



REMARKS BY

HONOURABLE PROF. PETER H. KATJAVIVI, MP

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

OFFICIAL LAUNCH

OF THE

REVAMPED PARLIAMENTARY WEBSITE

THURSDAY, 22 JULY 2021

**VIRTUAL
ROOM G4,
NATIONAL COUNCIL**

Check Against Delivery

**Director of Ceremonies,
Hon. Modestus Amutse, Chairperson of the Standing
Committee on ICT,
Ms. Natalie Russman, KAS Country Representative,
Mr. Erastus Amutenya, Deputy Executive Director: Office of
the Prime Minister,
Colleagues from the Enhancing Participatory Democracy in
Namibia (EPDN) Programme,
Representatives from I-marketing
Distinguished Invited Guest,
Staff Members of Parliament,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to stand here with you and celebrate this milestone, sponsored by KAS our long-term development partner. I welcome you all to Parliament, as well as our viewers logging-in virtually, as we launch the official transformed Parliamentary Website, catering for both the National Assembly and the National Council.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we here at parliament have been cognizant of the need to transform our digital communications and transition towards a paperless parliament. We have started the process to transform into an e-parliament,

which will enhance digital parliamentary democracy through online citizen engagement and participation. Our transformed parliamentary website is therefore crucial in ensuring this transformation.

To our long term development partner, KAS, I would like to express my sincere appreciation, for once again supporting the parliament and in particular with the revamp of our website. We benchmark ourselves against some of the most advanced parliaments in the world, because that is what we envision our parliament to be.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This website is a critical tool in taking parliament to the people, doing so locally to our constituents, to the public at large, and to our international partners. The website will help the public to understand the critical constitutional role parliament plays, the work we do, Bills that are tabled, debated and passed, international instruments that are tabled and ratified, Motions tabled and adopted, and questions asked by Members to the government ministers. All these will be available promptly on our website. Therefore, this website will serve as an important platform. Equally, as parliament we advocate for transparency through the

work we do. The website can be an effective tool to promote this transparency.

Ms. Natalie Russman, (KAS) Country Representative and the whole KAS team, I thank you for supporting our vision. Earlier in the year, KAS donated portable computers to our Members of Parliament, and today you stand with us again to launch this transformed parliamentary website. As I mentioned on that occasion, I urge our MPs to put these gadgets to good use, and promote engagement on our website with the citizenry, in order to keep the website relevant and user friendly.

I want to encourage all MPs and Parliamentary staff to use and interact with this website and critique it so that we constantly improve the quality and timeliness of information. The website is ours, let us take collective ownership of it in our vision to transform into an e-parliament.

Finally, I wish to thank the dedicated team from National Assembly and KAS who worked tirelessly to bring this transformed website to fruition. Let us continue to keep it relevant and updated, in order to inform and educate our people.

With these remarks, it is now my honor to officially declare this transformed parliamentary website officially launched and ready for use.

I thank you!