

**Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, MP's intervention in the  
National Assembly in the Second Reading of the  
Namibia Citizenship Special Conferment Bill, 2015**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

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Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

I have the honour to revisit the subject before this House, as agreed upon last week. My task was to conduct further consultations on the matter, in order to find an amicable solution in view of the different interpretations that are being advanced by various stakeholders.

It should be taken into account that the consultations I have conducted are of a limited nature carried out within the obvious time constraints.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

There is a widespread view that the Bill should cater for the first, second and third generations of descendants of those who were or would have been Namibian citizens. The bone of

contention, however, is how to do this in a legally acceptable manner. There appear to be different interpretations of our National Constitution in this regard. Some proponents are arguing that to cater for the second and third generation, we need a Constitutional amendment, whereas others are of the view that we can cater for up to the third generation without necessarily amending the Constitution.

I am of the opinion that there is nothing to prevent our Government or our Parliament in the future, from seeking legal counsel that will interpret the Constitution on this matter and help guide us on the way forward. Obviously this cannot be done now, due to pressure of time.

However, the Government should revisit this issue in due course, once we have been able to establish clarity on the Constitutional issues at stake, with the aim of doing justice to the victims of genocide and colonialism. This would be in line with the spirit that prevailed at the time of the attainment of our country's independence.

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members,

I thank you for this opportunity!