



THIRD SESSION, SIXTH NATIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Monday, November 29, 2021

(09:30 - 13:00)

No.10 – 2021

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

1.0 The Chairperson took the Chair.

2.0 The Chairperson asked Honourable Filipe in terms of Rule 22 of the National Council Standing Rules and Orders to pray, and Honourable Filipe read the Prayer.

3.0 The Chairperson read the Affirmation.

4.0 ADMINISTRATION OF AN OATH

4.1 The Chairperson welcomed the Honourable Mr. Justice Elton P.B. Hoff, Judge of the Supreme Court to the august House and called upon him to swear-in, the new Members of Parliament of the 6th National Council in terms of Article 71 of the Namibian Constitution; Honourable Bennety Likukela Busihu who replaced the late Honourable John Muchila Mukaya; and Honourable Kosmas Kayayuka Katura who replaced the late Honourable Johannes Kahonzo Sikondo.

- 4.2 The Chairperson thanked the Honourable Mr. Justice Hoff for taking time off from his busy schedule to swear-in the new Honourable Members of the 6th National Council.
- 4.3 Thereafter, the Chairperson welcomed the new Members, Honourable Busihu and Honourable Katura, and wished them all the best in their endeavors as Members of Parliament of the National Council.

5.0 STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Hon. Muha, Chairperson of the National Council made an Opening Statement to the House at the Opening of the Third Session of the 6th Session on Monday, 29 November 2021.

The Statement is reproduced hereunder:

“Honourable Gerhard Shiimi, Chief whip and all whips
Honourable Members
Adv. Tousy Namiseb, Secretary to the National Council
National Council staff members
Media Representatives
Ladies and Gentlemen

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

It is with great appreciation that I take this opportunity to make this opening remark by welcoming you back to this august House for the second session/sitting in this calendar year.

I hope that you have spent the much-needed quality time with your loved ones and above all with the residents of your respective constituencies. Even though our work as Regional Councilors never ceases during the recess, I am hopeful that you have rested well, and you are once again ready to build upon the momentum this house has gained.

It is with sadness that I am informing you that Parliament has lost members. National Council in particular is deeply missing two members who unfortunately past away in between the last sitting and this one. The late Hon. John Muchila Mukaya and Hon. Johannes Kahonzo Sikondo. Of lately, the National Assembly lost Hon. Ignatius Nkotongo Shixwameni. I now request the house to raise and pause for *a moment of silence* in memory of our colleagues.

On the other hand, let me welcome the two Members who has joined us today. Please join me in welcoming them on board the august House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

We are back in business, and this time we have a mammoth task ahead of us. Therefore, this is a call for each one of us to rededicate ourselves to our responsibilities of upholding and defending the laws and the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. The accountability should start with ourselves as per Article 74(4)(a) of the Namibian Constitution that states that all members of the National Council shall maintain the dignity and image of the National Council both during the sittings of the National Council as well as in their acts and activities outside the National Council. The National Council should also embrace the democratic principle underpinned by a system of checks and balances between the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary.

In this system, Parliament is empowered by the Constitution to exercise oversight over the executive by reviewing and supervising the Government policies and programmes. It has been long established that effective oversight is good for proper functioning of a democratic system as it contributes towards improving the quality of the policies and service delivery programmes of Government.

Both The Constitution and electorate expects us to continue holding the executive accountable and to perform our oversight function to ensure that the will of the people prevails.

HOURABLE MEMBERS,

Mother Theresa once said; I quote: “Even if you’re on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there.” end of quote.

Therefore, we must keep moving, we must commit ourselves to continuously improve and execute our mandate more effectively and aim for efficiency.

The realities of the moment are that we are running Constituency Offices; we are assigned responsibilities by Regional Councils; we are MPs of the National Council and are expected to attend sittings of the House from time to time; the House assigns us responsibilities as well; and we are also serving Committees and Committees do undertake oversight visits to various regions and to consult and to do site inspections. In addition, we are assigned to international parliamentary organizations and therefore we are expected to meet our international obligations. All these realities must always be at the back of our minds when planning our activities for the financial year.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Despite the impact of Covid 19 and the budget constraints, the 6th National Council has successfully carried out some of the planned activities. Please allow me to highlight some of those milestones that together as team we have achieved:

- I. Capacity building workshop aimed at orientating and inducting Members of the 6th National Council was held in March at Safari Court Hotel.
- II. With the support of the EPDN, Parliament staff and MPs were trained on conducting effective Parliamentary Oversight.
- III. Under the programme, taking Parliament to the People, the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson carried out outreach programmes to Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Kavango West and Zambezi regions respectively.
- IV. Stakeholders’ Engagement Conference under the theme “Reflections on Oversight Framework” held in Windhoek from 22-25 November 2021.

V. Standing Committee of the **Publics Accounts and Economy** and the standing Committee on **Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs** carried out their oversight functions during the previous and current quarter.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Taking cognisant of the planned activities of the six (6) Standing Committees, a lot still need to be done, I urge Standing Committee Chairpersons and Chief Parliamentary Clerks to see to it that the remaining activities are successfully carried out during the last quarter of the year.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

All of you will agree with me that the urgent and decisive measures that government had put in place continue to meet their intended objectives. Apart from the recent new developments and travel restrictions, our country has experienced a positive trajectory in the overall COVID-19 performance. In terms of epidemiological trends over the past few weeks, we observe a decline in new infections; decreasing hospitalization generally; decreasing numbers of severely and hospitalized persons and deaths; a declining positivity ratio among those being tested for COVID-19 and descending numbers in terms of cases of fatality ratio (CFR).

Despite all efforts and investments made so far, the COVID-19 battle seems to be far from over. I once again make a call to all of you to consider undergoing a voluntary vaccination on top of other approved preventative measures presented to us by the health ministry and the WHO.

On the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV), I urge all members to respond to the call made by Government during the launch of the 16 days of Activism against Gender based violence. The call was for all stakeholders to get on board for the GBV public education campaign, to ensure that the campaign is both successful and impactful. I suggest that we should adopt to include GBV related topics on each community, CDC and VDC meetings.

In conclusion, I urge you Honourable Members to make constructive and valuable contributions towards the debates and discussions that may unfold during the session.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations ahead!

I THANK YOU”

6.0 ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDING OFFICER

6.1 The Chairperson announced that there will be a Meeting for the following Members today, Monday, 29 November 2021, at 14:30 in G.4, National Council Administration Building. They are:

- (a) Hon. Gerhard Shiimi
- (b) Hon. Jeremias Goeieman
- (c) Hon. Peter Kazongominja
- (d) Hon. Sebastiaan Ignatius Gobs
- (e) Hon. Micky Mumbali Lukaezi
- (f) Hon. Tjimutambo Daniel Kuuoko
- (g) Hon. Paulus Nginda Mbang

6.2 The Chairperson reminded the Honourable Chairpersons of the Standing Committees to ensure that each Standing Committee met during these two weeks of the National Council Session to consider their respective Committees’ activities. The Chairpersons of the Standing Committees should decide on which dates their respective committees must meet.

7.0 MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairperson announced to the National Council that the National Assembly has passed and referred the *Appropriation Amendment Bill* [B.10 - 2021] to the National Council for review in accordance with Article 75(1) of the Namibian Constitution.

The Chairperson then called upon the Secretary to read the Bill a **First Time**.

The Secretary read the Bill a First Time.

The Bill stood referred to a **Second Reading**.

8.0 Honourable Shiimi, seconded by Honourable Nambondi, adjourned the Council at 10:05 until Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 09:30.

Mr Tousy Namiseb
Secretary to the National Council
