

NOTICE OF QUESTION

BY

Hon. Elma Dienda (PDM) Signature: 

I hereby give notice that on **Thursday, 15 April 2021**, I shall ask the **Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Hon. Erastus Uutoni** the following:

On 13 August 2019, the Oshakati Town Council gave a directive regarding the valuation of the brick houses belonging to residents of Eemwandi location in Oshakati. The residents, who have been residing in Eemwandi location since 1986, were told to relocate to Onawa village and were offered payments ranging from a mere N\$30 000 to N\$105 000 for their properties.

The Oshakati Town Council took this decision without any consultation from the residents of Eemwandi location. These residents have invested thousands of dollars to build these brick houses without any assistance from government. Most of them have dedicated their entire lives to developing their land and ensuring that their children can have a place to call home.

The council, through an undated resolution, has informed the residents that the University of Namibia (UNAM) wants to develop the land in order to expand the Oshakati Campus. This is however far from the truth. UNAM has indicated that their expansion will not overlap onto the land currently occupied by the residents

of Eemwandi location. The truth is therefore glaringly clear. The Oshakati Town Council simply wants to sell the land to the highest bidder and score profits from it at the expense of the livelihoods of the residents who have been there since 1986. In fact, those who are to benefit from this dubious and dictatorial scheme by the Oshakati Town Council are well known.

I thus ask

1. Why was there no consultation undertaken by the Oshakati Town Council with the residents of Eemwandi location before taking the decision to value their brick houses and relocate them to Onawa village?
2. How can the Oshakati Town Council possibly justify compensating the residents of Eemwandi location paltry amounts of money, between N\$30 000 and N\$105 000, for properties that they have spent their entire lives developing? This amount is grossly insufficient, even to build a new house.
3. Can the minister assure this August House that you will urgently look into the case of the residents of Eemwandi location in particular, and address issues of systematic oppression of residents by local authorities in general?

I so submit.