

**CONTRIBUTION MADE BY HON BERNADETTE M. JAGGER DURING THE DEBATE OF THE HIGH RATE OF THE USE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF HUBBLY –BUBBLY AMONGST THE YOUTH**

Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, I rise to make a contribution on this very important Motion aiming at discussing and considering the high rate of the use and accessibility of Hookah amongst the Youth. We shall use Hubbly-Bubbly for the discussion of this motion.

Yes, there is a notable increase in the smoking of Hubbly-Bubbly which is also called Waterpipe. Now the pipe that is connected to the container of water or other liquids is the one through which smoke is drawn. The Hon. Chief Whip of the Ruling Party yesterday demonstrated to us how the tool works.

Those who smoke believe that Hubbly-Bubbly smoke is better than cigarette because it passes through the water. Research findings condemn this and argue that Hubbly-Bubbly and cigarette smoke both contain poison, including nicotine, tar, carbon monoxide, arsenic and lead. We know that arsenic is used as a rat poison and carbon monoxide is a deadly gas also found in a motor car exhaust pipe. Now they say lead, even in small amounts can make children hyperactive, irritable and cause brain damage. Another finding is that smoking Hubbly-Bubbly during pregnancy can stunt a baby's growth. The smoke produced in a typical Hubbly-Bubbly smoking session can contain 36 times more tar and 8 times more carbon monoxide than smoke from a single cigarette.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members. It is believed that Hubbly-Bubbly is as addictive as cigarettes. Many Hubbly Bubbly smokers show all the signs

of addiction...they crave for a smoke, they cannot easily quit, have withdrawal symptoms when they stop. These are similar addictive symptoms to cigarettes. Smokers believe that smoking Hubbly-Bubbly is a social activity and think that it is more fun than a dangerous drug that can make you sick. If elderly persons smoke Hubbly-Bubbly in a room where there are children, they are more likely to have lung infections than children whose parents who do not smoke Hubbly- Bubbly. Its been proven that smoking Hubbly-Bubbly can cause Cancer, Lung damage, Heart disease, Tuberculosis and early death.

The most common reasons cited by Hubbly-Bubbly smokers are that it is cheap, curiosity, it's available in different tastes, group fun, social acceptance, getting rid of sadness and again, PEER PRESSURE.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members. I propose that Hubbly-Bubbly be treated in the same way as cigarettes in the Tobacco Products Control Act, Act 1 of 2010. Smoking Hubbly-Bubbly in public places like restaurants, cafes, coffe shops must be forbidden. Health Planners must come on board as well as us, the Policy-makers and make sure that the Act is honoured and implemented. Preventative interventions should be planned and implemented at social levels using health promotions models.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members. It is a fact that consumption of tobacco products is considered as a globally prevalent health-related problem. Consumption of tobacco related products is one of the significant contributing factors to diseases, disability and early deaths in the world.

Experience gained in the recent years has indicated that public and private sectors lack the sufficient and essential ability to deal with Hubbly-Bubbly smoking. The Tobacco Products Control Act under Part 4 Section 18 (1) (a) is clear that “ No person may sell or supply any tobacco product to any person under the age of 18 years, whether for

his or her personal use or not. (b) engage any person under the age of 18 years in the selling of tobacco products.” 2. “Any person who sells by retail or wholesale any tobacco product must prominently display for the notice of the public a notice to the effect that the sale of tobacco products to a person who is under the age of 18 years, is prohibited.” 3. The Minister may prescribe the size and content of the notice referred to in subsection 2.” 4. Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with subsection (1) or (2), commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding N\$100,000.00 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.”

Lastly, Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members. It is really important that we stand up as Legislators together with parents and the Namibian society as a whole to curb this social evil. Parents must be on the alert. Search around for the Hubbly–Bubbly smoking tools. Hostel Supervisors, check in the rooms. Teachers, Traditional Leaders, take note of this new evil. We should pull together and call for the total ban of Hubbly Bubbly.

I thank the Mover for bringing this Motion. Thank you Hon. Speaker. I support the Motion.