



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MOTION BY

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**ON THE EFFECT OF ELEPHANTS AND OTHER DANGEROUS
ANIMALS ON THE COMMUNITIES OF KAVANGO WEST AND EAST
REGIONS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2015

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members of this august House,

I rise this afternoon to move a motion on the effect of elephants and other endangered species in Namibia that are terrorising community members in the two Kavango regions. From the onset, I would like to register my appreciation to Hon. Speaker for granting me this floor to speak on behalf of the residents of these two regions.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members of this august House,

The residents of these two regions are tired of elephants mingling with the communities which pose a serious threat to their livelihood. I hope the Honourable Members have followed the news in recent weeks how these dangerous animals have been causing havoc in the villages of Gcwagi, Mahenzere and Kayeura of Musese Constituency in the Kavango West Region. I am afraid that next time these elephants might kill a human being. These elephants are now staying in the nearby bushes of Mahenzere between Kavango river and the Rundu-Nkurenkuru main road. These are the same bushes where the residents graze their animals, collect fire woods and pass through to collect water from the river and as a result they are at risk to come nearby these bushes. The worse of the matter is that these animals have gone even to the extent of destroying the most respectful properties, graves for our beloved ones who are now late. The matter has been reported several times to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism that their lives are in danger but the responds from the officials is not fast enough. When officials from the line ministry come for assessment of the damage, they sometime come after two or three weeks and ask for the foot prints of the elephants which in most cases might have disappeared as a result of rain or wind, citing that, assessment can only be done when they see foot prints of the elephants. This is frustrating community members because they have reported the incidents immediately to the authority. The Human Wildlife Conflict in the affected villages has gotten many residents angry and worried because the few crops that have grown due to poor rainfall were destroyed by the wildlife. Therefore, I would like to invite the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to pay a visit to these affected areas to assess the damage, hear and listen to their outcry. I am afraid if these

animals continue to terrorize the community; the community might be forced to take law on their own hands to shoot and kills these animals.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

Finally, as we all know that elephants need a large amount of habitat because they eat so much, humans in the affected areas have become their direct competitors for living space because human population is increasing. This is so because forest habitat is being converted into crop fields and pastureland for livestock. We must remember that people on the grass roots do not regard elephants as good neighbors. When humans and elephants live close together, elephants raid crops, and rogue elephants (aggressive male elephants during the breeding season) rampage through villages and in turn, local people might shoot elephants because they fear them and regard them as pests.

I am equally aware, that we have Etosha National Park in Namibia where elephants and other endangered species are kept and protected. One might think that Etosha National Park is not large enough to accommodate all elephants in Namibia, hence another cite need to be identified. And if that is the case, what more if the Government consider erecting a fence on Bwabwata National Park in Zambezi region so that some of these endangered species can be accommodated in this park instead of living them to mingle with the villagers.

Finally, I would like to stress that if we want to preserve our endanger species; we must separate them from the communities. We must remember at all times that tourism industry is one of the important sectors that contribute to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP), hence the protection of endangered species is the rising tool to our economy. Since these are the protected animals, it could be wise if they are kept separately from the people, hence proposing for the line ministry to devise strategies on how to drive these animals away from the community.

Considering both the danger pose by these endanger species especially elephants to the communities and the importance they have on our economy, I propose that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism finds an amicable solution to this worrisome matter and one of the solutions is to consider driving these animals into the national parks and install animal proof fencing so that they don't come out to disturb people. It

is therefore high time for the authority to enclose endangered species in protected areas.

I now rest my case and thank you very much!