



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

RESPONSE

BY HONOURABLE PENDUKENI IIVULA-ITHANA, MP

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION

ON THE QUESTIONS ASKED

BY HONOURABLE VIPUAKUJE MUHARUKUA, MP

08 OCTOBER 2015

PARLIAMENT

Honourable Speaker Sir;

Honourable Members of this august House;

I rise this afternoon to respond to the questions by Honourable Vipuakuje Muharukua of DTA as follows:

1) Is the Oludhimba speaking community a recognized tribe in our Republic, if not, what is the reason behind such discrimination?

I took note of this question by the Honourable Member however the question is completely outside the mandate of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. I would like to inform the Honourable Member that the issues of tribes and traditional set up fall under the mandate of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and not under the jurisdiction of my Ministry. At the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. At this ministry we deal with the Namibian citizens living in one country as a constituency and not as tribes.

2) How many Oludhimba speaking are Namibian identity cards holders, if it is not known, why not?

As I earlier stated that we deal with Namibians within the concept of “One Namibia, One Nation” and not based on ethnicity and tribal groupings. Our Identity Documents (IDs) are not coded along tribal groupings. The coding was done away with when National Identity Card System was introduced on the 27th June 1994. I want to inform the Honourable Member that the tribal coding system was in the fulfillment of the Apartheid policy, to control inter-tribal migration and

to ensure that the apartheid law enforcement agencies monitored the movement of persons within the so-called tribal areas.

The policy of this government is to promote harmonious co-existence of the various communities and enhance the oneness of the the Namibian people under the One Namibia One Nation policy. Tribal segregation has no place in an independent Namibia and the registration of the citizens is taking into account only the biometric data of the individuals and not their tribes or tribal origin.

Honourable Speaker Sir,

Honourable Members of this august House,

I am sure that the Honourable Member knows that for the past years, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has conducted mobile registration to capture and register residents of this country for the issuance of national documents. The reasons behind this mobile registration exercise is for the elderlies and vulnerable people such as those living with disabilities, san people, Ovahimba, Ovazemba, Ovatwe and school going children to have the opportunity to register when the service is brought nearer to them. Mobile registration is a yearly exercise and the Hon. Member should use his endeavors to encourage the concerned community members to take advantage of the opportunity to register whenever such an opportunity availed.

To complement the mobile registration programme we have managed to decentralize our offices through establishing Regional Offices in all Fourteen Regions (14) with the view to bringing services more closer to the people. Not only that, the Ministry has gone further and opened hospital-based civil

registration offices at hospitals with maternity facilities to register new born babies to issue them with birth certificate immediately after birth. In this respect, I am appealing to you, Honorable colleagues to spreading the message on the ministry behalf to inform the public of these initiatives by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members,

During the month of August, after the promulgation of the Namibian (Second) Conferment of the Citizenship Act, (Act No. 6 of 2015) on the brothers and sisters from sisters who returned from Botswana who reside at Gam and Eiseb Block the Ministry responded positively and I personally led a team of officials to register these nationals and issue the with national documents on the spot.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members of this august House,

By way of concluding remarks, I would like to inform the Honourable Member Mr Vipuakuje Muharukua that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration cannot adequately address the issue of national documents alone. National, Regional, Local and other community leaders should join hands and work together with the Ministry by encourage the community members to acquire national documents when the opportunity is availed other then to wait when there is a need for an ID or birth certificate. Leaders particularly, the political leadership at the grass root level, are the catalytic stakeholders in this regard. The Ministry relies on community leaders to provide correct information or affidavit to those individuals who may not have the necessary documents to prove their respective place of birth. Therefore, I would like to advise the Honourable Member to engage the authority

in that specific Region and inform the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration on this matter and register these people with national documents if they are properly identified by authority as citizens of this country. As the people's representatives in this Parliament, we should play our national role to advise members of the public accordingly on how to access government services including the acquisition of national documents.

Now that the Hon. Member is more informed, it is my hope that he is satisfied and will inform the concerned community to go and register for national documents as such documents are only issued to those who seek for them.

I thank you!