



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

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SUBJECT: ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS BY HON VIPUAKUJE MUHARUKUA

I would like to sincerely thank Hon. Vipuakuje Muharukua for the questions, which I hope were asked in a true spirit of gaining information, but not to discredit the Ministry.

Question 1: With Specific reference to food provision:

- 1.1. How many single mother headed families and households have been directly fed through initiatives of your Ministry?
- 1.2. How many orphans have been direct beneficiaries through your initiatives?

Answer to the two questions above:

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is mandated with the maintenance of the welfare of children in Namibia, regardless of whether the child is from a single mother headed family or otherwise.

In this regard, the Ministry provides social grants to the tune of N\$350 towards Orphans and Vulnerable Children. The current beneficiaries of this grant stands at 202, 718 children, with an additional 700 children placed under Residential Child Care Facilities. The majority of these children are from single mother headed households.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform this august House that the Government is cognizant of the fragmentation of its social welfare grants, and the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare has been tasked to carry out a feasibility study on the possible consolidation of these social grants, under the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

1.3. How many impoverished disabled members of our society have been directly fed through any of your initiatives?

The Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare is not only about the distribution of food, but the food bank initiative is one of the many strategies of the Ministry aimed at ending hunger and poverty in Namibia.

The Ministry is responsible for the payment of a universal social grant to people who have reached the age of 60 (pensioners) and people living with disabilities age 17 and above. People living with disability under the age of 17 are provided for under the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare grant system.

The grant to people living with disability currently stands at N\$1100.00 and will increase with N\$100.00 per year during the MTEF period. I shared this information with members of this august House during my budget motivation speech. The number of beneficiaries under this grant increased from 32,482 to 34,936 during the last financial year (2015/16), due to deliberate efforts by the Ministry to ensure increased coverage.

Question 2: Since the establishment of this Ministry, more than a year ago, how much money has your Ministry spent thus far on directly feeding al or either of these groups?

As alluded to earlier, the Government is providing for the poor and vulnerable through the various social grant systems. The Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare spent over Two Billion Namibian Dollars for the provision and administration of the pension and disability grants during the last financial year.

For the current financial year, a total amount of Two Billion Seven Hundred and One Million, Five Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$2,701,530,000.00) has been allocated for the said grants.

The Ministry is further tasked with ending poverty hunger mainly in urban and peri-urban areas, through the establishment of Food Banks. The first ever Namibian Food Bank will be launched at the end of this month as a pilot in the Khomas region, heralding the distribution of mainly dry food to eligible beneficiaries.

The foodbank programme under the Ministry will supplement other food provision initiatives of the Government such as those under the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Basic Education.

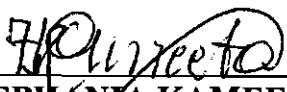
Question 3: Which regions have been the top three recipients of your initiatives to feed the vulnerable groups of our society?

The vulnerable groups being referred to here are being provided for through one of the many social welfare grant systems of Government as stated earlier. The impact of social welfare grants in the lives of beneficiaries cannot be over-emphasized and go beyond just feeding them. Furthermore, the Government's non-contributory social grants do not discriminate between regions, for example the pension and disability grants are universal.

The Ministry is represented in all fourteen regions of the country and has a regional staff complement of 91 staff members. Furthermore, ten new offices have been identified and will be commissioned this financial year in the following areas: (Tsumkwe, Maltahohe, Dordabis, Groot-Aub, Epukiro, Otjinene, Tallismanus, Okanguati, Sesfontein, and Kamanjab).

I have attached a table showing the coverage of the pension and disability grants per region.

In conclusion, I urge once again members of this august House to pay us a visit at the Ministry, see what we are doing and join the war against poverty together with the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, without further delay.



ZEPHANIA KAMEETA, MP
MINISTER

Total number of recipients	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Old Age	124277	127781	130567	133919	137692	140567	143007	147756	152272	159315
Disability Grant	18514	19123	20509	22583	24153	26346	27312	29838	31663	35217

Old Age Pension										
Regions	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Erongo	5806	6149	6568	6975	7340	7733	8070	8636	9022	9805
Hardap	5893	5965	6111	6219	6358	6468	6551	6892	7133	7463
Karas	4176	4314	4398	4527	4678	4765	4855	5124	5334	5658
Kavango	10310	10557	10821	10913	11206	11544	11932	12560	13002	13753
Khomas	8451	9103	9816	10477	11277	12011	12674	13622	14556	15998
Kunene	5258	5541	5694	5890	6098	6247	6351	6542	6760	7114
Ohangwena	18828	18952	18877	19195	19413	19357	19272	19350	19549	20056
Omaheke	4304	4466	4598	4807	4910	4994	5024	5304	5460	5720
Omusati	23233	23651	23759	24062	24465	24491	24537	24761	25036	25476
Oshana	13003	13 529	13 979	14405	14880	15297	15635	16163	16837	17656
Oshikoto	13582	13 668	13679	13830	13982	14120	14149	14344	14584	14894
Otjozondjupa	6783	7062	7245	7435	7715	8034	8279	8599	8980	9630
Zambezi	4650	4824	5022	5184	5370	5506	5678	5859	6019	6092

Disability Grant										
Regions	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Erongo	1116	1057	1098	1214	1233	1293	1269	1400	1487	1700
Hardap	1444	1404	1523	1695	1825	1885	1852	1984	1873	2159
Karas	934	939	913	912	931	961	902	912	910	961
Kavango	1913	2051	2213	2404	2623	2960	3205	3495	3777	4365
Khomas	1961	2019	2125	2374	2589	2761	2889	3080	3420	3854
Kunene	677	712	788	860	960	1035	1041	1046	1114	1214
Ohangwena	1561	1586	1788	2392	2655	2673	2686	3168	3503	3995
Omaheke	762	747	795	890	966	1137	1206	1363	1457	1555
Omusati	2404	2583	2808	2955	2997	3426	3552	3860	4122	4443
Oshana	1947	2084	2245	2430	2704	3128	3303	3677	3916	4243
Oshikoto	1179	1217	1463	1662	1775	1966	2102	2263	2312	2716
Otjozondjupa	1289	1357	1351	1360	1442	1531	1641	1783	1875	2093
Zambezi	1327	1367	1399	1435	1453	1590	1664	1807	1897	1919