

## **Address by Hon. Asser Mbai on the motion by Hon. E.Dienda on old age homes for pensioners**

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Hon. Members, I rise to make a contribution to the debate under discussion. I was and still entertain the opinion that the best way is to have a brief discussion on the said motion and refer it to relevant committees for comprehensive discussion, research, interaction with all stakeholders in order for us to debate the recommendation from the committee.

But nevertheless, Hon. Deputy Speaker, I am certainly delighted after listening to what have been said in this August house, because issues pertaining to older persons are very close to my heart, I am for that matter one of them in this August House. I am here to represent them in this August house.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Hon. Members, I believe you agree with me that a true measure of a caring society is how best it values and protects its senior citizens, the woman, the persons living with Disabilities, Orphans and all Vulnerable members of our society.

Therefore it is important not to debate the issue of old age persons in isolation, but rather discuss it within the context of “POVERTY ERADICATION”

There are in our society unfortunately people with absolute wrong perceptions about GRN. Some members of state – institutions regard themselves as the GRN OF THE DAY, and it is why some people demand for GRN to take responsibility for each and everything.

GRN it's all of us, the President, the Executive, the Legislator, the Private Sector, all citizens there outside it is our GRN. Therefore it is our responsibility as GRN to facilitate, co-ordinate, to streamline a concerted effort from all sectors of society in comprehensively addressing the needs of older persons.

We can never boast to be free, whilst senior citizens of our country who brought this freedom, continue to suffer and do not enjoy all of the rights enshrined in our constitution.

The reality in most of our communities is that the older persons continue to bear the burden of providing care and support to an increasing number of orphans and vulnerable children, caring for their own chronically-ill children and facing the financial burden with limited resources at their disposal. We have heard of horrifying stories of the abuse and neglect of older people within their own families and

in residential facilities. We the Government must take decisive actions to deal effectively with challenges facing older's people in this country. I am proud about the intervention of the increment of N\$ 1 000.00 for the social grant, it is a move in the right direction, it is therefore very essential to create centres and monitor their conditions in their various communities. For us to make sure that the grant really improve their condition of living.

- Also for us to initiate home-bound elderly programs
- Strengthen mobile health services that will also target the elderly.

My message to all our citizens is that we care and love you all.

Thank you for your contribution towards building this country, educating the young generations and sharing your skills and expertise with us.

With this I support the motion and request that the motion ~~to~~ be referred to the Committee. OF GENDER, EQUALITY & CHILD WELFARE. FAMILY AFFAIRS

I so move.

