiving (if anything) is adequate or not adequate; what the disabled people are receiving is adequate or not adequate; whether the San people are being taken care of by the owners of the land. We must look at all those. Then we can come up with the package. That will be an honest Debate, rather than using the vulnerability as a political plug that is definitely immoral. (indistinct) yourself the battle from Cameroon. I followed you.

When you discuss this issue, it is a very serious one; there are definitely old pensioners who are living on the edge – that much we know. Definitely it is true, especially those who are in the Old Age Homes. It is not the political will which is not there; it is a question of competing demands from many other vulnerable groups.

An additional factor is a stagnant economy which is not growing as fast as we want it to grow. However, on the economy I am calling upon all the able-bodied people to be productive - productive and grow the economy.

Last week we had a conference here and I was told that we export 23 Billion of Namibian money to other countries. We *must* find ways of using this money locally to grow the economy. Come up with economic proposals so that we can grow the economy and we can increase the benefits of everybody, including pensioners. That will be an honest Debate. However, as of now, the question of Honourable Kaura verges on immorality: trying to score political points because of other people's vulnerability. It is immoral and I think on that basis it should be rejected. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister. I revert back to Honourable !Naruseb.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I should like to adjourn the Debate until tomorrow the 12th of October 2005.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion is adjourned until tomorrow afternoon 12 October 2005. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the day.

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**MOTION ON WATER CRISIS IN OPUWO
HON VENAANI**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE DIRE SITUATION AT
OPUWO, DUE TO THE DISCONNECTION OF WATER
BY NAMWATER**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the dire situation at Opuwo, due to the disconnection of water by NamWater.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 5 October 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. Honourable Venaani adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much. Honourable Speaker, I rise briefly to participate in the Debate over the Opuwo water crisis, the Motion that was brought by the Leader of the DTA Party. I want to term the Opuwo situation as a very serious crisis. Yes, it is a 'tsunami' as you called it, a hurricane, but it is not DTA tsunami: it is a scientific tsunami. Yesterday, through ALAN, the Association of Local Authorities, at a press conference they called on us, as Members of Parliament, to refrain from making this issue a joke, as if it were not a crisis issue. I am very glad that the Head of ALAN is a Member of the Ruling Party.

He cautioned Honourable Members of Parliament not to play with this issue. Many Speakers were trying and it is the attitude of our Government. When we bring Motions to this House, they are demoted to levels of politicking and no issue that is brought by the Opposition is ever taken seriously.

If we continue with that attitude I do not know whether we are really going to build the Parliamentary democracy that we have brought into this House. If the Government does not listen to the Opposition, I do not know whether we are going really to develop this country and to what extent?

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture *in absentia* spoke of the many companies which are in Opuwo that are paying their water to the Town Council and the truth is that all these major corporations and companies in Opuwo are having direct contracts with *NamWater*. So they pay their water directly to *NamWater* and that is why in many of the lodges the waters are not closed, and many of the shops that are there their waters are open, because they are paying directly to *NamWater*. So it is not entirely true to say that for five months the Town Council has failed to pay for water.

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MOTION ON WATER CRISIS IN OPUWO
HON VENAANI

The reasons that the Town Council has failed to pay for water are very simple, and there is a variety of reasons for that. It is because of the pipes. Yesterday the Deputy Chairperson explained on National Television - I hope Members had the time to watch it - it is the only place in the country where you have a pipe clogged at that level. The supply system of water between (Intervention)

I believe that the Government of this country, being a responsible Government, should have commissioned a delegation from Cabinet to go and investigate and see the situation for themselves, rather than speaking here as if it is a DTA issue or another party issue. The crisis of Opuwo cannot be linked to a party. It is a scientific crisis because of the water problem: calcified water that is clogging pipes and water meters. Many Members of the Communities or the Town Council cannot prove to a certain consumer how much that person owes because of the clogging of the water meters. The Corporation of *NamWater*: I hope the Deputy Minister is here. No, he is not. Article 10 of the Principle Act of the NamWater Corporation of 1997, explicitly puts it clearly that when *NamWater* is going to cut water supply to Towns, there must be an Official Gazette: they must proclaim their action in the Official Gazette. Sure this is was not done, and the Opuwo issue is being used as a political issue. The Ruling Party has failed to win the Town Council Election; you went to Court; you lost the Court battle over winning the Town Council Election, and now you are using the water crisis problem of Opuwo in order to take Opuwo by force and we shall not allow that.

Honourable Speaker, the health hazard in that town demands our attention. I think we, as a Country, should respond to this problem pro-actively. Let us not send only food aid to the (indistinct) people, else we fail to address our own problems in our own country.

Honourable Speaker, I support this Motion. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands Adjourned under Rule 90, Automatic Adjournment until tomorrow 14:30.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED AT 17:47 UNTIL 2005.10.12

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
12 OCTOBER 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the Adjournment.

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I should like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of senior Parliamentary Staff from the Commonwealth Africa Region Parliaments, who are attending the Parliamentary Staff Development Workshop here at our Parliament Building.

I should further like to inform the Assembly that my Office has received copies from the Southern African Institute of International Affairs, entitled '*Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy in Southern Africa.*' These copies will be distributed to the Members for their own reading.

TABLING –REPORTS OF AUDITOR GENERAL

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

- a) Municipality of Tsumeb, for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2003;
- b) Municipality of Otjiwarongo, for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2004;
- c) Village Council of Otavi, for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2004;
- d) Municipality of Grootfontein, for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2004;
- e) Town Council of Oshakati, for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2004;
- f) Municipality of Gobabis, for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2004.

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON DE WAAL**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister Table the Report. Any Notices of Questions? Hon. De Waal.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 36:

HON DE WAAL: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday the 20th October, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

1. Can the Right Honourable Prime Minister inform this House which Ministers are responsible for which Parastatals?

QUESTION 37:

HON DE WAAL: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 20th October, I shall ask the responsible Minister for the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme and the Agricultural Bank the following:

1. Can the Honourable Minister inform this House about the current situation of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme; and
2. The current financial situation of the Agricultural Bank of Namibia, and whether this Bank can still be considered a going concern.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

HON DIENDA: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I give Notice that on Wednesday, the 26th October, I shall Move that considering the present plight of the youth and recognising their role as the future leaders of our country, that this Honourable House deliberates on the programmes, activities and the performance of the National Youth Council and its contribution, or otherwise, to the problems of the youth.

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**MOTION ON BENEFITS OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON MOONGO**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member Table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Notice of a Motion is the one by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Any Objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Moongo has the Floor.

**MOTION ON BENEFITS OF TRADITIONAL
LEADERS**

HON MOONGO: When we are dealing with the Kings of the Namibians we need to pay special attention.

The blood of King Mandume, Nehale, Ipumbu and Chief Kapuuu and others, who died in the course of the liberation, waters our freedom. Their contribution still exists around us, and we, therefore, cannot under-estimate their contribution, as everyone knows a Nation without forefathers is just like a body without a backbone.

Therefore, Namibian leaders need to ensure that our Traditional Leaders receive a proper salary with adequate allowances, so that they can continue to do their work. We need to ensure that Traditional Leaders who have been economically disadvantaged by past Laws are properly looked after in an Independent Namibia, and that the image of Kings and Traditional Leaders be properly recognised, according to our Constitution, Article 23(2).

Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Namibian Constitution everything is clear. Article 19 ensures the promotion of tradition and the right to practise traditions, profess and maintain culture and traditions, while Article 66 protects Customary Laws that were in force at the date of Independence.

Article 102(5) stipulates that there shall be a Council of Traditional Leaders, in order to advise the President on issues of National interest, and to promote certain matters they regard as important.

I therefore propose an Amendment to Article 102 to give more power to the chiefs, who fought for Independence and whose blood was shed for our Independence. It is unacceptable that they only have advisory powers. They are supposed to have similar status to Regional Councillors, as everyone knows the duty of Chiefs and Headmen is to adjudicate cases in their respective communities and to solve disputes over tribal lands. They are the people who must unite clans when there are disputes over

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**MOTION ON BENEFITS OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON MOONGO**

mahangu fields. They do this work in far away places where Government has no influence and is not in a position to solve these problems.

Allow me to salute the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Rural Development who implemented Article 13 of 1997 on the Council of Traditional Leaders and ensured that the law on Traditional Leaders was also implemented.

I am happy to say that today the Traditional Leaders, with the help of the Police, are executing the work properly. Those criminals who disregarded Traditional Courts in the past are now given proper Notice and, if they do not respond, they are rounded up, arrested and brought to the Traditional Court where they are charged according to our traditional Laws. For this I want to thank the Honourable Minister.

I should like to request the Minister to establish a special fund to pay for transportation over long distances to fetch criminals and bring them to Court. The Traditional Leaders are struggling with their own expenses and they even demand transportation costs from the accused, which I regard as unfair. These individuals are simply accused and should not be liable for such payment before they are found guilty.

I therefore propose an immediate special fund to be established to transport criminals to the Traditional Courts. Allow me also to bring to the attention of the House that criminals who are charged for serious crimes must be locked up in police cells and, if found guilty, should serve punishment in the State prison.

Mr. Speaker, the other problem is the allowances of Members who work in the Traditional Courts, the Justice, the Police, Traditional Secretaries and the Sub-Headmen. They are the people enforcing justice at the Traditional Court. Without them the criminals would not be arrested from the Community or from *Omikunda*. Let us make Traditional Courts transparent and accountable; let us make our Community free from local habitual criminals.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, the Traditional Leaders are supposed to have powers to initiate, unite and make Traditional Laws and to refer them to the Traditional Councils for approval or rejection. Many of the Traditional Laws are not in line with the National Laws and we need to correct this situation so that justice will be done to everybody.

Traditional Leaders are uniting the people locally. Very early in the morning five people enter the Chief's house with disputes, and then he or she calls them together, listens to them, and solves their problems. The Headmen and Kings travel across vast

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areas of communal land at their own cost to go and diffuse tensions, sometimes up to 300 km. in a very sandy area.

Therefore, a normal person has to support the adjustment to the chiefs' remuneration. Currently, they receive a meagre 'peanut' allowance which starts from N\$700, which is just like pocket money, and after 7 or 10 years the Senior Headman now receives N\$1 400, and the Kings are receiving only N\$1 600. There is no food, no transport allowance, no overtime provided. The hearing of disputes starts from 9 a.m. till 6.00p.m. for consecutive two weeks. This is '*Ongonga yo shilongo*' then two weeks for '*Ongonga yoshikandjo*'. The tough disputes are selected to be sent to the higher hearing, to '*Ongonga yoshilongo*.' Sometimes the accused lives in Okahao, while the defendant lives in Ekoka, a distance of 1 000 km and they must be at the Traditional Court.

It is very far but there is no 4x4; there is no petrol. The King and Senior Headmen used to sacrifice their vehicles until they become irreparable.

They need a permanent Government vehicle at every Traditional Office as a start, with petrol every day. Headmen during the past dispensation used to have vehicles and a house, as well as a sitting allowance of more than two thousand for three consecutive weeks. The Headmen are now hiking from Onyaanya to Ondangwa Traditional Court every morning, and from Kongo to Ohangwena Tribal Court. They used to receive cattle from those who were found guilty but now the payment goes into the Fund which is controlled by the State. Kings and Headmen are currently underpaid and disregarded.

Colleagues, let us be realistic: Kings do not benefit anymore from the Community. A King or Headman who is not benefiting from his people is called '*Oshilenganyama*' (Interjections). If you do not benefit from the Community, then you are not regarded as a Headman: you are '*Oshilenganyama*'. It is an insult to the dignity of these people. Let us implement the true customs so that Kings and Headmen receive what they are supposed to get: "*Shomukwaniilwa nashipewe Omukwaniilwa.*"

Mr. Speaker, I propose to establish a Commission to regulate remuneration and benefits of Traditional Kings, Headmen and Sub-Headmen. They need adjustments. Kings must earn N\$5 000; Senior Headmen N\$3 000, Headmen N\$2 000 and Sub-Headmen N\$1 000. They execute very important services in the Community.

Mr. Speaker, communal wildlife used to be under Traditional Leaders. The Fund must be generated under Traditional Leaders. Local wildlife management must be under Traditional Leaders.

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HON MOONGO

Petty crimes and marriages must fall under Traditional Leaders and the funds generated must also fall under the Traditional Leaders. Let us implement true decentralisation and sharing of powers.

Allow me to call on the Government to receive the Traditional Leaders who were left out. It is discrediting and discriminating against some groups.

Mr. Speaker, Kings and Headmen also need pensions and medical aid. What if one needs a big operation? Let us think on humanitarian grounds.

Let the spirit and blood of our late Traditional Leaders continue to water our freedom. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I should like to adjourn the Debate to Tuesday next week.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON FINANCIAL BURDEN PLACED
ON THE PUBLIC BY BANKS AND CREDITORS**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday 4 October 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Gertze. The Honourable Mushelenga adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON. MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, barely five months ago, when the Honourable Minister of Finance Tabled the Budget for the Financial Year 2005/2006 in this House, she stated that:

“I must also express concern with the high fees levied by our Banks for services rendered. These have crippling effects on the banking customers and especially small and medium enterprises and the sector is called upon to ensure that their fee structures are fair and are supportive of business expansion.”

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**MOTION ON FINANCIAL BURDEN ON PUBLIC
HON MUSHELENGA**

The statement by the Honourable Minister has made many people take note, with serious concern, of the current state of our Bank charges. The Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Economics and Natural Resources, Right Honourable Hage Geingob, once alluded to the high charges that Banks impose on customers, in comparison with Bank charges in other countries. Now, Honourable Reinhard Kala Gertze even went a step further and Tabled a Motion in this House, on the “appropriateness of high Bank charges and various penalties and their adverse effects on both businesses and the Public, as clients of Banks and other creditors, once they default.” I congratulate Honourable Gertze sincerely and commend him for his passion on this matter.

Honourable Speaker, charges formally follow the following activities of Banks:

1. Accepting deposits;
2. Making credit available, including overdrafts and loans;
3. Ensuring payments and collections between Banks (which is called ‘clearing system’);
4. Rendering of financial services (such as administration of accounts, debit order instructions and electronic banking);
5. Foreign exchange dealers (to allow for selling and purchase of foreign currencies and ensure financial interaction with the rest of the world economies).

In discharging its functions, Banks and similar Institutions incur costs and expenses. Such costs would normally include a profit, which is the reward the Institution gets for being in business. Such costs are called various names, such as:

1. Service fees (charges)
2. Commission
3. Interest
4. Administration fees
5. Insurance
6. Outstanding balance assurance plan
7. SASWITCH fee (for using other Banks’ ATMs)
8. Cash handling fees
9. Cash deposit fees
10. Bob transaction fees
11. Transaction duty and others.

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These are what are termed 'Bank charges' and the aggregate effects of these are enormous to society.

Over the past years we have observed low interest rates, especially on mortgage and car loans. While many people applaud this development too loudly, I have mixed feelings and some reservations. It is reported in the Annual Report of the Bank of Namibia for 2004 that Banks continued to strengthen their non-interest income, mainly from Bank charges, which increased during the year 2004 from N\$822,1 Million to N\$861,9 Million. *This* represents an increase by N\$39, 8 Million. Such an upsurge has compensated Banks for loss in interest income and Banks continue to enjoy comfort profits over the years. In a layman's language it means that, while Banks have reduced their interest rates on loans, they have increased Bank charges to make up for the difference.

High Bank charges affect the economic decisions of producers, consumers, savers, borrowers and investors. They also distort prices and value of goods and services. With high charges, the disposable incomes of people and businesses alike are reduced. Such reduction in disposable income leads to undesirable results. I should like to give an example of Bank charges on an account of one of the prestigious private schools in Namibia, owned by the Church.

During the first term this year, the revenue of the school, to which I am referring, which comes from school fees, donations and other sundry income, totalled N\$861 200-11. During the same term, the total charges by the Bank on the account of school were N\$68 366-63. During the second term, the school received an income of N\$819 957-74, on which the bank charges totalled N\$52 276-66. This means that out of a total income of N\$1 681 157-85 for two terms, the Bank has charged an amount of N\$120 643-29 from the school's account. It goes without saying that, by the end of year, if the school income continues to be more or less the same, one expects the bank to have charged the school account well over N\$150 000 by the end of the year. As this is a private school, the school pays the salaries of most of the institutional workers and maintains its own buildings, buys laboratory and library equipment and pays for a number of other services. The amount of N\$120 643,29c that goes into Bank charges for two terms only could cover most of the expenditures that I have just mentioned at the school.

High Bank charges would also discourage some members of our Society, especially the low-income earners and pensioners, from using the banking system; it would force them to refrain because such charges erode their much-needed earnings and income. This is because the fees on deposits and withdrawals, coupled with copies of statements and replacement of ATM card fees, could well be close to N\$100 on saving accounts. Most of our low-income earners use saving accounts. On cheque

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accounts, whether those that are charged per transaction or those that are charged fixed monthly fees, the charges are exorbitant. Per annum, especially for the latter, one would pay well above N\$2 500 on a single account. This is a lot of money indeed.

The findings by the Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU), in their Report of June 2005, reveal that, comparing Namibia and South Africa, Namibia had higher charges than South Africa. Mind you, South Africa is regarded as a country “*with some of the highest Bank charges in the world.*” It thus follows that Namibia is one of the countries with high Bank charges in the world, compared to, for example, Brazil, Malaysia and Thailand. My heart goes out to the Bank customers who surely cannot afford this state of affairs.

It is argued that since the structure of our banking system is by nature an oligopoly, with only four major Banks in existence, it is unlikely that Banks would use prices to entice customers.

Often customers are surprised at ATM machines by messages like “*there are not sufficient funds on your account*”. Others are surprised when their cheques are dishonoured. Others end up in undesirable scenarios such as overdrafts. Sometimes customers feel that they have enough funds in their accounts but, in the meantime, such funds were reduced by Bank charges. This is largely due to the fact

That, while Banks publish their fees as determined by the Regulator, customers are not educated about these matters. In fact, some of these fees, *albeit* we see them displayed, are just not in our language to understand. Be that as it may, customers will be punished once they default on payments.

Before I conclude, I should like to briefly address the issue of cash loans. Too many cash loans are mushrooming in the country. One wonders whether these cash loan companies make the painstaking effort of going into people’s fiscal records to determine their creditworthiness before granting loans. This is because people who cannot otherwise get loans from Banks resort to cash loans. People regard cash loans as less relaxed in their loan conditions than Banks. However, in the end, people find themselves unable to pay and a heavy burden is placed on their shoulders. In this respect, I should like the issue of the current state of operations of cash loans to be revisited.

Honourable Speaker, all in all, I agree with Honourable Gertze that the issue of charges by Financial Institutions and penalties on defaults need to be thoroughly investigated, with a view to establishing measures that will not disadvantage either of the Stakeholders. With these few words, I support the Motion and I thank you.

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HON SHIFETA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member and I now give the Floor to Honourable Shifeta.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH NATIONAL SERVICE SPORT AND CULTURE: Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, I rise to make my contribution to the Debate on the Motion, *“Appropriateness of high Bank charges and various penalties and their adverse effects on both Businesses and the Public as clients of banks and other creditors once they default.”* Firstly, let me thank the Honourable Member who Tabled this Motion.

The Motion Tabled by the Honourable Gertze, I believe, is purely in the Public interest. Hence I rise to air my views on the subject, neither to be too generic nor to depart from it, but with the purpose of extending the subject in order to extricate what matters.

I am unreservedly in agreement with Honourable Gertze when he cited that *“as Lawmakers we are in an appropriate position to rectify, clarify and/or enforce/reinforce what is, correctly, applied in our system.”* I equally agree with the notion that the Central Bank should shoulder the responsibility of raising public awareness, I believe, not only on the terminations but also on the Banking system as a whole. The Public would want to be aware, not only of their obligations, but also their rights as clients or potential customers. This, in my view, should not entirely be left to the Central Bank alone, but should be one of the important responsibilities of commercial Banks which have direct contact with clients on a daily basis.

I do not entirely disagree with critics on the application of the determinations issued under our statutory provision (*Banking Institutions Act No. 2 of 1998*). However, I am of the opinion that the stability of our Banking system, which is one of the functions of the Central Bank, should be upheld at all costs because too much looseness in the system could also lead to the general collapse of the economy. For instance, the escalation of dishonoured cheques is not in the interest of the economy at all. This trend could lead to a loss of confidence by the business community in the facility: in other words, in the ‘paying instrument’ (cheque payment), and this would mean that we would have to run around with briefcases or bags containing cash if we wished to make a big purchase instead of the easy method of carrying a cheque book. I hope this would not happen in Namibia as it has happened in some countries.

Apart from the monitoring function, one of the very important functions of the Central Bank is to safeguard depositors’ money placed in the custody of commercial Banks. In the case of Bank charges, there seems to be no one playing the role of regulating these service fees charged to customers. I assume that it cannot be wise for the Central Bank to play that role of regulating service fees charged by commercial

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Banks, because this will be tantamount to a direct conflict of interest: the Central Bank cannot be a referee and a player at the same time. Therefore, I feel that a vacuum exists. We should think of a body that will be charged with the responsibility of regulating Bank charges for services rendered to customers.

As stated by the previous Honourable Speakers, the Bank charges are so high and are so different from one Bank to another. That means there is no regulation.

Let me briefly touch on the functions of the Bank or the payment system. The payment system is a system and a process that facilitates inter-bank clearing and settlement, resulting from various economic transactions within a country or between countries. It is composed of service providers mainly, but not exclusively: the Financial Institutions, a set of payment instruments (such as credit cards, cheques) and a system and procedures that enable people to move funds and make payments.

This means that a National Payment System is at the heart of the Financial Sector and is one of the pillars of financial stability in any country.

The Potential effect of the RD Cheque: as mentioned above, a cheque facility is one of the major payment instruments. Any significant deficiency in this facility will negatively impact on the credibility and efficiency of the payment system. It will cause the business community and the Public at large to lose confidence in the payment system, and consequently, may ground the economic activities in the country.

The Central Bank is charged with the responsibility of promoting efficient payment mechanisms. Hence, given the prevalence of RD cheques in Namibia, it was just necessary for the Central Bank to issue a circular in accordance with the *Banking Institutions Act No. 2 of 1998*, in order to introduce some measures to curb or reduce this problem. I hope all of us understand the fact that RD cheques have a counter-productive effect on the system. Thus the primary objective of the determination is to ensure proper usage of cheque facilities and to reduce the number of RD cheques.

The determination, amongst others, contains the following provisions:

1. It encourages the Banking Institutions always and continuously to educate and inform their clients on the proper management of the cheque accounts and on the provisions of the determinations.

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2. It is to ensure that persons have the ability to manage their cheque accounts properly and, therefore, do not pose any threat to the confidence in the payment system and to ensure that the perpetrators do not move from one Bank to another Bank and commit the same act. Banks are required to carry a thorough screening of new applications for cheque accounts.
3. Banks are expected to ‘jack up’ their internal control system, in order for them to identify clients experiencing difficulties in the management of their accounts early enough.
4. The determination goes on to set out procedures, including the duration of the suspension periods for various offenders: for example, a first offender six months; second offender one year; and third offender five years.
5. Banks are required to maintain a database of suspended cheques, which shall be updated three-monthly.
6. Banks are prohibited from opening a new cheque account for a client while that client is still on suspension.
7. Alternative facilities may be provided to enable clients to transact with the Bank.

The following issues raised in the Motion, Moved by the Honourable Member, warrant specific comments.

1. *Charges versus Suspension of cheques:* The Motion seems to be mixing up charges and the requirement for compulsory suspension of cheque facilities. This makes it difficult to draw a line as to what the issue really is all about. It would be helpful if the Honourable Member could expand further on this one.
2. *Punitive Banking Regulations:* The Honourable Member further states that the Banking Regulations which are intended to “*control dishonoured cheques*” are punitive. I say yes, these regulations have to be punitive if they are to have deterrent effects on the perpetrators and correspond with the impact of the RD cheques on the payment system. Clients are given enough time (4 times RD cheques before suspension) to rectify the problem. The Motion seems to be more concerned about the effect upon clients, due to poor management of their finances. It equally failed to recognise the fact that the business community is also losing because the cheque recipient receives no value for the cheques presented, while the person presenting the cheque enjoys what is not paid for.

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I just want to make an example, a very simple example: if you know that you have five goats in your kraal, in your possession, you cannot commit yourself to an agreement of giving ten goats. It is just as simple as that. However, there are genuine cases where a person has a problem of financial burdens. Nevertheless, four times warning is enough for a person to rectify the situation.

It is just appropriate that in the absence of a better alternative to the current arrangement, the requirements, as outlined in the determinations, should be maintained in the interest of the credible and efficient National Payment system.

One thing which I take liberty to link to this Motion is the complexity of the legal language used by Financial Institutions in general. The legal language used in contracts, correspondence, hire purchase agreements, lease including insurance policies is so much complicated and this disadvantages customers because some of the documents are drafted in such a manner that they are not user-friendly.

This can be one of the contributing factors to have many defaulters. It is so because when a person approaches a Financial Institution for a loan, it is because he or she needs financial relief and some are so desperate because of the serious financial crisis in which they find themselves, therefore what they solicit is that financial relief.

It is the duty of Financial Institutions to counsel their clients before letting them sign an agreement. In the signing of a contract or agreement not much explanation is done to a client who is in desperate need of financial relief. A client is handed over an agreement to go through, sometimes without proper explanation by the attendant. I have come across many legal financial documents that are meant for the Public and, because of the language used, one has to sweat in order to understand.

I find it appropriate and in the interest of the Public to use a plain language for all public documents. For example, how many of us here have to struggle every year just to complete an Income Tax Return? If we have to sweat to make sense out of this six-page document as Lawmakers, we must consider the problems in understanding, incurred by the ordinary person.

I believe that advocating the usage of plain language in all public documents or contracts that affect the Public is to the advantage of both Financial Institutions and the public, because this will lead to the declination in a number of default cases, and minimise too much time wasted in reading documents with so many Latin terms.

Efforts should be made, where it is possible, to avoid using non-English terms in correspondence with the public. Sometimes even a lawyer has difficulty making sense of a document with legal complexity. What about a layman who did not receive

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legal training or basic training at all? He may not make even the slightest sense of the document. For example, a reference to a 'modern effective communication product' shall be construed as a reference to a 'cellular phone'.

With such examples, it would not be wrong for the Public to infer that Financial Institutions deliberately use complicated and ambiguous legal language in their documents, so that they can make money from subsequent confusion. Again, it would not be wrong for the Public to view this as repugnant to their fundamental rights.

Therefore, I believe that for this my proposition is that the propensity for using plain language, intelligible, unambiguous and precise, should not only be highly encouraged by this August House, but further steps might be taken to investigate or review some Legal documents intended for the Public and effect simplifications.

I thank you for your humble attention.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER: I just want to make a short, humble reflection on the Motion of Honourable Gertze. My preamble to my presentation is that Parliament is not asking for free services from our Banking Institutions. Neither are we encouraging people to ignore their obligations. That is not the point.

However, I think this Motion should be put in a broader perspective, in terms of the economic environment of Namibia.

If I were asked to describe the economic regime in which we live, I would say that we live in a dictatorship of the 'branch **blank** economy'. The dictatorship of the 'branch **blank** economy' dictates that prices are determined without due regard to fair trading, because we are dealing with branches of companies which are not national. They are simply here to make profit, without due consideration to the broader public justice. I want to illustrate my point with a number of examples before I come to the banking system.

If you look at many of our companies, ranging all the way from fish to diamonds, it is clearly a regime of transfer pricing going on. If one looks at a company, it creates a number of other companies linked to another company somewhere, and invariably the

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mother company provides loans to this local company for some kind of services and the local company, in order to avoid taxation, pays money back to the parent company, in such a way that the tax authorities in Namibia will be deprived of that income. There is definitely transfer pricing going on if you look at these foreign companies which are operating here, and we, as the public, suffer.

If you look at the Report of the Bank of Namibia, the recent Report is saying that there was a deficit in the balance of the payment account, which means that more money left the country than money coming in. I think this is happening partly, not because of repatriation of profits, but through this process of transfer pricing. It is happening.

Then you have a question of excessive mark-up prices. To illustrate this point, look at the prices of cement today. Cement prices were hitting N\$60 per bag. Today I think you can buy cement at N\$10 - somewhere. It can reach around N\$28. Just imagine: the price dropping from 60 to 28 and the person is still trading. If it is so that a person is still able to make a profit on 28, he did not divert that difference: the 'rip-off' difference. That is why I talk about the dictatorship of the **branch blank** economy.

These people bring their things here, and without due regard to the general welfare of the country, they are just there to charge, because they are monopolies in the first place.

When we consider the Banks, I want to tell you two stories. The other day I was invited to a breakfast meeting of one of the Banks here in town, and the Bank was celebrating something like 100 years of their operation in Namibia. This Bank was proud to say that they were the flagship bank in the whole of southern Africa in terms of profit-making. Just imagine! They have Banks in Sandton; they have Banks in big centres where the money is flowing, but in small Namibia this is where they make their biggest profit margins. That points to something, definitely.

Then the other day - I have this good fortune of being invited to breakfast meetings - I was invited to another breakfast meeting by the NCCI, and they were discussing about this domestic savings of ours, Namibia being a net exporter of capital. Somebody made a statement there, saying that the problem we have is the ownership of these institutions. These institutions are not indigenous and for that reason the people who are put in charge of these institutions, even if they are indigenous, are subject to the rules decided somewhere else. For example, if a manager of one of the Financial Institutions really wants to make a big cut, in terms of bonuses, the bonus is calculated on the basis of the profit he has made. So the incentive is there for the managers to be tough, to overprice, and secondly, to make sure that you pay. So, the

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combination of these things ends up in the situation Mr. Gertze is talking about. However, the question is: what can we do about it? It seems the Local Institutions have no power to make decisions.

The other day somebody came up with a Bank of our own. We do not know what happened.

HON SPEAKER: Maybe it is a good point to rise for refreshments and I urge the members to rush back, to continue to benefit from the Prime Minister's insight which is very enlightening.

**THE HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
THE HOUSE MET PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT AT 16:00**

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, Honourable Speaker, I was asking a rhetorical question as to what should be done to address this situation. Now, before I do that, let me give you another example.

I think we are moving towards a cash economy, whereby people are going to keep money in their own pockets, under the pillow, or in a wheelbarrow - those of you who have too much. I do not know how many of you have been to the former Zaire. The people there used to put money in the wheelbarrow and push it around. I think we are moving towards that kind of situation.

The other day I was buying an item from a business concern, and this business concern refused to accept my Bank guaranteed cheque, and I could not explain why that should happen. It is not a question of trust. This cheque is Bank guaranteed and all those kinds of things. On enquiry I found that this business concern did not want its money to go through the banking system because they would be charged when they start to withdraw. So, the man forced me to go to a bank and withdraw something like N\$10 000 there and pay him cash, which means there is already a resistance developing in the country, that many people are not taking their money to the Banks, because of these bank charges and eventually I think we are going to move towards a cash economy whereby, everybody will keep his or her cash in the pocket. Now, that is not a good situation to move into. What should now be done?

The Bank which was created here, a Bank of our own, disappeared into thin air. Perhaps we are not yet ready for that. Somebody outside there failed to regulate. I

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am not quite sure whether there are Regulations; I feel the regulations are there. Perhaps what we can do is to suggest to Honourable Gertze to send this Motion to one of the Committees, so that we have hearings, so that we can also hear the voice of those who are running these Institutions. Perhaps there are good reasons why they are overcharging us or something like that, so that the Public can also learn what is going on and the Parliamentarians can now ask the questions, as to why the charges are so high. I am quite sure they are going to say they are in business and that kind of thing, but basically we want fair trading. That is what we are crying for: not for free things, but fair trading, so that we can meet each other halfway. They have to make business, but we, as members of the public, also have to live and this is what they are denying us now.

So, this dictatorship of a ‘branch blank economy’ is really killing Namibia, and I think as Lawmakers we have a responsibility to bring about some sense in these businesses, especially the Financial Institutions. I thank you, Sir.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his very constructive contribution. I think there is a growing consensus that the Motion will be referred to a Committee, but I feel, being a citizen and a consumer myself, I think that the Public record is also important. So I would encourage as many Honourable Members as possible to take the Floor and to make contributions. The contributions so far have all been very imaginative, of high quality. I give the Floor to Honourable Kazenambo.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION:** I rise to add my views and to share the sentiments expressed in the Motion under discussion.

The issue of the current financial burden placed on the public by Banks and creditors is a very, very critical issue. It touches many citizens of this country.

The issue goes to the ethics of conducting business, be it by Financial Institutions, or be it by other companies or business entities that are giving credit to the public, and I underline the words “ethic of conducting business”, because in most cases you will really see that our business ethics and standards are somehow violated, undermined by Institutions which are conducting business in this country.

As far as Financial Institutions are concerned, it is always easy when they are enticing you to open an account. When they are marketing products to you, they become

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friendly but once you are now hooked in one way or the other into their system, their attitude and their approach changes. There are many ordinary Citizens of this Country who complain to Banks that nobody is accounting for their money in the Bank; their money has disappeared in the Bank, and when an ordinary Citizen goes there to enquire about the money which is in the custody of the Bank, it is no longer accountable for. Now you are shifted from one clerk to the other, and the issue of business ethics is that Institutions of this nature are supposed to have managers responsible for certain things. However, once your money is gone ...(intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES: On a Point of Order. May I ask the Comrade a Question? It is a question of public money getting lost in the Bank. So people never go there: they say no; one withdraws from which Bank while the person is cut or whatever. The ITM machine may be filled but tomorrow morning everything is out. Do you also know, Comrade, that the Bank even gives one what they call an 'overdraft facility'. However, whenever that overdraft facility is given, one cannot use it. If one wants to use it, Bank personnel say, "Finish all that you have in your account in order to use the overdraft." What is the use then of giving that facility? Are you aware of that, Comrade?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION::** Yes, I heard of users of bank facilities, complaining about the exact issue you are mentioning, and this also goes with other products. Sometimes a product is proposed to you and there is not enough clarity on how to handle that product or half-information is provided by people who are from those Institutions but who are not properly trained. If you dig further and sometimes if you are knowledgeable about these services, you find that this person, who has been assigned to come and sell this product to you, is not knowledgeable. She starts to jump around and then she has to refer you to another person. Now, what if the this service recipient is someone who is not knowledgeable in this sector? So, this recipient is presented with half-information and half-service which is not properly accounted for.

I am on the issue of money and the issue that shows how our services, the burdens to which we are referring, leave much to be desired. In this Country you go and buy a car through a Financial Institution, financed by the Bank in a legal manner. You are dealing with a reputable Company, but the product, the car is a 'wear-out' product. Once it starts running on the road it depreciates. However your insurance becomes a different issue, when you are dealing with many of us who are ignorant about these financial matters. For the car that I bought in 2002, I am still paying the same insurance on the product, which has now depreciated. The Institution through which I

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bought the car is the responsible body which is supposed to do an adjustment to the insurance premium. However, insurance personnel are continuing to charge the same amount, treating you in the same way, but the product is wearing out. This is a problem: it is unethical business practice because if the product is devaluing, then the insurance must also be adjusted accordingly. They keep it at the same standard, at the same price. I can give examples about many products.

Other than the issue of insurance, this is not only applicable to Banks; it is applicable to companies which are selling products on credit. As the Honourable Member of the Motion has observed in his input, one finds that an ordinary layman like me goes to a Financial Institution or a shop where products are offered on credit but I shall be doing my payments. I shall be keeping my receipts; if a receipt is lost in this Country you are lost. The difference is that if you there to give a complaint, you are asked for the receipt. If you say that the receipt is not there, then you should know that you are on the receiving end. The question which always strikes me: my receipt was produced by your system; do you mean that in your system you do not have a record? I think this receipt is *pulled* from a record which is supposed to remain there, and, if I do not have my receipt, then I shall not be refunded or my statement will not be reconciled and the next thing is that I shall be at the ITC.

Sometimes, I do not know (for lack of a better word which perhaps is not parliamentary) but there is an *arrogance* which we encounter there - the arrogant attitude which we find at some of these Institutions. When you go there it is unbelievable. They look at your colour; they look at your height; they look at your background; they look at the language you speak; they look at your face - how ugly you are - your account balance and so on to determine the services you are given, and they determine already how they are going to treat you. This is lack of business ethics. Our Institutions should start to apply business ethics. Business ethics are important; business conduct is important; let us not discriminate against people on the basis of their gender or on the basis of their economic status because the money we offer these Institutions just remains a dollar which counts to the profitability of this Institution.

When they take you to the ITC and if you say, "Check your records, I am hundred percent sure that I have settled this account," they do not care. You have to move from the Financial Institution to ITC. ITC will tell you to deal with the Bank and the Bank will tell you to deal with any credit company. This is not fair and the system needs to be perfected; we need to have Laws that protect the consumers in this Country. Business ethics need to be practised. Really, I am rising to support the Motion. I am not saying that we should be given goods free-of-charge. We should not account for this money but businesses in this Country must shake-up. With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. I now give the Floor to Honourable Ncube.

HON NCUBE: Thank you Honourable Speaker if there is nobody to contribute to the Motion, I should like to adjourn it to Tuesday, 18 October.

HON SPEAKER: We have some more speakers. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the Motion wholeheartedly, and thank the Mover for doing his duty to protect the consumers and the Public out there. This situation is really a matter of great concern and some of us want to be on record.

If one compares the commercial Bank charges today, especially of businesses, and considers the Right Honourable Prime Minister's starting a chicken business in Onyaanya, he is charged the same charges as a big Company. If he has to sign a cheque over a counter, he must pay. Even if you are looking for N\$25, you are charged N\$25 for that cheque that you are giving over the counter, and we want our industries to grow; we want our small and medium industries to flourish and yet there is no consistency in the attitude of the Banks. Whether you have a million in the Bank or you have N\$10, the charges remain the same. It is a matter of serious and great concern.

I think the Mover also spoke of the charges of real estate agents in this Country. This is also a situation that needs some serious scrutiny. When you are selling your House for a million dollars today, the real estate agent is taking something like N\$50 000, N\$60 000 or N\$70 000. It could be even more: N\$100 000 from your house. Now is that really fair trade? I think this situation really needs some serious scrutiny.

The Honourable Prime Minister spoke of the issue of repatriation of profits. I think this issue is a very serious issue when you are talking about a country that has such an unequal society. However, you also have some challenges. If you want these profits to remain in the country, what do you do with them? Do these profits only remain in Banks or do you perhaps lend them out to the Development Bank or so? I think it is true that this country should start to regulate about this repatriation of profits, and we can do that by increasing the 35% threshold, so that companies will be forced to keep money in this country and we must also have some clear-cut strategies.

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RT. HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. You talk about repatriation of profits; I was talking about the outflow of capital, especially the national savings. That is what I was talking about. We are not here to link repatriation of profits but it is the outflow of our own savings.

HON VENAANI: I think I have a very different view. I support my views and I think that one can really do something about it. In other countries you have some regulations that regulate profits in a Country so that you cannot take everything. There must be portions that you invest in that country, and I think it falls within the very ambit of Motion that we must see that our Finances are in good order.

I support the Motion that the Committee be given the very important task to go and have Public Hearings, but also to consult with the Financial Institutions. I support the Motion.

HON NCUBE: Honourable Speaker, I adjourned the Debate to Tuesday, the 28th October.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until 18th October 2005.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE PLIGHT OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND
INCREASE OF OLD-AGE PENSION TO N\$500 PER MONTH**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on 11 October 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Hon. Kaura. The Hon. Minister of Labour and Social Welfare adjourned the Debate and I now give the Minister the Floor.

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HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE : I rise to contribute to the Debate on an issue that probably concerns every Member of this House and, indeed, every Namibian: that is the plight of our senior citizens who are bearing the brunt of the care of AIDS orphans. Hon. Kaura, the Mover of the Motion, has suggested that the old-age pension be increased from N\$300 to N\$500, to alleviate the poverty that plagues many of our families headed by the elderly.

As leaders of the Nation and as the children of our elderly Citizens, we in the Government hold the plight of the elderly highly dear to our hearts. How can we, with the best of intentions, forget the tireless efforts of those whom we refer to as 'elderly' today, who from both ends of the political spectrum tried their level best during the struggle towards the liberation of our Country? How can we disregard their toils and unselfish sacrifices, to bring the Country to the level it is today? They have invested heavily through their physical, spiritual and material contributions so that Namibia can enjoy one of the admired economies and development status it has today. Can we, sitting here today, forget where we are coming from? Can we forget the harsh conditions in which we individually grew up and the hardships that we suffered when we were just young "*axarobs*" playing around with no concern to life and its ills, where the elders of today were caring for us individually? That is the big question.

However, as the person today responsible for Labour and Social Welfare, I am also equally painfully aware of the poverty suffered by the majority of our Citizens, and in particular by the most vulnerable: the elderly and the very young. The issue that we must address is: what can we do as a Nation to maximise our efforts to alleviate poverty? I must admit that the current situation is not only unacceptable but in some respects it is worsening.

As much as Namibia advances in some pivotal areas of development, the ever-present HIV/AIDS pandemic with the ever-increasing HIV-AIDS cases have had far-reaching effects. The dilemma facing us is that Africa now has new parents for its children: these are the grandparents who remain behind after biological mother and father leave this life at a very early age. In addition, the high unemployment rate and school drop-out rate add to the burden of these elderly, as all of these children have to be cared for from the already meagre resources.

In reality, the modest old-age pension received by our elderly citizens is often the sole source of monetary income for many households. Although we would like to think that adult children should be able to care for their elderly parents, the situation is often the reverse in our Country. You know it and I know it. Many of the elderly use their old-age pensions to provide for themselves, sometimes their adult children, *and* their

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grandchildren. We have even heard some Police reports of cases of children going to the extent of even murdering their elderly parents or grandparents, in order to lay their hands on the meagre N\$300 that the elderly are receiving. Those are the hard facts of reality. The poverty of our Citizens, I believe, is a ticking time bomb. We might ignore it, but it is a ticking time bomb. There is poverty; poverty is a reality in this Country.

What is Government doing? No honest Member of this House can deny that the improvement of the lives of the poor, in all aspects of life, has been the central theme of the Government Policies and Programmes since Independence.

With respect to social grants, the Government first eliminated the vast discriminatory disparities in the pensions of the black and white elderly, providing in the National Pensions Act, 1992 (No. 10 of 1992) for an old-age pension that puts all beneficiaries at the same level. Over the years the old-age pensions have been increased gradually from N\$135 to the present day N\$300 per month, the last increase being a 20% increase, granted in April 2004.

Currently, the Ministry provides pensions in the amount of N\$494 540 000 annually to 137 365 persons, of whom 119 416 are old-age pensioners. We anticipate paying an additional N\$80 Million to about 5 000 new beneficiaries during the current Financial Year. Complementary to the above, the Ministry provides N\$2 000 Funeral Insurance Benefit for pensioners, introduced in 2001. It is not something one wants to mention, because when death visits a family it is death and it naturally has its own expenses as well. Sometimes we find households where there is a death in the family which results in people's sitting with folded arms, because there is practically no means to bury that deceased person. It might sound very trivial, but the fact is that there are some households who can hardly afford to bury their deceased. So, when you are availing a sum of N\$2 000, it is something that, even though we do not pride ourselves on this amount, it is something that really alleviates the plight of needy communities that many of us hail from. The N\$2 000 Funeral Benefit was introduced in 2001, which is expected to cost the Government during the current financial year N\$19 432 656. In addition, approximately N\$66 Million is paid out by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Welfare in maintenance and foster parent grants. This inevitably also alleviates, maybe to a smaller measure, the plight of the needy in our Country and to an extent, also contributes to alleviating poverty, which is the issue that we need to address.

I wish to inform this House that, just as increases were made in the past on the basis of the National Development Plan and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, provision has also been made in the new plan to increase the pension of the elderly

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in the 2007/2008 Financial Year. However, I am sure the Honourable Members will agree that modest increments in the old-age pension alone will not solve the massive problem of poverty facing our Nation.

As was stated by the Right Honourable Prime Minister (and I hope I am quoting my Prime Minister properly here) the political will to alleviate poverty is omni-present in our Government. However, on this occasion we must ask ourselves what we can do to refocus and re-prioritise our efforts to seek solutions, all of us. As part of my responsibility, at least for now, as Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, I shall undertake a thorough review of the provision of all social welfare grants administered by the said Ministry, in order to assess their levels and effectiveness, with a view to re-evaluation of the Government's social welfare policies, obviously together with the other Line Ministries.

At the same time, I should encourage this House to take its own non-partisan initiative to contribute to the solution of the greatest challenge facing our Nation: that is the problem of poverty in all of its dimensions. I would humbly suggest that this House mandates the relevant Standing Committee to look into this matter objectively and propose appropriate solutions. There is poverty; we cannot run away from it. We can talk about the increment of the pensions, but the bottom line situation is the poverty prevalent in our Country. Because I believe that a holistic approach to poverty alleviation is needed, and not a piecemeal approach, as advocated by the Honourable Omo, the President of the DTA, it is against this background that I cannot really see that I can support this Motion.

As elected leaders representing Namibian Nation in this House, irrespective of our political affiliations, we must at all times be guided by the aspirations of our people. This demands us to be united in our efforts to uplift the well-being of the masses of our people. Our future as a successful Nation depends on it.

We cannot continue with the very lopsided levels of the have-nots and the haves, and just keep on talking about things for the mere sake of talking about them. We have to be seen as elected leaders who are doing concrete and positive things to ameliorate the plight of our People, with the ultimate aim of improving their lives - and that is the bottom line.

I am sure that with the Grace of the good Lord, we, as the Land of the Brave, are equal to the challenges facing us.

Honourable Speaker, I should like to thank you for granting me the opportunity. I thank you.

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HON MUTORWA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister and I now give the Floor to Honourable Minister Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH NATIONAL SERVICE SPORT AND CULTURE: I should also like to participate in the Debate on the Motion moved by the Honourable Kaura. Once again here we are as elected representatives of the Namibian people, debating this important subject for the 'umpteenth' time. This Motion has always been brought by the Honourable Kaura, Leader of the DTA. Perhaps Honourable Kaura, in a way, deserves some commendations for not wavering in raising this issue consistently, constantly, *and* persistently. Unfortunately the Honourable Member will not get any political rewards, in terms of more votes regarding this particular matter, as the past elections have demonstrated. Perhaps Honourable Kaura is testing the saying in Afrikaans (consult Honourable Viljoen there) "*aanhouer wen*", meaning those who insist and persist may eventually triumph.

Many Honourable Members participated in the Debate, Honourable Speaker. If Honourable Buddy Wentworth was here, he would say the following: "*That all those from the Ruling Party made very constructive factual contributions, excellent, ten out of ten, but very few from the Opposition benches succeeded in doing so*", as many were simply talking to themselves or listening to their own music or dancing to the public gallery. Well, of course, that is not a transgression; we are here to speak. We have to speak to be heard by our Constituencies outside there.

However, once again, as the Right Honourable Prime Minister has eloquently stated yesterday, and other speakers too, it must be made abundantly clear that it is inconceivable to imagine that the SWAPO Party, the Ruling Party that has liberated this country from colonialism, from oppression, from apartheid, a party that was democratically elected and given a popular Mandate in 1989, in 1994, in 1999, but also last year in 2004, given a Mandate to govern this Country, in the best interest of all Namibians, irrespective of their political affiliation, will now all of a sudden reach that stage of irresponsibility and insensitivity to deny that there is a need for an increase of the old-age pension. We shall not reach that stage. Nobody has disputed that.

Surely, as other speakers, especially the Right Honourable Prime Minister, emphatically stated yesterday, when and if the financial resources permitted, surely adjustments were always made, can be made and will be considered in the future. However, for these adjustments to be made in terms of increasing, surely the Government does not really need to be reminded by the Honourable Leader of the DTA through a Motion.

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HON MUTORWA

I want to raise another issue, Comrade Speaker, related to the issue of old-age pension, which for me is very disturbing and is very serious: it has to do with the logistics and administration of paying out the monthly pensions to our senior citizens, by the company that has the Tender now. I am informed that this company is United Africa Group Paymasters. Many pensioners in our rural areas do not get their pensions on time owing to what staff of that company term, “technical problems”.

I can publicly state here that the photo and article on the front page of the *Namibian* newspaper of today, 12th October 2005, have in a convincing way graphically illustrated the point that I am making here. I was there myself on Monday, 10th October. Before the picture was taken I was there, and I saw the group of elderly people from early in the morning assembled, waiting to get their meagre pension.

Then when the staff arrived there is always a technical problem: the machine is not working. Now, that is not good. That is definitely not good. At Shitemo and other places in the Kavango Region last week many pensioners were left stranded, waiting from early morning until late in the evening, just to be told to go back and come back the next day. However, when they arrived the next day there were technical problems. That is very disturbing.

I think, as we are debating the possible increase, we should also make sure that those who are responsible for the administration of the pensions for the elderly should be empathic to the situation of the elderly people.

Hence, I think it is time that the senior managers of United Africa Group should come and publicly clarify the situation as to what is happening. They must ensure that this unacceptable situation is thoroughly, but urgently investigated and rectified. We cannot punish the elderly who, after all, travel long distances to the paying points, and I hope if action is taken by the responsible company *at least* for the elderly to get what is due to them on time, with empathy; I think this gesture will be appreciated.

Otherwise, as far as the Motion is concerned, we have never been arguing against the possible increase, but the motivations and the reasons advanced by the Mover of the Motion leave us with no option but to reject the Motion.

I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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

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**MOTION ON WATER CRISIS IN OPUWO
HON VENAANI**

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I adjourn the Debate to next week, Wednesday.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday next week. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE DIRE SITUATION AT OPUWO,
OWING TO THE DISCONNECTION OF WATER BY NAMWATER**

HON SPEAKER: When this Assembly adjourned yesterday under Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, this Motion was under discussion. Honourable Venaani had the Floor. I give the Floor to Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much. The Right Honourable Prime Minister, when he took part in this Debate, was acting as a 'Left' Honourable Prime Minister; according to him it is a DTA Tsunami. However, I think the actions of the Government at this point in time, as we are reading in the papers, are very welcome and we hope that the situation will be resolved.

On one score that I wanted to equate is the true fact that the town of Opuwo cannot generate enough money from business persons and many of those businesses are *Okapana* and *Okambashus*. Therefore, the statements that were made that the businesses are paying money to *NamWater* were also proven in today's media reports, that there is a problem and the Government is acknowledging it. For that matter, I would revert the Floor back to the Mover of the Motion to 'do his thing'.

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

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I will adjourn it to next week Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: This Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday next week. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day

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**MOTION ON CORRUPTION
HON VENAANI**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON CORRUPTION AND
ABUSE OF PUBLIC FUNDS AND ASSETS**

HON SPEAKER: When this House adjourned on Thursday, 6th October 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. Honourable Venaani deferred the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. When this Debate was adjourned we had the story of the former Head of State using a helicopter, and the Prime Minister during Question time replied, and said that because of the fact that the former Head of State went and saw some business people and other people, that was why he was allowed to use the helicopter. Yes, that is what you were saying. I want to say the following, Honourable Prime Minister: that it is important for the State to act in a way that is transparent. The very same Government came here with a Bill that we supported - that the former Head of State must have the following privileges and benefits. However, there was no mention of privileges when he goes and addresses party meetings, and the fact of the matter is, when the Government tries to justify the fact that when the former Head of State and the President of the Ruling Party goes and addresses a meeting with a State helicopter, if that act is justified, then we are sponsoring corruption. Our ethics would not be just and fair.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. I regret that Honourable Venaani decided last Thursday not to be here.

HON VENAANI: I was here.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER: Then you have to listen. I said, and listen very carefully: *“Because of under-utilisation of the Government air fleet, Cabinet decided that this air fleet should be made available to any private person who can afford to hire or charter any of these crafts, whether the Lear Jet, a helicopter or any other, the Falcon.”* You can charter it, if you can afford it. The problem with aircraft is that if you park it and it does not fly, it is depreciating. That is the problem. It must fly consistently. Therefore, it is there to be hired and I think Honourable Ben Ulenga is hiring it to go to the wedding of his brother. You are free to do so, sir, if you can afford. It was announced in the Cabinet decisions. Cabinet decisions are reflected in all the newspapers; just go there. It is true! Well, if you feel that I can tell an untruth to this House, then you are crazy. So, that decision is there. That is Number One.

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Number Two: Earlier this year when you approved the Budget, if you look at the Budget of Vote No. 01, Presidency, there is a Vote there for the Former President: N\$5 Million. That N\$5 Million include things like transport and other things. Do you remember? You were supposed to ask that Question. You were supposed to put in exclusions. You did not do that. So, you should not blame anybody but yourself. That is the information. Thank you.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, the information that we are receiving from the Head of Government in this House: that is our problem, that we should decide whether the ruling party SWAPO is an independent institution from the State, and that is why we receive party funding to finance our political activities. So, it is wrong to try to justify for a President of the Ruling Party to use taxpayers' funds to finance and foot the bill of the ruling party. And the more you continue to do so, I will blame you for State-sponsored corruption.

Honourable Speaker, it is agreed that corruption threatens economic growth, social development and the consolidation of Democracy.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, I took the Floor last week when my younger distant cousin used similar phrases: "*State-sponsored corruption.*" I think that is a very strong statement. I think maybe he may wish to find another way of putting what he wants to say. To say, Comrade Speaker, with all due respect, to say "*State-sponsored corruption*", if you interpret that word, sends a very wrong message.

HON GEINGOB: I am sorry, Honourable Venaani, I am told that the political parties are getting money from the State to campaign. Is that State-sponsored corruption? I thought the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said there was N\$5 Million voted for the Former President, and unless you can tell us it was meant for this specific purpose and not that, if he can use that to travel, as you are using your allowance from the State to campaign politically, what is the difference?

HON SPEAKER: Back to Honourable !Naruseb's point: Honourable Venaani, unless you can establish factually that there is something called "*State-sponsored*

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corruption” perhaps it is not correct to use that phraseology. So if you could change the sentence with your rich vocabulary in the English language.

HON VENAANI: I meant what I said, and to prove my point, Honourable Speaker to this House, I used the example: When our army went into DRC and obtained a diamond mine under August 26, mining diamonds, saying that “*No, we are covering and reimbursing for the expenses that we are spending in that country.*” What is that? If you are going into a foreign country, a Government goes into a foreign country and gets a mine in that country; it is State-sponsored corruption.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, on this particular issue of the Helicopter, the Leader of the Government Business in the House has explained that there is a Cabinet decision that allows for private Citizens, which should include the Former President, the President of the SWAPO Party, to hire that helicopter and to pay for it with the money provided. So, to that extent, that I take the words of the Prime Minister, there cannot be a case of ‘State-sponsored corruption’. So I would ask you to withdraw that. Just withdraw and then you can proceed.

HON VENAANI: Before I withdraw, I must say Honourable Speaker, it is a Rule of the House. Honourable Speaker, I do not want to argue with the Chair.

HON SPEAKER: What is allowed and as the Right Honourable Prime Minister explained for the benefit of the House and of the Public, on this particular issue of the Helicopter, the Helicopter was hired and it is going to be paid for personally out of the money made available to the former President, and it is therefore not correct for you, Honourable Member, to characterise that as “State-sponsored corruption.” So, that is what I want you to withdraw.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I withdraw, not because of my conviction. It is not my conviction.

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON SPEAKER: Question accepted.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Venaani, if you recall, when this Parliament discussed the package of the Founding President of this Country, the amount that was reached was based on specific sub-divisions. Was there any subdivision that included the hiring of a helicopter? The transport was spelled out in terms of cars. (Interjections) I am not finished. The other question...

Yes, the rest of the question - I am not finished - is: is my recollection correct that the package that we discussed and approved here was for the Founding President of Namibia and not for the President of SWAPO?

HON VENAANI: On both scores, Honourable Schimming-Chase, the crux of the matter is not because the former Head of State used the helicopter or hired the helicopter, the problem is that the taxpayers have to foot the SWAPO bill. That is the problem. That is party-sponsored corruption if it is not State-sponsored.

HON AMWEELO: On a Point of Order. Air transport, road transport, any transport means that that money meant for transport includes air transport. I thank you.

HON VENAANI: When you are a Minister or a Former Minister ...

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION:** On a Point of Information. The issue of corruption and the example that was given of the DRC is totally misplaced, because for Mr. Venaani's information, the American companies and the British companies and other European companies are currently operating, extracting oil in Iraq - business. Can you allow me to continue? The linkage of 26 August Company

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operating a mine or any business activity in the DRC, cannot be linked to the Namibian Government as it is a Tender process or whatever was done. It is like the British companies operating in Iraq. You cannot link it to the army and what and what, it is just like British and American companies operating in Iraq. And for that matter, for your information again, the United Nations has exonerated Namibia from those countries that pillaged things in the DRC. That is on record.

HON VENAANI: The Honourable Deputy Minister is a junior in coming to this House. I Moved a Motion some few years back, discussing about the situation in Iraq and I spoke of those companies as State-sponsored corruption, and when we went to the DRC it was the same thing.

The causes of corruption are mainly rooted in the political and economic conditions and policies of each country. Thus, political will is a key ingredient of an effective...

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order. I am terribly sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member, but for the respect of this August House, I should like to advise the Honourable Member that there was a Ruling already by the Presiding Officer. (Interjection) It is the same difference. No, I am not looking for a dialogue. So, I should like to advise the Honourable Presiding Member, if this persists, Rule 102 may be at your disposal.

HON SPEAKER: I hope I do not need to go there. I shall remind the Honourable Members to read the Rules from 101 down to what the Minister has just suggested. Those Rules are at the disposal of the Speaker, but I trust that the Honourable Venaani will use his good judgement. Continue, Honourable Member.

HON VENAANI: I do not believe in statements made by people, saying that the Government is corrupt, *per se*. Neither do I support the reaction of senior Government leaders, proclaiming them as if they are defending corruption in this Country. And there was a group called the '*cosa nostra*', in the United States, the Mafia. '*Cosa Nostra*' means 'our thing'. When Government Leaders are reacting in such funny ways when one is debating the issue of corruption in this Country, which is a serious problem in this Country, it reminds me of this 'Our way; it is our thing'; "*Cosa Nostra*: it is our thing.'

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So, I want Honourable Senior Colleagues of this Government, I do not support people who just make statements by saying the Government is corrupt, *per se*; it is not the Government that is corrupt, but there are individuals that are within the Government structures of this Country who are perpetrating corruption. Then corruption is not only affecting Namibia as a Country; even big international countries are also affected by corruption cases - Brazil, United States, anywhere. So, the attitude of our leaders is really disturbing.

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. May I ask the Honourable Member a Question? Is the Honourable Member aware that some of the Members who are involved in corruption in kind and are benefiting from corruption are uncomfortable? Therefore, it is painful for a Member to be silent.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I said that the political will ...

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: On a Point of Order: I, for one, would not accept to be labelled that I was protecting corruption, not at all, and reacting as a senior leader in this House in a funny way, protecting. I was just trying to rescue this House by using its own Rules, and that is why I mentioned it: this rule is talking about repetition, not about defending corruption or whatever - about repetition and about the Ruling of the Presiding Officer. That was all I did. So, I stand by my point. The young politician is trying to play that kind of trick.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, the young politician was just making a statement; there was no reference to the Honourable Reverend.

HON NAMBAHU: On a Point of Order. It was not really my intention to interrupt the Honourable Member, but when he started using some of the terms as if we are in Sicily, or you are talking about 'Cosa Nostra', everyone in the world knows who is identified with 'Cosa Nostra' and we are not yet at that stage where we can make these comparisons. (Interjections) I think I have the protection of the Chair.

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HON SPEAKER: Yes, you have the protection of the Chair.

HON NAMBAHU: You are talking about two issues: State corruption and sponsorship. If you do not know what you are talking about, then you are either inviting us to reject the Motion, because even the Mover of the Motion, if you agree that the Motion can be diluted like this, just say so, so that we can reject it right away. I cannot be associated with this.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, political will is the key ingredient of an effective, well-resourced anti-corruption strategy. The spirit of neo-liberal economies and liberal democratic politics has brought to the fore certain basic assumptions about the causes and opportunities for corruption, namely the monopoly power of officials, the degree of discretion that officials are permitted to exercise, and the degree to which Institutions are accountable and transparent, and I want to touch on the monopoly of power of officials.

We should vigorously double check the monopoly power of our Officials in this Country. I want to take the attention of this House slightly to the situation of immigrants in our Country. Of course, I believe that any citizen of the world is welcome in this Country. It is a very open society and we welcome each and every citizen of other countries to come and live here, as we live in other countries. However, the regulation and issuing of work permits and visas is a matter of great concern.

Currently we are seeing a great influx of our Asian brothers, especially from China, coming into this Country. Go to Omuthiya gwiipundi, Berseba, Okatjioruu: any village in this Country and you will see a Chinese vendor and trader, competing with the same Namibian traders. No, it is the monopoly power of officials. Now one wonders whether these officials who are issuing these work permits are really checking and double checking, whether these people are really qualifying to be in this Country and doing what they are doing in this Country, where you have work permits and visas in this Country.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. May I ask Honourable Venaani a Question? Honourable Venaani, are you not just talking for the sake of talking? You started to talk on a certain topic,

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a Motion on corruption. How does that one you are mentioning now fit in with corruption? How does that fit in? When we asked you said no. That's why I want you to clarify.

HON VENAANI: The causes and opportunities for corruption - it is one of the causes and opportunities for corruption, if you do not double check the monopoly power of your officials. If I have the power to issue a work permit and 3 000 people or Agents can come to me and tell me, "*Venaani, we are giving you N\$10 000; just issue this work permit*", without really double-checking whether this person qualifies to be in the Country and to come and do what he is doing. And of course, you know, when you go to these international countries, even our senior Government leaders at Airports, with diplomatic passports, are asked 110 questions, even if you are travelling with a diplomatic passport, because these people want to make sure whether you really have the right to be on that flight and to come into that country. One example is the Founding Prime Minister who was once telling me a little story about somebody calling his name at an airport. I do not know whether his name was not fully spelled or something and it was a big issue.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. The correct designation is not the 'Founding Prime Minister'. He is not the Founding Prime Minister, for the correct information. The correct information is - no, he does not want me to say it. (Laughter)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, the other issue that I want to raise is the degree of discretion. I think it is a very important one that we must really take into account. The degree of discretion that officials are permitted to exercise is the root problem in this Country: those discretionary powers are always overlapping.

Last week there was a big story over one of our CEOs who signed a deal of N\$60 Million. Yes, listen to the issue. The issue that I am raising is this overlapping discretionary power. Now, if you tell me a CEO of a company has the power to sign, for that matter N\$20 Million, on his own without a Board, then you are giving too much power in one person's hand. What is the job of the Board Members? What are they doing not to be involved? What are they paid for if they are not there to make sure? You know, N\$20 Million in our Country is a lot of money. You cannot just give that authority to one person to be able to sign a cheque of N\$20 Million on his own accord.

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HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Order. May I ask the Honourable Member a Question, please? Honourable Venaani, you are talking about the Asian brothers coming to this Country - Asian investors, let me put it that way. You are saying that there should be a double-checking. I understand that investors who are coming to this Country are double-checked by a committee consisting of the Ministry of Trade and Immigration before they are being given permission. Are you now trying to tell us that this structure does not exist or are you just coming in?

HON VENAANI: I do not want to make allegations, but what I am saying is that we need to double-check that area.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. I do not know now, because in our world we cannot talk about a person who is not a Member of this August House, like the CEO of the N\$50 Million, because he is not a Member of this House. Why are we talking about him?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I did not mention a particular name; I have used an example. Yes, I was talking about a CEO; it is public knowledge. I am talking about discretionary power. It is because of discretionary powers that the money was released from the Social Security Commission to go to him. Yes, it is discretionary power, which, if it goes unchecked, would become a very serious problem.

I was saying, before I was disturbed, it must be further stressed that too much involvement of the State in economic activities sometimes would be the root problem to corruption. We must remember that the State that tries to do everything will end up by achieving nothing. The State cannot decide who to get a Tender, who to head which Parastatal, who to be employed, from which region he must come from or tribe, or who to benefit from an empowerment deal.

The monopoly power that some of our officials possess needs some serious scrutiny in our Country. We are further reliably informed that this N\$60 Million deal was unauthorised; that the persons who received this Tender are senior Ruling Party Leaders. I want to say this and I am not making a political point out of it.

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It is wrong for the SWAPO Party, the Ruling Party of this Country, every person who wants to be involved in corrupt activities would use the card of SWAPO and the SWAPO name in order to get a deal. Yes! Some of them who are not even your party cadres will go to your party just to get a card in order to get a Tender, and as long as the Ruling Party is going to be used as a stepping stone to get a deal, the Ruling Party will find it very difficult to get out of corrupt practices in this Country.

Honourable Speaker, we have lost recently a whopping N\$1 Billion in the last month. All these deals were signed with political connections. You would hear that somebody would go to the Development Bank, get N\$40 Million loan without any security. I do not want to mention names. However, he is using the Government and the Ruling Party and the political connections in order to get this Tender.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Honourable Venaani, if you are hearing things somewhere, please do not bring them here, because now you are putting the name of the Development Bank into a bad light. It might be true; it might not be true. The best thing you can do is to ask a direct question so that the Bank can defend itself. Now you are making a statement and it might not have happened and the Bank is not here to defend itself. Please, make your points and not a story about the lending.

HON SPEAKER: Before I give you the Floor Honourable Venaani, Rule 102 says the following: *“After the Presiding Member has called the attention to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevancies or in repeating arguments, he/she may direct the Member to discontinue his or her speech.”* You are bordering on that. I have not ruled yet, but you are bordering on repeating yourself and bringing in irrelevancies.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Members, while corruption reduces the efficiency of present economic activities, its prevalence ...

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, I should like to take the Honourable Member back to when he mentioned about the visa issue, or permits, *et cetera*, that the responsible SWAPO Government has already announced its intentions of ridding itself of those Agencies, and I am also sure that most of them are part of the Opposition Party. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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HON VENAANI: Maybe the Honourable Minister was sleeping. While corruption reduces the efficiency of present economic activity, its prevalence arguably acts on the economic environment in far and insidious ways through the creation of significantly high levels of risk and uncertainty in economic transactions.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: On a Point of Information on gender equality. I think Honourable Venaani can withdraw the remark about sleeping. Withdraw that.

HON VENAANI: I withdraw that I said my mother was sleeping. My mother was just in a very silent moment. (Laughter)

These incentives actively deter economic activity in general and capital investment productiveness in particular. Uncertainty which can deter entrepreneurship and thereby restrain development is present both in the context of individual economic transactions and in terms of fears about future developments in the economic environment in question.

HON GEINGOB: May I ask the Honourable Member a Question? I was distracted when you were saying I told you something at the Airport. Can you please tell me what did I tell you?

HON VENAANI: I would be ruled Out of Order for repeating what I have said. Corruption stifles private initiative and enterprise and the kickbacks and commissions demanded may act as disincentives to investments by foreign and local entrepreneurs. Overseas countries may become cautious about risking investment in a Country, whose reputation for serious economic offences is growing. One concern in our Country is our Global Competitiveness Report rating by the World Economic Forum: we have dropped 11 places down and it is a matter of great concern and can affect our foreign direct investment negatively. Why do you want me to sit down if I speak about corruption?

All over the world national governments as well as international organisations are trying to create effective anti-corruption measures, for both Public and Private

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Sectors. These initiatives tend to have certain common elements: the reform of substantive programmes; changes in the structures of Government and new methods of ensuring accountability; changes in moral attitudes; and perhaps most importantly, involvement and support of Government, the Private Sector and the Civil Society.

However, anti-corruption Institutions, Regulations and Laws will remain ineffective, without the political impetus as well as the social will to make them effective.

Besides failing to acknowledge that corruption exists, where political will is lacking, the existence of Institutions to control corruption may be of no consequence if they lack independence, critical resources, public visibility and respect. Comparative experiences of anti-corruption clean-ups within previously authoritarian systems suggest that to be effective, they need to rank high on the National agenda and political leaders must be committed to do what has to be done to implement these Programmes.

Internationally, crimes such as fraud and corruption command a relatively small portion of criminal justice resources. Since these crimes are less visible and, therefore, a less apparent problem, the natural tendency is for Society to focus its investigating resources on certain issues where victims, witnesses and potential results are readily apparent. Investigations into corruption rarely fall into this category. However, considerable resources are needed to investigate corruption effectively and techniques capable of uncovering it must be developed and maintained.

If the criminal justice system is to control corruption effectively, improved training of Law enforcement and Judicial Personnel in this field is urgently needed.

In countries such as Mexico, Hong Kong and Singapore, it has been recognised that the scale and nature of anti-corruption activities require a special and well-resourced Institution or set of Institutions to complement normal Police activities. For example, Hong Kong's Independent Commission against Corruption follows a three-pronged approach: repression, investigation and prosecution. Prevention to aggressively eliminate situations which could lead to corruption are mainly the visas and work permits. You must always be able to eliminate a situation that can be able to lead to corruption. The last important one is Public education and mobilisation.

There are a number of other lessons to be learned from the Hong Kong experience. Firstly, in order to be effective, the investment in Institutions fighting corruption needs to be considerable. In 1994 the Independent Commission had 1 300 employees for a jurisdiction of just over 5 million people. An anti-corruption strategy which is

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under-staffed and under-resourced does more harm than good by raising unrealistic expectations of the Government's capacity to clean up corruption.

Second, there has to be a legislative provision which creates a duty to explain and evidential burden on a Government employee who is obviously living far beyond his or her means. That is very important.

There are a number of issues around the constitutionally acceptable wording of such provisions, but there are precedents.

Finally, in my experience, Public visibility and support is crucial to a successful campaign against corruption. The Hong Kong Commission relied on confidential, sometimes anonymous, reports from members of the Public to target some of its investigations. It also has four regional offices where citizens could go and report these activities. This type of secure Public access to the anti-corruption authority is essential, and the Hong Kong Commission receives more than 3 000 complaints a year, each of which was followed up and their corruption scale is going down.

In conclusion, if we have to fight corruption effectively, the following resolves must be taken into account:

1. a clear commitment by political leaders, all of us, to combat corruption wherever it occurs and to submit ourselves to scrutiny;
2. the primary emphasis on the prevention of future corruption and on changing systems;
3. the adoption of the comprehensive anti-corruption legislation (the one that we have), implemented by agencies of manifest integrity;
4. the identification of those Government activities, as well as Ministries most prone to corruption, and review of both substantive and administrative procedures;
5. a programme to ensure that salaries of Civil Servants and Political Leaders adequately reflect the responsibilities of their posts and are comparable to those in the Private Sector;
6. a study of legal and administrative remedies to be sure that they are an adequate deterrent;
7. the creation of partnerships within Government and Civil Society;

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8. efforts to make corruption a high-risk, low-profit undertaking.

With this I support the Motion and I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Mutorwa?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Speaker Sir, I am rising to request your kind permission and the concurrence of the Honourable House to postpone this Debate to next week, Wednesday, 19 October 2005.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Wednesday, 19th October 2005. That is the lot, scheduled for today. I ask the Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I suggest we adjourn the House until Tuesday, 18th. I do not see anything on the Order Paper.

HON SPEAKER: Before I rule on that, the Question and Answer part of the House is not secondary to the other business of the Chamber and the fact that there are no items on the Order Papers should not prevent the House from meeting. This is the only time that there is an active exchange between the Opposition and the Executive on matters of policy. However, I will use this time. I just want to say that as a standing consideration: Questions and Answers are not secondary to other business, and even if there are no other items on the Order Paper, and it is Thursday, we must meet.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, I concur with the Chair, but I would like to ask the Secretariat that next time when it is Wednesday you should also produce that paper with Questions, so that we know that there are Questions.

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HON SPEAKER: Until we clarify the matter, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 18th October 2005.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED AT UNTIL TUESDAY, 2005.10.18.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
18 OCTOBER 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

ANNOUNCEMENT ON TABLING OF BILLS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have two announcements to make. The first announcement is on the deadline for submission of Bills towards the end of the year.

All Members of Parliament and in particular Members from the Executive Branch of Government are kindly reminded that in terms of Rule 35(d), no Bills shall be tabled before the Assembly after 1st November each year, unless the Speaker considers the matter urgent in accordance with Rule 98. Rule 98 provides partly that “a Minister may declare in the House that the Bill is an urgent Bill, and on such a declaration the question that the Bill is an urgent Bill shall be put forthwith, provided that the presiding Member is satisfied that such a Motion is not a misuse of the Standing Orders or infringes on the rights of the minority.” Members are, therefore, kindly advised that there are approximately two weeks before the deadline and the Members are urged to submit Bills before the deadline, taking into consideration that the National Council must also review the Bills passed by the National Assembly.

BILLS CONFIRMED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The second announcement:

In terms of Rule 20(b) of the Speaker, I have been informed by the Honourable Chairman of the National Council, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution that the National Council has considered and confirmed the following Bills without amendments:

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BILLS CONFIRMED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL

1. Communal Land Reform Amendment Bill [B.10-2005].
2. Insolvency Amendment Bill [B.8-2005].

In terms of Article 75(3), I have referred these Bills to His Excellency the President, to deal with them under Articles 56 and 64 of the Namibian Constitution.

Any petitions? Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Yes, Honourable De Waal.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 38:

HON MOONGO: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, 27th October 2005, I shall ask the Honourable Minister Health and Social Services the following:

- (1) Can the Honourable Minister explain to the House why the bridging course for Junior Enrolled Nurses was suspended?
- (2) Is it not possible for the Ministry to allow those Enrolled Nurses not yet upgraded to Registered Nurses, to do the necessary training while in the employment of the Ministry and if not, why not?
- (3) What criteria are used to promote a Junior Enrolled Nurse on the salary scale 2BL1 to a Senior Enrolled Nurse on the scale 2BL3?
- (4) Does long service up to 20 years not play a role in this promotion?
- (5) Is it not possible for the Ministry to look into the salary scale of Junior Enrolled Nurses, in order to lessen the gap between them and Senior Enrolled Nurses, because they never have had any benefit from the WASCOM Report.
Thank you

QUESTION 39

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, 27th October 2005, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Defence the following:

According to the Companies Act, every company registered in terms of that Act must annually publish an Annual Report containing, amongst others, its audited Financial Statements. In the light of the above, when will August 26 Company publish its Annual Reports for the years 2000 to 2005?

QUESTION 40:

HON DE WAAL: I also give notice that on Thursday, 27th October 2005, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

- (1) To which private companies or individuals did the GIPF grant loans over the last five years, and what were the amounts involved in each case?
 - (2) How many of these loans were secured or guaranteed by Government?
 - (3) How many of these loans had to be written off either partially or wholly as bad debt?
 - (4) In the cases where loans had to be written off as bad debt, what are the names of the companies or individuals involved, and what were the amounts so written off?
 - (5) Who were the shareholders and directors of these companies, and which of these loans that were written off, were guaranteed by Government?
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QUESTION 41:

HON DE WAAL: I also give Notice, Madam Deputy Speaker, that on Thursday, 27th October 2005, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources the following:

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON DE WAAL**

- (1) What changes have taken in the shareholding of the companies, Fishcor, Seaflower and any subsidiaries during the last 24 months, and what was the rationale for these changes?
- (2) What was the cost of these changes to Fishcor, and who now owns what percentage of shares in the above companies and subsidiaries?
- (3) Who are the shareholders in the two companies Copemar and Seacope?
- (4) What was meant by the Managing Director of Fishcor when he declared that: “Mr. Shimameni was critical in Fishcor’s lobbying for a larger fishing quota?” Does this person have special powers at the Ministry to ensure bigger quotas?
- (5) Can the Honourable Minister assure this House that the companies, Fishcor and Seaflower and their subsidiaries are currently managed professionally, and in the best interest of its shareholders?

I thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the questions? Any further Notices of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the questions? Notice of Motions? Yes, Honourable Deputy Minister?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, 19th October 2005, I shall Move that this Assembly ratifies the International Plant Protection Convention.

I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

18 October 2005

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS
HON SMIT**

DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, 19th October 2005, I shall Move that this Assembly ratifies the Phyto- sanitary Convention for Africa.

I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE TO REVIEW
OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate to review our Educational System.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this debate was adjourned on Tuesday 11th October 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Mr Kaura. Honourable De Waal adjourned the debate and he now has the floor.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak on this very important matter that affects every one of us. I say this because the education of our Nation's children is something that impacts not only on the parents and families, but also on the economy and society as a whole. Small wonder that leaders of Government and Civil Society are starting more and more to appeal for a return to traditional values. It is, however, to be doubted whether the Churches alone will be able to make the difference we need to get our society back on track with regard to the general moral collapse we seem to be experiencing currently.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to share a few thoughts regarding Pre-Primary Education. I think we all accept the fact that until Independence fifteen years ago, a large part of our population did not have the benefit of education higher than about Grade 3 or 4. It is also universally accepted that such people would not remain

literate in the real sense of the word, once they left school. This means that a large part of our adult population today is actually functionally illiterate.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, think what it means for children born into a family where the adults are illiterate. The child spends its formative years between birth and the age of about 7 or 8, without the mental stimulation that will prepare him or her for the formal teaching that is supposed to take place in the Primary School. Such a child will not learn about shapes, colours, textures, depth, space and abstract ideas that are required to understand a subject like arithmetic and later, mathematics. Such a child will probably never see the written word in a newspaper or magazine, or study a picture and discuss it with a parent or sibling, before entering the formal schooling system. Honourable Deputy Speaker, such a child has an automatic disadvantage, when compared to the child from a literate background, who enters schools in Grade 1 already able to recognise shapes, colours, objects, and often even letters and numbers.

According to Grade 1 teachers I have spoken to, the first six months of Grade 1 are often spent teaching a certain section of a class about simple hygiene and acceptable behaviour and language, instead of how to read and write. Why am I making an issue of this, Honourable Deputy Speaker? It is simply to emphasise the importance of Pre-Primary Education for all our children. Because of our historical background this is absolutely necessary. It is not the fault of the parents that they are illiterate and unable to prepare their children for school. In the same way it is certainly not the fault of the children for not being prepared for school. But it is certainly to their great disadvantage and I doubt whether they will ever manage to catch up effectively. I am convinced that it will be a great step in the direction of cutting down on the very high drop-out and failure rates in the Primary Schools, if the money and the teachers could be found to install a Pre-Primary section at every Government Primary School in Namibia. It should be compulsory for all children to attend at least one year of Pre-Primary Education, preferably in the year immediately preceding their entry to Grade 1. This would put them on par with the children from a privileged background and allow them to gain the maximum benefit from the education they are entitled to receive.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, education does not only mean numbers, it also means quality. There is no point in boasting about how many children are accommodated in our Primary Schools if they are not learning anything worthwhile in those schools, and I fear that is what is happening at present. There is every reason to believe that children are no longer being taught the rudiments such as reading, writing and arithmetic, on which they will be able to build in the senior primary phase.

In fact, Honourable Deputy Speaker, with the large numbers of children being pushed into Primary School classrooms, teachers are unable to instil a sense of self discipline into their charges. Those who come from advantaged backgrounds quickly become bored, because the teacher must give most of his or her attention to those from a disadvantaged background. This leads to unruly behaviour. We all know how easily small children become restless and distracted. That in turn, leads to a breakdown in any effective teaching in a classroom.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I believe this is why we are seeing the high failure rate in our high schools as well. The children arrive in the Junior Secondary phase without ever having learned to sit still, listen and concentrate, mainly because of the situation I have sketched above. They have also failed to learn to write neatly and legibly, or to master real communication in English, mainly because their teachers have themselves not mastered this very important skill. Education cannot take place if the learner cannot understand either the teacher or the textbook and this seems to be a fairly common situation in our schools at present. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Education has a very important role to play in instilling the values needed by society, if it is to develop and prosper.

Teachers are universally accepted as taking on the role of parents during the many hours the children spend in the school environment. However, for these teachers to be able to provide children with the necessary guidance, they need the wholehearted support of the parental community, as well as the Ministry of Education.

I believe many of our teachers are today becoming part of the problem regarding the breakdown of discipline, simply because they have been demoralised. As I mentioned earlier, many children have little or no concept of self-discipline, which means they cannot sit still, listen or concentrate for longer than about ten minutes at a time. Teachers know they cannot take action against the handful of learners to be found in any school, who undermine the good behaviour needed for learning to take place. The long drawn-out system of disciplinary hearings, and written warnings required by the Ministry before a learner can be suspended, is often seen by the teaching fraternity as a total waste of time, because the learners themselves do not see any consequences to bad behaviour within a timeframe that makes sense to them. Apart from this, Honourable Deputy Speaker, suspending a learner for a few days or weeks is often seen as a desirable outcome to bad behaviour. In fact, a kind of extra holiday from boring schoolwork.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, parents are understandably reluctant to hear anything negative about their own children's behaviour. We are all like that. They seldom stop to think of the undermining influence they have on the authority of that teacher and they often, on principle, choose to take their child's part against any teacher who

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dares to reprimand and punish him or her. I firmly believe that all children want to learn, and want to have limits set within which they operate. I think our School System is failing Society as far as this is concerned.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there are so many areas in Education that require our urgent attention, that I could speak for hours, but instead I will confine myself to one other matter that I believe requires (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order, Honourable Secretary General

MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO: On a Point of Order. I am extremely sorry, it is not my intention to interrupt the Honourable Member, but I just wanted clarity. Can I ask a question? Honourable De Waal, I am listening very carefully. I just wanted to know whether the thesis that you are developing applies to both the Government schools and Private schools or only to Government schools. I just want to know, because we are talking about the whole system. Is the one better than the other one? I just wanted to know.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not have a lot of knowledge about Private schools, because my children are not in Private schools, they are in Government schools, unlike many of you sitting on that side of the House. But let me also say the following: I think the question of discipline refers to the whole country, it must also be experienced in the Private schools, but the Government schools have by far the majority of children, so that is where one can see it the best. But I do not want to make a distinction. I think Private schools might have the same problem, perhaps to a lesser extent.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there are so many areas in Education that require our urgent attention that I could speak for hours, but instead I will confine myself to one other matter, that I believe requires our urgent consideration. That is directing our young people into schooling that will be of some use to them in the future, and therefore also provide a return on our investment in them as a country. There are far too many children sitting in our secondary schools, trying desperately to achieve at least a Grade 10 Certificate, who would have been far better off turning their efforts to something more congenial to them than Life Science or Mathematics or Accounting or Physical Science. It is a fact that we do not all have the same

academic skills or interests. Some of us are blessed with an ability to be able to make things with our hands, or to do things with tools and machinery, while it must be left to others to do the theoretical or experimental work required at university or the polytechnic.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we can argue for weeks, but it is a fact that not all children will be academics. It is not possible, nowhere in the world. Why will we be an exception to the rule? We cannot all be academics, nor should we try to force everybody to acquire such academic knowledge to no purpose, and this seems to me what we are trying in Namibia today.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am a believer in so-called streaming. By this I mean children should write an aptitude test at the end of Grade 7 that will determine whether that child should continue in an academic school where subjects such as languages, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Accounting, Economics and Business Studies are taught, with the aim of leading to a tertiary education. Such a test will also show whether the child has an aptitude for more practical subjects, such as construction work, engineering, agriculture or anything in that direction. I just want to add to this, Honourable Deputy.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, an aptitude test on its own is not always the real answer. So, what we are proposing is that the children must go through an aptitude test, but after that there must be consultation with them, also with their parents, and if everybody agrees, let us rather take the child and send him to a Vocational Training facility. It is better that way than to push them all until Grade 10, and then throw thousands of them onto the street. Then they have nothing.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we must get away from the apartheid hangover that led us to believe that if you work with your hands you are inferior. You are not inferior if you work with your hands. Anyone who has ever needed the services of a plumber or an electrician will know that this is a fallacy, and that especially in a developing country like ours, we need these people desperately and should be doing everything possible to encourage our young people to aim for something other than a so-called white collar job. Everybody knows by now the saying that if you see a Cadillac in the street, you must know the owner is a plumber, and if you get an account for more than a thousand dollars for half-an-hour's work, you must know it is coming from a plumber. So, it is a well paid direction to go.

It is the downfall of our economy that everyone wants to be a boss, sitting in an air-conditioned office, using a computer, and no one wants to get out there and actually do the work. Honourable Deputy Speaker, as I said earlier, Education is the cornerstone of Namibia's development and therefore something drastic needs to be

done to reverse the rot that has set in since Independence. I am aware that the Ministry of Education has an ambitious reform programme going for which it is asking foreign donors for millions and millions of dollars. This is good, but Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am convinced that, once again, we are failing to see the wood for the trees. There are real, practical problems that can be solved in the foreseeable future, if we simply decide to bite the bullet. The DTA of Namibia has been proposing for the past ten years at least, that we recruit well-qualified English speaking teachers from our SADC neighbours to teach in our schools at all levels, on a contract basis, while we withdraw our own teachers and re-educate them for the new challenges that they are facing. I am convinced that the donor community will be willing to finance such a scheme, as it will produce tangible results within five years from its inception. Honourable Deputy Speaker, you cannot build a skyscraper if its foundations are not properly cast, and I believe this is what we are trying to do with regard to our children's education.

Let us determine to fix what is wrong from the bottom up and stop fiddling around with the system at various levels while ignoring the real problems which are actually pretty basic. Thank you, Madam Chair.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. I now recognise Honourable Katali.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you for the opportunity to add my voice to the Motion tabled by Honourable Kaura.

The Motion calls for the review of the Education System. It also calls for Grade 10 learners to repeat as from next year. The Motion deals with a very important National issue, since everybody is involved in Education in one way or another, whether directly or indirectly. We all here went through some kind of education and schooling. However, the manner in which this Motion has been tabled is one that I would like to question. It has now become a habit for Honourable Kaura to listen when people plan issues and then hijack them and bring them to this august House as if they were his own ideas. A few weeks ago, Honourable Kaura was accused of immorality, by trying to score political points with a section of vulnerable persons, the pensioners, which of course was not the first time he had done that. The Motion about water in Opuwo is one of the examples of what I am talking about. The Honourable Member may have heard that there are plans by NamWater to help the

town of Opuwo, and therefore he brought the Motion, in order to get credit for whatever is planned and implemented.

The Honourable Member knows very well that the Government, through the Ministry of Education, is busy looking into the quality of Education by reviewing the Education System. Why bring it to this august House, as if it is a new thing? Why does the Member look for credit which he does not deserve? The Honourable Member must bring fresh issues for discussion to this august House. What this House is supposed to discuss at this time, is the proposals that are already on the table, and not to suggest starting again with the exercise that was just completed.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, be that as it may, I mentioned earlier during the budget debate that to call the whole Education System catastrophic can be equated to a patient who tells the doctor, “my whole body is sick”. The doctor will have difficulties in treating and prescribing medicine for such a patient. There are so many, many factors and players in the Education System. You have parents, you have learners, you have teachers, inspectors of education, supportive staff, the Ministry of Education as a whole, and also other Ministries. If I had the whole day, I would talk about the roles played by each of these role players and those I have not mentioned, like directors, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and others.

It is therefore wise to pinpoint exactly where in the Education System the problem is, and start addressing it there. I do not find it possible to review everything within the Education System at one time.

You want to review the teachers’ recruitment, their training, you review the curriculum, you review the provision of materials. I do not believe that that is doable. Probably, this is because I do not believe that our whole Education System is so bad. If our Education System is regarded as bad, Honourable Kaura, I would like to know from what period it has become so bad. What do we say about those graduate youngsters, brilliant as they are, who are the products of the Education System that we would like to condemn?

It is of course said that the Education System should live up to the changing society, by continuing to improve. I tend to disagree with that. Why I disagree, Honourable Deputy Speaker is because I know for sure that there are some schools that are performing well in this country within the same Education System. I still need to be convinced, because those brilliant learners who are either at the universities or at other institutions of higher learning, went through exactly the same Education System and if we want to condemn the Education System which they went through, are we also condemning them or what are we trying to say here? I still maintain that schools are not and should not be expected to teach learners to be doctors or how to repair a

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car. Those are the responsibilities of other institutions, like employers and training institutions. They have the responsibility of training learners to become professionals. If that is the expectation that we have from our existing schools, then I agree that schools do not satisfy those expectations, simply because they were not established for that purpose.

Schools are there to make learners trainable by those who want to hire them or by institutions of higher learning that are specialised in training in different fields and professions. It is inconceivable for us to expect schools to be jacks of all trades, where each learner will come out of the school system at Grade 12 level, already a professional.

If that is what we are expecting from our schools, then I think we miss the point. That part of the Motion is, therefore, debatable and I am hesitant to support it, but rather support the existing action that the Ministry of Education has already taken.

Coming to the issue of Grade 10 learners, I know for sure that parents and learners are listening with keen interest to hear who is saying what to this part of the Motion. It is important then for us to tell them what the truth is in the Education Policy, and what is happening, why it is happening and why other things are not happening, even when they expect them to happen in a certain way. To start with, parents and learners want all Grade 10 learners who did not gain enough points in Grade 10 to be admitted to Grade 11, to repeat. That is natural because everyone wants his or her child to succeed in life.

It does not matter how strong and committed that child was during the whole year, when they do not make it, the cry starts for them to repeat. Of course, I take cognisance of slow learners, but that is a different issue altogether.

Before I say yes or no, let me first analyse the situation as I see it. Maybe we can do this by asking one question. Why do we want Grade 10 learners to repeat, Honourable Kaura? I will answer this for you. The answer is, because they did not gain enough points to go to the next grade. The next question that we may ask ourselves is, why did those learners not qualify, why did they not gain enough points?

HON MOONGO: How many times did you fail yourself?

DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Once.

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HON MOONGO: And you were allowed to repeat?

DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Yes.

HON MOONGO: Now you will not allow others to repeat?

DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Yes.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. It is a question. Thank you, Hon Katali, I am sorry to disturb your very enlightening speech, but I thought since you are asking questions there, I will ask you a small question. Are you aware of the fact that the reason why Namibia's soccer clubs never win any international game, is because they are expected to be given a second chance? Are you aware of that?

DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Right Hon Prime Minister. Yes, I think the Motion is really in line with second chances. Now, I was saying that to answer this question, there are many answers. Some will say it is because of the teachers; they are unqualified, they are not committed, they are not academically qualified, they do not have experience, they do not speak English well and all the rest. Some will come up with parents and inspectors. Some will say the learners are not committed, some will say there are no materials and there are so many reasons that one will actually get confused as to which is the real cause of the low quality of education, or the failure at Grade 10 level. That is probably why some people then tend to condemn the whole Education System, simply because of their failure to understand and pinpoint the specific area that may need attention to rectify the problem that is there.

Just to give you a hint, I have some statistics about the promotion rate for 2002 and 2003 from Grade 1 to Grade 11. The Grade 1's were promoted with 77%, Grade 2 - 84,4%; Grade 3 - 85,9%; Grade 4 - 84,7%%; Grade 5 - 73%. (You can see the drop there, I will explain later.) Grade 6 - 81%; Grade 7 - 77,5%; Grade 8 - 67,9% (another drop there) Grade 9 - 74,3%, Grade 10 - 51,8% (another drop) and Grade 11 - 94,4%.

You have noticed that there is a steady increase from Grades 1 to 4 and from Grades 5 to 6, from Grades 8 to 9 and from Grades 10 to 11. However, there is a decrease in Grade 5, Grade 8 and Grade 10. The decreases in Grade 5 and Grade 8 are justifiable, for the reason that there is a change in curriculum when the learners enter these two grades. These changes are, however, not significant with the exception of the drop at Grade 10 level.

Already one can see that two things can be true here. Either the examinations at Grade 10 level are too difficult or the examinations in the previous grades, Grades 8 and 9 are too easy. I would like to rule out the curriculum, which has no problem, for the simple reason that the curriculum for Grades 8, 9 and 10 is the same curriculum, and therefore if a learner could pass the examination and testing in Grades 8 and 9, there is no reason whatsoever, if there is no other problem, that a learner should fail at the end of Grade 10.

Therefore, I am proposing that we should investigate the examinations and testing in Grades 8 and 9, as compared to Grade 10. We may find something that will save us and Honourable Kaura, the mover.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, this brings me to the second level of the argument, that if there is a discrepancy in testing between Grade 10 and other levels, there should be someone responsible to eliminate such discrepancy before it affects the Grade 10 learners at the end of the Grade 10 level. I want to state with certainty that those schools where testing and examining in all grades, meaning Grades 8, 9 and 10, are the same, are the schools whose learners do not find it difficult to enter Grade 11, because they have been exposed to the same testing that they will face at the end of Grade 10 and therefore have no problem whatsoever. Now if this can be extended to other schools, I think we will solve the problem of the Grade 10 failures. I think Supervisors and Controllers are the culprits, and whoever is involved should now know that they are the ones who are causing the problem and they are the ones that caused this Motion to be tabled here in this august House by Honourable Kaura. Therefore, these Supervisors should actually go to the schools at the beginning and throughout the year, to ensure that there is no loophole for this thing to sneak away before they realise it.

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HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. May I ask the Deputy Minister a question? Is the Deputy Minister aware that teachers are pumping the students with SWAPO slogans and Vision 2030, which will never be questions in the examinations?

DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I am not aware of that, but when you talk of Vision 2030, I think those schools are commendable if they are teaching our learners about Vision 2030, because that is their livelihood. They have to understand where they are going. But as to the other part of your question, you must go and find the answer somewhere else. Honourable Kaura appealed to the House to pass a resolution for the Grade 10 learners to be allowed to repeat as from next year. He told us where he was teaching, somewhere in the United States I believe, and the difference between him and some of us here is that we know where the money for Education is being debated, and how it is being allocated.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. You should not talk about money and human mechanisms in the same breath as these are quite different issues. Separate the two. When you speak on one issue, stick to that one, do not mix the issues.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I think we must be able to forgive, while we are in the House. I was saying the difference between Honourable Kaura and some of us here is that we know where the money is being allocated in this House, and we know the schools for which this money is being allocated. So, we have the experience of those schools when we were teaching there, unlike the Honourable Member who was teaching in the United States, where he does not even know how and where the budget was being formulated.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Please, we do not want to hear about the United States Education System. We used to have a system here, and a good one. It was that one, where the production starts. Your one is where the crooked life started. I thank you.

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DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Chief, when I was talking about the United States, I was actually quoting Honourable Kaura when he was motivating. He told us that he was teaching there.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we know exactly the conditions in the schools that the Motion is all about. We experienced repetition by the learners before the current policy came into being. There could, therefore, be some sense in some of our arguments, if not all. For learners to repeat, Honourable Kaura, thorough planning is necessary. When I was listening to Omo Kaura motivating the Motion the other day, I looked up at the balcony and I thought Honourable Kaura was really capable of asking the journalists there to jump down, without actually having measured the distance from the balcony and their weight, in order to determine what would happen when they fell, whether they would be alive or dead. I am not sure whether Honourable Kaura knows how many learners are in Grade 10 this year.

HON KAURA: Even Jesus Christ did not jump from the temple in Jerusalem.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Let alone how many are in Grade 9 this year, let alone how many are likely to go to Grade 11, and how many will need to repeat Grade 10 next year?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Honourable Katali, may I ask you a question? Comrade Katali, are you aware that this Motion is raised to discourage learners from studying through NAMCOL, because currently we have many learners who fail Grade 10, but through NAMCOL they achieve higher marks and some even complete their degrees. As leaders, are we supposed to be discouraging instead of encouraging? I passed through, that is why I am here. Are you aware, Comrade that the aim is to kill NAMCOL?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Yes, Comrade Ekamba, I have the feeling that this is part of the agenda for this Motion to be tabled here, but I will come to NAMCOL and answer the question properly there.

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I was saying that Honourable Kaura never cared, before bringing the Motion, to calculate how many teachers will be needed, how many classrooms will be needed, how many textbooks, hostel accommodation and at what cost before he brought up his ambitious plan.

HON KAURA: Let them teach in the afternoon.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Deputy Speaker, before I say yes or no to the Motion of Grade 10 repeating next year, I want to ascertain a few things that may help me to agree or to differ with the mover. Using the projection in the absence of more recent figures, I was really shocked that in the Education System we do not have recent figures. The figures that are available are for 2002-2003, which are very old and may not help us here. That is why I am talking of projections. That is actually a concern that we need to look at in the Ministry of Education, so that we obtain figures and in the process analyse the statistics before it is too late, so that they are available when we are debating issues like this one.

The effect, if repetition is allowed, is as follows, in certain circumstances. Out of 31 648 Grade 10 learners who wrote Grade 10 in 2004, 16 387 were promoted to Grade 11 and 1 330 were allowed to repeat. That is why we are saying repetition has not been totally ruled out - there are circumstances where learners can repeat and here 1 330 were allowed to repeat.

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Is the Deputy Minister aware that the involvement of the teachers, who are not happy because of the increase in salaries, can affect the outcome of the exams?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker, money itself - it does not matter whether you give a teacher a million - may not improve the quality of Education. There are many other things that we should talk about and not money.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: On that note the House will rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:14
HOUSE RESUMES PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT AT 16:40

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we rose for refreshments, the Honourable Deputy Minister had the floor. I now give him the floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was saying that 13 931 learners were not allowed to repeat. If these learners were allowed to repeat, it would require an extra N\$56,7 million to cater (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: Go to the Agricultural Bank!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: And to create 390 class groups would translate into the need (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. You refuse to create workers, people who are supposed to become workers because of N\$57,8 million. That is the argument behind the scenes. The money is being squandered left and right, but to spend that money for education in order to let those people achieve their objective, you do not want to do.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chief. As I was saying, that would translate into the need for additional classrooms, a good number of teachers with their salaries and other benefits, teaching and learning materials for learners and teachers.

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The question that I have, Honourable Kaura is whether this is affordable next year, and whether it is sustainable in the long run? Is this not like jumping down from the balcony without knowing how you will land?

I am sure some of the Honourable Members would like to challenge me on where the 13 931 learners who were not allowed to repeat should go. Of course, NAMCOL is there. Some people hate NAMCOL, but those who went through NAMCOL can tell their stories. People are now saying that teachers give more attention to NAMCOL learners than those who are fulltime learners. This actually reminds me of the eighties in Japan. There was this thing called “extra lessons” where teachers could make extra money ...

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Comrade Deputy Speaker. May I ask my brother a question? Honourable Katali, are you aware that the people from Grade 10 who go to NAMCOL often return to school when they finish their examination. Are you aware of that? And what is wrong with that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Muharukua. Yes, this is the point that I am making, that those learners who went through NAMCOL are now at universities, they are now at institutions of higher learning. Therefore, I think we must be very careful, when we are trying to condemn an institution that is helping our children to further their education.

During the eighties in Japan there was this thing called “extra lessons”, and teachers were teaching after hours and during weekends. Those learners tended to do better, because those teachers were using the lessons to make money from anxious parents who wanted their children to pass. But this is an abuse of the system, this is not a normal situation.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, sorry to interrupt you, but you are giving very good statistics. Do you perhaps know how many of the 13 000 people that did not make it in Grade 10, are now enrolled at NAMCOL? Do you have any idea? Can you give us a figure of how many of the 13 000 are actually enrolled at NAMCOL?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Yes, in my statistics I have not collected the statistics for NAMCOL this year, but I can find it for you.

The issue of English can no longer be valid, as many of the teachers can at least express themselves better than when the policy was introduced. While it has been proven that learners do better in their mother tongue, a number of them do better in other subjects than in their mother tongue.

In conclusion, Comrade Deputy Speaker, there is no guarantee that these learners will pass the second or third time they repeat. The reason why learners pass at NAMCOL, Honourable Kaura, is because in the formal Education System they have nine subjects. If they go to NAMCOL, the number of subjects has been reduced and once that has been reduced, there is less workload for these learners and, therefore, they can pass better with fewer subjects than if you ask them to again repeat all nine subjects. You cannot overload someone who is struggling, you must lessen the workload. That is why they pass when they go to NAMCOL, because the subjects have been reduced from nine to three. They also get credit for the subjects in which they did well during their formal education. So, these are the things that we should tell our children, and not discourage them from going to NAMCOL to proceed with their education.

The problem of quality education will not be solved by allowing the learners to repeat, not even if we do it next year.

What we need is a System that is supervised, an Education System that is controlled, that is equitably funded and more importantly, an Education System that is manned by well- trained, academically qualified and committed teachers, together with responsible school managers and on top of that we need well-motivated learners for the Education System to flourish.

Let the Ministry of Education continue with their task to make learners pass their subjects at Grade 10 level, as they do at all other levels, by investigating the level of examinations and testing throughout the Junior Secondary Level, and then finally there is a need to expand the Senior Secondary Level, so that all those learners who pass Grade 10 will have a place in Grade 11 classes.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for listening to me.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I rise to air my honest view on the issue raised by Honourable Kaura, especially the last part concerning grade failures. But before I do so, I would like to put the record straight.

I think Honourable Kaura was too busy during the years before Independence with politics. I was involved in the System. You cannot tell me there was no school here, not in Okakarara, Augustineum, not Martin Luther, not Döbra where people were allowed to repeat. It is not true. What happened is, those children who repeated came, saying, “No, last year I was not in Grade 10, I was in Grade 8, can I repeat?” They were not allowed to repeat, so it is not quite true in those times. The only school where people could repeat was Shifidi School where Martha and I were teaching, and we allowed the children who were not allowed at other schools to come and attend school.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a point of Order, Comrade Deputy Speaker, can I ask the Honourable Comrade a question? Comrade Kaiyamo made a serious allegation. If what you have just told this Honourable House is truly a fact, why do you think the Honourable Member has gone to the extent of concocting this story that he has just told the Honourable House? What is the motive behind that?

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Kaura has his own motives, I do not know what it is.

HON MOONGO: You yourself repeated so many times.

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Kaura’s Motion touched on some very important and relevant issues, but as Honourable Viljoen said, some of those were not relevant, and I agree with him. I furthermore concur fully with Honourable Viljoen that there is no need to pass another law for Grade 10 failures.

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HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I wonder why you put yourself on the South Africa system footing, and also endorse the kind of system that existed in the past, and you are not even ashamed, saying “No, we have our own past.” That education was servitude education to teach you how to serve your boss and you compliment it? I thank you.

HON KAIYAMO: I furthermore concur fully with Honourable Viljoen that there is no need to pass another law for Grade 10 failures. All the required instruments are in place, as underscored by the Education Act of 2001 that took ten years to bring to this Parliament. There is a Council in place, an Education Forum is in place, school boards are in place and so on.

What is needed here is a collective approach towards the issue at hand, as not so long ago the Honourable Prime Minister reminded Honourable Kaura, to consult on issues of national importance, but he ignored the advice.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to approach the issue from the other side of the Namibian coin, not the Suidwester coin. I would like to touch on the role of the State, the role of Members of Parliament in Education, learners and the school, teachers and the school, parents and the school and the overall conclusion.

State’s role/Members of Parliament’s role in Education:

Depending on one point of departure, many or most refer to the SWAPO Party government as the People’s Government. I am pleased to have noted that Honourable Kaura referred to the SWAPO Party government as his government as well. Based on that, he therefore has a responsibility to drive the Education of this country hand-in-hand with his government within the framework of all the laws in place.

The education struggle, which I believe is still continuing, needs organised and co-ordinated action by all the stakeholders. And I believe Members of Parliament are important stakeholders, especially the Opposition who must see if what is agreed upon here in the House is in place throughout the country. They should see to the quality of teaching, the attitude and behaviour of teachers. They must know how schools are getting on. They must encourage the proper maintenance of schools, the preservation of buildings and promote a link between the community and the school parents.

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As you know, the SWAPO Party Government is doing all this, but we cannot do it alone. Parliamentarians should keep a constant eye on the progress.

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. Can I ask the Honourable Member a question? I would like to know whether your children are still attending school in Russia or are they also in Namibia?

HON KAIYAMO: I am a proud parent. All three my boys received University degrees in Namibia.

As you know, the SWAPO Government is doing all this, but we cannot do it alone. We need all the Parliamentarians, we need all the stakeholders to avoid the drop-out of learners, to talk to the parents and take part in meetings. They should not wait until the car overturns, as Honourable Viljoen said. We must ensure that that car is in good shape at all times. Education is for all of us.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order, I am not asking questions. We are not here to bring issues in here. I was in exile in Zambia, he was a student and I contributed what I could. We did not say this is SWAPO and this is what, I contributed, he is my witness. I did not talk about the roots you come from, I contributed what I had, not Owambos and Namas, I can name them. I thank you.

HON KAIYAMO: Let us talk about the learner and the school. “Die leerlinge moet ook hulle kant bring”, meaning the children should also play their part in this process. A student who fails because of poor attendance is wasting taxpayers’ money. Should we allow them to go on occupying places, when he or she fails owing to poor attendance, when we know for sure that the commitment among the majority of our learners is lacking?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, there are students who make no effort to study, sit passively in class, take no notes, do no homework and never read a book, let alone visit a library. There are enough of these students around our beautiful Republic. Such students have been causing the State to make useless sacrifices. “Their blood waters our freedom” should have a patriotic meaning for

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them. Should we invest in these students who constantly score low marks because of absenteeism?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, we must invest in fertile soil, in those who want to serve the people, who are willing to learn and those with the capacity to do so. We must invest in students whose school conduct demonstrates that they appreciate the value of Independence, who appreciate the sacrifices being made by their parents. We know what parents do for their children these days. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, this means we should invest in the diligent and disciplined students who work hard to score high marks and do their best to pass. Not on those whose school days are four, as Honourable Viljoen said, those students who think the school days in a week are four. We should not invest in those. Teachers should also play an important role. We are missing now “Meester, Juffrou, Meneer, Mitri”. These terms are missing, because those were committed teachers.

Teachers and the School:

The essence and role of a teacher is to serve as a role model for our children. Schools serve as a breeding grounds for the future of any country. Many present in this House know what I am talking about. The school is the place of work of learners, just as the factory in the capitalist mode of production is a workplace for workers.

HON KAURA: You cannot even teach in English.

HON KAIYAMO: It is not my mother tongue. A student has a task and responsibilities. He or she has standards and targets to achieve. Teachers must make learners realise those points.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the school is the unifying centre for the Nation. It is where that patriotic sensibility and the spirit of nationhood are forged and bred. Education does not only constitute mere teaching, but also the moulding of the personality and the worth of the student. He/she must know how to give expression to the personality of each pupil, and how to make the most of every child.

The reason why some fail is because some teachers see pupils only as numbers, number 2, number 3, number 4 in the class. Each student has a family, a particular

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house, a particular background. Teachers must be aware of these realities, to enable the learners to pass. The efforts of the school and the home should not contradict each other. Our society is still going through a transition period. It is a matter of teaching for change, and these students should not fail if all the stakeholders do their part. Let us remind teachers about this noble task and help them in fighting for better conditions of service.

Parents and the School:

The school is a fundamental battlefield and an essential element of education. But it is not the only one, the home is the second. Both elements have to join hands.

Parents are the first teachers to provide quality education. That is why some of us say “he did not drink tea”, “inatekulwa”, “keyarongua nawa koyawo”, meaning we are referring to those who are poorly brought up. This is one of the languages, meaning he is not “keyarongua nawa koyawo”, if you “ronga” him at your house, he will do better at school.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Can you show us somebody else with your example here?

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, some parents think their responsibility of educating their children ends when they go to school, when they drop their children at the gate of the school, sometimes late. Some parents have difficulties in monitoring their children’s behaviour at school. Many take notice of their children’s situation only when there are dramatic failure rates, when the car overturns with the child, not realising that such a situation results from their apathy towards their children’s education. They have to understand how the school operates, inform themselves about the teaching at school, about their books at school, about the tests of the child at school, how they do at school, who their teachers are, what they do after school, who their friends are.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, we cannot allow our Schools to be a dumping ground for bad boys and girls or other undisciplined learners.

In conclusion, a school cannot be orderly if the family is not orderly, and the student cannot study if all the stakeholders are not involved in this process. If all of us are

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involved, as I mentioned, then we will minimise the failure and the Motion that Comrade Kaura is supposed to bring to this House. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Shifeta

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I would like to add my views on this Motion after many teachers have spoken.

Statistics show that in 2003, school enrolment stood at more than 550 000 learners from Grades 1 to 12. At present, out of over 1 590 schools in Namibia, less than 105 are privately run schools, and most of these are state-aided schools. This mainly leaves the burden of Education to the State. The majority of these pupils are in primary education, almost 80% of the total enrolment. Out of close to 20 000 teachers in Education, around 16 000 of them are at primary schools. This means that the costs and most of the financing of Education in Namibia, go to Primary Education. It is so, because of the fact that Chapter 3 Article 20 of the Namibian Constitution makes Primary Education compulsory. Therefore, the Government is constitutionally obliged to provide Primary Education.

At Independence, the new Namibian Government inherited a System of Education that was racially biased and unequal in both governance and financing, as well as the quality of Education rendered to the different racial groups. Now that we have an integrated Education For All, our overall objectives and goals for the education and training as a Nation, should be to commit all Namibians to the provision of good quality education, and training to all children and adults through schools, tertiary and other learning institutions, so as to produce individuals with potential to contribute towards development. Furthermore, as a Nation opting for efficiency and effectiveness, we cherish in our educationists, teachers, youth and children the values of critical thinking, innovativeness, self-discipline, self-actualisation, consultation and involvement. These are based on the notion that Education remains the greatest recipe for any sort of development. It is a fundamental human right; it reinforces tolerance and peaceful co-existence. It is inextricably linked to socio-economic progress.

Based on the abovementioned, I accordingly concluded that Education is not only a process of acquiring numeric and literacy skills, but should also serve as an agent for

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socialisation. Our Education can be best if it has elements of reinforcing our appropriate values, norms and acceptable behaviour in our society.

Furthermore, I believe that Education is not only bringing a teacher and a learner together, but the quality of Education given is of vital importance. Any society should by all means strive collectively to improve the quality of its Education.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. That is the kind of honesty we would like to have here, to understand what they are talking about. We want to accommodate this Nation to a point, how they should behave in this House. That is the way it is supposed to be, straightforward, we can accommodate that. I thank him for that.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: And you thank him for that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, my Chief. This can only be realised by practically involving all sectors, more especially at the grassroots level. Namibia's general Basic Education System comprises of Primary, Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary Education. Pre-Primary Education does not form part of the state provision of education.

A general Education System should effectively facilitate students' learning with communities' involvement, and sincere partnership in line with our key aspiration of Vision 2030, which is to rapidly transform Namibia into an industrialised, high income and more equitable knowledge-based economy. I therefore believe that our overall goal of the general reform of Education is to accelerate economic growth and social development, eradicate poverty and social inequality, as well as to reduce youth unemployment.

Namibia's Education System is not bad, as perceived by some sections of our society. For the past 15 years of Independence, Namibia's Education System has undergone testing stages and experiments under difficult conditions. It is evident that in the past period of 15 years, the Government successfully implemented school integration as part of undoing the apartheid policy of separate development and provided physical facilities, qualified personnel and created a conducive learning environment to the previously marginalised schools and communities.

Any Education System should be responsive to the country's economic development needs, the goal being to prepare Namibia for the transition from a traditional agro-based economy to the industrial economy to which the country aspires, as stated in our Vision 2030.

As a means of achieving this, any reform of Education should aim at raising productivity through Education and Training, and through acquiring entrepreneurial, managerial and technological capabilities. Furthermore, as a developing economy, Namibia's Education System should aim primarily at providing a firm foundation, at the same time ably meeting the challenges of fully equipping skilled personnel with the ultimate aim of aligning our Education System more closely to the country's economic needs.

Since gaining its Independence, Namibia has made remarkable progress in ensuring that adequate educational facilities are made available to the entire population, but what is currently lacking is the partnership between schools and communities in the development of Education. An Education System cannot be static; it should be a developmental process through planning and gathering of ideas. However, it is worrisome that there is a growing tendency in Namibia to always offer criticism of Government, especially after every final examination result (Grades 10 and 12), but not participating in educational development throughout. The public ought to offer constructive criticism throughout the year, as part of shaping our Education System.

Early Childhood Development remains the individual communities' responsibility as of now. This means that the poor communities will be left with the problem of providing quality Early Childhood Development Programmes, while the rich communities will be able to create a good foundation for their Pre-Primary school children and prepare them well for entry into primary education. Pre-Primary schooling is essential, in preparing a child to undergo elementary education. It has, therefore, become extremely important for the Regional Councillors and Local Authorities to partly shoulder this responsibility and jointly co-ordinate the undertaking with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. The co-ordination is vital in order to have a uniform system and Early Childhood Development Programming, and render support to community-based initiatives in Early Childhood Development in order to level the quality of Pre-Primary Education.

The reason not to leave Pre-Primary Education Development Programming in private hands, is to undo the imbalances and unequal Early Childhood Development. This is based on the fact that Pre-Primary schooling is the foundation of a child's development and this requires a uniform regulation by the State. It is equally the responsibility of the Ministry of Education in collaboration with Regional Councils

and Local Authorities to ensure that all Pre-Primary schools are registered and teachers are provided with appropriate training for the Unified Early Childhood Development Programmes. Elementary education is a starting point for a child's introduction to the formal learning environment. It is a point where a child has to be well-prepared not to lose out on any form of teaching. It is a point where a child needs quality education but not, necessarily, quantity education. It is a point where the Nation has to embrace the fact that opportunities for learning and for physical and intellectual development should be equal for all children, despite different environments, different conditions and different infrastructural development of different schools. Extraordinary changes have taken place since Independence, from elementary, secondary to tertiary education. To fulfil this task, a bigger portion of Namibian resources had to be committed, in order to undo the past apartheid policy of separate development and to achieve Education for All.

I agree with the notion that lower primary and upper primary, though it takes up the bulk of the Ministry's budget, almost 80%, remain poorly equipped with facilities and qualified teachers. It is, however, not the wish of the Government to have more than 60% unqualified primary teachers, the majority of whom have never undergone a formal teaching training programme.

This is an historical problem, which we have to confront with vigour as a Nation. We have to accept that this remains a process which cannot be completed in a short period of time. The proposition as put forward by Honourable Kaura, to recruit teachers from the SADC neighbours, sounds good but it may not be practically possible as of now. It is so because by implication, the Honourable suggests that posts should be created in Education or, alternatively, to send some local teachers into retirement or else to retrench them to give way to SADC teachers to be recruited.

I once again disagree with that proposition, my reasons being that although lack of skilled and well-qualified teachers is one of the contributing factors to the learners' high failure rate in Namibia, it is not the main centre of the problem as of now.

Primary schooling is the level where the Nation has to place greater emphasis, if we are to expect a smooth flow of success in the next grades. Yes, I concede the notion that the majority of these children from former poorly-equipped schools, particularly in rural areas, enter secondary school level ill-prepared, and it makes it difficult for them to compete with others from well-equipped schools. This is still an historical fact which we have to face. Thus, the current challenge facing the Nation is to concentrate on the provision of qualified teachers with a good command of English as medium of instruction and other local languages. Equally, teachers should become mentors to their pupils rather than just educators and tutors.

MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order, may I ask my Colleague a question? Thank you very much. Honourable Colleague, you are making valid points in terms of the pass rate. My question is, today the COD is 100 percent absent. If you were to give them an exam and all of them fail, will you allow them to repeat? Thank you very much.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think I will not allow that as a responsible parent.

I agree partly with Honourable Kaura's proposition to select young Namibians to be sent to identified institutions, but I disagree with the recruitment of teachers from SADC countries. This seems to be a temporary solution with a lot of implications. As of now, we already have 400 student teachers in Zimbabwe, and by next year an additional 200 will be sent, while the first group of 200 who left in 2003 will be back in Namibia and deployed in Namibia. The challenge we are facing today is to calculate our projection well in order to anticipate an inevitable deficit in the teaching profession, for the following three reasons: 1. Teachers leaving the teaching profession; 2. Teachers lost due to HIV/AIDS and 3. More schools to be built for Grade 1 every year.

Secondary Education in Namibia's system is divided into two. Most of the teachers at the Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary level are qualified and better-equipped than at the primary level. At present statistics show that more than 70% of secondary school teachers are qualified and critical subjects, such as Mathematics and Natural Sciences are fairly saturated with qualified teachers.

The past two years' final examination results - 2003 and 2004 - are a clear demonstration that learners in both grades 10 and 12 have substantially improved their grading in Mathematics and Science subjects. This is an indication that the Government did well in training teachers in Mathematics and Science subjects. The suggestion of allowing repetition of all learners failing Grade 10 and Grade 12 as of now, with the current resources we have is not feasible. I think we would all like to see that happen, because the intention of denying repetition is not to punish those who failed. It is the resources that do not permit this repetition. As a result, alternatives have been created. Despite negative perceptions from some sections of our society, Namibia College of Open Learning remains a performing institution, providing a substantial improvement in students' performance every year. From an analytical point of view NAMCOL students' grading in both Grades 10 and 12 continue to show substantial improvement.

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NAMCOL provides a second chance to youths who missed a chance to enrol in formal schools owing to failure of grades or lack of space. At the moment NAMCOL takes up about 40 000 youths at different levels of educations. Therefore, it is not factual to brand NAMCOL as a waste.

I agree that we need skilled and well-qualified teachers, but the issue here is not about lack of qualified teachers as is being emphasised. The factor that contributes most to the non-performance of pupils is lack of discipline amongst the pupils and even among some teachers, as well as a lack of management capacity of some principals and heads of Department and the lack of public involvement in Education. This is the core of the problem. Most of the schools are not effectively managed in order to produce the set goals and some schools' managers lack public accountability. Let us admit this. Surprisingly, communities sometimes tolerate ill-discipline among pupils and teachers. In most cases ill-discipline takes (Intervention).

HON RIRUAKO: We have been talking and arguing with one another. This is straightforward and well-put and well-designed. It is how Government should be, not otherwise. That is the point. And you have to learn from that young man. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Member, thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Members, in most cases ill-discipline takes place with the full knowledge and in the presence of some community leaders without public hindrance or intervention. There are no Education Policies and Regulations that sanction bad conduct by learners and teachers, but despite this, misconduct continues to be a great concern to this Nation. For example, the use of intoxicating liquor or drug substances, vandalism of school property, learners ganging up to undertake criminal activities, disobeying of school rules and regulations. Teachers and pupils share alcoholic beverages in public. Under-age children are clearly allowed to purchase and consume alcohol despite the law which explicitly prohibits it.

This trend is more evident in towns and semi-towns. This is uncalled for and I think unless we unreservedly reinforce and enforce the existing Education Policies and

invoke Liquor Act No. 6 of 1998, Article 56, which prohibits the supply of alcoholic substances to under-age persons, learners' performance will continue to be poor and unbearable. Conduct of teachers and learners outside and on school premises should be acceptable, including dressing codes. Teachers having affairs, as was said here in the case study by Honourable Viljoen is another unacceptable form of behaviour. Teachers having affairs with learners can be one of the contributing factors to school indiscipline. All-in-all, teachers should observe acceptable behaviour on and outside school premises. It is commonly accepted that where there is a lack of discipline, in other words, where there is a lack of effective control and governance there will be no progress.

The Higher Education Act of 2001 has a provision for two bodies in collaboration with the public namely the National Advisory Council on Education and the Regional Education Forums. My findings are that apart from the National Advisory Council on Education, which has as its main function to advise the Minister, the Education Forums are either not functioning or do not exist at all in some Regions. It will be appropriate for political Office Bearers to monitor and supervise the functioning of these forums. It might be appropriate for Regional Governors to preside over their respective Regional Education Forums and assisted by their respective Regional Directors of Education, since this is an inter-sectoral body. It is a pity that some community leaders do not see Education Development as a priority. There is an urgent need to introduce an amendment, possibly to the Education Act of 2001, to provide for Constituency Education Forums and the monitoring and supervision thereof by political Office Bearers as well. In order for Education Development to attain its goals, community involvement and public-private partnership needs to be emphasised.

Education Forums are charged with the responsibility of critically analysing and examining matters pertaining to Education in their respective regions or constituencies. Education Forums have to critically examine the following for proper planning and effective management of schools: 1. Self-discipline. 2. Effective School Management. 3. Community involvement. 4. Commitment, accountability and responsibility. These are valuable and essential factors that can accelerate effective learning.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, finally, I would like to emphasise the following: Lack of self-discipline, effective School Management, accountability and responsibility as well as lack of public involvement in Education are at the centre of learners' high failure rate, and unless we admit this and enforce and reinforce existing Education Policies, Rules and Regulations and go further to invoke Liquor Act No. 6 of 1998, Article 6, this problem will persist, even if we find skilled and well-qualified teachers. I thank you.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Minister. I now recognise the Deputy Minister of Education, Honourable Ndjoze-Ojo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members. We at the Ministry of Education prepared a submission, which we intended to give to this House, but we did not want to anticipate the very interesting and wide-ranging input that we have received today, and the debate today has actually shown that Education For All in fact is education for more, and we value the contribution made on the floor of this House. It will enhance our submission and therefore I wish to adjourn the debate to tomorrow, when the Ministry of Education will address some of the issues raised here. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any objection to the Adjournment of the debate? Agreed to. Now I call on the Secretary to read the Second Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE TO DISCUSS BENEFITS OF
TRADITIONAL LEADERS COUNTRYWIDE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate to discuss benefits of Traditional Leaders countrywide.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 12th of October 2005, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo. The Honourable Kaura adjourned the Debate and he now has the floor. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I tender my apologies. I thought I adjourned it to Wednesday, but I will give it to other speakers to continue.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussions ? Yes, Honourable Tjihuiko?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity. Allow me first and foremost to thank Honourable “Elenga” Moongo for introducing a Motion that is so close to my heart, as an African, born and bred in Africa in general, and in Namibia in particular. Before the dawn of Independence, Namibian Traditional Leaders led the People through thick and thin. During the German Colonial era from 1884 to 1915 Hendrik Witbooi and Samuel Maharero were two of the indigenous leaders with totally different origins who dominated the history of Namibia, especially in Central Namibia. This situation led to the 1904 to 1908 German-Herero war. Last year, in 2004 we commemorated with pride, 100 years since the Herero-German war. This year we were invited to commemorate 100 years of the Nama-German war. This is an historical and clear proof that the Traditional Leaders have played a very significant role in the Independence struggle of this country. King Mandume was killed on the battlefield fighting the invading Portuguese in northern Namibia. The armed struggle that was led by the SWAPO Party was founded on a strong foundation like our Traditional Leaders. Leaders like King Mandume Nehale ya Mpingana, Samuel Maharero, Jan Jonker Afrikaner, Hosea Katjikururume Kutako and others, who played a major role in spearheading the struggle that led to the Independence of Namibia. The Traditional Leaders, therefore, need to be treated with the respect that they deserve. Most Traditional Leaders in Namibia are recognised under the Traditional Authority Act, No. 25 of 2000, except the Hereros. It is, indeed, very difficult for me to talk about (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to call the Honourable Member to order. He just said that the Traditional Leaders in this country are recognised under an Act of Parliament, but Herero Traditional Leaders are not so recognised and I think that that is inaccurate. It is misleading and it is highly provocative. It is provocative and undermines the unity of the Namibian people, and I have no doubt that the Honourable Member does not want to go on record, as engaging in this kind of instigative propaganda. Thank you.

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HON TJIHUIKO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chief, have a seat. Honourable Chief, have a seat. Proceed, Honourable Tjihuiko. There was no question, there was no withdrawal which was requested as I heard.

HON TJIHUIKO: I was saying Traditional Leaders therefore need to be treated with the respect that they reserve. Most of the Traditional Authorities in Namibia are recognised under the Traditional Authorities Act (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I request the Honourable Member to withdraw the words that Hereros are not recognised under the Act he mentioned, which is not true. He must not say something which is not factual. He must withdraw it. I need a withdrawal.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, it is a fact that there is no Herero Traditional Authority. I challenge anybody to stand up and say there is a Herero Traditional Authority. There are six Royal Houses. Consult your Act. There is no Herero Traditional Authority. The Ministers of Local Government and Housing is here, who is the leader of the Herero Traditional Authority in this country? I am not talking about the six Royal Houses, I am talking about Traditional Authority.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS RESETTLEMENT: On a point of order, may I ask the Honourable a question? When the Honourable Member claims that there is no recognised Herero Traditional Authority to which Traditional Authority is the Honourable equating the Herero Traditional Authority that is recognised?

HON TJIHUIKO: How many Ndonga Royal Houses are recognised? Royal House, I am not talking about Traditional Authorities. Read your Act. There is only one Ndonga Traditional Authority recognised in this country. How many Herero Traditional Authorities are recognised in this country?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member, I think if you are clear with our laws the Act does not mean a tribe. They do not mention anything about tribes, but they refer to Authorities. Therefore, there is no mention that the Subia Tribe is recognised, Chief is recognised. Like what, a Herero Chief should be recognised or Royal families, something like that. Not tribe, but they refer to authorities.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are talking about Traditional Authorities in accordance with the Act. If I have mentioned tribes, I withdraw that part. I am talking about Traditional Authorities in accordance with the Act and how many Herero Traditional Authorities are recognised. I am talking about Royal Houses.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I think the Honourable Member knows very well what he is trying to do, and what he is trying to do is to incite the Namibian people by making them believe that a certain ethnic group in this country is being marginalized, because their Traditional Leaders are not recognised in line with the provisions of the law. And I think that it is unacceptable that the Honourable Member should use the platform of this House to engage in that kind of dangerous propaganda. And I think that it is appropriate that the Honourable Member withdraw that statement, because he is trying to talk about the Ndonga Traditional Authorities. He is comparing pears with apples, because the Ndongas are a certain part of an ethnic group, and their leader is recognised as a Traditional Authority Leader who is elected according to the procedures as stipulated in that Act. And I know there are Herero-speaking Traditional Leaders who are recognised, because they complied fully with the provisions of the Act. There is no Owambo Traditional Leader, there is no Caprivi Traditional Leader, there is no Kavango Traditional Leader and I do not know why there should be a Herero Traditional Leader. There should be Traditional Leaders of Traditional Authorities as defined in the law, and he should withdraw what he said.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable TjiHuiko, I think for the sake of progress with your speech just withdraw and proceed. I am requesting you to do that, please.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, what should I withdraw?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Herero, their chiefs are not recognised.

HON TJIHUIKO: I just want to know what I should withdraw?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: On a point of order, Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Deputy Speaker, are you aware that those confusing issues were created by the former Government, Kaura's Government, who appointed people and called them Chiefs during that time?

And therefore they misled even the new Government as to who to recognise, whether it is the Chiefs or the Traditional Leaders, it was caused by Kaura's Government.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, proceed, Honourable Tjiuiko. Honourable Kaura, just hold on. Honourable Kaura, let him start, then you can rise.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am seriously amazed (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: What point are you rising on?

HON KAURA: On the fact that Act 17 of 1995, the Traditional Authority Act, 17 of 1995 as amended in 2000, was my Government's Act. It was the Namibian Republic's Act, not my Government's Act.

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HON RIRUAKO: There is confusion on this point. A Traditional Authority is not a Royal House. Kauluma is a Traditional Leader, the Ndonga Authority. Even though we are here he knows what I am saying and what we are saying. He does not have anything to defend, he knows. Do you know why he stood up earlier, he stood up because he does not know as a layman, but the lawyer knows what he is talking about. A layman (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

HON RIRUAKO: The person is speaking here. But the man who knows law he knows what he meant by that. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to advise you to stop referring to one tribe. Chief, you are not Honourable TjiHuiko. The Herero tribe only which you are referring to, maybe you could just make your speech in a normal way.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not want you to invoke Article 102 and rule me out of order. What I am trying to say is that I am not sure whether I am not interpreting the law correctly, but (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL: On a Point of Information, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Namibia has various ethnic groups, Owambos, Hereros, Kavangos, you name them, we know them. The law that the Honourable Member is referring to does not recognise tribes and this is what I think the Honourable Minister of Finance was trying to explain to the House. There is no law in this country recognising tribes. If there was such a law, then he could have one Traditional Authority recognising (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, order, order, Chief.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL: But the law recognises one tribe. That is your own making. How many tribes are the Hereros? Honourable Deputy Speaker, what I am trying to explain, before the gentleman extends the issue into tribalism, is that the law recognises the authorities, as they are recognised by their communities, and every authority has a territory which it controls. The Ndongas, the Kwanyamas, the Ngandjeras and all the others, have a territory. Now the Herero authorities you are claiming, where is the territory that you would like to be recognised? And where is that Ombara of the authority you are talking about? We know where the Ombaras are.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, I am requesting you to withdraw the words, saying Hereros are excluded from Traditional Authorities, for the sake of progress. Do not instigate, Honourable Kaura. Please, just for the sake of progress.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I think there is a misunderstanding about what I have said.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are two points of Order, therefore I cannot allow any of you. Please proceed, Honourable Tjiuiko. Yes, Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Tjiuiko, in the Act, the Traditional Authority Act, in defining what a Traditional Authority or a Traditional Community is, does it not say the Traditional Community consists of people who occupy the same traditional area, originate from the same exogenous clans, speak the same language and share the same history? If they speak the same language the members of the Traditional Community you are talking about, what language do they speak?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Tjiuiko. Remember my request, please, to avoid this unbecoming problem which (Inaudible)

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was saying that the (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Yes, continue, Honourable Member.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
On a Point of Order, to seek for clarity, Honourable Deputy Speaker, according to our rules, you have requested the Honourable Member more than four times to withdraw a statement he made. Is it possible under these circumstances that the Presiding Officer could invoke Rule 102 for us to be able to progress? I so Move that you invoke Rule 102.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, proceed. You remember what I have said to you, you have to withdraw the exclusion of the Hereros from the Traditional Authority Act. Please, for the sake of progress. Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I honestly do not want to interfere or interrupt the Honourable Member, but if he could adhere to your request, you are calling it softly before you could use the other word, and then for him to continue would be advisable, because as the Motion stands, I also fail to understand whether it is addressing any aspect of recognition or non-recognition. This Motion is about something quite different in my understanding. Therefore there is a double reason for the Honourable Member to withdraw the remark he made in passing or whatever and proceed with what he wants to say about the Motion as it stands, rather than him denying himself by not doing so and saying what he ought to say about the Motion as it stands. The Motion is not about recognition or non-recognition. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Honourable Tjihuiko, you remember that last week you asked the same question which the Minister is going to answer about the Herero Chiefs. Are you aware of that? You asked the same question and now you are bringing it up in your speech and

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you have not yet received your answer. Now that is what I ask you to withdraw. Chief, you are not Honourable Tjihuiko. Just withdraw and proceed.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, with this I would come to terms with the recommendation. Now I just want to know which words should I withdraw?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The sentence which says, all Hereros are excluded. It is there in your speech.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, that is why I wanted to repeat my words so that I can be clear on which ones I should withdraw. Honourable Deputy Speaker, what you are saying and what I have read is not the same thing. If I can be allowed to repeat and be properly advised about what I should withdraw, I will withdraw with no conditions, because I do not know which one I should withdraw now. The whole statement or which one?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: That specific clause which I have mentioned here. It is clear. Not the whole paragraph.

HON TJIHUIKO: That is the one that says that, except the Hereros, is that the one?

HON TJIHUIKO: Okay, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I withdraw that one.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Please proceed.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Yes, Honourable Chief?

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HON RIRUAKO: The truth remains the truth, that is how it is, it is something that cannot be changed.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Tjihuiko

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. It is indeed very difficult for me to talk about salaries of Traditional leaders such as the salary increases or the five thousand that Honourable Moongo was talking about. Now despite an Act of Parliament passed in this august House and enshrined in our Constitution, Article 8 (a) and (b) of our Constitution has been denied to some. Our right to have a recognised, a supreme Herero Traditional Authority, no, no, no.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Yes, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I do not know whether I should say point of explanation, or maybe, information. I wish one could have a lengthy explanation about the whole problem we are facing with the Herero Chiefs and these types of things. It was brought upon them by themselves. When we started the whole exercise of the Traditional Leaders, the Hereros unfortunately were divided. Yes, I talked to you so many times, Honourable Chief. I am explaining this whole thing. I was always discussing with Chief. This is the reason why there is a problem that I was always discussing with the Chief. I said, Chief, please let us get together. Let us make one group. But he refused. This is why these problems exist. But I do not want to make a speech.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, that Point of Order can not go together with a Point of Order. Proceed, Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, if I can be allowed to continue. If one looks at the Act, the Traditional Authority Act of 2000.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chief, you do not have the floor. If you want to have the floor, you can rise and make your own contribution. Now you are presiding over that side. Yes, proceed, Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, if you look at the Act of 2000, let me give you an example, it says Owambo Traditional Authority. Then Ondonga Traditional Authority. So what is the problem? Why is it so painful? Why is it so sensitive to the Colleagues if one mentions the word 'Herero'? Go and get the Act. Read the Act. What is wrong with me referring to the word 'Herero'? Is that a crime? Oh sorry, sorry. I withdraw it again, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed. Order. Order, Members. Honourable Tjihuiko, have a seat. If you see that Honourable Tjihuiko has made a mistake or is giving wrong information you have got the right to contribute. You cannot attack one another back and forth. That should not be done. You see? Kick him in the foot. Proceed, Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, if I may try to continue. I was saying our right to have a Traditional Authority or their right to have a Traditional Authority, (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order, but there are two Points of Order and I can only allow one

HON TJIHUIKO: May I continue?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there is a point of order. Yes, Honourable Nambinga.

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HON NAMBINGA: On a point of order, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Perhaps the Colleague has a point, but I am just afraid that things are now being mixed. I thought we were dealing with the Motion on the benefits of the Traditional Leaders. I would suggest in all honesty, if the Colleague could tender a Motion on the recognition and non-recognition of Traditional leaders, then we would have a subject to discuss. Otherwise, Comrade Speaker, this is confusing. I am not saying the issue is irrelevant. I am saying perhaps this is not an appropriate time. The timing is definitely wrong.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Members, stick to the point, stick to the Motion. Please, address the Motion.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the topic is very relevant.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: But recognition is not involved in the money.

HON TJIHUIKO: We are talking about an the increase in the salaries and wages of Traditional Leaders. We are talking about the benefits of the Traditional Leaders. Somebody is sitting there without a recognised authority.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: But how could it fit in this Motion?

HON TJIHUIKO: What I am trying to get at, Honourable Deputy Speaker, if I may, is a question of bread, you want to eat bread. So there is no bread on the table. This is what I am going to talk about. But what I am saying is that there is no bread on my table. This is what I am saying.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now it does not matter. Recognition and the benefits themselves are two different things here.

HON TJIHUIKO: What I am saying, Honourable Deputy Speaker is that while the others who have recognised Traditional Authorities speak about the increase of salaries of the Traditional leaders. Those who do not have it can be excused or what are you trying to propose to me?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: What I am trying to propose to you, is that you come up with the Motion for the Traditional Authority to be recognised, which is a different topic. If you mix them you face a problem. Please stick to the money, the increase. Proceed. No, I am not going to allow you talk about the recognition of Chiefs now. Proceed with the money. You can adjourn the debate and go and rewrite your speech.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, there is still five minutes left. I would have loved to have our House conducted in such a way that Members are allowed to say what they want to say unless they violate the rules, when they can be called to order. And then thereafter if there is a disagreement it should be for each and every Member to stand up and counter or challenge that disagreement. This House is a House where people are supposed to speak freely, but not violate the rules. They are supposed to say what they have to say, Members have to listen and take their opportunity to counter what has been said that they do not agree with. And now, Honourable Deputy Speaker, to put yourself into a situation, where when the same principle is being violated by somebody else, you will find it difficult to rule contrary to what you are ruling now. So my proposal is that we allow the Member to speak. Maybe the picture will become clearer once he has spoken, and then those who disagree will take the moment later and shoot him down or whatever. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Amathila. I mentioned that, and Comrade Amathila is speaking the truth. If he happens to address issues which are not connected to the topic, where will we go? Where will we end up? If we do not guide it into the line where the Motion is about the benefit of Chiefs, then we go to the recognition of chiefs. It will not match. That is my difficulty here. That is why we are guided by this book. Proceed, Honourable Member.

HON TJIHUIKO: Can I now continue, Honourable Deputy Speaker? Now I have to start again. Traditional Leaders therefore need to be treated with the respect that they deserve. Most Traditional Authorities in Namibia are recognised under the Traditional Authorities Act, 25 of 2000, except some of them that are not yet recognised. Now despite the Act of Parliament passed in this august House, the fundamental rights of those who have not been recognised as enshrined in Article 8 (a) and (b) of our Constitution has been denied to them.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think most of you who have been Members of this august House will know that I am not of that type that likes to go against somebody or deny somebody to say whatever he or she has to say. But I am also not prepared to be party to a situation where we are contravening our own rules. A Member has to address the relevant issues of the Motion as it stands. This Motion does not talk about recognition or non-recognition. This Motion speaks about benefits for Traditional Leaders that are lacking or that are missing, whatever the case is. So as long as we talk about those who are not recognised, then we are talking about something different. So if we allow this we are bordering on what Honourable Member Amathila was warning against. If in another Motion somebody would again talk about irrelevancies, how do you rule then, if you allow it today? That is my point and that is my difficulty. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your advice.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the topic is very relevant. If we are talking about payment of Chiefs, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I say that our rights

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to have a recognised supreme Traditional Authority for that specific community, are being trampled upon for reasons unknown to us.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, on that note we follow the Rule 90 (a) for automatic adjournment. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30 sharp.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED UNTIL WEDNESDAY 2005.10.19

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WINDHOEK
19 OCTOBER 2005**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petition? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Any other Reports and Papers, Notices of Questions? Yes, Honourable Moongo?

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 42:

HON MOONGO: Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of October 2005 I shall ask the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare:

- 1 Is the Minister aware that “work for equal value” on any employment policy or practice which is not aimed at advancing previous disadvantaged persons in the labour field, were regarded as unfair and victimised cheap workers? The case in point is *SWANLA*, which was terminated. Workers of *APS* in a beverage company in Oshakati earn N\$3-42 per kilometre covered. A truck helper earns N\$0-28 per case handled. Bottle sorters earn N\$0-07 per case sorted and case packers earn N\$0-06 per case packed.
2. Can the Minister agree or deny that the rates paid to these workers are not sufficient?
4. What are the working commission on the benefits of these workers? When is the company going to pay its workers according to the stipulations of the Labour Act?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member Table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Honourable Mudge?

QUESTION 43:

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, 27th of October I shall put the following questions to the Minister of Finance on a report from the *Republikein* newspaper of today. It seems as if *Air Namibia* is once again in serious financial trouble. My question is:

1. Is Air Namibia in serious financial trouble, and if so, why?
2. If this is indeed the case, I want to know from the Honourable Minister whether she was aware of the fact that the situation at *Air Namibia* was worsening instead of improving.
3. If the Honourable Minister was indeed aware of this, did she in fact inform Cabinet, and when did she inform Cabinet about the fact that *Air Namibia* was in trouble, and that the amount of N\$160 000-00 budgeted could prove not to be sufficient?
4. When was the last meeting of the Technical Committee who was responsible for the turn-around plan of Air Namibia?
5. Can the Honourable Minister provide this House with the names of the Board Members of Air Namibia, as well as the Managing Director and his Senior Management Staff and indicate the business and/or airline experience of every respective member?
6. Did the Board suggest any measures to avoid the current situation and if so, when was it done and what were the recommendations?
7. If it is true what Mr Hjarunguru said that both Mr Riedel and Mr Compion have made valuable contributions to implement the business plan to turn the airline around in 2002, then why was the current MD appointed instead of Mr Riedel, and why was Mr Compion's resignation accepted?
8. Lastly, is it true that Mr Hjarunguru said that Mr Compion as well as Mr Riedel had the full support of Cabinet to make the turn-around plan work or were certain proposals vetoed by Cabinet?

I so Move.

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RATIFICATION: PHYTO-SANITARY CONVENTION

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would the Honourable Member Table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

The first Notice of a Motion is the one by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion. Who seconds the Motion? Yes. Any objections? Agreed to.

RATIFICATION: PHYTO-SANITARY CONVENTION FOR AFRICA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Fellow Members, the purpose of this Motion is to brief Parliament on a Phyto-sanitary Convention for Africa and introduce the Motion for the ratification thereof. Major achievements have been made to increase agricultural production in Africa during the last decades. However, Africa is still lagging behind other regions in the world in terms of the capital agriculture production and trade.

Weak capacities of the majority of National plant protection and quarantine services in Africa, coupled with the ongoing process to liberalise African economies and to increase trade and in the absence of adequate plant protection and quarantine measures, have led to increased threats of pests introductions and spreads. Plant protection in Africa is visualised as an instrument that can provide substantially towards the sustainable development of agriculture until 2020. Through this Vision three basic elements in African agriculture can be brought to bear:

- Sufficient food and feed where satisfying quality is available at any point in time for the entire population of the African continent.
- African agricultural exports increase and meet world market standards at competitive prices.
- And thirdly, environmentally acceptable plant protection policies and practices which is safe for human health, and which do not impede trade and/or exchange in plant and plant products.

The AEU Charter has requested for the co-ordination, harmonisation and identification of plant health matters as outlined in document ESCHC/18. This proposal was discussed by the Council of Ministers during the 9th Ordinary Session in Kinshasa, Congo, from the 4th to the 12th of September 1967. The main aim of the

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Convention was that, if correctly applied, it would ensure that plant diseases which are in Africa can be controlled and eliminated, and that new diseases are not introduced into Africa - thus helping to increase the economic and food returns from plants. Heads of States recognise that the co-operation amongst the African states in controlling pests and diseases of plants, the plant products and in preventing their introduction and spread across National borders would be a vital contribution towards the realisation of stronger solidarity amongst their people. Heads of States further recognise the usefulness of the International Co-operation provided for in the International Plant Protection Convention and the needs for co-ordination of activities in this field.

The purposes of the Convention are to ensure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote measures for its control. The application is much wider than the protection of cultivated plants.

The scope of the Convention extends to the protection of natural fauna and flora and plant products. It includes both direct and indirect damage by pests including weeds. The provision extends to cover conveyances, containers and storage places, soil and other objects capable of harbouring plant pests.

The aim and objective of the *Phyto-sanitary Convention* for Africa are in line with the development objective of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry also recognises the usefulness of the co-operation, and complementary provided by the *Phyto-sanitary Convention* for Africa with the International Plant Protection Convention, as established under the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. As a member of the World Trade Organisation of the United Nations, Namibia must adhere to the provisions of the WTO/SPS Agreements.

The benefit to be gained by exceeding and ratifying the *Phyto-sanitary Convention* for Africa are enormous. This would also allow Namibia, amongst others, to access and benefit from scientific expertise within the African Continent. Although adopted by the Heads of States before Independence of Namibia, it is recommended that accession and ratification of the *Phyto-sanitary Convention* for Africa be done simultaneously and the instrument be deposited with the Commission of the African Union.

Honourable Speaker, with these few concluding remarks I believe that the House will support the Convention and that they will approve it. Thank you very much.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. Any further discussions, Honourable Members? I see no further discussions. Does the Honourable Deputy Minister wish to reply?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I want to thank the House for the support of the Convention. I believe it is to the benefit of our Nation and our Continent to apply the rules and to adhere to the rules of preventing the spreading of plant pests and plant product pests in our Continent. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now put the question that the Motion be adopted. Any objections? Agreed. The second Notice of a Motion is again by Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Does the Honourable Deputy Minister Move the Motion?

**RATIFICATION: INTERNATIONAL PLANT
PROTECTION CONVENTION**

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objections? Agreed to. The Honourable Deputy Minister has the floor again.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members - accession and ratification of Legal Instruments International Plant Protection Convention. The purpose of this Motion is once again to brief Parliament on the International Plant Protection Convention and to introduce a Motion for the accession and ratification thereof. The IPPC is an international treaty related to plant health. In the year 2003 some 153 Governments were contracting parties. The Convention has been deposited

with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations since its initial adoption by the FAO Conference in 1951. It came into force in 1952. The IPPC was revised in 1979 and the amendments came into force in 1991. It was further amended in 1997 and the new wording is currently awaiting acceptance by member countries.

The purpose of the IPPC is to ensure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plant and plant products and to promote measures for their control. The Convention provides the framework and forum for International co-operation, harmonisation and technical exchange between contracting parties dedicated to these goals. Its implementation involves the collaboration of National Plant Protection Organisations or NPPOs, which are the official services established by Governments to discharge the functions specifically by the IPPC and Regional Plant Protection Organisations, or RPPO's, which may function or co-ordinate at a regional level for participation and for activities to achieve the objectives of the IPPC.

The purposes of the Convention are to ensure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests to plants and plant products, and to promote measures for their control. The application is much wider than the protection of cultivated plants. The scope of the Convention extends to the protection of natural fauna and flora on plant products. It includes both direct and indirect damage by pests.

The provision extends to cover conveyances, containers, storage places, soils and other objects capable for harbouring plant pests.

In agreement to the rights and obligations of the Convention, contracting parties accept certain principles of phyto-sanitary measures. Some of the most important principles underpinning the application of phyto-sanitary measures (Indistinct) may be summarised as follows:

- Necessity - restrictions must be applied only when made necessary by Phyto-sanitary considerations.
- Technical justification - measures must be technically justified.
- Transparency - measures must be published promptly by contracting parties and the rationale for such measures made available to other contracting parties if requested.
- Minimal impact - measures must be consistent with the pest risk and the least restrictive measures available. They shall result in the minimum impediment to international movement of people, commodities and conveyances.
- Non-discrimination - measures for a particular quarantine pest must be no more stringently applied to imported goods than measures applied to the same test within the territory of the importing contracting party.

For particular relevance to the Convention is the WGO Agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures - SPS Agreement. The IPPC is a legal binding International agreement of the standards developed and adopted by the Convention that are not legally binding under the IPPC. However, WGO members are required to base the phyto-sanitary measures on international standards developed within the framework of the IPPC. Phyto-sanitary measures that conform to the international standards for phyto-sanitary measures by ISPN were presumed to be consistent with the relevant provision of the SPS agreement. There are three major inter-governmental mechanisms setting the standard by which people, animals and plants are protected, particularly from the undesirable consequences of international movement of people and trade goods. These are:

Codex Alimentarius, which set sanitary and technical standards for food safety, including food standards for commodities (Indistinct) for hygiene or technological practice limits for pesticide residues in foods and standards for contaminant and food additives.

Secondly is the *Office International des Epizooties* - that is the (OIE) - which deals with animal health and zoonosis, and set sanitary standards for the international movement of animals or animal products.

Thirdly, the International Plant Protection Convention - that is now the (IPPC) - which provides phyto-sanitary standards on how to prevent the spread and introduction of pests or plants on plant products.

The standards developed under these three inter-governmental mechanisms have three features in common. They are designed to protect human health, animal health and the environment by facilitating international trade and traffic. They are designed to be transparent and to harmonise regulations in relation to trade and international traffic so that their applications should not cause trade disputes between countries.

They were developed on the basis of the best scientific knowledge at the time (which implies revision in accordance with developing scientific knowledge). The accession and ratification of this Convention confirms Namibia's commitment to international and regional co-operation by ensuring scientifically justifiable plant quarantine rules and regulations. Provision is made within the Convention to assist developing States with the development of appropriate infrastructure through technical assistance for developing effective plant quarantine systems. The systems provided through the IPPC will enhance participation in the development of international standards through the International Standard Setting Body.

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It is therefore recommended that Parliament approve the accession and ratification of the International Plant Protection Convention. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussions?
Yes, Honourable Kaura?

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I only have a very simple question and that is on the genetically modified organisms. We know that maize products that are genetically modified are imported into our Region and there is a danger that they could infiltrate into the domestic maize products with the result that our own maize products could disappear and we would have to depend on imported maize. These genetically modified organisms - maize from the United States, for example - grow only once and subsequently if you cultivate them they do not grow again, so you have to import seeds. Now how would this Convention prevent those genetically modified organisms to get into our maize products?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussions before I give the floor back to the Deputy Minister? Yes, Right Honourable Prime Minister?

RT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I believe the fauna and flora go together. My question to the Honourable Minister, I understand that our pigeons that were holidaying in Turkey, Albania, Romania and other places are coming back now because of the winter there. What are we going to do about bird flu?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Further discussions? Yes, Honourable Ulenga?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, if there is no further discussion may I request that the further debate on the Bill be adjourned to tomorrow afternoon?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maybe there is somebody who would like to contribute before the adjournment. Anybody seconds Mr Ulenga's adjournment? Thank you. The debate is deferred to tomorrow, Thursday. Thank you very much. Now the Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE TO REVIEW OUR
EDUCATION SYSTEM**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate to review our Education System.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this debate was adjourned yesterday the 18th of October 2005, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Mr Kaura.

The Honourable Deputy Minister of Education adjourned the debate and she now has the floor. Honourable Ndjoze-Ojo, the floor is yours.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Ministry of Education's response to Honourable Kaura's Motion is as follows. Article 1 of the Namibian Constitution establishes the Republic of Namibia as a civil and secular democratic and unitary State founded upon the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all. It is against this background that our responsibility as a Nation to nurture functional democracy cannot be overemphasised. In functional democracy people have rights. They have the right to ask questions, they have the right to answers. The multifaceted questions ought to be treated as indicators to what it is they know, they wish to know, they ought to know, and what it is they do not know. To know is to acquire knowledge. Knowledge is power and information as power can be used as basis for informed decisions.

We need to answer questions in order to empower those who ask them, and those audiences who listen to them. Our answers should be handled with decency without getting personal. They are answers to issues and not to people. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members of this August House, I rise to shed light on the Motion on our education system as moved by Honourable Kaura and discussed by Honourable Members. It is gratifying to note that the contributors are former education practitioners, teachers, lecturers and even former inspectors of schools.

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They are therefore no strangers to the education fraternity and it is therefore not surprising to me that their concerns are already at the heart of the education discourse at the Ministry of Education.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the Honourable Members who took time to prepare to contribute to this important debate. I shall use their invaluable contributions as background knowledge without re-inventing the wheel. The discussions that followed Honourable Kaura's Motion show just how committed we are, as a people, to make education in Namibia better. It suffices to say that there is no 'better that is enough' as there is also the ideal, the best. The discussion leaves nobody in doubt that our education system needs constant review, constant updating to facilitate the education of the whole man (man is used in this form in a generic term without being oblivious of gender sensitivities).

At this juncture it is pertinent to stress that education is a process and not a product. Consequently, at no time would one claim to have arrived at a destination at which the education system of any given country has all the answers to all the multifaceted questions. Moreover, education is said to be a journey that takes us from the cradle to the grave. Education reform is therefore an endless journey itself. Education reform is thus a constant process that continuously and consistently supports the endless journey that also takes us from the cradle to the grave. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members, it is this complex process we are talking about in this House.

What exactly is Honourable Kaura's Motion about? What are his recommendations? He moved:

1. That this Assembly takes a serious review of our education system from Grade 1 to 12,
2. That this Assembly should pass legislation to allow Grade 10 failures to repeat Grade 10 next year, and
3. To revamp the whole education system in our country including teachers training, salaries and conditions of service.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members, in attempting to answer the above questions it is extremely pertinent to contextualise education in Namibia. The Government of the Republic of Namibia, being cognisant of the indispensable importance of education, enshrined it in the Supreme Law of the land - the Namibian Constitution. Article 20, in four sub-articles, can be summarised as follows: Article 20:

1. Education is a right to all.
2. Primary school shall be compulsory for all (hence EFA).
3. Children shall not be allowed to leave school until they have completed their primary education latest at the age of 16 years of age.
4. Private schools can be established provided they comply with Article 20(4) (a) to (d).

Therefore by Constitutional provision education is a right and not a privilege. Thus, the Government has already decided and the legislation is there already in the Constitution. Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is the broader legislation within which the Ministry of Education operates. The 'Education for All' policy, which itself is a derivative of Jomtein Thailand World Conference of 1990, could not have come at an opportune time. It provided a solid foundation for Namibia to actualise her Supreme Law of the land, the Constitution, which itself is a Supreme or Grand Vision of Namibia and within which all the ideals of a well meaning Nation are stated and enshrined. These ideals include: education for all, health for all, shelter for all, *etcetera*. It suffices to state that there is yet to be found a country that has completely achieved these ideals – even those who probably claim to have attained these ideals based on approximation, rather than the actual attainment of these goals. By approximation, the Namibian Government has, since Independence, voluntarily decided to allocate the largest share of the National budget to education. Education has been the recipient of this share for a long time because it is a top priority.

One would like to state that the Government of Namibia is the biggest public sector employer and a key player in the Country and the Ministry of Education is the largest of all the Ministries employing just a little below 70% of whom the Government employs. This is because education is, always has been, and always shall be the priority of priorities. After all, it is often said that education is the key, specifically to our cognitive potential, to enable us to partake effectively in participatory democracy. Perhaps one of the most widely used definitions of education is "education is the key". But what is it key for, and what are some of the philosophers saying about education?

I want to start in 1755 when Rousseau wrote: "We are born weak, we need strength. Helpless, we need aid. Foolish, we need reason. All what we lack at birth, all that we need when we come to man's estate, is the gift of education."

As far as education in Namibia is concerned, there has been undoubtedly major transformation from the 'Missionary Education of Warmbad,' mainly aimed at proselytizing the pagans, to Bantu Education for the promotion of racism, apartheid

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and inequalities among the people, through the heinous system of apartheid, to 'Education for All (EFA)' for promotion of access to education as a right and not as a privilege, and as enshrined in Article 20 of the Namibian Constitution. And now, to Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP) for quality assurance, relevance and responsiveness of education for achievement and promotion of a knowledge based economy.

The grand vision of Namibia was made operational by Vision 2030. I am saying the translation of the ideals of the Constitution is in this document. Vision 2030 sets a very ambitious target that by 2030 Namibia should join the ranks of high income countries that afford all their citizens the quality of life that is comparable to that of a developed world. Inspired and guided by the National Vision Statement, Namibia is currently undergoing a dramatic reform of all its National development strategies with emphasis on enhancing the quality of life for all the Namibian people.

Vision 2030 also further calls for the intended rapid economic growth to be accompanied by equitable social development. These two goals of growth with equity are to be pursued within a broader strategic framework of transforming the economy into a knowledge based economy. Therefore, in pursuit of these two goals Namibia is fully cognisant of the need to revamp the entire education system, hence ETSIP.

The "Education Training Sector Improvement Programme" (ETSIP) is a document that is also going through transformation of different kinds, but it is a reasonable document to assess and to find out what the Ministry, especially the training education sector, are doing about education. ETSIP represents the education and training sector's response to the call of Vision 2030. Its key purpose is to substantially enhance the sector's contribution to the attainment of strategic National development goals and to facilitate the planned transition to a knowledge-based economy. ETSIP adopts a wide sector approach. It consists of four priority components that will comprise a component of each of the sub-programmes that make the first phase of ETSIP. So when we are talking about primary education ECD's all those sub-sectors are taken care of. ICT and HIV/AIDS are issues that are also discussed as well as capacity building.

These are all critical cross-cutting issues that will be mainstreamed into the key sub-programmes. So ETSIP is a very commendable effort to actualise the aspiration of the Namibian people as encapsulated in Vision 2030 and thereby to improve the quality of education and training at all levels from Grade 1 to 10.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members, with specific reference to answering Honourable Kaura's Motion, what then can be deduced from the above, rather elaborate, intervention?

That a serious review of our education system in this country has started at Independence in 1990 and has never ceased. Honourable Kaura, kindly take note of the many serious reviews, for example, EFA of 1993, which is the philosophy of education of Namibia, with its tenets of access, equity, equality, democracy, efficiency and quality. Most of these tenets have been attained. Before Independence only 2% of Namibians had access to secondary schools. Today 92% of the Namibian children are in schools. Thus, access has been maximally improved. Many public and private schools operate in a democratic environment whereby they daily address and redress problems of equity of access and equality.

Improved efficiency for quality service delivery is the motto of the current Namibian Government. Moreover, the 'SWAPO Party Election Manifesto' of 2004 on page 29 to 35, discusses education as the key to industrialisation and economic development. Therefore, from a Government perspective, education is expected to shape and transport Namibia into a knowledgeable, proud, self respecting and dignified Nation.

Honourable Kaura, the revamp has already started. In fact, the *Namibian* newspaper on Thursday, 10th March of this year tersely captured it with a headline: "*Government eyes major revamp of education*" as it plans to spend N\$12.6 Billion over the next 10 years to implement its ambitious education and training sector improvement programme (ETSIP) to overhaul the system by 2020.

The salaries and conditions of service, especially of teachers, are being negotiated through the appropriate channels and are on track. Yet, this does not mean that all questions raised have answers. The then Minister of Education, now Right Honourable Prime Minister Nahas Angula, noted in that particular newspaper that education is too important to be left to Government alone. ETSIP is aimed at promoting quality in education and training outcomes by responding to key weaknesses in the training system to ensure adequate returns on the resources invested in education.

Therefore, the issue of quality in education and of the responsiveness of the education system to the particular needs of Namibia are implied weaknesses within which the opportunity exists to turn them into strengths. The Honourable Minister of Education, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba and I, are tasked with this huge responsibility and we surely need all 'hands on deck' to help us because it is similarly true that education is too important to be left to one Ministry alone. Hence, within ETSIP there is a great advocacy for a comprehensive wide sector approach which taps on the expertise that cuts across all Ministries, especially the education sector training Ministries.

In conclusion, it is clear that significant transformation and improvement have been made. However, as we aim for the best, there is still and always shall be room for

improvement. Nonetheless, it is similarly clear that serious review has taken place, is taking place, and shall be taking place.

As for as the legislation to allow Grade 10 failures to repeat Grade 10 I wish to state that our hearts at the Ministry of Education go out to those who do not make it. Hence, the Ministry of Education has a non-repetition policy. It is however, pertinent to stress that the core rationale for the policy is not punitive but financial. The Ministry of Education is morally obliged to provide education to those who are willing and able, but financially constrained to spend an extra N\$56.7 million to provide education to those who are unwilling and unable to study hard in order to meet the stipulated requirements. The Ministry of Education nevertheless, created avenues for alternative modes of delivery for those who tried hard but could still not meet the stipulated requirements. Hence, the *Namibia College of Open Learning*, (NAMCOL), the *Polytechnic's Centre for Open and Life Long learning* (COLL) and the University of Namibia *Centre for External Studies* (UNAMS CES) are there to help facilitate this and many other related problems. ETSIP has since 2003 started reviewing these institutions within their relevant sub-sectors and has already made recommendations.

With particular reference to the Debate on this Motion yesterday, the following statistics may be of help. Today we have a total 571 389 learners in Namibian schools. Out of this 31 018 are Grade 10 learners. Last year 2004, there were 29 875 Grade 10 learners and 28 870 sat for the Grade 10 examinations after 1 005 learners dropped out. 13 201 learners qualified for Grade 11 admission whereas 15 669 did not qualify. There are 26 832 enrolled at NAMCOL and 13 317 students are currently busy with Grade 10 at NAMCOL. There are 18 768 teachers as of February this year.

Of these 854 teachers are private, whereas 17 914 teachers are Government paid at a cost of N\$1 654 451- 00 M – briefly, equals N\$1.7 Billion. The grand vision is legislation in place that has been made operational through EFA 1993, Vision 2030 of 2004 and ETSIP of 2005. In addition there is a very interesting document, the “*World Bank Study on Namibia Human Capital and Knowledge Development for Economic Growth and Equity*” It looks like this.

These are all very useful documents that could be used to find out what we have been doing in this country as far as education is concerned. These are here and available for your perusal. In the final analysis it is true that education is a process and not a product.

R S Peters, 1972, argues that, “Education is *not* to have arrived at the destination, but to travel with a different view.” It is therefore my sincere trust that we all shall have had an overview of the complexities of education and shall henceforth travel with a

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different view that is not static but flexible and to be enriched and enhanced at every point for the benefit of all our people.

The critical question still remains, which way, Honourable Members? I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Minister of Education. I now invite any further discussions. Yes, Right Honourable Prime Minister. You have five minutes.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, I will finish within 4 minutes. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Mine is a footnote to what Dr Ndjoze-Ojo has just presented to us. And this footnote starts as follows: Once upon a time in Europe there was a country called the “Sick Man of Europe.” Today, in our Namibian Parliament we have a gentleman who could be characterised as the ‘Old Man of misinformation and deception of the Namibian Parliament.’

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Yes, Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, after such a squalidly statement I hope the Right Honourable Prime Minister would not sink that low, because an audience is listening. They have listened to something very academic and very constructive and very beautiful. Do not sink too low.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Prime Minister.

RIGHT HON PRIME MINISTER: The old man who is a master of misinformation and deception has introduced another Motion in this House for the pure purpose of misinforming the public and deceiving the uninformed. That is a serious challenge to all of us here to inform the public out there what the true state of education and training in our country is. When introducing this Motion Honourable Kaura stated as follows, amongst other things, and I quote, “When Namibia became independent the majority party used education, as it did via its Independence

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campaign, to further its political aims. To this end it introduced the Cambridge System to replace the former Senior Certificate for Grade 11 and 12” and so forth. This statement is what prompted me to characterise the Honourable Member as “a master of deception and misinformation”.

The Namibian education system is rooted in the Constitution and is a reflection of the ethos of this document. It is not a reflection of party ideology or anything like that. I want to read you something from here because perhaps you have forgotten. Since we left the Constitution Room I think you never went back to read this document. Let me read one paragraph. I would like to quote from Article 1(1) of the Namibian Constitution. “The Republic of Namibia is hereby established as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State, founded upon the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all”. That is the foundation of the current Namibian education system.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: And on that note the Right Honourable Prime Minister may continue later. The Honourable Members may rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:44
HOUSE RESUMES PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT AT 16:10

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is called to Order. When we adjourned for refreshments the Right Honourable Prime Minister had the floor. I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to continue.

RIGHT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I informed Honourable Kaura that the education system of Namibia is anchored in the deep roots of our Constitution which propounds the principles of democracy, rule of law and justice for all.

Therefore, the educational foundations of our education system are based on the 4 pillars of:

1. Equity of access to learning resources, - take note of that - equity of access to learning resources,

2. Effectiveness of the learning outcome, - that is the part which I mentioned, -
3. Democratic participation in the educational process, and
4. Life long learning.

These are the pillars. I said mine was a footnote to amplify so that we do not deceive people that this is something not thought out. This is something which was thought out properly.

So, this education system was thought out properly in order to strengthen the tenets of our Constitution. That is the basis of our education system. When you say we got rid of 'apartheid matric,' it is because that was not based upon the ethos of democracy, not ethos of participation, not ethos of equality. That is the problem. Our Constitution calls for equality, it calls for participation, it calls for democracy, and it calls for enlightenment of the population. That is why it is life long learning. There are basis on which the education system is crafted. I want each and everybody to understand that. It is not just something taken out of the political programme of somebody. No, the basis is the Constitution. So please do not mislead the public. Yes, it is education for all.

Now, having defined the foundations of education, let us talk about the philosophy of the curriculum and the content of learning. What is the philosophy behind that? When we look at the scope and the sequence of the curriculum, first of all, we are to talk about the balance; how knowledge, skills and values are balanced in the curriculum. There must be balance in order to bring about a rounded personality, a democratic person. That is the philosophy behind the curriculum.

There must also be depth. As you progress from one Grade to another there is an even progression of knowledge development, skills development and talents development throughout the system.

Then we also want to include the element of comprehensiveness. That is why you have things like pre-vocational studies so that you attend to the diverse needs of many learners.

I agree with Mr De Waal that some of us are academic and some are not academic; some are cultural, you know, artistic. We have to cater for all those. Some are sportive; looking around I see only one sportsperson around. We have to look at all these kinds of things so that we take care of the needs of various types of learners. Now once we define the curriculum - the content of learning - we have to look how to deliver that content of learning.

Then we are talking about *learning with understanding*; to teach in such a way that the learners would be able to appreciate, to understand, to comprehend and to use the knowledge. That is why we are talking about *learner centred education*; to make children and learners participate in the learning process through methods of enquiry, discovery, active research, learning and many others. Democrats are supposed to make choices and are supposed to inculcate those values or those behaviours in children.

So, if we are talking about *learner centred education* those are the values, the ethos of our Constitution; to participate and to think independently. When it comes to examinations, the philosophy is to reward those who are making an effort and we call that *positive reinforcement*. When a learner makes an effort and achieve something, you reinforce that effort by appreciating it, by giving incentives and so forth. That is the basis of our education system. The Constitution, the foundations, the ethos, the curriculum, the methodology, everything is based upon the foundation laid out by this Constitution, nothing more, nothing else. So therefore, do not cry to go to America, because this is not the American Constitution. Do not cry to go to South Africa, because this is not a South African Constitution. This is a Namibian Constitution on the basis of which the educational system has been crafted.

Now I want to come now to the implication. The implication of all these is the notion of *Education for All* as provided for in Article 20 of this Constitution; *All persons shall have the right to education*. That is what Article 20 says. Primary education shall be compulsory and the State shall provide reasonable facilities to render effective this right. That is why we are talking about Education for All.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON KAURA: I would like to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a Question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, is it not true that if a teacher is teaching a certain number of children and half of those children failed, that teacher is of necessity called before the Board of Education to explain why half of his children failed?

Now, on the basis of the information presented by Honourable Dr Ndjoze-Ojo - she said that out of 28 000 something children that wrote Grade 10 only 13 000 passed and 15 000 failed, which means that less than 50% of the children passed. Is that not a serious indication when it comes to our education system that there is something seriously wrong?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I shall shortly come to that question, but I want to explain to you the foundations of the Namibian education system and why things are done the way they are done. I have dealt with Education for All; that is 10 years of schooling as prescribed in the Constitution. It is a prescription of the Constitution that children should receive 10 years of schooling; if possible, compulsory.

Now we are talking about Education for Life. What does Education for Life entail? It entails the development of skills, the development of careers, the development of professions, research and knowledge creation, in that order, and life long learning.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DE WAAL: May I ask the Honourable Prime Minister a question, please? I am very sorry to disturb you, Right Honourable Prime Minister, but I listened to the figures that Honourable Kaura just gave about the Grade 10's. Lately in our budget and also in her speeches the Minister of Finance talked about the outcomes of money invested. What do we get out of the money which we invest? Now, if one calculates today what it cost this Government to get the children from Grade 1 to Grade 10 and then, when one gets to Grade 10 one realises that the outcome of one's investment over those 8 years is less than 50%. Is that a good investment or is there something wrong with our investment?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am coming to those questions. I want to give you the intention of the system before I come to that so that you can make a better judgment. The intention of the system is:

- to provide education for all through 10 years of compulsory schooling,
- to provide skills to the youth through vocational education and training,
- to develop careers and professions through Higher Education,
- to develop the high skills of research, development and knowledge creation through advance studies.

That is the broad purpose of the education system. Where are we now in this journey? Listen carefully now.

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You are saying that the education system should be reviewed. Let me tell you that consistently the education system in Namibia is being subjected to review. Starting as far back as 1991 you remember the Presidential Commission on Higher Education, which led to the establishment of the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Namibia.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON KAURA: On a Point of Order, the Right Honourable Prime Minister is committing continuous plagiarisms. He is only quoting from what Honourable Ndjoze-Ojo has just said and that was more than sufficient and very eloquent. He should rather take his seat and sit down.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am going to debunk the misinformation and deception. That is the purpose of my contribution.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have no intention to interfere with the Prime Minister's speech, but I think you should perhaps check on the quorum of the House. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right Honourable Prime Minister, you can continue. I think we have a quorum.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I want to debunk the misinformation and deception of the elderly Parliamentarian. I do not want to say that it is bordering on the senile, not yet, but it is not far from there. So you should not mislead the other people. So I have to debunk this thing. Now, I am saying the review has been taking place to review progress or lack of progress. In 1991 it was the *Presidential*

Commission of Higher Education and in 2000 the *Presidential Commission on Education and Cultural Training*. The reports are there. It was public reports. It was tabled here. Ah, it is illiteracy - you do not read the reports? This year the Report of Education was tabled here, the annual report with all the statistics. You say that there is nothing. The Report of Higher Education was tabled here. You never read it? The latest review was 2004 which resulted in the *Education and Training Improvement Programme*. Why the Education and Training Improvement Programme? Their findings have been that we have made much progress on the fundamental goal of equitable participation in the education system, leading to 40% of Namibian youth and others in formal education. You have been told here that half a million people are in education, learning. If we are 1.8 Million you realise that we are a learning Nation, not far from there. That goal has been achieved.

Now the challenging goal is the one of effectiveness. That is now the quality issue. I can admit to you that we still have a long way to go on the issue of quality. Why? There are a number of challenges. No. 1: the historical deficit which is apparent everywhere. In Windhoek schools on the eastern part of Independence Avenue perform better than schools on the western part of it. Did you know that? Just in Windhoek. I will deal with the repetition issue. The historical deficit is still apparent 16 years after Independence. In Windhoek you have the east-west divide in terms of achievement. Country-wise you have South-North divide. You know the majority of the learners are in the North. You still have that divide because of our history.

Sometimes it has something to do with the physical facilities - which create a learning ambience -, teacher's qualifications, teacher's experience, supply of educational and instructional material, and all those things. They are well documented. The *Educational and Training Improvement Programme* is supposed to respond. It is a crucial part if you have to go "Marshal." It is a Marshal plan to respond to this social deficit in our education because we cannot talk about equal opportunity. We can talk about equal access but not equal opportunity in learning. That is the challenge we have. We now want to address things like the management of schools - very important. Schools must be managed properly so that we have more time for tasks. Children should spend more time on task learning - very important. The supply of textbooks and other learning materials is also very important. Community participation so that learning in our schools becomes a community enterprise. The community should know that our State is there in schools because the future of our children is our future. The issues of teaching Science and Mathematics, ICT, all these things are being attended to in that programme called ETSIP - Education and Training Improvement Programme.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

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HON MOONGO: Can I ask the Prime Minister a question? After these sophisticated and philosophical speeches, I would like to ask whether the Prime Minister is aware that some schools only got teachers three weeks ago. Since January they did not have teachers. Now the feeling is here of the Prime Minister that they must not repeat. They had no teachers, only three weeks ago. Since January they did not have teachers.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Moongo, all those things are documented. I also want to kindly and humbly advise Honourable Moongo that the learning opportunities are there to study with NAMCOL. Pass your Grade 12, and then you can go to the University for External Studies. Get a degree. All the opportunities are there. Some of the Honourable Members here got their degrees through Open and Distance Learning. If you reject the opportunities then you remain where you are.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON KAURA: Can I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a Question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, I really want to ask a very serious question. I started school in January and by March I could read and write. By the time I completed Sub B I knew the Multiplication Tables in my head. Today, if you ask a child in Grade 8 what is 2 x 12, that child will go to the calculator. I believe most of us sitting here were taught by teachers with Grade 8 - Std 6 - and the knowledge we have we derived from those teachers.

Today a child in Grade 8 can hardly read and write. When we were doing those basics a, e, i, o, u, I mean the basics, within three months, January to March, we could read and write. Those basics we could read and write. But today a child can reach Grade 8 and he is unable to read and write. What is the problem?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Rt. Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: You are the problem. You could have phrased your question as follows: "During our time, because schools were so selective, some of us would master the basic learning within a term." Use that word *some*. Today, because the schools are not selective and everybody is admitted, some of the children

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are not able to master; but that word *some* is very important. That word *some* is very important. So do not make generalisations.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, are you going to respond?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Do not make generalisations because it is not fair to the children who are actually benefiting from education. Yes, our education is mass participation. If you take a New York marathon you expect that some people will be far ahead and Kaura will be behind because he will not be able to run like myself. This is like a New York marathon.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura does not answer questions.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, send him out. Now you see the logic? The shortcomings of education have been documented and the response strategy is being worked out. One issue is the one of inequity; unequal distribution of learning resources. In Windhoek you have your St Paul's, Windhoek High School, the German High School and other schools which are well resourced. Some are private, and some are public, but reasonably well resourced. In Katutura you have A Shipena, Dawid Bezuidenhout and others. Those are the sources of under-performers. Let me tell you, if you read the statistics, the majority of ungraded children are found in the Khomas Region - because of these schools, the A Shipena's and others. You know what? The better performing region for Grade 12 for the last two consecutive years was Oshikoto; because there you have Oshigambo and the Etosha School in Tsumeb, and others.

What you have to do as a strategy for increasing equity and opportunity for learning is to create a number of Windhoek High Schools in the rural areas and attract gifted children to those schools. *Then* performance in those regions will improve. Let us start with the Okavango. In terms of performance the Okavango and Omaheke were last. So, as a strategy for improving learning development in the rural areas, let us create a number of Windhoek High Schools in these rural areas.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Order, I am sorry to interrupt the Right Honourable

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Prime Minister, but there is something which he mentioned that I would really like to ask a question on. Comrade Prime Minister, you say there is a need for schools of excellence in the Regions, which is good. But then, if we are to put the best performers in the best schools and leave the least performers in the schools that are not so good, what are we trying to achieve there? I have thought that the best schools are where we should put the learners who are struggling so that we bring them on par with those who are best performing. Those who are brilliant, even if they are at the not so good schools, can still make it to university. How is that philosophy and where is it going to take us? Thank you.

RIGHT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, Honourable Katali, that is a good ideal. However, life is not like that. Life is just like some people: some are tall, some are short, some are black, some are white, and *etcetera*. The distribution of talent in a population is just like that also. The reason why America is great - going to the moon - is because of Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, MIT, Yale, and others. Unfortunately not everybody gets to go there but the spin-off to society is great. The fact that I was able to go to Columbia enabled me to craft an education system in Namibia. Not only Namibians go there. One Namibian I found there dropped out and he remains a dropout.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I will bring my Certificate from Columbia tomorrow and I will hand it over to the Honourable Deputy Speaker to read it to this August House. My younger brother is sending a wrong message.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I was not talking about you, Honourable Kaura; I was talking about somebody else. Honourable Katali, let us accept the fact that we are not the same in terms of endowment. Let us accept the fact that those of us who are lucky enough to have been well gifted can make a contribution to society and let us give them the opportunity. Without ignoring those of us who are slow learners, we still give the opportunity. That is why we have Education for All. Please let us increase the possibilities for those who are able to achieve, to achieve even better. Ideologically and ideally, yes, we want to be equal, but unfortunately that is an ideal, it is not a reality. That is my answer.

Having said that let me now come to the crucial issue of repetition. Honourable Kaura, I want to tell you this. As a leader you are not supposed to preach the gospel

of repetition. You are here to preach the gospel of redemption. We preach the redemption there, not of repetition. The gospel of repetition is going to dig our graves as Namibia, as a Nation. We are talking about globalisation and globalisation equals competition. We must teach and cultivate the spirit of competition and success in our children. We should not stand here in our Parliament encouraging our people to be repeaters. That is why our football clubs never win any game anywhere. Everywhere they go they are beaten because they think that they will be given a second chance. A Nation of 'second chancers' is not a Nation. This philosophy of second chances we are preaching here is a doomed philosophy. It is not supposed to be preached on the floor of this House. Here we are supposed to encourage our young people, our youth, and our children to work hard. In the unlikely event of you failing we'll give you a second chance through NAMCOL. That is what we are supposed to do. Encourage children to work hard. What kind of character, what kind of personality are you trying to cultivate among our young people? When they go into business they think they are going to be given a second chance. When they take part in sports they think they are going to be given a second chance. When they do research they think they are going to be given a second chance.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, I am going to reject your intervention because you are the one who is going to respond. Just take note of whatever is coming up. This is a long list that I have. Continue, Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: My final word is: *down with the gospel of repetition - down.* Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Goreseb.

HON GORESEB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this August House, in the event of no further participation I would like to adjourn this Debate until tomorrow, Thursday.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion before that? Thank you very much. Who is seconding the adjournment of the debate until

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tomorrow? Yes, thank you. The debate is adjourned until tomorrow. The Secretary will now read the second Order of the Day.

MOTION ON INCREASE OF OLD-AGE PENSION

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate to discuss the plight of our senior citizens and to increase the old-age pension to N\$500-00 per month.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday the 12th of October 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. Honourable Kaura adjourned the Debate to today for his reply. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am still collecting statistics. I adjourn the Debate to next Tuesday.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Who seconds the adjournment to next week? The Debate stands adjourned until next week. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

MOTION ON CORRUPTION

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate to discuss the state of corruption and abuse of public funds and assets.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this debate was adjourned on Wednesday the 12th of October 2005, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga. The Minister of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture adjourned the debate and he now has the floor.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I have decided to participate in the Debate on corruption, not so much because of any serious consideration of who the Mover of the Motion was and is. The factual content of Honourable Ulena's motivation statement *per se* also did not prompt or propel me to take the floor this afternoon. What prompted me to take the floor, Honourable Deputy Speaker, is the subject matter itself; that of corruption. The subject matter is topical. It is a weighty subject matter and we should not forget that this particular subject matter has been like that throughout the known history of human kind.

I do agree with the Honourable Ulena that this particular subject matter must be discussed vigorously. It must be clinically dissected and debated, not only by us as Parliamentarians, but I believe also by other sectors in our society; be they public, private, political, social, academic, religious, but also in the cultural spheres at large. In my view, the main objective of such discussions must be educational because unless people know and understand what corruption is, they cannot be expected to know to expose, to report or even to condemn it. The English thesaurus dictionary provides the following words as synonyms (as words that have the same meaning as) for corruption: disruptiveness; contamination; infection; defilement; deprivation; immorality; sinfulness; wickedness; bribery; dishonesty. Now the practical meaning of all those words, I believe, Honourable Members of this National Assembly, is neither positive nor pleasant.

Let me then start off by first, clearly and unambiguously, stating the premises or the true basis upon which the subsequent arguments in my statement or theory or thesis will be based:

- (a) Corruption is neither a Namibian nor an African malaise, nor is it a disease that has colour, race, tribe, gender or is culture sensitive.
- (b) Corruption has been and continues to be a global cancerous phenomenon. It is nothing else but widespread moral and ethical degeneration, deterioration and decay, usually characterised by fraudulent activities in any society: developed; developing; poor society; rich society; educated society or illiterate society anywhere on this planet called Earth. The acts of committing and/or commissioning corruption are usually done by human beings, not other animals, but by us human beings. The effects of corruption are harmful, damaging and completely destructive and obstructive of any developmental process.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, drug trafficking, money laundering and abuse of influential positions that people occupy in society are but some of the aspects of corruption. In

some instances, obviously, corruption occurs because individuals occupy public positions in the public and private sector or the non-Governmental sector or the community based organisations. They lack sufficient understanding of the basic administrative procedures, policies or laws that they are suppose to implement and apply. Unfortunately, even in those cases acts of corruption may not and cannot be condoned. Those at the giving but also at the receiving end of the corruption enterprise are essentially equally responsible for the perpetuation of corrupt practices.

As such, after due processes of law, normally in any society both those who give and those who receive, qualify for a fair investigation, trial and appropriate punishment if and when convicted.

Honourable Ulenga quoted His Grace, Archbishop Ndumbukuti Nashenda of the Roman Catholic Church, quite extensively in his motivation statement. I am quite sure that Archbishop Nashenda, when articulating his and the Church's position on some incidents of corruption in our Country and elsewhere, considered this subject matter at it broadest context and manifestation. I agree 100% with the sentiments and facts highlighted in Archbishop's Nashenda's statement. We must also appreciate, as Honourable Members of this House, that Archbishop Nashenda's statement indeed supports public pronouncements by other Church and spiritual leaders in condemning the evil of corruption. Prominent among those leaders count His Grace, Bishop Zephania Kameeta, the former Honourable Member and Deputy Speaker of this August House.

I believe we as political leaders, as spiritual leaders, as traditional leaders, members of the public, must carefully listen to the moral voices of Archbishop Nashenda, Bishop Kameeta, and others. Not only listen, but also take heed of what they are actually telling us - the whole Namibian society; not only Government and not only Parliamentarians. Their voices must be compared, I believe, to those of the Biblical prophets of old.

Furthermore, I do agree with those who hold the view that the greatest problem facing human civilisation today is that we are fast losing our deep human values. That is the problem. On the technological front there are significant breakthroughs - reaching the moon and elsewhere - but we human beings are also busy destroying ourselves by first destroying our moral values and then destroying the environment. Every day we hear about plagues and earthquakes and thousands of people are being killed. Perhaps the time has come for us to look and have introspection about who we are as human beings. The starting point definitely should be to look at our values, the moral values that differentiates us from other animals. I think those are moral values: values of

integrity, Honourable Deputy Speaker; the values of honesty, of compassion, love for your neighbour, love for yourself and respect - the basic fundamental values. One does not need to be an enthusiastic reader of the Bible, one does not need to be a regular churchgoer to realise that such values actually form the basis of the 10 Commandments. You do not need to be a regular churchgoer or a regular reader of the Bible but when you look at the 10 Commandments then the issues that are highlighted there are these issues of love for yourself, for your neighbour, respect for yourself, respect for others, respect for parents, respect for the elderly.

The issues of do not steal, do not kill; these form the basis of the 10 Commandments, but when you look at and analyse what is happening in our societies today - we kill everything, we steal every day. So something must be wrong somewhere with our human value system.

We are constantly faced with temptations to compromise ethics - understood to refer to rights and wrongs - and instead take a shortcut road to riches. The minute of pleasure usually leads to many years of suffering. In many instances: *I value wealth above ethics* is my premise. I am emphasising the issue of ethics and morality. We risk losing everything in the end.

Honourable Ulenga, in his motivation, is appealing to the President of the Country; he is appealing to the Government of the day to put in place more stringent measures that may put an immediate stop to corruption. That is his feeling. I have no quarrel with that line of argument, Honourable Ulenga. But I must point out that Honourable Ulenga must not have been so completely awake not to have noticed during the past 15 years that the SWAPO Party Government has actually already succeeded and still is succeeding in putting those measures in place; being the legal measures or policy measures they are being put in place - in fact, way back when Honourable Ulenga and others in his party were still members of this Government. The passing of the Anti-Corruption law in this House is but one example, Honourable Members.

No wonder, and it is important, that some people stood up and shouted that we have State sponsored corruption in this Country. It is very irresponsible. The Government, with the support of other Stakeholders, including this very same Parliament, has been concerned about the issue of corruption. Hence, it did not hesitate to put in place those legal measures and policy measures to curb corruption. Therefore, it cannot be said that it is the State; it is the Government that is supporting corruption through policies. That is completely wrong as far as I am concerned. Somewhere, somehow if you commit an act of corruption - it may take long, but sooner rather than later it will be detected and dealt with. This is what we have in this country.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Minister, I am trying to follow your argument about putting the necessary legal framework in place. My problem now is, and I hope that you could help me with that, if Government makes a law and breaks it - what example do you set for the people? In other words, if a Municipal Regulation says that you must pay your water and lights account by the 17th of each month, but the Ministry of Safety and Security does not pay - what kind of example is that? What does it help to put the legal framework there when you yourself are breaking it? What example are you setting?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:

That is where we go wrong as leaders; misleading those who are supposed to listen to us and follow what we are saying. We have three organs of the State; the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. They can tell you even if the Executive Branch of the State does something wrong, as you are alleging, we have seen in this Country that the particular matter will be taken to Court. The Courts do their work independently and fairly without interference from the Executive. So it is completely wrong, Honourable de Waal, to allege that in this country, called Namibia, you have a situation where the Executive Branch, for example, will break the law, as you are saying, and the Courts will just wash their hands. There is no need for dialogue. I am just responding to a pure question. So, please, let us just take it easy and say that our laws that are in place and the institutions that we are putting in place, we as the leaders must ensure that those institutions are strengthened to make sure that they do their work properly.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, I would like to ask you a very painful question, because I do not want it to look personal, The Secretary-General Of SWAPO, Honourable Dr Ngarikutuke Tjirange, is on record that the SWAPO Politburo decided and gave him instruction to write a letter to (Indistinct) Parliament, because of irregularities in this Parliament.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, I think that issue you are referring to is *sub judice*. It is where he is directing to. Proceed, Honourable Member, I am sorry.

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. You have ruled on that matter. It is not part of my speech and I am not going to answer it. Now, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I am arguing when it comes to policies and laws; those are in place. Such procedures and mechanisms are designed to prevent undemocratic conduct and violation of the entrenched fundamental human rights. What is needed is surely perhaps to strengthen those laws and the institutions that are entrusted with the application of those laws. The Anti-Corruption Commission Staff are soon to be appointed, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order! Just listen to the person who is on the floor.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:

Both the President and the Prime Minister ... Can I be protected?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you are. Honourable ... (intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:

Both the President and the Prime Minister already have made public statements on the matter. I do not think the Government at this stage requires nor need a reminder to extradite the setting up of the Anti-Corruption Commission; it is coming. I agree with the Honourable Minister that we should need to hasten the putting in place of that Commission; but it is coming. Obviously I have no quarrel with the call to further tightening the laws to deal more effectively with cases of corruption. Furthermore, Comrade Deputy Speaker, can we just have order?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members, I think you are shouting too loudly there, so that I am not capturing whatever the Honourable Member is saying. Thank you. You may proceed, Honourable Minister.

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you. Furthermore, I have no quarrel (intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, Honourable Minister, if you have personal things – differences – you can go outside, the two of you, and solve the problem. Please proceed, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Furthermore, I have no quarrel with the pleas to further train, support and equip our officials employed in our judicial institutions and law enforcement agencies to deal with cases of corruption timeously, firmly and effectively. I have no quarrel with that. But what about moral corruption, ethical corruption? The answer surely is in the end. When we have spoken, when we have criticized, we must also point a finger to ourselves as individuals.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Deputy Minister?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE SPORT AND CULTURE: A fine balance, Comrade Deputy Speaker, must be struck. At the end of the day one lesson should come out very clearly, even after we have exhausted this Debate and that is as human beings we must always remember that all laws are really only enforceable ethical judgments in the end. The law simply tells the people what to do and what not to do.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I am sorry, Comrade Minister. Through you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I would like to ask a small question. Comrade Minister, I just seek clarity which speaks about corruption. If for instance one does not recognise that something and you participate in that something; is that corruption? By this I mean that the outcome of the last Presidential and National Assembly elections - the CoD up to now have a court case, because they do

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not recognize the outcome. They are talking about corruption; are they not being self-corrupt by being here while they are (Indistinct). Is that not corruption?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, Honourable Minister

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you. That is why I am emphasising the point even though the

Honourable Kaura does not want to listen to me. As human beings we have to look at ourselves individually. When you have in a country these killings all over, violence, violence; then one must appreciate that something is terribly wrong and we have to address that and that is what I am advising in my argument. They do not often close the laws. In the case of transgression punishment normally follows. One philosopher called Alexander Pope many years ago advised, and I quote, *“To err is human, to forgive is divine.” No human being is always and forever incorruptible. No human being is forever perfect and faultless. If we had no fault of own, then surely we would not take so much place and interest in noticing the mistakes and misdeeds of others.*

Like Honourable Ulena, I am sure that many people in our country and beyond surely think that Government needs to develop stricter policies and ethical standards. That is fine. They are not wrong - people who demand that. But we must remember that the ultimate supreme responsibility for ethics and good conduct always lies with individuals. Public behaviour in the end depends on private choices, hence judgment. I try to be religious a little bit. Judgment in the life hereafter, we are told, is always individual accountability and not collective praise or collective punishment. The ethics and good conduct of each one of us, especially us as leaders in this House, must in the end constructively and positively help to form the good ethics of all of us. That is the human desire to live by universal standards of right and wrong here on Mother Earth.

I support one aspect of Honourable Ulena's Motion and it is when he stated that he requests this House to vigorously debate - publicly debate - the subject matter of corruption. And that is exactly what I have been doing the past few minutes.

The other recommendations, if you look at his motivation statement, those of asking the President to release the reports and other things have regrettably been overtaken already by events. This Government has been and still is addressing all those issues that the Honourable Ulena is asking it to do. During his State of the Nation address

here on the floor of this Parliament, His Excellency the President, was asked a question about the commission reports. His answer was that those reports need to be studied first and then after that they could possibly be released. When you read the newspapers there is always information emanating from those particular reports; like the Roads Authority - the other day I saw it in the newspaper. Therefore, those particular issues that the Honourable Member has motivated as recommendations in his report, I do not see that they need to be supported because they have already been overtaken by events and they are being dealt with by the Government. Otherwise, Comrade Deputy Speaker, thank you for allowing me to make this contribution. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Kazenambo Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to use this platform to make my humble contribution to the Debate on the issue of corruption under discussion in this August House. Perhaps avoiding what normally the elders do in the village, I will not repeat what Honourable Mutorwa has said, because some of the things which he has mentioned I also wanted to mention. I will try to make other contributions where I can.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue of corruption is an issue that affects all of us, either as members of society or as citizens of this Country. The Oxford Advanced learners' dictionary describes corruption as, "*dishonest or wicked behaviour such as allegation of widespread corruption in high places, cases of bribery and other vices of that nature.*" There are also various definitions of corruption such as the following. The Asian Development Bank defined corruption as *the abuse of public or private office for personal or private gain*. Corruption involves behaviour on the part of officials in the public and private sectors, in which they improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves and/or those close to them or induce others to do so by misusing their positions in which they are placed.

Clearly that definition shows that corruption is not only confined to Government institutions. It is not only confined to private institutions. It covers the broad section of society, including political parties, including individuals, including everybody. So it is a broad definition. So it concerns all of us. So when we discuss it we should look at the issues, rather than pointing fingers or trying to apportion it to any; because it affects all of us. Corruption is an act done with intent to give some advantage

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inconsistent with official duty and the rights of others. When you violate the rights of others you are also involved in some corrupt practices. Therefore, going by the above definition corruption manifests itself in private institutions and it must be considered as such.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I have just identified corruption or given the definition of corruption, but I would like to go further to identify the various types of corruption of much interest such as also those identified by the Development Bank of Asia, and other institutions. These types of corruption we are referring to here are procurement fraud. Procurement fraud which goes on both in the public and private institutions includes kick backs, commission, over-charging, misrepresentation and the delivery of sub-standards goods and services, eliciting of payments to prevent the application of rules and regulations in a fair and consistent manner, particularly in areas such as public safety, law enforcement and revenue collection. When you are implementing rules selectively in an inconsistent manner you are also involved in corrupt practices. If you apply certain rules and procedures to individuals because of certain agendas without being consistent with the policy you are also involved in corrupt practices. If you do not follow the law - if law is applicable to certain people in this way while others are not, you are involved in corrupt practices.

The design or selection of an economical project because of opportunities for financial kickbacks and political patronage are types of corruption.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the above points which I have mentioned are part of corruption and erode the moral fabric of any given society. Corruption is illegal and it makes other citizens enjoy economic benefits and opportunities at the expense of others. Corruption therefore needs to be collectively fought by all members of society.

Corruption is dangerous for both its victims and perpetrators because in the final analysis it results in a lose-lose scenario, but not in a win-win scenario. The abusers of political, economic and social power in the end become losers as well as corruption is not sustainable.

Corruption is illegal because it is done against the laws of the Country and established norms of a given society. Abuse of power manifests itself in the form of those junior and senior officers in the public and private offices who behave as if those institutions are their own individual entities. Corrupt officials and employees are those people who are in the position of trust and responsibility to serve the Nation, but who put their individual interests at the expense of those of the Public they are supposed to serve. Corrupt behaviour is the abuse of political power to deny other citizens their right to public goods. Denial of fellow citizens their right to public goods concerns

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denying other citizens to either enjoy access to opportunities, such as employment - a notion on the basis of gender or ethnic background. Corruption entails employment of people in positions where they are not qualified, or where they cannot deliver services which are required of them.

In light of the progressive steps which Namibia is taking with the establishment of the Anti-Corruption body, I would like to propose that corruption or anti-corruption be introduced as a subject or a course to be incorporated in our education system. Countries, like Germany, are already running courses on corruption at university level. So this is not a strange thing because it promotes awareness and it prepares the people how to respond and deal with aspects of corruption. I propose that lessons on corruption be considered to be introduced in schools or higher institutions of learning across Namibia; like there are some courses been given on the subject of HIV/AIDS in some institutions of learning in our country.

Introducing a course on corruption or anti-corruption will promote awareness amongst our people regarding the danger it poses to the reconstruction of our economy. This will entrench a culture of anti-corruption in our society. In order to curb or prevent corruption we need a transparent working environment. Both private and public institutions should be governed in a culture of openness and according to clearly stipulated corporate governance procedures. The environment of corporate governance in our public and private institutions should be such that the procedures and rules of the game for delivery of goods and services to the citizens are clearly stipulated and implemented to the letter.

Citizens should not be left wondering as to what they should get or expect to be served with from any given public or private institution. The situation should not be as if officials in the private or public institutions are doing anybody a favour for rendering the goods and services required. The culture of negative attitudes of managing institutions - and these institutions include political parties, government institutions and businesses - managing them as if one is managing ones own personal life should not be tolerated. Public institutions, whether governmental, private or non-governmental, should be managed in the best interest of the public - period.

The situation where some managers or leaders run public and private institutions as if they are running their own household should be exposed and condemned. We see it in this Country where some people are doing it.

I further want to look into the issue of corruption and how it affects the poor. Research in the *Global Corruption Report 2005* confirms that corruption adversely affects the poorest within societies, exerting the highest costs on those who can least afford them. This also concerns price fixing. *Transparency International's* own

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Global Corruption Barometer 2004 shows that the poorest receive the greatest negative impact of corruption on their lives and are most pessimistic about future levels of corruption. For example, the *Mexican National Survey on Corruption and Good Governance* reports that the cost of bribes for the poor is particularly high, while the *Kenya Bribery Index* finds that public services are frequently denied to those who cannot afford to pay bribes. In short, corruption exerts a regressive tax on the poor, particularly when it features in common activities for the citizens, from dealing with traffic violation to turning on household utilities.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, my observation is that corruption in our Country is mainly caused by the following factors. I would say we need to strengthen efficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms or instruments. Yes, we have laws and policies that are establishing our institutions, but to evaluate and monitor the activities of these institutions, for example, how the Boards are running those institutions, how accountable they are, and so on. Even when one certain project is implemented the monitoring and evaluation processes sometimes are lacking. That is why sometimes you will find that certain money has gone in a certain institution or certain fees in a certain project have gone, because the monitoring process from the introduction of this project to its completion sometimes is not effective. Therefore, we react because the evaluation and monitoring processes are not that effective or they need to be strengthened.

By this I mean that in many cases in Namibia we established private and public institutions, but we do not effectively monitor their behaviour and evaluate their performances as to whether they are conducting their businesses according to acceptable standards, and in the interest of all the members of society. For instance, you will find that Government appoints Members of the Board of Directors for public institutions, and you turn to wonder how and when are the performances and inputs of these people monitored and evaluated. The same is equally true of the management of some companies, even businesses.

As there is no strict monitoring and evaluation of people's input, that is why you will see some people in this Country serving on many boards and some people use this as an extra income generation process for self-enrichment. If you are serving on ten boards, what time do you have and what type of input do you give on those boards? If you serve on the board of a business company where you have not declared the interest that you are a board member of Shoprite; if Shoprite is requiring a tender from Government, do you think that you will question the prices, the qualities of their goods if they are the same as your banking account? So we need strong monitoring and observing mechanisms.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, everything is in good cause; we

are doing anything wrong, but I would propose that really we should introduce strict procedures and measures against private individuals and companies proved to have been engaged in corrupt practises. For instance, anybody implicated or linked to corrupt practises should be blacklisted for a certain period of time. Moreover, punishment for corruption should not be used as a way of witch-hunting against anybody, but it must be done within the principles of the statutory legal framework of the Constitution of Namibia. The principle of one remaining innocent until proven guilty by a competent Court of Law should always prevail. Corruption should not be used an excuse for witch-hunting and revenge as that is corruption as well.

If I were implicated in corruption Namibia has legal instrument, has laws, and has procedures to address matters. If I had offended you in any way, it should not be used in my implication in corruption to witch-hunt me. Let me be subjected with due course of the law, and then the law takes its course and then if I am find guilty then I can be punished - and consistency must be applicable across the board. Let us not employed double standard here; let us be consistent with the laws of this Country. We are formulating laws, we must respect the laws, and we formulate ... (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Ulena?

HON ULENGA: He is not condemning a SWAPO political. Honourable Deputy Speaker, again it was not my intention to interrupt the Honourable participant there, but he has really mentioned something. What he said before urged me to ask him a question, if he will accept? Thank you very much. Honourable Deputy Minister, when you suggested the possible blacklisting of people involved in corrupt practices; should this happen to those who have been found guilty of corruption in a Court of Law? Or simply, I think as you said before, those who are said to or who are alleged to have been involved in corrupts dealings? Are you talking about after the conviction in a Court of Law or what you are talking about? Let Kazenambo answer.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION:** Thank you very much. In any society in any country where there is a Rule of Law, where there are no kangaroo Courts, a person is charged and then subjected to the due processes of the law. After the conviction, if the person is found guilty beyond any reasonable doubt in a competent Court of Law then the law must take it course. Punishment must be meted out to that particular person - and that is fairness and that is justice and that is what I

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am saying. After that process, after judgment has been passed, the person must be punished; but you cannot pass judgment before judgment is passed by a competent Court of Law. That is injustice, that is illegal, that is not accounting to a Country and it is unconstitutional. So the issue of punishment is stipulated in the courts of this Country.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, can I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? I really appreciate what the Honourable Member has said. My question is, before a person has been convicted and found guilty in a Court of Law, can that person be stripped of his or her position in any institution? Whether it is a Deputy Minister, could he be stripped of his position, or a Managing Director or anything?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION:**

I am an honest citizen and my nature is that I do not beat about the bush. Stripping a person of his responsibility also depends on the interpretation - how you wish to interpret it and it is confined to institutions. I am not here to set the rules of how individual organisations should behave and how I should proceed with the matter. That is not what I am here for. I am here to discuss political parties, organisation, households, and individuals. Everybody has their own ways of regulating themselves. I am here to debate a national issue. I am here looking into the matter of corruption. Of course there are institutions in this Country some of which may strip their members of certain responsibilities in order to conduct certain investigations. Some will fire them, while collecting more participating in corrupt practices. They employ double standards for fair individuals on unfair justice. It is not my judgment to do that. Like NUDO has dismissed Kerina, while Kerina has committed it around and including Riruako. That is up to them. That is their procedure. I am not a leader of those Parties. I am saying that corruption should not be used as a witch-hunt. Corruption should be dealt with within the procedures, within the basis of the law without subjecting anybody to injustice. And I am going on for companies that are involved in corrupt practises.

Some countries are employing barment. Barment means that you will restrict those companies from participating in tender - mine is not only confined to politics and targeting individuals as it looks like an obsession of some people. I am not here to hunt individuals. I am addressing the Motion. When you are employing barment this

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is a punishment mechanism for those who are involved in corruption and to discourage corruption in this Country.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, I think you can round up now.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND REHABILITATION: Sorry, Honourable Speaker, it is the interjections. I am saying that we also should put mechanisms to punish those who are find guilty of being involved in corrupt practises, like barring those companies, like putting a period for them not to participate in certain activities, then corruption will be taken serious and it will not be involved in corrupt practices.

I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. In terms of Rule 90(a), automatic adjournment, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED AT 17:49 UNTIL 2005.10.20