



Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Urban and Rural Development

Tel: (+264 61) 2975111
Fax: (+264 61) 226049

Luther Street

Private Bag 13289
Windhoek, Namibia

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

Question 34: (2015-09-15) by Hon Dienda

Question 1: Can the Minister please explain to this House the criteria for the constructing of tarred roads, and when we will be put on the budget?

the Hon Member and the Agent House
In response to this question, I am pleased to inform you that the upgrading of streets in this area is an ongoing project based on a pre-determined programme and that the City Council allows adequate funding for this purpose on a yearly basis. The selection criterias used for the setting of priorities are mainly based on maintenance and safety factors. This programme is frequently updated and submitted to the Council for input and approval.

Pursuant to the aforementioned, the current phases, Phase 7 & 8, of the said tarring programme were approved by Council during November 2014 and include several streets in Wanaheda. The list of these streets is herewith accompanying.

Phase 7

Wanaheda Extension 7 (currently under construction)

Street	Constituency
Yukon	SamoraMachel
Saskatchewan	SamoraMachel
Missouri	SamoraMachel
Uruguay	SamoraMachel
Amazon	SamoraMachel
Orinoco	SamoraMachel
Parana	SamoraMachel

Wanaheda Extension 8(construction to continue together with Ext. 7)

Street	Constituency
Maseru	SamoraMachel
Kigali	SamoraMachel
Gaberone	SamoraMachel
Pretoria	SamoraMachel
Lusaka	SamoraMachel
Lilongwe	SamoraMachel
Harare	SamoraMachel

Phase 8 of the tarring programme is currently in the design phase and includes the following streets in Wanaheda:

Wanaheda Extension 2

Street	Constituency
Sabi	SamoraMachel
Juba	SamoraMachel
Volta	SamoraMachel
Zaire	SamoraMachel
Maputo	SamoraMachel
Pongola	SamoraMachel
Swakop	SamoraMachel
Molopo	SamoraMachel
Kwanza	SamoraMachel
Gambia	SamoraMachel
Senegal	SamoraMachel
Benu	SamoraMachel
Niger	SamoraMachel
Kei	SamoraMachel
Nile	SamoraMachel

Wanaheda Extension 3

Street	Constituency
Kampala	SamoraMachel
Mbabane	SamoraMachel
Nairobi	SamoraMachel
Kinshasa	SamoraMachel
Luanda	SamoraMachel

Question 35: (2015-09-15) by Hon Dienda

Question 1: Is the Minister aware that there are no public toilet facilities available at big shopping centres like the Red Cross Shopping Centre and Pick and Pay shopping centre in Katutura?

In direct response, I would say I was not aware and I wish to thank the Hon Member for bring this matter to my attention.

I have conducted the Windhoek Municipality and the Municipality has informed me that according to its records (that is the approved plans), there are public ablution facilities at Pick n Pay Katutura shopping centre. The Municipality has conducted an investigations into the matter and the investigation revealed that indeed such facilities exist but access to these facilities is upon request, meaning that the toilets are not left open to the public because of recorded cases of vandalism, but the public can request to use the facilities from any of the business units that they are visiting in the complex at a given time.

In addition to the above, I have also been informed that the whole complex is being revamped and a provision for additional ablution facilities has been made. The revised building plan in this regard has been submitted to the City of Windhoek for approval.

Regarding the Shoprite Shopping Complex (Red Cross then), the Windhoek Municipality has informed me that the area, according to the initial plan, was not meant to be or for a business complex but for a Red Cross School. However when it was later converted into a complex, each business unit has an ablution facility, in line the Municipality's health regulations. The health regulations require every business to have public toilets at least one for male and another for female.

Question 2: What will the Minister do to rectify this problem since the former Minister had said in his response that the owners of these shops said that customers will be allowed to make use of their facilities, but nothing like this is allowed by them?

The Municipality has assured me that it is working on ensuring that the necessary ablution facilities are provided for as stipulated in the Municipal Health Regulations. In this same vein, members of the public who experience any inconveniences and/or are refused access to these facilities should report such to the Municipality through their Regional and Local Authority Councillors. Ablution facilities for me are not privileges but rather rights. It should also be clear that the customers that enter our shopping centres are the people who made us to become millionaires and billionaire, thus treating them with care is essential. It is therefore a call that Honorable Councillors insists that developments by developers that come in their areas meet these requirements.

Question 36: (2015-09-15) by Hon Muharukua

Question: 1: Does the Government have a detailed report, detailing the effect that the pilot project will have on the high land prices on the wider economy?

I want to believe that the “pilot project” referred to here is in respect of the massive urban land servicing project (MULSP) whereby three (3) urban areas, namely Windhoek, Walvis Bay and Oshakati have been identified to serve as the pilot.

With that understanding, I wish to respond that as per the agreement that was reached between the Government and the Affirmative Re-positioning Movement under the stewardship of His Excellency the President, a detailed implementation plan is being finalised by a joint technical committee. The committee comprises of representatives (Permanent Secretaries, chief executive officers and officials) from various Offices/Ministries/Agencies of Governments and the identified local authorities as well as the AR. The technical committee reports to and is working under the guidance of a steering committee consisting of Ministers, the Mayors of the three identified local authorities for now, and also the Governors of the regions where the identified local authorities fall.

Noting that the project has huge resources implications and requirements, the Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning and their teams are also assisting in identifying possible sources of funding that can be allocated to the massive urban land servicing initiative, they have been and are continuing to consult with various Offices/Ministries in this regard. I should however inform this August House that the Massive Land Servicing Programme shall in the future cover other Municipalities, Towns, Village Councils and Settlements in the Country.

A detailed report of the scope of the work involved, timelines, the total funding requirements and the funds available now and to be made available in the coming medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) will be provided to this August House in due course. As requested by the Hon Member, the report will also contain information on the expected impact of the project.

1.1. If there is such a report, when should this August House expect to be appraised with the content of such report given that work already underway?

As I have indicated above, the details activity plans and report on the massive urban land servicing initiative are being finalised. The steering committee report shall first go to Cabinet and then shall be introduced to this House. It should also be understood that items that were not budgeted for would always have an impact on those items that were budgeted for and approved. Therefore I am advising that this Honourable House have to support when the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development shall call for some issues to be forgone/sacrificed to accommodate current demands.

Question: 2: Given the urgency of residential land delivery, does the Government have a timeframe within which it expects to deliver the aforementioned 200,000.00 serviced plots to the people?

As I have replied earlier, the timeframe and other modalities for the implementation of the project, are being finalised and will be provided in due course, However, I

must also emphasise that the 200 000 plots Massive Land Servicing Programme would be an ongoing programme.

1.2. If so, what is the timeframe

I have already responded on this; however I must also indicate that planning is very essential for any programme to be undertaken as budgeting must always be attached to whatsoever is to be done.

1.3. Does the Government have an activity timeline of this pilot project and, if so, when should this nation expect to be appraised with such time lines?

I still want to caution that implementation of projects without a budget can put the Government in jeopardy, and timelines must always be aligned with resources therefore money first before implementation. However, government through the Minister of Finance is busy making some changes to accommodate the programme.

Question: 3: What is the estimated and/or exact cost at which the Government is expecting to deliver the serviced plots to the people?

The estimated and actual costs at which the land will be serviced at the different sites, are part of the issues that are being worked out in detail by the technical team with the help of engineers. The price at which the resultant serviced land will be offered for sale to the applicants, in a transparent manner and first-come-first served basis, will be determined taking into account the inputs costs and such other as considerations as may be determined. The lower the inputs, the lower the end price of the serviced land.

As the Hon Members may be aware, our approach is to have the land serviced at reasonable or minimal cost, and it is in this regard that we are calling all Namibians in the different sectors and levels of society to make some contribution – financial and voluntarism. Such contributions can be made at the various input levels of land servicing – planning, engineering design, construction, earth-moving equipment parties, etc. We have received some pledges (14 in total) so far. However I am informed that in a number of the cases when the pledging parties are engaged to provide clarity, it has turned out that their services are actually not free of cost, and have strings attached. We are scrutinising these pledges and we will not entertain attempts for people whose actual interest may be to secure exclusive deals from the Ministry on this national project, while their services are actually at cost like any other service provider out there.

3.1 How much of the cost is going to be in the form of voluntary services by various stakeholders who already committed and/ or promised their services, if any?

The assessment and quantification of the pledges is still underway and ongoing as the pledges come in. Majority of the pledges so far received are generally described as “free advice”, and only a few are specific and in some cases indicate the number of plots over which the pledged advisory services apply to. This is not an easy process and involves negotiations. The final decision also involves evaluating if the offer is indeed cost-effective and beneficial to the Government, and that it will not be comparatively cheaper to procure such services through open call for proposals.

As part of our resource mobilization effort for the project, the Ministry have with approval from Treasury opened a bank account into which any monetary contribution or donations can be deposited. Anyone wishing to make a financial contribution can contact my Permanent Secretary to be provided with the details of the account. The account will be subject to audits by Treasury and Auditor General’s Office. It is easy said than done, I am still waiting for those who said they shall do the contribution.

For proper recording of any pledges that we are receiving, the Ministry have developed an inventory list indicting the various pledges (professional skills, equipment, financial, etc) received. As part of our effort to minimise cost, we have also written to all Offices/Ministries/ Agencies, including parastatals, Regional Councils and Local Authorities, asking them to indicate if they have any in-house land development related professionals, earth-moving equipment, etc. The idea is to determine if some of the required inputs exist within the Government and the possibility of such capacity to be mobilised to assist in massive urban land servicing process, and thus reduce the quantity of the goods and services that have to be procured at cost.

3.2 How much public funds do Government expect to spend on the pilot project?

The detailed financial implications are still being worked out by the technical people and also by the Minister of Finance and his team. We have preliminary estimates that have been provided by the three pilot local authorities, but we are reviewing the figures with a view to ensure that they are indeed realistic and a true reflection of the actual costs.

3.3 How much public funds have been invested in the pilot project thus far?

So far, Government have not yet spent any money on the pilot project, and I just want to repeat myself beware when you implement programmes that were not budgeted for!

3.4 Are there contracts and/ or formal agreements entered into with the said volunteer(s) pertaining to services to be rendered and work to be done?

No formal agreements have yet been concluded with any of the pledging parties. As I have indicated already, initial engagements have been made with some of the pledging parties (especially those whose expertise is required in the initial stage of the project, such as the preparation of engineering designs, (designs are required for calling for construction tenders and the actual servicing process).

Obviously, any offers that will be found to be relevant and cost-effective will be favourably considered and formalised by way of a service level agreement, which will among others outline the scope of work to be done, timelines, roles and responsibility of each other.

Question: 4: Given that the pilot project was not part of the 2015 Procurement Bill tabled in this August House for debate and approval, where did the Government obtain the authority to spend the money it has already spent on the pilot project thus far, if any?

I am very happy to get this particular question from you Hon. Member, that you are mindful and cautious with allowing expenditures that were not budgeted for, hence I want to thank you so much for making it easier for me in the future if I have to say no to projects that were not budgeted for to be pushed for implementation, only and unless verimentation is approved by this August House.

However, Government had so far not yet spent any money on the massive urban land servicing pilot project per say.

It should however be understood that the Government has since independence been providing budget allocations to local authorities and regional councils for what is generally known as “construction of services”, which refer to basic services and infrastructure such as water, electricity, sewer, road, etc. Such funding is budgeted for and provided under the national development or capital budgets. In the current budget (2015/16 FY), as it has been the case in the preceding financial years and medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEFs), there is provision for money towards land servicing. We however recognise that the allocations in the current financial year and in the past are not sufficient to address the huge demand for land that is prevailing in the country.

In other words, at this point in time any monies that has been allocated to and is being used towards the provision of basic services are as per the allocations as approved by Parliament under the 2015/16 national budget. The additional resourcing that is required in respect of the scope of the massive urban land servicing project are still being worked out by the Ministers of Finance and National Planning Commission.

It is however important to point out that the Government’s intervention in respect of land delivery will entail existing interventions as already budgeted for as well as any additional resources that will be made available following the normal procedures that Treasury is empowered to follow to re-deployment resources. The Ministry responsible is also looking at all resources of the Government, be it Central Government, Regional Councils or Local Authorities, that are targeted at the servicing and delivery of land especially for residential purposes in the whole country.

The Hon Minister of Finance may wish to complement me on the funding issue.

Question: 5: Have any public funds been delivered from any other project budgeted for under said Procurement Bill to cater for the pilot project?

I have already responded to this question above.

5.1 If so, how much and from which project(s) has such money been viremented?

The Hon Minister of Finance is better placed to respond to this question. But I feel I have also already indirectly provided responses to this question in my response to these previous questions.

On that note, I thank the Hon Members for their kind attention.