

**Brief Intervention by Hon. Prof Peter H Katjavivi, MP, in the
National Assembly, in the Debate on the Second Reading of
the Namibian Citizenship Special Conferment Bill**

12th March 2015

Hon. Speakers,

Hon. Members,

As you all recall, my brief intervention yesterday, requesting for the postponement of the debate on this Bill was aimed at allowing time to consult with the view of allowing an amicable solution to the subject before us.

Before I get into the main point, I would like to thank the Minister of Home Affairs for having responded to the outcry amongst our people over this issue of citizenship by bringing the Bill before this House. This matter is long overdue!

As we have observed, there are conflicting views and legal interpretations over this issue. Some people feel that the Bill does not go far to accommodate intergenerational facts and inherent citizenship rights. Some are of the view that to make this Bill to cater for the first, second and third generation descendants would require amending the Constitution as well. Some legal experts have however argued that we can amend

the Bill to cater for first, second and third generational descendants without necessarily changing the Constitution.

It is against this background that I feel perhaps we need time to pursue these arguments after further consultations so as to allow us to smoothen out these conflicting views and come up with an agreeable solution to the challenge at hand.

Hon. Speakers,

Hon. Members,

This is my humble contribution and request to this Honourable House. The answer to this challenge might probably come in the next Parliament. Nevertheless, the most important factor is that the answer must be amicable and agreeable to the nation. We would rather not rush something so important through this Parliament.

I thank you!