



EIGHTEENTH SESSION, FIFTH NATIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

(09:30 - 13:00)

No.10 – 2020

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

- 1.0 The Chairperson took the Chair.
- 2.0 The Chairperson read the Prayer and Affirmation.
- 3.0 NOTICE OF MOTION(S)
 - 3.1 Honourable Tobias moved a motion without notice: That the proceedings on **Votes: 34, 15, 17, 19, 22, 27, 29, 32, 36, 37 and 38** of the *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2020] be, in accordance with Rule 26 read with Rule 30 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Council, not interrupted if still under consideration at 13:00 hours.
 - 3.2 Honourable Tobias moved in terms of Rule 114 read with Rule 51(1)(i) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Council, that the *Committee Stage* and *Third Reading Stage* of the *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 - 2020] be taken today, Tuesday, 23 June 2020.
- 4.0 DEBATE ON COMMITTEE STAGE

FIRST ORDER READ

Debate on Committee Stage – *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2020] [**Votes: 34, 15, 17, 19, 22, 27, 29, 32, 36, 37 and 38**]

The Chairperson put the question: That he leaves the Chair.

Agreed to.

The Chairperson then called upon Hon. Kauma, the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council and Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole Council, to take the Chair.

Hon. Kauma then took the Chair.

Council in Committee:

The Vice-Chairperson of the National Council and Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole Council re-arranged the Votes on the Order Paper to start with Vote 17, followed by Vote 29, Vote 15 and other Votes followed in the same sequence as they appeared on the Order Paper.

The Council suspended business at 10:24 and resumed at 11:05

Votes: 17, 29 and 15 were put and agreed to.

The Council suspended business at 13:14 and resumed at 14:10

Votes: 34, 19, 22, 27, 32 and 36 were put and agreed to.

The Council suspended business at 16:33 and resumed at 16:53

Votes: 37 and 38 were put and agreed to.

Council resumed:

Hon. Kauma, the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council and Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole Council, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

5.0 DEBATE ON THIRD READING

SECOND ORDER READ

Debate on Third Reading – *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2020].

The Chairperson put the question: That Bill be read a Third Time.

Agreed to.

The Secretary then read the Bill a Third Time.

The Bill was passed **without amendments**.

6.0 CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Hon. Sibatani, Chairperson of the National Council made a Statement to the House at the closing of the Eighteenth Session of the 5th National Council on 23 June 2020.

The Statement is reproduced hereunder:

“Honourable Victoria Kauma, Vice-Chairperson of the National Council;

- **Honourable Lebbius Tobias, Chief Whip of the Ruling SWAPO Party in the National Council;**
- **Honourable Whips of the Opposition Parties in the National Council;**
- **Honourable Chairpersons of standing committees;**
- **Mr. Tousy Namiseb, Secretary to the National Council, and your team;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good evening!

We have come to the end of our Session.

1. From the onset, I would like to thank you Honourable Members for your priceless contribution to our maturing democracy and Nation Building over the past two weeks or so.
2. I commend you for remaining committed to your oath of office as elected representatives of the people on the grassroots.
3. I would like to as well show my appreciation to you for being the conveyor belt of our people's aspirations and concerns in the regions and for bringing them onto the national level.
4. Furthermore, I would like to thank you for remaining observant to the COVID-19 safety measures throughout the Session.

Honourable Members

5. The National Council has just passed the Appropriation Bill on the backdrop of one of the most challenging periods in the global and domestic economy which has been compounded by the outbreak of COVID-19.
6. During his budget speech in the National Assembly on 27 May 2020, the Honourable Minister of Finance brilliantly summarized the main policy objective of the 2020/2021 national budget by saying:

I quote:

“It is a budget aimed at enabling Namibia to better fight the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, support businesses and livelihoods of Namibians during these extraordinary times and to plant seeds for the future economic recovery. “

End of quote.

7. These are indeed uncharted waters. Our constituents are anxious, as many of them face an uncertain future.
8. As you can see, even though Parliament has approved and passed the budget, much work still lies ahead.
9. This then calls upon Parliament – as the representative institution of the people – to go above and beyond and meaningfully contribute towards defeating COVID-19, safeguard livelihoods and to help steer the economy towards positive growth once again.
10. We can achieve this through expanding our oversight function to monitor and evaluate budget implementation throughout the budget cycle.

11. I firmly believe that budget oversight is the area in which the National Council in particular can have the most impact as it is through the oversight that we can influence policy, ensure compliance and accountability from the Executive arm.
12. I, therefore, urge all standing committees during this year to approach their oversight work as business unusual.

Honourable Members

13. As I wind down my speech, I would like to remind us all that the budget we have just passed will only be meaningful if we achieve maximum implementation of the planned government projects and programmes.
14. We should not accept the usual excuses regarding the Public Procurement Act that ministries like to make.
15. In the same vein, I urge you to work together with the various ministries as a team towards achieving 100% budget execution and in the process help government to stimulate economic growth in its role as the biggest buyer in the country.
16. I am confident that we have the necessary team spirit and capacity to achieve this ambitious goal.

Honourable Members

17. In conclusion, I would like to wish you a safe trip as you go back to the front line to rejoin the fight to defeat this invisible enemy known as Covid-19.
18. Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones. See you again when we resume our Session.

I thank you.”

7.0 Honourable Tobias adjourned the Council at 18:34 until further notice.

Mr Tousy Namiseb
Secretary to the National Council