



Republic of Namibia

**RESPONSE BY THE MINISTER OF LAND REFORM, HONOURABLE
UTONI NUJOMA TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NOTICE OF
QUESTION.**

15 OCTOBER, 2015

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

I rise this afternoon to respond to the Notice of Question raised in this House on Thursday the 8th October, 2015 by **Honourable Reinhold Madala Nauyoma** ^(A D P) with regard to the operations of the Ministry of Land Reform. Allow me to respond to the question which was raised as follows:

QUESTION

“How come that 25 years after independence we still have a very important office in this Land that deals with our land issues, the office of the Surveyor General is occupied by a foreign national, is it true that we cannot find a suitable qualified Namibian to handle as is it right to send a Non-Namibian to international boundary discussion with neighbouring countries”?

RESPONSE

I appreciate the contribution being made to the House by the Honourable Member, through the Notice of Question, and in responding to this question I will make reference to the supreme law of our country, which is the Namibian Constitution. I would like to inform that the Namibian law regarding nationality regulates who is or may become a citizen of the Republic of Namibia. The primary source of nationality law in Namibia is **Article 4 of the Namibian**

Constitution, with additional provisions provided by the **Namibian Citizenship Act of 1990 as duly amended**.

Further, a person may be a citizen of the Republic of Namibia at birth either through operation of **Article 4(2)** (*jus sanguinis*, i.e. descent from a Namibian citizen) or a restricted form of *jus soli* (**Article 4(1)**, birth in Namibia to a citizen parent or to a parent who is ordinarily and legally resident in the country. **Article 4(3)** mandates a period of at least two years' wait before a non-Namibian National may obtain Namibian citizenship through marriage to a Namibian. In 2010, the Cabinet brought forth a Bill to amend **Sections 3 and 5 of the Citizenship Act of 1990** to set the required time of waiting by non-Namibian Nationals to **ten years**. Furthermore **Article 4(5)** provides for naturalization. A minimum period of ^{ten} five years of residency in

Namibia is required for naturalization. *after having acquired a permanent residence for ten years*

Having narrated the legal framework in respect to the issues under discussion and as raised by the Honourable member, I would like to inform the House that the current **Office of Survey and Mapping is occupied by a Namibian national**. The Surveyor General who is an employee of the Ministry of Land Reform is a Namibian Citizen. He has been a lawful resident of Namibia for more than 10 years and has consistently contributed to this office in that capacity.

I also thought it imperative to inform the House of the personnel situation currently obtaining at the **Directorate of Survey and Mapping** as follows:

- There is **one (1) non-Namibian national employed on a short-term basis up to 2016 as Deputy Surveyor General**. This staff member was brought in through Namibia-German Bilateral Agreement **as an Integrated Expert** to enhance the capacity of the Office of the Surveyor General.
- There are a total of **31 technical staff members**, comprising of **6 Surveyors, 21 Survey Technicians, 2 Cartographers and 2 Artisans**.
- There are a total of **15 funded but vacant posts** comprising of **1 Deputy Surveyor General, 8 Surveyors, 1 Chief Surveyor, 3 Senior Survey Technicians, 1 Senior Cartographer and 1 Cartographer**). All of these positions have been advertised, except the post of Chief Surveyor.

It is also important for the Honourable Member to know that mapping and land surveying is a profession with scarce skills in our Region and Namibia is no exception. This is one of the fields of study that was not very accessible to our people during the colonial and apartheid administration. After independence, the Ministry of Land Reform made efforts to train staff in the field of surveying and mapping but due to high demand in the market, most of those trained

have gone to 'greener pastures' in the private sector. However, the Ministry has already developed a Plan to address the challenge of skills shortage not only in the field of land surveying but in land management in general.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to respond and give the needed clarification on this matter.

I THANK YOU.

