

**SUMMARY REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE FAMILIARISATION VISIT OF THE DEPUTY  
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HON. PROF. LOIDE KASINGO, TO THE REGIONS OF  
KAVANGO EAST AND KAVANGO WEST FROM 12 – 24 JULY 2015**



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**Background**

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Prof. Loide Kasingo undertook a familiarisation visit during the recess of the House to the Regions of Kavango East and Kavango West from 12 – 24 July 2015. During her visit to Kavango East Region she was accompanied by Hon. Marina Kandumbu. Other Members who were also supposed to accompany her could not make it as they were at the same time assigned other national parliamentary duties.

The Deputy Speaker's familiarisation visit is a continuation of her annual familiarisation visits. During the course of the Fifth Parliament, 2010 – 2015 she has visited the following Regions: Oshikoto, Erongo and some Constituencies in Khomas. During the course of this year, November/December 2015, hopefully she intends to visit Zambezi Region for the same purpose. Other Regions will be covered in the years to come.

The main purpose of her visits was to enable grassroots people to understand the functions of the law-making process, their rights and obligations towards the process of law-making, the separation of powers and checks and balances within the three branches of the State, as well as to appreciate the distinct functions of the three branches of the State namely: the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. The methodology of consultations was in the form of simple pictorial PowerPoint presentation. The other peculiar issue attached to her program was to engage communities on finding solutions to the issues of Gender-Based Violence as well as learners pregnancy in schools.

The expected outcomes at the end of her visits was for the communities to understand the work of Parliament as well as to familiarise themselves with the law-making process and the roles the other branches of the state play in the law-making process. It is hoped that at the end of the consultations they can make informed decisions, contributions and demands, as well as the roles the society can play in the law-making process, for them to know their rights and to whom and where to address their concerns, needs and demands.

During the above-mentioned period, the Deputy Speaker paid a courtesy call to the Governors of Kavango East and Kavango West, where they briefed her of the biggest challenges facing the two regions such as teenage pregnancies, scarcity of portable water, demand for electricity, and poor road networks especially in the inlands. She also paid courtesy calls to the Palaces of Hompa Eugene Siwombe Kudumo and Hompa Alfons Kaundu, respectively. Both Hompas supported her initiative of

bringing Parliament and Government closer to the people. She had held public meetings in those two Regions which were attended by Councillors, traditional leaders, advisors to traditional leaders, principals and teachers, spiritual leaders, nurses, business people and the community at large. She also engaged with learners on the importance of education, commitment, hard work, discipline, respect for elders and teachers, and the role they can play as future leaders of this country.

At the end of her briefings, they asked her questions and also shared their challenges that they are experiencing in their Regions and Constituencies. Most of the issues raised by the target audience centred around socio-economic challenges; for example, issues of service delivery. Where responses could not be given immediately, the assurance was given that Offices, Ministries and Agencies would be made aware of the concerns and issues raised by tabling the report in the National Assembly for discussion.

They did not touch much on the legislative system. However, there is concern of some of the legal provision in the Constitution such as Chapter 3, Article 12 dealing with Fair Trial, and Article dealing with Corporal Punishment (Article 8 of the Namibian Constitution). Other legal provisions that came under the spotlight are; the Combating of Rape Act of 2000 (Act No.8 of 2000) as well as the Combating of Domestic Violence Act of 2003 (Act No. 4 of 2003). The communities said despite having those legal frameworks, the cases of this nature continue to raise at an alarming rate hence a need to find alternative tools to address such challenges.

Below is a summary of issues which arose from the meetings with the various stakeholders:

Issues Raised/Specific Challenges		Proposal(s)	Responsible O/M/A's
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Health issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kayengona Clinic in Rundu Rural Constituency also caters for Vungu-Vungu and Majane communities and as a result, the population has increased to 6 700 people but it has got only one private room for HIV counselling and testing. This has compromised the privacy of patients.</li> <li>- The nurses at Kayengona Clinic reported that there is no accommodation for them at the clinic, they have to travel long distances every day from Rundu to attend to patients at the clinic.</li> <li>- There is no clinic at Kapako Constituency and for Likwatelela village in Rundu Rural Constituency and as a result, pregnant women and sick people have to walk long distances to reach places where there are clinics. At Chandu</li> </ul>	<p>The Clinic need to be extended to be able to accommodate the large population.</p> <p>Accommodation be built for the staff so that they can be closer to their work station.</p> <p>It is recommended that mobile clinics should be introduced in the meantime to serve the health needs of the people.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Social Services</p> <p>Ministry of Health and Social Services</p> <p>Ministry of Health and Social Services</p>

	<p>in Rundu Rural Constituency, there is no ambulance. An ambulance has to come from Rundu.</p> <p>- At Andara Hospital in Mukwe Constituency, the delivery room is being used as a maternity ward due to a lack of wards. After delivery, mothers are taken to the female ward where babies are exposed to airborne diseases.</p> <p>- At Mashare Constituency it was reported that there is a lack of health facilities due to the Ministry of Health and Social Services' policy that a clinic can only be built in an area which has got a population of more than 8000 people.</p>	<p>The hospital needs to be expanded to accommodate more wards</p> <p>The policy should be re-looked because people are suffering in a community with less than 8000 people due to a lack of health facilities. The Ministry should rather look at the distance that people have to travel to reach the nearest health centre instead of the number of people in the area.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Social Services</p> <p>Ministry of Health and Social Services</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Water and Sanitation</b></p> <p>- At Katjinakatji Secondary School in Mankumpi Constituency, no bathrooms and proper toilets for both learners and teachers. The teachers and learners make use of salty water from boreholes.</p>	<p>The school proper sanitation and potable water for human consumption.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture; and the Ministry of Works and Transport</p>

	<p>- Many people and some schools do not have access to potable water. For example, Muhopi Primary School in Rundu Rural Constituency does not have potable water since the school was built in 1987 and as such, they collect water from the boreholes. In the inlands communities collect water from the Kavango river which is not safe for human consumption.</p> <p>- At Kaimbola Combined School, with a population of 560 learners, there has been no toilets for the past seven years.</p> <p>- At Max Makushe Secondary School in the Mukwe Constituency, the sewerage pipe has been blocked since 2008 and the asbestos pipes need to be replaced with pvc pipes. The sewerage water is flowing in the river. The contractor has not been forthcoming although the problem was reported.</p>	<p>That they be provided with water tanks. That a way should be found on how to purify water from the river, and bore-holes should be drilled in areas where there are no potable water.</p> <p>There is a need to build/set up ablution facilities at the school.</p> <p>The Ministry of Works is urged to look into this problem and to rectify it as soon as possible because the sewerage water is overflowing and contaminating the river.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture; and Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry</p> <p>Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture; and the Ministry of Works and Transport</p> <p>Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture; and Ministry of Works and Transport</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <p>- Muhopi Primary School does not have a fence although the school is in remote area. There is</p>	<p>Additional blocks need to be built in order to ease the shortage being experienced.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture</p>



	<p>no administration block, only a small office which is being used as an office and also as a staff room.</p> <p>- The Ndiyona Combined School in the Ndiyona Constituency, there is a serious lack of beddings for boarding learners and not enough school facilities such as classrooms and hostels</p> <p>- There is a shortage of school hostels in the Constituencies to accommodate both teachers and learners. Due to lack of accommodation teachers and learners are forced to set up shacks and tents around the school vicinities, while some students, for example at Katjinakatji Secondary School, are sleeping in the store rooms. Two houses for teachers are still not completed since 2013. Learners walks long distance up to 20km to come to school. At Mupapama Combined School in Mashare Constituency for example, there is only one flat that can accommodate two teachers out of 21 teachers and bush allowance is not adequate to attract qualified teachers.</p>	<p>There is an urgent need for Government to provide the school with beddings as learners are suffering especially during cold weather.</p> <p>There is a need to build teachers' accommodation and hostels for learners to curb the shortage.</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture; and the Ministry of Works and Transport</p> <p>Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture; and Ministry of Works and Transport</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a high rate of pregnancies among school girls.</li> <li>- At Mukwe Constituency, there are only two secondary schools, at Shamangorwa and Max Makushe, with no hostel at Shamangorwa. The hostel was promised in 2012 but up to now nothing has transpired.</li> <li>- In Ncuncuni Constituency, there is only one secondary school, Matumbo Angelina Libebe Secondary School, for the whole Constituency.</li> </ul>	<p>The communities feel that there is a need to review the pregnancy policy for school learners as it poses serious challenges for school administration.</p> <p>There is a need for a hostel to accommodate learners who come from far places and have to walk long distances.</p> <p>There is a need for another secondary school since the constituency is big and the population is growing</p>	<p>Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture</p> <p>Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture</p> <p>Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Roads and Building Infrastructures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some new constructed building are already cracking due to poor quality material and poor workmanship.</li> <li>- Communities in the inlands are unable to travel from place to place especially during the flooding or rainy season due to poor road infrastructures. There are no proper roads connecting the inlands.</li> </ul>	<p>Building inspectors should do proper inspection to the work done.</p> <p>There is a need to upgrade/rehabilitate the roads.</p>	<p>Ministry of Works and Transport</p> <p>Ministry of Works and Transport</p>

<b>5</b>	<p><b>Social Welfare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Headmen in villages are mandated to issue letters confirming if a child is an orphan or vulnerable so that he/she can be registered to receive government grant. However, when this letter is taken to the Ministry for registration, he/she is directed to the police for a letter again, a process made unnecessary long.</li> <li>- The number of vulnerable children to be registered for grants was said to be limited by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. For example, if children are to be registered in a Constituency, the Ministry impose a number which they do not exceed and the registrations are done at the Constituency Offices. People in the remote areas and unable to travel, are left out.</li> </ul>	<p>The views are that the letter of the headmen should be accepted as a true reflection of the child status that he/she is an orphan in order to cut out bureaucracy and to shorten the process of registration.</p> <p>The number should be re-looked because Kavango is the second largest populated area. The officials should also reach those people who are in remote areas.</p>	<p>Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare</p> <p>Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Unemployment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Ndiyona Constituency, there is a high unemployment rate among the youth and the school dropout is high. The intake for the</li> </ul>	<p>Government should make sure that employment is created and the youth should be encouraged to involve themselves into</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation,</p>

	<p>National Youth Service is very low, only about four people per constituency are admitted every year.</p>	<p>agricultural activities to produce for the hostels and hospitals, and as such to gain an income. They should form Green Scheme Projects, as well as cooperatives in the form of wood carving/cutting, tree planting and eventually to supply Government with products.</p>	<p>Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.</p>
7	<p><b>Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Gender-Based Violence</b></p> <p>- Generally, alcohol and drug abuse is on the increase among the youth and elders.</p> <p>- Gender-Based Violence is on the increase, necessitated by alcohol and drug abuse especially among the youth. The communities are concerned about the bail conditions extended especially to the rapists and murderers.</p>	<p>Parliament should pass a law to combat alcohol abuse. Shebeens should be controlled and time for operating hours should be restricted.</p> <p>Lack of proper bringing up. Parents should teach their children the basics of traditions and customary values, and churches and social workers should play more role in the community. The law needs to be revisited to make room for stiffer sentences for rapists and murderer.</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice</p>

	<p>- The communities reported that alcohol and drug abuse is also one of the leading contributor to HIV/AIDS which is reportedly high in the two regions.</p>		
<b>8</b>	<p><b>National Documents</b></p> <p>- At Ndiyona Constituency, there are about seven Ministry Offices but no Ministry of Home Affairs for people to get national documents. Ndiyona is in the centre between Rundu and Divundu (100 km from each other) and to get the national documents, one has to travel 100 km to Rundu or Divundu.</p> <p>- At Ncuncuni Constituency, the absence of the Ministry of Home Affairs has resulted from children not having national documents such as birth certificates and IDs.</p>	<p>Services such as the issuing of national documents should be brought closer to the people.</p> <p>Government should provide a mobile office to the Constituency.</p>	<p>Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration</p> <p>Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Human-Animal Conflict</b></p> <p>- Compensation paid to people whose fields and fences have been destroyed by wild animals such as elephants was said to be very low or</p>	<p>The communities want the policy for compensating to be revisited.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment and Tourism</p>

	<p>non-exist. It was said that only \$200 is being paid per hectare.</p> <p>- Domestic animals along the national roads are causing car accidents leading to death and serious injuries to both humans and animals.</p>	There is a need for a law to regulate domestic animals.	Ministry of Justice
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Mobility for Councillors</b></p> <p>- The Councillors complained that they are unable to visit their Constituencies and to familiarise themselves with issues on the ground due to a lack of mobility. They have to use their own, or to hire transport to reach their communities.</p>	There is a need for Government to consider this matter favourably and to provide official vehicles for Councillors.	Ministry of Urban and Rural Development
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Security</b></p> <p>- At Ncamagoro Constituency, there is no police station. People have to travel to Nkurenkuru or to Mururuani which is a distance.</p>	A Police station is needed and therefore it is recommended that such services be brought closer to the people.	Ministry of Safety and Security

<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Electricity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At Andara Hospital situated in the Mukwe Constituency, the generator which is supposed to be the back-up, has not been working since 2012. At the maternity hall and theatre, there is no reliable electricity, some medicines get destroyed after being exposed to heat during power failure and the mortuary cannot always be used to store bodies.</li> <li>- No electricity at Kaimbola Combined School since independence. Most villages are still not electrified although electricity is closer to them such as at government institutions.</li> <li>- At Muyama Combined school also in Rundu Rural Constituency no electricity since independence.</li> </ul>	<p>It is recommended that a new generator is procured for the hospital as a matter of urgency and the transformer to be rehabilitated.</p> <p>Government should re-look at the policy of rural electrification programme to extend it to those communities within a radius of 500 from government institutions as it was the case in the past.</p> <p>There is a need to electrify the school.</p>	<p>Ministry of Works and Transport, Ministry of Mines and Energy, and the Ministry of Health and Social Services.</p> <p>Ministry of Mines and Energy, and the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.</p> <p>Ministry of Mines and Energy</p>
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13	<b>Constituency Development Funds</b>  - The communities want the Constituency Development Fund to be decentralised to the Constituencies.	Such a move will mitigate and fast-track community interventions.	Ministry of Urban and Rural Development
14	<b>Sustainable Use of Local Natural Resource</b>	Although the two Regions of Kavango are blessed with a perennial river, good forest and vegetation, these resources are not used to the benefits of the communities to sustain themselves. It is said that the Regions can reduce poverty and create employment especially for the rural youth and women if they engage in activities such as wood carving, charcoal, etc. provided they are given the necessary support by the Government.	Ministry of Environment and Tourism; and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry





<p>Article 12 of the Namibian Constitution: <i>Fair Trial</i></p>	<p>The communities are of the opinion that the law seems to favour the accused rather than the victim. The sentences given to the accused were viewed to be lenient, and bail is easily given without considering the magnitude of the crime. This leaves the victims and their families more traumatised due to the bail given immediately upon arrest and light sentences upon conviction.</p>	
<p>Combating of Rape Act of 2000 (Act No. 8 of 2000)</p>	<p>Cases of rape were reported to be on the increase, with victims ranging from babies to grandmothers. It was proposed that heavy sentences should be given out to the culprits to discourage people from committing such crimes against helpless children and women.</p>	
<p>Combating of Domestic Violence Act of 2003 (Act No. 4 of 2003).</p>	<p>This Act is among others to “<i>provide for the issuing of protection orders in domestic violence matters ...</i>”. The lack of proper upbringing and respect of customary values were seen as the cause of violence within families. Again, the law needs to be revisited to make room for stiffer sentences.</p>	

However, the communities also thanked and praised the Government for having improved their lives and developments in their Constituencies. Among others:

- They indicated that in their Constituencies, nearly all Government institutions such as schools, clinics, agricultural extension offices, are now electrified;
- They further informed the Deputy Speaker that most of the Government institutions are provided with potable water. Community water taps and private taps are also found in their Constituencies;
- They reported that most of the elderly and orphans are being registered and are getting their grants from Government. They said the grants from Government is one of the contributing factor which is reducing poverty in the Constituencies in particular, and in the region in general;
- They applauded Government for providing them with drought relief food especially those who are affected by the drought;


The Deputy Speaker also had an opportunity to visit the huge irrigation project at Divundu Correctional Facility in the Kavango East and she was very impressed by the farming and production activities at this centre as it provides the needed food stuff to the prison facilities countrywide and also donates to the Office of the Prime Minister for drought relief programme.

The Deputy Speaker also visited other places outside her program such as the Vision School and St. Bonifatius School, both in the Kavango East Region. Although she did not find learners at St. Bonifatius School as they were out for the weekend, the environment and impression created, showed that there is discipline at the school. At the Vision School, it was noticed that the school was well resourced and learners were found studying on a Sunday with the help of the teachers.

It is proposed that Government and friends of education needs to take over educational responsibilities for the San learners, marginalised and other poor learners as they do the same with the Vision School.

In the end, the Deputy Speaker would like to emphasise that her visit to the two Regions of Kavango was very successful, fruitful and an eye opener to her. The communities even requested her to visit them again with the view to explain the Namibian Constitution thoroughly to them, about their rights and obligations because not every citizen has thorough knowledge of the Constitution; and also to address school children and sensitise them. They indicated to her that today's children have become disrespectful/disobedience to them as parents and to the teachers because of the corporal punishment that is now prohibited, but she explained that there are alternatives to corporal punishment, amongst others, the revival of the rich African culture of respect of elders; and the preparation of girls and boys for adulthood.

Finally, the communities proposed that the **Tender Board** be decentralised, for all the 14 regions to have a Tender Board of their own, and that the Women and Men Network be strengthened to work together with traditional leaders in order to curb crimes and to sensitise young people against committing crimes.



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**HON. PROF. LOIDE KASINGO (MP)**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

