



SEVENTH SESSION, FIFTH NATIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 15 February 2017

(09:30 - 13:00)

No.1 - 2017

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

- 1.0 The Chairperson took the Chair.
- 2.0 The Chairperson recited the Prayer and Affirmation.
- 3.0 OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Honourable Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council made a Statement to the House at the Opening of the Seventh Session of the 5th National Council on 15 February 2017. The Statement is reproduced verbatim hereunder:

“HONOURABLE BERNARD SONGA SIBALATANI, VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;

HONOURABLE LEBBIUS TOBIAS, CHIEF WHIP OF THE RULING PARTY IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;

HONOURABLES CHIEF WHIPS OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;

HONOURABLE HILMA NICANOR, DEPUTY MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS & MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;

HONOURABLE MEMBERS;

MRS. EMILIA MKUSA, SECRETARY TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

It is with God`s Grace that I bid you all, Honourable Members, a cordial welcome back to this august House for the first time in this calendar year, 2017. I hope that you have spent the much needed quality time with your loved ones, even though our work as councilors never ceases, I am nevertheless hopeful that you have rested well and ready once again to build upon the momentum this house gained in 2016.

I would like to inform the house that we are missing two members who unfortunately are not well enough to join us. Please join me in wishing them both the quickest of recoveries.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

We are back in business, and this year we have a mammoth task ahead of us. His Excellency, the President has themed 2017 as the year of rededication.

Therefore, Honourable Members, this is a call for each and every one of us to rededicate ourselves to our responsibility of upholding and defending the laws and the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. The electorate expects us to continue holding the executive accountable and to perform our oversight function to ensure that the will of the people prevails.

Mother Theresa once said; **I quote:** *“Even if you’re on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there.”* **end of quote.** Therefore, we must keep moving, we must commit ourselves to continuously improve and execute our mandate more effectively and aim for efficiency.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The 5th National Council has been characterized by the ethos **“business unusual”**. Indeed, over the past year or so, we have attained some notable achievements. Please allow me to highlight some of those milestones that together as Team National Council has achieved:

1. We successfully hosted the first ever Constituency Week in all the 14 Regions;
2. The Office of the Chairperson conducted a successful outreach programme to all 14 regions under the theme “Enhancing public participation in the law making process”;
3. All the 14 regional council reports were tabled, debated and adopted by the House;
4. The National Council rejected the Principle of the Citizenship Amendment Bill;
5. The two Houses of Parliament co-hosted the CEDAW Seminar;
6. The spouses of all the members underwent protocol training;
7. Various standing committees visited the regions to carry out their oversight functions;
8. Last but not least, I am pleased to announce the successful formation of the Junior National Council. All the 14 regions have submitted to my Office the three names of their representatives. This is a very important milestone geared towards achieving National Council’s strategic goal of “Enhancing public participation in the law-making process”, in this case specifically targeting the school going youth. Tomorrow, I will announce the names of all the 42 Honourable junior members in this August House.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

These are but a few of our achievements as the House of Review. There is honestly nothing more to say but to proudly say WELL DONE to you Honourable Members; let us continue working in the spirit of Harambee by pulling in the same direction as we fulfill our mandate as stipulated in the Supreme Law of the land.

In 2017, we have set the bar even higher for ourselves. We have made the tabling of the Constituency Development Bill in the National Assembly a top priority; and consultations in this regard with the Right Honourable Prime Minister are right now at an advanced stage.

Last year we engaged the youth by way of educational theatre and it proved to be a very effective tool. Therefore, this year we plan to build on this success and utilize this tool once more to engage even more young people across the width and breadth of our country.

National Council this year will continue to consult and work closely with civil society, traditional authorities, religious institutions and the private sector among others, as part of our stakeholder engagement strategy aimed at enhancing the public's participation in the law-making process.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

Yesterday we all witnessed the Official Opening of Parliament by the Head of State under the theme **“Parliament working towards the Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”**.

Namibia is a signatory of the 2030 Agenda which includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals aimed at ending poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and tackling climate change by 2030.

Parliament, National Council in particular, has a critical and unique role to play if Namibia is to meet and exceed the SDGs. This unique role is rooted in our work at the grassroots level and in the rural and remote areas where the majority of the SDGs are targeted.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, moving on...

The business of the Day is for the House to consider the Report of the Select Committee on the Public Private Partnership Bill.

In our last session, the House referred this Bill to a Select Committee for public consultations to seek further input from stakeholders. This process was recently concluded and, therefore, the Select Committee will table its Report for further consideration by the House. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Committee Hon. Lebbius Tobias and his team for their hard work during the consultations and I hope all findings and recommendations from the citizens are incorporated, which I have no doubt that this has happened.

I, therefore, urge you Honourable Members to make your valuable contributions towards this important Report.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations ahead!

I THANK YOU”

4.0 MESSAGES FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairperson announced that she received the following official communication from the National Assembly that:

- a) the *Access to Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Bill [B.15 – 2016]* was mistakenly referred to the National Council. She therefore suspend the debate on this Bill and withdraw it from the House until such time that it is referred back to the National Council.
- b) the National Assembly has, in terms of Article 74(1)(b) of the Namibian Constitution, referred the Audited Financial Reports to the National Council to review and scrutinize them in terms of the said Article. The Audited Financial Reports are as follows:
 1. Outjo Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2013 and 2014;
 2. Windhoek Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2012 and 2013;
 3. Omaruru Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2013 and 2014;
 4. Tsumeb Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2013 and 2014;
 5. Otjiwarongo Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2012; 2013 and 2014;
 6. Okahandja Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2012; 2013 and 2014;
 7. Keetmanshoop Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2015;
 8. Grootfontein Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2013 and 2015;
 9. Henties Bay Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2011 and 2012; 2013 and 2014;
 10. Walvis Bay Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2012; 2013 and 2015;
 11. Gobabis Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2012 and 2013;
 12. Swakopmund Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;2013 and 2014;
 13. Usakos Municipality Financial Year ended 30 June 2014;

14. Okahao Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013 and 2014;
15. Oranjemund Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013; 2014 and 2015;
16. Opuwo Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013 and 2014;
17. Luderitz Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2014;
18. Ruacana Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2015;
19. Oshikuku Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2014 and 2015;
20. Outapi Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012; 2013; 2014 and 2015;
21. Aranos Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2011 and 2012 and 2013 and 2014;
22. Arandis Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012 and 2013;
23. Khorixas Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;2013 and 2014;
24. Karibib Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013;
25. Eenhana Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;2013 and 2015;
26. Okakarara Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;
27. Nkurenkuru Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013; 2014 and 2015;
28. Omuthiya Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013 and 2015;
29. Ongwediva Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013 and 2015;
30. Oshakati Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012 and 2013;
31. Rehoboth Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012 and 2013;
32. Rundu Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012 ; 2013 and 2014;
33. Katima Mulilo Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012 and 2013;
34. Ondangwa Town Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013;2014 and 2015;
35. Erongo Regional Council Financial Year ended 31 March 2012 ; 2013 and 2014;
36. Hardap Regional Council Financial Year ended 31 March 2012 and 2013;
37. Kavango Regional Council Financial Year ended 31 March 2012 and 2013
38. Omusati Regional Council Financial Year ended 31 March 2012 and 2013 and 2014;
39. Oshikoto Regional Council Financial Year ended 31 March 2012 ; 2013 and 2014;
40. Karas Regional Council Financial Year ended 31 March 2011; 2012 and 2013; 2014 and 2015;
41. Oshana Regional Council Financial Year ended 31 March 2011 and 2012;
42. Khomas Regional Council Financial Year ended 31 March 2014;

43. Kunene Regional Council Financial Year ended 31 March 2011 and 2012 and 2013;
44. Bethanie Village Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;2013 and 2014;
45. Witvlei Village Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2012 and 2013 and 2014;
46. Kamanjab Village Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2014;
47. Stampriet Village Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013 and 2014;
48. Kalkrand Village Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013;
49. Leonardville Village Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2013;
50. Tses Village Council Financial Year ended 30 June 2011 and 2012 and 2013;
51. Special Report on the non-submission of Financial Statements by Municipalities, Town Councils , Village Councils and Regional Councils up to the Financial Year ended 30 June 2013; and
52. Special Report on the non-submission of Financial Statements by Municipalities, Town Councils, Village Councils and Regional Councils up to the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012.

These reports stood referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economy for consideration and scrutiny. The Standing Committee shall report its observations, findings, conclusions and recommendations to the House at the appropriate time.

5.0 NOTICE OF MOTION(S)

- 5.1 Hon. Tobias gave notice: That on Thursday, February 16, 2017, he shall move the Report of the Select Committee on the Public Private Partnership Bill [B.24 -2016] on its Public Hearings to Kavango East, Oshana, Otjozondjupa, Erongo, Hardap, //Kharas and Khomas regions from 23 January 2017 to 06 February 2017.
- 5.2 Hon. Namuhuja gave notice: That on Thursday, February 16, 2017, she shall move the Report of the National Council delegation to AWEPA Meeting on the Role of SADC Upper Houses in the Budget Cycle, held in Cape Town, South Africa from 02 – 04 December 2016.

6.0 Hon. Tobias seconded by Hon. Kazongominja adjourned the Council at 10:01 until Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 09:30.

Emilia Mkusa

Secretary of the National Council
