

**CONTRIBUTION ON POOR SANITATION, HYGIENE AND LACK OF ACCESS TO
DECENT SANITATION FACILITIES THAT IS STILL PREVALENT IN MOST OF OUR
UNDERPRIVILEGED COMMUNITIES DESPITE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS THUS
FAR.**

HON. E.J. DIENDA

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Despite having achieved the Millennium Development Goal targets in drinking water, Namibia is struggling to cope with its sanitation problems. (According to a UNICEF report).

In the Namibian of the 29 August 2017 with the heading (Sanitation still poor) one wonders whether the situation will ever change in our beloved country. According to the article most households on the outskirts of Windhoek do not have toilets. According to the 2015 Formative Research Report on open defecation status in Namibia, done by the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry, only a third of Namibia's population of 2.2 Million has access to improved Sanitation facilities.

Maria Sakeus from Kilimanjaro said she cannot understand why the city refuses to build toilets for them as they have been promised every time. She is one of the people interviewed. "My question goes to the female parliamentarians, when you see fellow women suffering like this, how do you feel? Our young girls are getting raped when they relieve themselves after dark, as they cannot do it during the day. I am challenging those women who promised that they will fight for women's rights and dignity" end of quote Sakeus charged. Is this not heartbreaking?

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members

Namibia developed a National Sanitation strategy (2009) with the mission to provide, with minimal impact on the environment, acceptable affordable and

plan

sustainable sanitation services for Namibian households. Six Ministries belong to the regular National stakeholders Forum on Water and Sanitation: Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Urban and Rural Development; Health and Social Services; Land reform; Environment and Tourism and Education. In 2008, the Water and Sanitation Policy of 1993 was reviewed to include a stronger base of stakeholder participation and involvement at all levels. The policy principles quoted that all Namibians should have affordable and sustainable basic water and sanitation services acceptable to individuals as well as affordable for the Nation as a whole. But according to the report the stakeholders don't turn up for meetings. Is it because they are not directly affected that they have a don't care attitude or what?

The key drivers for sanitation are:

- 1) Dignity
- 2) Safety and /or fear
- 3) Disgusting

Taken all these issues into consideration my question to my fellow MP's will be "Do we deserve to be in parliament"

I thank you Hon. Speaker