



MEDIA RELEASE

12 December 2013

For Immediate release

RE: 'IPPR BLASTS PARLIAMENT FOR NOT REGISTERING MEMBERS' ASSETS'

A story printed on page 17 of the daily *newspaper The Namibian* dated *Thursday 12 December 2013* titled **"IPPR blasts parliament for not registering members' assets"** has reference.

The story infers that there is nothing done to register Members of Parliaments' (MPs) interests since this Assembly came into office in March 2010. It said **"current National Assembly's persistent failure to produce a Register of Members interests' points to the need for this be a clear requirement in law"**. Contrary to information contained in the article, there is no persistent failure to produce the Register on the part of the Assembly: in fact, the following steps are in motion

Since July 2010, a review process was set in motion to revisit the methods used in the public declaration of MPs assets and interests. This was meant to identify bottlenecks and ultimately address it in order to streamline the declaration by the MP's.

The National Assembly has re-designed the forms and format of Members Declaration of Interests.

It is one thing to have MPs Register of Interests available, but it is another thing to have MPs register their interests in methods and manners that are clear and transparent, to instill confidence in the declarations made.

MPs REGISTER OF ASSETS': ONE

The process of strengthening the methods of registering the MPs interest has begun and, even Parliament's theme for this year is **"Connecting Parliament with Public, Ensuring Accountability and Public Disclosure"**. This clearly points to the efforts done to strengthen the system and processes of public disclosure.

The story dealt with issues UNCAC, AG, ACC, etc. These are issues of a broader system of governance, as such; they have nothing to do with the Public Register of MPs Interests.

On the other hand, the article highlighted important issues such as the amendments to the State Finance Act". Parliament therefore encourages IPPR to make submissions either through the Office of the Minister of Finance, the Hon Speaker of the National Assembly, the respective Committees and/or the Office of the Secretary to the National Assembly.

Parliament herewith advises media practitioners to seek inputs from the relevant stakeholders before going to print.

MPs REGISTER OF ASSETS': TWO

ENDS

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