

Contribution to the debate on the motion
by Hon.Clara Gowases on
(Old Age Homes) in Namibia.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER

Honorable Members

I rise to support the motion tabled by
Honorable Dienda for the following
reasons:

It was a properly researched motion where
all aspects concerning the dilemma of the
old age persons in Namibia were identified
and highlighted. Aspects of social and
health status of our senior citizens were
clearly spelt out.

Old age homes are meant to be a blessing and sigh of appreciation for the labour they toil into the economy of our country. Let's take it from this angle by highlighting the topic by taking examples."Potgieter Te huis vir bejaardes" is a home away from home. It is manned by professional staff that consist of consulting room manned 24 hours by medical doctors that properly take care of the inhabitants. Nurses that are professionally trained to cater for the physical, mental and health care of the inhabitants. The patience care and consoling professionalism this senior citizens are treated with the social and sports club they belong to. Hobbies they are doing. Pastoral care and church services are catered for. Flower gardens and afternoon

organized walking trips they participate in. Even wheelchair walks for fresh air.

Now let's face the reality of the agony of our elders in our community. The only day our elders receive an excellent treatment at the hands of their close family is on the pay day of the pensions. Only about 20% of our community senior citizens is taken care of properly by their next of kin. 80% are neglected with dirt; hunger as well as physically and mentally. Their houses are scamped off from their name. They are hosted in ghettos behind the houses that once belonged to them. They became the victims of exploitation. Why should we pretend that everything is well while there is a smell of rod. Our senior citizens

sacrificed their live hood to build this beautiful infrastructure we inherit today. Look at this house of Parliament Tinten Palace who build it in 1939, physical labour. The castles, tarred roads were the toil of the labour of the citizen\$

The current state of the old age homes in the formerly disadvantaged communities are in deploring destitute stages. Hence, I appeal the Ministry of Health to revisit these institutions and update them. Not all children are kind hearted towards the senior citizens and will take tender care of the senior citizens hence here comes the idea of old age homes. We don't dump our senior citizens rather give them the opportunity where they will be given

professional care, stay in a healthy environment. Have frequent visits from next of kin even on a daily basis. Interact with peers. Visit family over holidays to the coast or other holiday trips.

Let's move forward and think outside the box. We can afford today^{bwt} once we are senior citizens do we want to be a burden to our kids or a liberal realistic minded citizen that think outside the box in comparison to a conservative mind-set where our kids will squeeze out our lump sums of our pension and dumped us at the backyards, while we can live a decent life in old age homes and died a dignified death at the end. Hence the government can subsidized the formerly disadvantage

citizens if they opt to live in old age homes. Paramount Institute is a good example where old age home was combined with state of the art medical facility. Let's value our lives and have positive outlook on issues we must move on and enjoy the fruit of our independence.

Based on above argument I regard old age homes as a blessing and as a must to honor and appreciate the contributions made by our senior citizens.

I support the Motion

I thank you.