



2018



NATIONAL COUNCIL

25 Years of Profound Legislative Review and Oversight



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FOREWORD

At the dawn of independence on 21 March 1990, a new democratic nation was born. Twenty eight years later, Namibia has earned a reputation for being one of the most stable economies and democracies in Africa. Underpinning this good international image of our country is the Namibian Constitution; widely regarded as one of the best in the world. It offers and guarantees freedoms and the protection of fundamental rights for everyone.

Furthermore, the Namibian Constitution gave birth to a system of checks and balances by separating powers among the three branches of the State. Parliament, as the legislative branch, has had a major role to play in growing and consolidating our hard earned democracy and freedom.

In its role as the Upper House of Parliament, the National Council has for the past 25 years demonstrated its importance for the critical review of bills passed by the National Assembly.

Members of Parliament in the House of Review have been influential in shaping the outcomes of Acts of parliament by passing and referring key pieces of legislation back to the National Assembly with meaningful input through amendments. Moreover, whenever necessary, the National Council has exercised its constitutional power by rejecting some bills that Members felt were not in the best interest of the nation.

Through its standing committees, the National Council has carried out many oversight activities countrywide with the aim of ensuring alignment of major public infrastructure and development projects with the long and medium term national development goals such as Vision 2030, the National Development Plans and the Harambee Prosperity Plan. Many reports of standing committees containing key recommendations for action were adopted and referred to line ministries for action.



Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, MP Chairperson
of the National Council

Indeed, the oversight function of the National Council plays an essential role in enhancing the transparency and accountability of the Executive. For example, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economy has over the years continued to carry out public hearings with the regional councils and local authorities to hold these public bodies to account.

Another achievement of note of the National Council is that, since 2006, Members have consistently disclosed their personal financial interests and published them for public scrutiny. When I look back, I see reason for celebration; it has indeed been 25 years of building and strengthening our democracy and independence. Here is to the next 25 years and beyond.

*Happy Silver
Jubilee*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It was after the dawn of Independence, in the year 1993 when the first gavel went down signaling the commencement of the maiden sitting of the inaugural National Council. We have since come a long way in establishing, growing and upholding this great institution of the Namibian legislature.

As we look back to the last 25 years, it is only befitting that we do so by going down memory lane to relive the good times, re-visit the challenges that we overcame and look with promise and hope to the future. As such, we are pleased to bring to you this special publication marking the National Council Silver Jubilee, a momentous milestone indeed from our humble beginnings at a time when Namibia had barely made inroads in democracy.

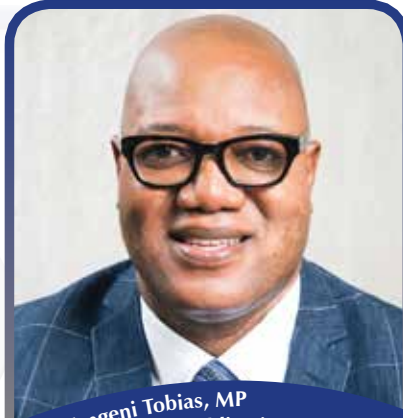
Allow me to first give a special thanks to the National Council Chairperson, Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams for her blessing and guidance that paved the way for the compilation of this issue. My sincere appreciation to my colleagues and fellow Members of Parliament (MPs) in the National Council for their participation and contribution to the fruition of this publication, your leadership was of utmost value:

Hon. Peter Kazongominja, Hon. Phillipus Katamelo
Hon. Joyce Namujuha, Hon. Cletius Sipapela

Gratitude is also extended to the following Committee Members of the National Council Silver Jubilee Publication in the National Council Secretariat for their team spirit and hard work:

Ms. Emilia Mkusa, Ms. Juliet Mupurua
Ms. Anethe Mtambanengwe, Mr. Immanuel Kooper
Ms. Pamela Mate, Mr. Rafael Hangula
Ms. Momley Amushendje

A kind thank you to all our stakeholders and contributors who have been gracious enough to accept interview requests and by other means in contribution to this special edition. We hope and pray that the good working cooperation we enjoy extends the next 25 years.



Hon. Lebbius Tangeni Tobias, MP
Chairperson of NC @25 Publication Committee

Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi, Dr. Ben Mulongeni
Ms. Panduleni Shimutwikeni, Ms. Naita Hishoono
Ms. Dianne Hubbard, Mr. Thomas Keller

I likewise would like to thank all the Members who served in the National Council, from its inception to date, for the valuable input they have made towards nation building. In our quest to gain narratives of the past 25 years, former and current MPs of the National Council shared their experiences:

Hon. Bernard Sibalatani, Hon. Nguzu Muharukua
Hon. Kandy Nehova, Hon. Asser Kapere
Hon. Nico Kaiyamo, Hon. Hafeni Ndemula
Hon. Generosa Andowa, Hon. Josephine Kandjambanga
Hon. Stephanus Alfred Dax

Our theme for this landmark occasion is, '25 Years of Providing Profound Legislative Review and Oversight', a reminder of our mandate and a guiding beacon in our pursuit to be the voice of the voiceless and a Chamber that truly represents the people of Namibia.

We trust that you will find equal pleasure in this publication as we had in putting it together.

*Happy Silver Jubilee
celebrations to the House of
Review, the National Council!*

WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

Over the past 25 years, as a Secretariat, we have tried our utmost to serve the Members of the National Council despite some challenges.

The Secretariat is committed to serve the National Council Members with political impartiality, dedication and sincere respect. In fulfilling this role we have observed quietly parliamentary debate unless called upon by the Chairperson. We are and remain the watchful managers of the interaction on the floor of the House, the silent facilitator of political exchanges which shapes into proper parliamentary form, thus discreetly helping to preserve parliamentary democracy. This, is the Secretariat's commitment to the National Council.

As the Legislative branch of the State, the National Council celebrates uninterrupted 25 years of constitutional rule. Over the years, the National Council has grown not only in numbers, but also in the implementation of its constitutional mandate. Today more than ever, the National Council is working harder to respond to the increased scrutiny and growing expectations from people for a more efficient and effective legislative review function from their representatives with the limited resources.

Finally, as we celebrate our 25 years of parliamentary democracy, we commend the National Council for playing an important role in sustaining our democratic governance.

The Secretariat thus remains committed, to continue providing support to the Members of the National Council in their journey to becoming "A House of Review that truly represents the interest of the people of Namibia" by carrying out their Constitutional mandate.



Ms. Emilia Mkusa
Secretary to the National Council

We shall conquer -

*Happy 25th
Anniversary*

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ALAN	Association of Local Authorities in Namibia
ARC	Association of Regional Councils
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
DTA	Democratic Turnhalle Alliance
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
LAC	Legal Assistance Centre
MP	Members of Parliament
NA	National Assembly
NC	National Council
NID	Namibia Institute for Democracy
NUDO	National Unity Democratic Organisation
PDM	Popular Democratic Movement
SADC-PF	Southern African Development Community-Parliamentary Forum
SWAPO	South West African People`s Organisation

HIGH LEVEL STATEMENTS



THE MANDATE

The National Council derives its mandate from Chapter 8 of the Namibian Constitution, in particular from Articles 68 to 77. It also draws instructions from subsequent laws and policies such as the Decentralization Enabling Act, 2000 (Act 33 of 2000) and the Regional Councils Act, 1992 (Act 22 of 1992) as amended.

According to Article 75(1), all Bills passed by the National Assembly shall be referred by the Speaker to the National Council. Article 75(2) stipulates that the National Council shall consider bills referred to it by the National Assembly, and to submit its reports with recommendations to the Speaker of the National Assembly. Article 74 empowers the National Council to investigate and report to the National Assembly on any subordinate legislation, reports and documents which must be tabled in the National Assembly and which are referred to it by the National Assembly for advice.

THE VISION

A House of Review that truly represents the interest of the people of Namibia.

THE MISSION

To effectively carry out the legislative and investigative review and oversight function by strengthening civic engagement and partnership.

CORE VALUES

Impartiality

Serving all Members of Parliament and citizens with respect and dignity without bias or favour.

Integrity

To be honest, ethical and uphold principles and practices that are of the highest standards.

Loyalty

To faithfully and willingly serve the public, stakeholders and the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Professionalism

Shall demonstrate a high level of competence and uphold high ethical standards.

Teamwork

Shall promote effective co-operation and coordination among its staff.

OVERVIEW OF THE NAMIBIAN PARLIAMENT: FOCUS ON NATIONAL COUNCIL

The Parliament of the Republic of Namibia is bicameral. It consists of two Houses of Parliament: the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council (NC). The legislative authority of Namibia is vested in the Namibian Parliament, with the power to make laws in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

The National Assembly consists of 96 Members of Parliament, plus 8 Members appointed by the President of the Republic, by virtue of their special expertise, status, skill or experience. Members are elected for a term of 5 years. The 96 Members of the NA are elected on proportional representation basis. The 8 Members have no voting rights in the National Assembly.

The principle function of the National Assembly is to initiate Bills, and the principle function of the National Council is to review all Bills passed by the National Assembly. The National Council has also certain advisory functions to the National Assembly and has powers to recommend legislation on matters of regional concern, for submission to and consideration by the National Assembly.

The first NC was inaugurated in February 1993, after the first regional and local authority elections that took place in November 1992 in an independent Namibia. The NC was established in terms of Article 68 of the Constitution of Namibia. Furthermore, articles under Chapter 8 of the Constitution also set out the NC's powers and functions, the number of Councillors and how they are elected.

The National Council shall have the power to:

- consider in terms of Article 75 all bills passed by the National Assembly;

- investigate and report to the National Assembly on any subordinate legislation, reports and documents which under law must be tabled in the National Assembly and which are referred to it by the National Assembly for advice;
- recommend legislation on matters of regional concern for submission to and consideration by the National Assembly;
- perform any other functions assigned to it by the National Assembly or by an Act of Parliament.

Initially, the NC consisted of 26 Members, two from each of the country's 13 regions. Following the creation of a new region in 2013 and constitutional amendments in 2014, the NC membership increased to 42 - three from each of the 14 regions. Members of the NC are selected by their fellow Regional Council Members. NC Members serve for five years from the date of their election until the next regional elections. Regional Councillors are elected directly through their local constituencies which make up each region. It can therefore be argued that the NC is the most representative body in government in terms of reflecting the regional diversity of the country. The workings of the NC are overseen by the Presiding Officer officially known as the Chairperson of the NC. The Chairperson is elected from among the NC Members.

The National Council came into existence as a result of compromises during the Constitution-making process. During the Constitution-making process, in December 1989-February 1990, it was felt to acknowledge the diversities that exist in our society, and harmonize these diversities through a multiple means of representing the people in national institutions.

The National Council, therefore, came into being with the primary aim of balancing the interests of the various regional authorities of Namibia, as well as in order to create a direct link between Parliament, as a national institution, and all the regions.

Upon the establishment of the National Council, the drafting of the Standing Rules and Orders to regulate the conduct of the proceedings of the House took place. At the same time an effective and efficient administrative structure was put up to provide support services to the Members of the National Council.

To fulfil this constitutional mandate, the National Council has established committees to subject matters that come before the House to detailed scrutiny and to examine all Bills before a decision is taken by the House. To increase public participation, the committees of the National Council hold public hearings and receive oral or written submissions from the public. The meetings of the House and the committees are open to the public, who are encouraged to attend.

Furthermore, all Members of the National Council have offices in their constituencies, which provide the public an opportunity to make contact with their elected representatives easily.

The National Council being an institution made up of regional representatives, has an obligation to ensure that it solicits and incorporates the views of a wide-spectrum of the public, into national legislation. To ensure greater participation of the public in the legislative process, it is necessary to give detailed information about the content and impact of the envisaged legislation.

The National Council has a crucial role to play, especially in representing the interests of the constituents and in ensuring that the standard of their living is significantly improved. The National Council has taken meaningful steps to make Parliament more accessible and responsive to the interests of the people and by encouraging public participation in the legislative process. The constitutional powers, functions and the scope of operation of the National Council are of such a nature as to impose a duty upon the National Council to always take into account the views of the constituents, in all its activities.

Owing to the fact that regional and local governments play a central role in delivering core services to the people, the National Council plays a much bigger role in ensuring that the interests of the constituents are represented and enhanced at a national level, since they are much closer to the people.



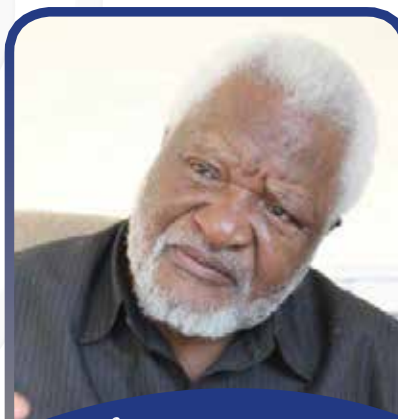
National Council Chamber



National Assembly Chamber

DEVELOPMENTS THAT LED TO THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

Hon. Kandy Nehova is the founding Chairperson of the National Council, a position he held from the year 1993 to 2004. Hon. Nehova was also the President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) from 2001 to 2002. He became the first Regional Councillor of Ongwediva Constituency after the Regional and Local Authority Elections of 1992 and was re-elected in subsequent elections to the same position until 2004. Here, the National Council's founding Political Head relays recollections of his time at the House of Review.



Hon. Kandy Nehova
First Chairperson of the National Council 1993-2004

In 1989, national elections were held under UN Resolution 435. People were elected to a national body, known as the Constituent Assembly, where representation was on political party proportional basis. The Constituent Assembly sat down at Tintenpalast, present day Parliament building and wrote the country's Constitution which provided for a presidential system and two Houses of Parliament (Upper and Lower). They provided for two houses to ensure checks and balances. For the Upper House to be established, the country needed to be demarcated into constituencies. The National Council is a body that represents constituencies and those constituencies had to be established first. In 1992, Regional and Local Government elections were held and the country was demarcated into regions and constituencies and towns were confirmed. Each region elected two Members who would become Members of Parliament in the National Council.

At that time, the National Assembly was also just starting off. Fortunately, because the National Assembly (NA) was established, we were able to see how they were doing things. There was not much difference in operations, other than that

the one House would initiate laws and the other would do the review.

At first we had to elect officials. I was elected as Chairperson, deputized by the late Hon. Zedekia Mujoro and key Standing Committees and various committee chairpersons were established. We then chose the Whips for the parties represented in the NC. We started operating from the Turnhalle building, now the SADC Tribunal building.

POLITICAL MOOD

There were only two political parties represented in the House at the time, SWAPO and DTA (Now PDM). We received Bills from Assembly and in accordance with the Constitution, we reviewed, made amendments where necessary and adopted amendments to Bills before sending back to National Assembly. The mood back then was positive, especially in discussions and debates on various issues. But as we know, laws are policies of the governing party and when the opposition was not in agreement, they would voice these disagreements. But other than that, we ensured that laws do not impede on children, women, human rights or were in contravention of the constitution.



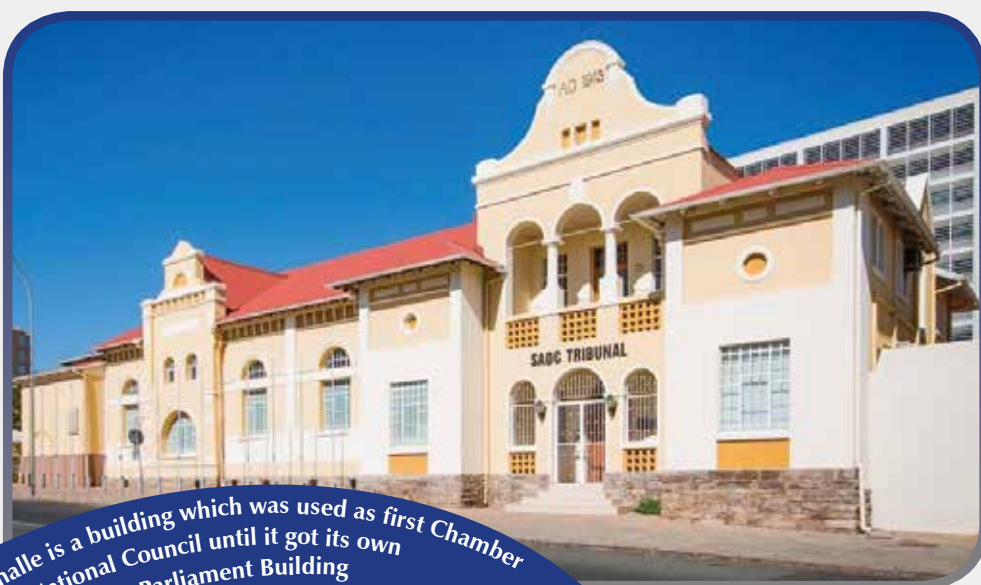
MEMORIES

I had to fight to maintain the National Council as an independent institution with a mandate unique to itself. The idea then was National Council staff to be drawn from National Assembly and for the budget to be lumped together and I refused to budge. We insisted to have our own staff complement and Secretary.

We were internationally recognized and joined the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and other parliamentary bodies. I was President of the CPA International from 2001 to 2002. At that time, the Queen of England and Head of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II, commemorated 50 years on the throne with celebrations in London and I led the Commonwealth team to congratulate the Queen. In 2002, Namibia successfully hosted the CPA International Conference. These are the memories I treasure.

NATIONAL COUNCIL INTO THE FUTURE

Right now, the institution is doing well and the Members have improved considerably, maybe due to experience. I can see many are qualified and understand the material. I simply would like to see the composition strengthened and improved. However, Parliament cannot function without the Parliamentary Service Commission. If we do not implement this soon, Parliament will eventually be reduced to a rubber stamp institution. We advocated for a Parliamentary Service Commission during the time I was there and many years later, one would have hoped that it has been realized by now. The three branches of the State can only function well when the independence and clear separation between them is realised.



Turnhalle is a building which was used as first Chamber of the National Council until it got its own Chamber at the Parliament Building



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NATIONAL COUNCIL



HON. K. NEHOVA
CHAIRMAN (SWAPO)



HON. M. HISHIKUSHITJA
VICE-CHAIRMAN (SWAPO)



MS. P.N. SHIMUTWIKENI
SECRETARY



HON. H.S. YA KASITA
(SWAPO)



HON. S.P. GLOETE
(DTA)



HON. M. KAPEWASHA
(SWAPO)



HON. W. EMVULA
(SWAPO)



HON. Z. MUJORO
(SWAPO)



HON. E. UIRAB
(SWAPO)



HON. J. MINNAAR
(SWAPO)



HON. N. KAATURA
(DTA)



HON. S. KAPIRIKA
(SWAPO)



HON. J. HAMUTWE
(SWAPO)



HON. L. KAIRABEB
(SWAPO)



HON. A. HANGO
(SWAPO)



HON. F. SHEYAPO
(SWAPO)



HON. V. KAMANJA
(SWAPO)



HON. E. MUMBUU
(DTA)



HON. J. HAKAYE
(SWAPO)



HON. E. HENDJALA
(SWAPO)



HON. N. KAIYAMO
(SWAPO)



HON. T. EISEB
(SWAPO)



HON. H.H. CLOETE
(DTA)



HON. A. HAINGURA
(SWAPO)



HON. F. SIZIMBO
(DTA)



HON. M. WALUBITA
(DTA)

Deputy Secretary - Vacant, One DTA MP - Vacant

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



SECOND NATIONAL COUNCIL 1999 - 2004



Providing Profound Legislative Review

SECOND NATIONAL COUNCIL • 1999-2004 • 26 Members of Parliament

The image displays two official symbols of Armenia. On the left is the emblem of the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia, which is an oval-shaped seal. It features a central illustration of the National Assembly building in Yerevan, surrounded by green trees and a blue sky. The words "PARLIAMENT" and "REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA" are inscribed in a circular border around the central image. On the right is the coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia, which is a shield-shaped emblem. It features a central sun with rays, flanked by two lions. The shield is supported by two lions, and the entire emblem is set against a dark background.



During Regional Council elections, each of the 107 constituencies in Northern Ireland elects a Regional Councillor. Each of Northern Ireland's 13 Regional Councils also elects 16 members to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Handcrafted in Germany, 100% Solid Brass



Noni, Noni Overgrowth

PARLIAMENT OF NAMIBIA

The Fourth National Council

2010 - 2015



Hon. Hinda Nkomo
Kunene Constituency
SWAPO



Hon. Theodoros Diergaardt
Kunene Constituency
SWAPO



Hon. Hage Geboob
Kunene Constituency
SWAPO



Hon. Nambeniwe Nambeniwe
Kunene Constituency
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Kunene Constituency
SWAPO



Hon. Nambeniwe Nambeniwe
Kunene Constituency
SWAPO

Providing Profound Legislative Review

REMARKS FROM THE FIRST SECRETARY

The challenges we faced at inception was the separation of the administration of both houses. There were proposals to have one Permanent Secretary for both Houses, there was only one Accounting Officer and they were based at National Assembly, together with other senior positions. On our side, we had about ten to twenty staff Members.

The National Council had to fight to define its role. Additionally, there was the issue of seniority of the two Houses. At that time, National Council MPs including the Chairperson were paid lower salaries than the backbenchers in the National Assembly. We had to draft a letter to explain that National Council Members are not less important than backbenchers in the National Assembly. The salaries were finally adjusted to be the same as those of National Assembly Members.

IMAGE OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

We embarked upon public education in terms of what the House of Review was all about based on the fact that there was misunderstanding between the two Houses. Our Members were referred to as Members of the National Council and Members of the National Assembly were referred to as Members of Parliament.

The National Assembly was comprised of the Executive and senior Members of the SWAPO Party who are in the Central Committee and the Politburo and the National Council not. The National Assembly therefore regarded itself as more senior and did not want to feel challenged by those they considered as juniors. It was painful for National Council to do proper review during that time. That has since changed but there is still a lot of room for improvement in order to balance power between the two Houses.

ROLE OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

In London, the House of Lords is filled with retired professionals who sit with a wealth of experience, same as with the Senate in France. If one is to review work, it is expected that you be more qualified than the initiator



Dr. Ben Mulongeni
First Secretary to the National Council, 1993-1997

of that work. There has to be enough experience to cross check what has been done. We cannot entertain the debate of whether there is a need for a National Council, because there is. However, we need to look at capacity, using the example of a teacher who inspects the work of the inspector and vice versa.

Therefore, it is ideal that the National Assembly be filled with younger leaders and the National Council should be filled with retired ministers, lawyers, engineers, teachers, judges...people with vast experience because every law touches on a particular sector of life. We need a National Council that is well polished and well checked, a council that will ensure checks and balances for the essence of democracy. Education and experience goes a long way in reviewing work in the legislature.

NATIONAL COUNCIL AT WORK

Where there should be cooperation, the National Council is challenged because Ministers who are in the National Assembly do not act urgently on the recommendations of the National Council. Any area of society that National

Council may challenge is represented by a particular minister. For example, if the National Council speaks on land issues, there is a responsible Minister in the same legislature that attends to land matters. National Council concerns will not be handled with the urgency it deserves because it is seen as calling out Ministers for not doing their work and this is a great challenge.

WAY FORWARD

Ministers must not be Members of Parliament. When this happens, National Assembly and National Council Members will become one and work collectively as a team. There is a need to realign and rearrange the parliamentary structure to avoid overlapping of responsibilities. The fact that Members of the Executive are also Members of the legislature creates an atmosphere of intimidation in the

chambers. There can be no checks and balances in such an atmosphere as the initiators of the Bills are the same people who approve for review. The three branches of government (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary) should be completely independent, and right now, there is no clear separation of powers.

We all agree that the National Council should not be a rubber stamp institution. To achieve this, let them be given more powers. Let us make the institution more relevant and give meaning to Bills. They must check and recommend and it must be expected that their recommendations are considered, even on money Bills. The National Council has meaning and it must exist to live out this meaning.

PROF. MBURUMBA KERINA

Prof. Mburumba Kerina is many things, amongst them a seasoned politician, historian, parliamentarian and the man who gave Namibia its name. Prof Kerina has had the distinct honour to serve as Member of Parliament in both Houses of the Namibian legislature, the National Assembly and the National Council. As such, it was only befitting that we sat down with him to tap from his wealth of experience and knowledge of the Namibian parliamentary practices.

In the beginning, it was not easy, as we had to build the foundation on which future MPs would work. As Members of the National Council, we would hold meetings to assess our review function irrespective of party affiliation. This exercise is very important and I would like to believe that it continues to today, especially during this period of our development.

I have had humbling experiences in Parliament, having had the opportunity to serve in both Houses and I have observed



Prof. Mburumba Kerina
Former Member of Parliament of both the National
Council and the National Assembly

how both Houses have grown since independence. The National Council has managed to forge its own image and is now an independent institution outside the shadow of the National Assembly. This is evident in terms of how they review Bills.

Our former colonizers have always looked at us as juniors in the workings of politics and parliamentary practices but we have come a long way to prove them wrong and today we can look with pride to all we have achieved. We can look with pride to our 28 years of independence because we are doing very well and have been able to sustain our parliamentary system much better than many African countries.

I would however like to see a piece of legislation originate from the National Council and be passed into law. It is very important for National Council to come up with legislation as it will add to the stature of the institution.

Going forward, the National Council Secretariat should continue to provide support and enrich the skills of its Members. In turn, Members must fully know and understand the conditions of the people in their regions and be able to bring the

needs of their electorate to Parliament. Party representation should never affect the performance of the House, as the primary business of the National Council must be and is to look seriously into the law without fear or favour.



Prof. Kerina relays his time in Parliament during an interview with the National Council

ACCOUNTABILITY AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

I was able to carry out my daily functions effectively as Secretary to the National Council with the help of all staff Members be it lower, middle and upper management. As the chief administrator and manager of the National Council's day-to-day affairs, I reported directly to the Chairperson of the National Council and was assisted by the Deputy Secretary. The overall efficiency and performance of my administration hinges on the leadership of my office.



Ms Panduleni Shimutwiken
Former Secretary to the National Council, 1997-2015

1. CHALLENGES

Staff engagement

There were times when staff Members felt that they were left out and despised by their supervisors and management due to minor issues such as lack of commitment and enthusiasm to carry out their duties effectively.

To this effect, through one-on-one communication with all staff Members, I was able to sit with management and proposed that all staff Members undergo training as per their requests. From cleaners, messengers, drivers and managers themselves all underwent various training from skills development to leadership courses.

Limited Financial Resources

There were times that we wanted to do much but because of the limited funds, the Ministry of Finance only had a handful to give us. However, with the little we had, we were able to pull through every financial year without having to leave any cent unspent.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS

Effective Communication

One of the methods that helped me to run the National Council successfully was through continuous communication with all staff Members during the staff meetings. Had it not been for the quarterly General Staff Meetings that I chaired, I wouldn't have known what kind of leader I was and these shaped my character traits as well as the conducive working environment as one spends most hours at work and few at home.

Secondly, imploring leadership more than being a manager. I humbled myself to the extent of being empathetic by making time monthly to visit staff Members in their respective offices both in the new and old building. We laughed and exchanged ideas on how best we could move our institution forward.



Thirdly,

Open Door Policy. Staff Members were welcome to visit my office at all times, whether to seek further intervention when it comes to unfair treatment or just to greet me. Through this, I also had the opportunity to know ALL my staff Members on a personal basis and this helped me to know how best to help staff Members grow professionally

Partnership with Civil Society Organisations

Our endeavour to serve the public better couldn't be achieved by the financial resources nor the human resources from the National Council alone. Hence, during my tenure, I was able to engage with some civil organisations. Amongst them were the *Namibia Democratic Institute* where all staff Members underwent various trainings from Computer Courses, Committee Clerk Development, Members of Parliament Development Courses as well as publishing our Parliament information packages. NDI also sponsored various research programmes which were undertaken, amongst



Lastly, was the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung who sponsor the printing of posters of Members of Parliament and the Parliament Journal, which is the Parliament quarterly Newsletter.

Launch of the Strategic Plan

Before its launch, during the drafting, all staff Members were engaged in this document, and we ensured that we own what is written in it. We had staff re-treat and team building exercises at times together with Members of Parliament as well.

them
were the *Focus*
Group-Survey-Governance and
Public Participation.

Lastly, NDI sponsored our networking session with the Media, where it published a Book on Media Reporting. Furthermore, NDI helped us design and launch of Parliament Website in 2002, making us the first government institution to run a website



The other civil organisation was the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) which translated our How Laws Are Made publication in English and Afrikaans, the Constitution and other valuable Acts of Parliament.

Thirdly is the Parliament Support Programme (PSP) in conjunction with the European Union in fostering the parliamentary activities and ensuring that Parliament of Namibia is on par with other Parliaments or Legislatures when it comes to governance and administration as well. PSP worked hand in hand with my office through the leadership of Hon. Johan de Waal and his team.

When we launched the Strategic Plan in 2009 at in unison, we knew that the minute after its launch, the public and our stakeholders expects us to deliver on what we have promised the nation.

We formulated our Vision, Mission and Core Values which were agreed by all and we promised ourselves every day that we will walk the talk and be the best public institution. After each year, we came together to assess this goal.

Customer Service Charter for all Directorates

After the launch of the National Council Strategic Plan, we worked to ensure that all three Directorates within the institution had their individual Charters. I must say that we all pulled in the same direction at all levels.

Branding and Marketing the NC

Through our theme “enhancing public participation in the legislative process”, the NC was able to engage the public at various platforms, amongst them trade fairs/shows/exhibitions, school visits, tours of parliament, Chairperson’s Outreach, Women Caucus outreach programmes as well as during the public hearings that Standing Committees conducted in the regions.

Besides participating, we also won awards especially at trade fairs and shows because of the initiatives that we explored. We had the Parliament Mobile Bus which had computers and the public were able to read our information Online.

Capacity and Competency Building

Staff Members and Members of Parliament underwent various trainings amongst them; were the *Protocol Training for all staff Members, English Language Courses for Cleaners, Basic Computer Courses, First Aid Training and Executive Training for Drivers in Swaziland.*

Team Building and Staff-Retreats

As a public institution, we also benchmarked with the private sector to implore the best practices to enhance performance for our staff. One of the trends we learned was team building and staff retreats. To this effect, we held various team building exercises with all staff Members at Heja Lodge, Gross Barmen and Swakopmund Spa Hotel amongst others.

These initiatives helped shape the NC into one of the most formidable institutions and enabled it to gain competitive advantage.

Employee Wellness Policy

I wouldn’t say I was the best Secretary to the National Council, but rather that I have delivered what I was mandated to perform and I have tried my very best,

if not beyond my strength. “Thus, the key aspects of good corporate governance include transparency of corporate structures and operations; the accountability of managers and the boards who are the MPs to shareholders who are the tax payers; and corporate responsibility towards stakeholders/tax payers”.

As the NC celebrates her 25th Silver Jubilee Anniversary, I am truly humbled to having been part of this establishment and drove some of the accomplishments celebrated today. To the Members and Staff, let us carry our National Council Forward with enthusiasm, love and pride and run our race with full force.



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

The importance and the functions of the Committee of the Whole Council is to allow the National Council to examine the Bill clause-by-clause. This takes place after a bill has passed the Second Reading Stage in the National Council. During the Committee of the Whole Council, Members may propose amendments to any of the existing clauses or propose the addition of new clauses. In the case where an amendment is moved, a motivation is provided by the Member concerned. The Members are then asked by the Member presiding over the Committee of the Whole Council to indicate whether they agree with the amendments or not. If there is an objection to an amendment, then it is put to a vote. If an amendment has to be carried it must have the support of a simple majority of Members present in the House. The decisions made here are recorded in writing.

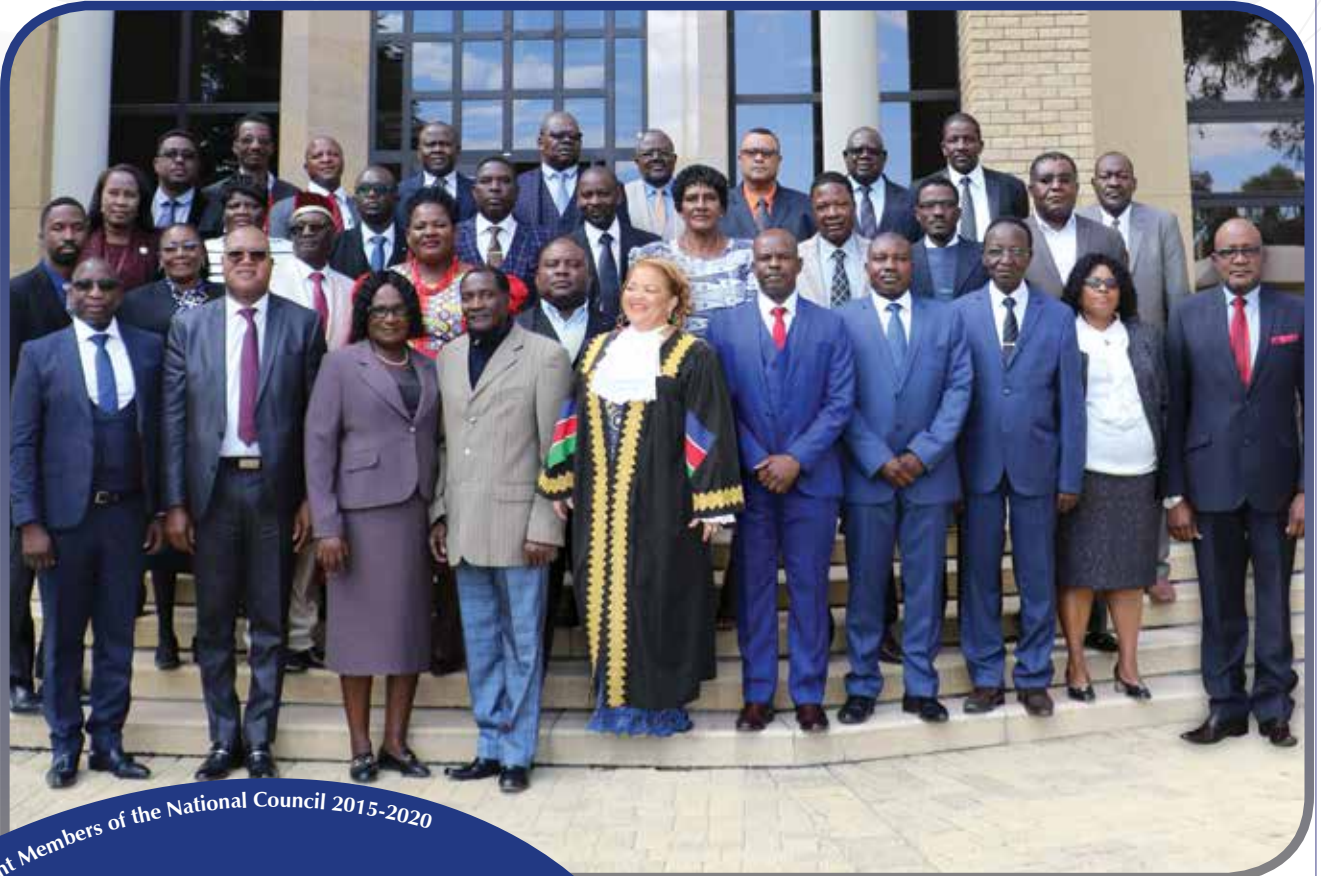
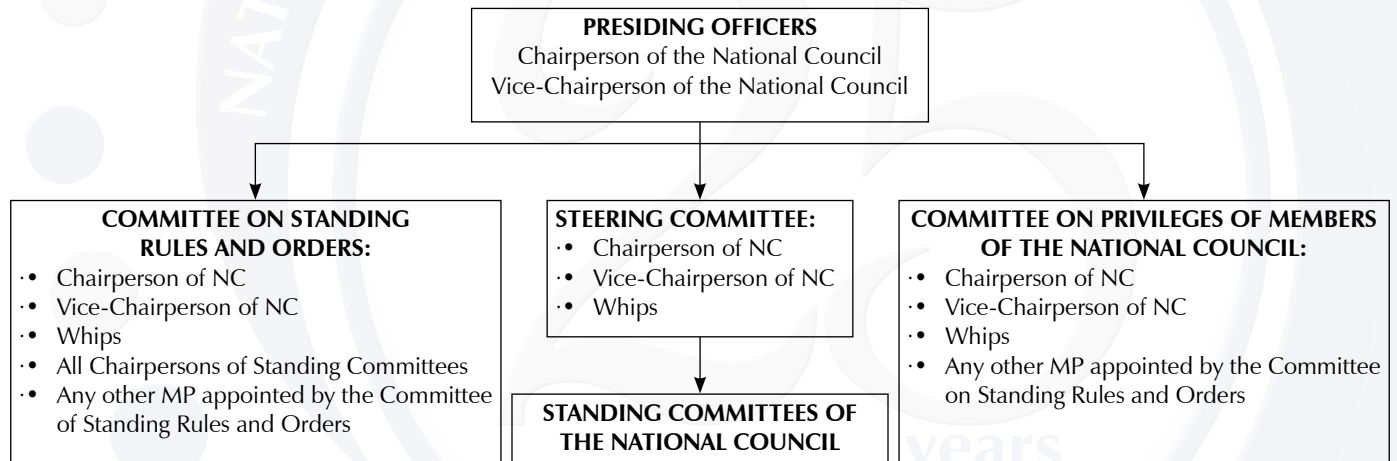
It is important to note that the debate / discussion on bills take place during the Second Reading Stage. The Second Reading debate is primarily on the principle of the bill. In other words, the Members express themselves in favour or against the purpose, aims and objectives of the bill. At the end of the Second Reading debate, the Presiding Officer will put the question: "That the bill be now read a Second Time?" If this question is answered in the affirmative then the bill will stand referred to Committee of the Whole Council. Therefore, in Committee of the Whole Council there is no debate taking place on the bill. The sole purpose of Committee of the Whole Council is to examine the bill clause-by-clause with the intention to make amendments, if any, and to ensure that the bill has been properly scrutinized as a whole.



Hon. Bernard Sibalatani, MP
Presiding over the Committee of the Whole Council

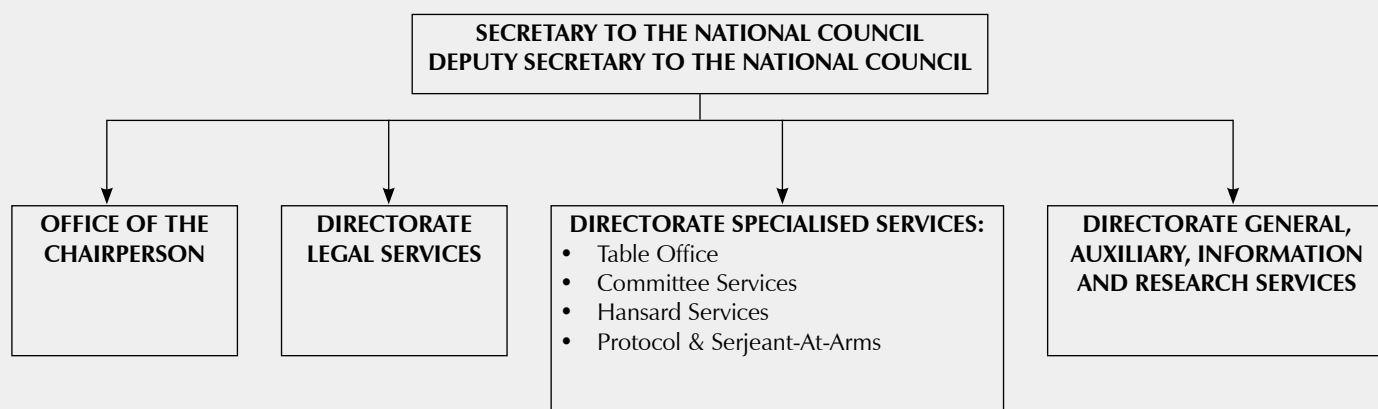
The Committee of the Whole Council is chaired by the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council, who is the Chairperson of the Committee of Whole Council as per the Rules of the House. The First Vice-Chairperson presides over the Committee of the Whole Council in the absence of the Chairperson or if s/he is presiding over the House. In the absence of both the Chairperson and First Vice-Chairperson, the Second Vice-Chairperson then preside over the Committee of the Whole Council. It is worth to note two important procedural aspects in terms of the commencement and end of the Committee of the Whole Council. The Presiding Officer put the question to the House that "S/he leaves the chair?" If there is no objection from the Members; s/he moves out of the chamber and the Vice-Chairperson takes the chair. At the end of the Committee of the Whole Council proceedings; the Chairperson of the National Council returns to the chair and the member having presided over the Committee of the Whole Council reports progress and ask permission to sit.

NATIONAL COUNCIL POLITICAL STRUCTURE



Current Members of the National Council 2015-2020

NATIONAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



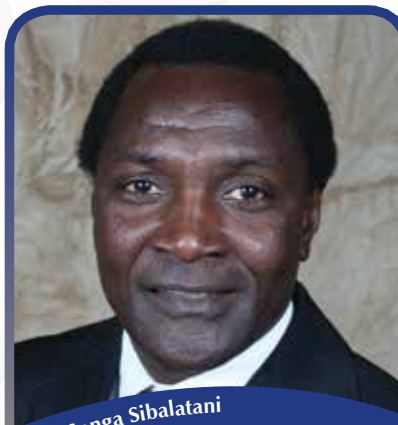
National Council Secretariat

NATIONAL COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

COORDINATOR OF COMMITTEES

The Vice Chairperson of the National Council is the Coordinator of Committees and shall perform the following functions;

1. Ensuring the compilation of the programs by the Standing Committees are in compliance with their activity plans;
2. Monitor implementation of Committees' activity plans;
3. Monitor the implementation of the National Council Strategic Plan into Committee activities;
4. Convene and chair the Forum of Chairpersons/ Presiding Members of Committees to exchange information, perspectives and discuss where necessary, issues relating to support to Members;
5. Monitor support for Members and advice the Chairperson/Presiding Member of the Council on the support needs of Members;
6. Monitor the all Committee reports are tabled within 30 days after the completion of the activity undertaken or at the next Session;
7. Consider and approve Committees' requests for travel for purposes of legislation and oversight;
8. Coordinate the oversight function of the National Council Committees;
9. Ensure at the end of each year that, Committees are meeting their mandate in terms of these Rules;
10. Perform any function that the Chairperson/Presiding Member of the Council may from time to time assign to him or her.



Hon. Bernard Songa Sibalatani
Coordinator of Committees

COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES AND ORDERS

FUNCTIONS:

- (1) to draft and codify the Standing Rules and Orders relating to the procedure of the Council as well as the Joint-Rules which shall be observed in the Council and all its Committees;
- (2) it shall review and consider from time to time and report to the Council any proposal for amendment of these Rules;
- (3) to assign any Committee to look into specific issues and submit a report thereon with recommendation, for submission to the Council for consideration;
- (4) to formulate policies and guidelines for the internal matters of the Council; and
- (5) to perform any other functions as may be referred to it by the Council.

STEERING COMMITTEE

FUNCTIONS:

- (1) to receive the draft annual budget of the National Council for scrutiny and input and submit it to the Council for approval;
- (2) to draft and formulate policy directives for submission to and consideration by the Council;
- (3) to draft the working programme of Council;
- (4) to initiate policies on the administrative affairs of the Council subject to relevant laws and regulations; and
- (5) to draft the annual business calendar of the Council;
- (6) to appoint Members to the Council's Standing/Select Committees;
- (7) to perform any other functions as may be referred to it by the Council



COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

FUNCTIONS:

- (1) to issue directives, subject to the provisions of section 12(a) of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament Act (Act 17 of 1996), providing for disclosure by Members of their financial or business interests and determine the form and frequency in which such particulars shall be provided and submit them to the Council for approval;
- (2) oversee the moral and ethical conduct of Members;
- (3) to investigate – (a) any matter relating to the conduct of any Member within the precincts of Parliament either *suo motu* or on receiving specific request; any alleged breach by any Member of the Standing Rules and Orders, Council Code of Conduct, any resolution of the Council or any matter prescribed by Act of Parliament and the Namibian Constitution; (b) any matter relating to an alleged breach by a Member of his or her duty, in terms of Section 22 of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament Act (Act 17 of 1996), to disclose an interest as contemplated in that section, and report its findings and recommend to the Council the appropriate measures to be taken;
- (4) to exercise its powers and perform its functions as outlined under the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament Act, (Act 17 of 1996);
- (5) to review the remuneration, entitlements and conditions of service of the Members of the Council and make recommendations to the Council; and
- (6) to perform any other functions as may be referred to it by the Council



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ECONOMY

FUNCTIONS:

- (1) Shall examine annual reports of the Auditor-General, as may be referred to the Council by the National Assembly in terms of the provisions of the Constitution, and advise the Council thereto;
- (2) to scrutinise the government's financial proposals and fiscal policies and advise the Council thereon;
- (3) to examine incidents of financial mismanagement in the public sector and advise the Council thereon;
- (4) to deal with questions falling within the ambit of Ministries and Authorities concerned with Trade and Industry, Fisheries and Marine Resources, Mines and Energy, Economic Affairs, Finance and Environment and Tourism; and
- (5) to perform any other functions as may be referred to it by the Council.



Members of the **STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ECONOMY**

COMMITTEE ON SECURITY, CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

FUNCTIONS:

- (1) to deal with matters concerning constitutional, legal, judicial and legislative procedural affairs;
- (2) to review international and regional cooperation with regards to trade, tourism, peace and security and advise the Council thereon;
- (3) to review Namibia's foreign policy and make its recommendations to the Council;
- (4) to review and monitor the defence and security policies and requirements and advise the Council thereon;
- (5) to deal with questions or matters falling within the ambit of Ministries and Organs concerned with



Members of the **STANDING COMMITTEE SECURITY, CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

constitutional and legal affairs; such as the Ministry of Justice, Office of the Attorney-General, Ombudsman, Courts of Law, the Legal Profession, Judicial Service Commission, Law Reform and Development Commission; Magistrates Commission; Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, Ministry of Safety and Security, Ministry of Veteran Affairs and Defence matters etc.; and

- (6) to make suggestions on constitutional amendments;

- (7) to monitor the implementation of the decentralisation process;
- (8) to monitor budget implementation of Offices, Ministries and Agencies falling within the Committee's ambit; and
- (9) to perform any other functions as may be referred to by the Council

COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

FUNCTIONS:

- (1) to scrutinise regional development policies and advise the Council thereon;
- (2) to scrutinise legislation on Regional and Local Authorities and advise the Council on such matters as the Committee deems necessary;
- (3) to study regional reports and monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by the Council;
- (4) to liaise with bodies representing the interests of Regional Councils and Local Authorities (for example, the Association of Regional Councils. (ARC) and the Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN);
- (5) to deal with questions falling within the ambit of Ministries and Organs concerned with the National Planning Commission, Public Service Commission; Works and Transport; Unemployment and Labour relations; Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Urban and Rural Development;
- (6) to monitor the implementation of the decentralisation process;

- (7) to monitor budget implementation of Offices, Ministries and Agencies falling within the Committee's ambit; and
- (8) to perform any other functions as may be referred to it by the Council.



COMMITTEE ON GENDER, YOUTH AND INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

FUNCTIONS:

- (1) to scrutinise and report to Council on matters and questions falling within the ambit of Ministries, Organs, all State- Owned Enterprises, and private sector concerning: Gender Equality and Child Welfare; Information Communication and Technology, Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture; Education, Training and Employment Equity Commission;
- (2) to promote gender balance in regard to matters standing for consideration in the National Council;
- (3) to scrutinize and review the implication of Bills and Acts that discriminates and negatively impact on the lives of the Youth, Women, Children and information sharing;
- (4) to advice Council on programmes reached at National, Regional and International level on HIV/ AIDS prevention and care programmes, teenage pregnancies, poverty, unemployment reduction strategies, alcohol and drugs abuse, orphans, vulnerable children, gender equality, children's rights and information sharing;
- (5) to address gender and youth issues and promote gender equality, to improve status of youth and women in Namibia;
- (6) to liaise with bodies, Ministries and institutions representing the interests of the youth, gender, information and advise the Council on such matters;
- (7) to monitor the implementation of the decentralization process;
- (8) to monitor budget implementation of offices, Ministries and Agencies falling within the Committee's ambit;
- (9) to ensure gender sensitive budgeting, perform gender audits and observe the media for gender related matters; and
- (10) to perform any other functions, duties, and tasks as may be referred to it by the Council.



Members of the STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER, YOUTH AND INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY



COMMITTEE ON HABITAT

FUNCTIONS:

- (1) to encourage the government, private institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in the housing-delivery process, to promote the implementation of the recommendations and proposals made in the Declaration of Principles and Commitments of the Global Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat, as well as those of the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements;
- (2) to establish networks for the exchange of information with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, the National Habitat Committee of Namibia, and all stakeholders in the housing delivery sectors in Namibia, on the one hand, and the Global Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat, the Regional Council for Africa (RCA) of the Global Forum of Parliamentarians on Habitat and other parliamentary committees on Habitat, on the other hand, with a view to implement the Habitat Agenda;
- (3) to promote legislation for sustainable human settlements, safe environment, potable water and good sewerage systems and encourage provision for adequate shelter for all;
- (4) to hold public consultations, seminars and workshops in which governmental authorities, private institutions, parliamentarians etc. may participate, to know and analyse the problems and needs of sustainable human settlements, urban development, housing, environmental protection etc., in order to gather proposals and consensus for their solution;
- (5) to deal with questions or matters falling within the ambit of ministries and organs concerned with sustainable human settlements, urban development, housing, environmental protection etc.; such as the Ministry of Health and Social Services; Land Reform;
- (6) to monitor budget implementation of Offices, Ministries and Agencies falling within the Committee's ambit; and
- (7) to perform any other functions as may be referred to it by the Council.



Members of the **STANDING COMMITTEE ON HABITAT**



WOMEN CAUCUS

FUNCTIONS:

- (1) to scrutinize and report to the Council on matters falling within the ambit of Ministries, Agencies, Organs, all State- Owned Enterprises and the private sector concerning the advancement of the agenda of women development;
- (2) to scrutinize and review the implication of Bills and Acts of Parliament that discriminate and negatively impact on the lives of women;
- (3) to undertake awareness campaigns and encourage information dissemination on matters related to women;
- (4) to lobby and advocate for more women representation in decision-making bodies;
- (5) to encourage the participation of women in political, economic and social spheres at regional, national and international level;
- (6) to liaise with bodies, Ministries and Institutions representing the interests of women;
- (7) to promote the exchange of experiences and contribute to the defence of human rights especially those of young girls, children and women;
- (8) to interact with communities concerning Acts of Parliament which directly affect the lives of women and children;
- (9) to perform any other functions as may be referred to it by the Council.



Members of the WOMEN CAUCUS



Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams
Chairperson of the Women Caucus



Hon. Hilma Nicanor
Deputy Chairperson of the Women Caucus

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERJEANT-AT-ARMS AND MACE AT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

The Serjeant-At-Arms is a National Council staff member appointed by the Secretary and is the chief law enforcement and protocol officer of the National Council and is also responsible for maintaining order on floor of the House and its galleries.

In addition to these roles, the Serjeant-at-Arms is responsible for leading the Presiding Officer's procession into and out of the Chamber at the beginning and end of each sitting.

Other responsibilities include, Members' security, custody of the mace; maintenance of buildings, allocation of office accommodation and parking bays to Members and staff of the National Council.

THE MACE

The mace symbolizes the authority of the National Council and is kept in the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms. The Presiding Officer when entering the Chamber to start a sitting or after a sitting, is preceded by the Serjeant-at-Arms carrying the mace. The presence of the mace in the Chamber signifies that the House is in session. When placed on the upper brackets of its stand, it implies that the Presiding Officer is in

Serjeant-At-Arms Mr. Thomas Shipo
Ready to lead the procession into the House



the Chair. However, when the House goes into Committee Stage or is suspended temporarily, the mace is placed on the lower brackets. In the absence of the mace in the Chamber, the House may not sit.



Mace

WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

At independence of 1990, Namibia joined the British Empire of Commonwealth nations around the world. These were the former colonies of Britain even though the current Membership is no longer exclusively for former British colonies.

Consequently, the Parliament of Namibia also joined the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) which follows the Westminster parliamentary system.

THE GAVEL

It is a symbol of authority, used to keep orderly procedure in the House. One tap of the **gavel** follows the announcement of adjournment, the completion of a business item or is a message to Members to be seated following the opening ceremony. Two taps of the **gavel** calls the Session to order.



The Gavel

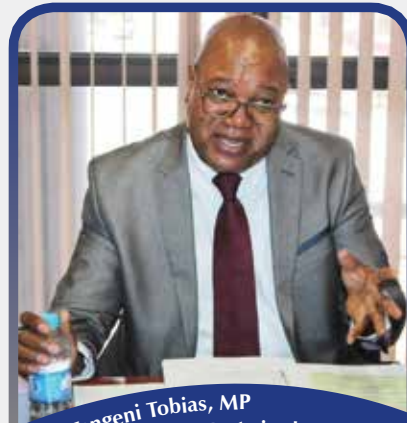


Former Chairperson of the National Council Hon. Asser Kapere handing office symbols to the just elected Chairperson of the National Council Hon. Margaret-Mensah-Williams on 8 December 2015

CHIEF WHIP OF THE RULING PARTY

The National Council just like any other House of Parliament has got a Whip System. There is no legal provision guiding the nomination of Chief Whips in the National Council, however, there has been a practice that each political party represented in Parliament is required to nominate a member to be the Chief Whip, in order to deal with matters affecting that party in Parliament. Political parties elect or nominate or appoint their respective Party Whips. The Chief Whip is assisted by the Deputy Chief Whip and Assistant Whip in executing their duties. The Chief Whip of the Ruling party then becomes the Government Chief Whip in the House.

My duties as the SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the National Council are and not limited to: Leading the activities of my political party within the National Council. Ensuring that there is quorum in all sittings of the National Council sessions and Select Committees. Maintaining order and discipline among Party Members in all dealings of the National Council. Keeping all Members informed of the National Council activities and what is expected of them. Coordinating with the SWAPO Party Secretary General on legislation related matters and give the party's position on legislative concerns. Organise and Chair Party Caucuses as need arises. Coordinating with other Political Party's Whips in the National Council to ensure a smooth operation of the programmes as intended. Coordinate with the SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the National Assembly to ensure smooth understanding in relation to the SWAPO Party's Legislative programs and concerns. Granting leave of absence to SWAPO Party Members from the Sessions. Recommending to the Secretary General on disciplinary measures against a member. Listening to Complaints, grievances, criticisms and suggestions of the Members. Enforce discipline in Members in the Chamber and Committees. Call Members to order when they stray. Ensure there is team work amongst the party Members. Facilitate the appointment of Members to Standing and Select committees. Motivate and ensure Members to contribute to bills under review.



Hon. Lebbius Tangeni Tobias, MP
Chief Whip of the SWAPO Party in the National Council

1. What are some of the best experiences that took place under your leadership?

When I took office in 2015, I first of all introduced my colleagues and staff to the Leadership of both Party and Government. I undertook an Outreach Program to all the 14 Regions introducing my office and its mandate to the Regional leaderships and also engaging them on what they expect my Party Members to deliver as their representatives.

*My office has a working plan and amongst others initiatives in it, we were able to initiate and Launch a Year book first ever produced by the SWAPO Parliamentary office. We also compiled the History of SWAPO in Parliament and came up with a book titled "**Leadership at the Helm**" which was launched in 2017. We organized capacity building workshops for our Members of which one was a joint Training with the National Assembly SWAPO Members with the aim of strengthening the relationship between our Members of the two Houses of Parliament. We also organized seminars and Training for Members based on their competencies. We are in the Process*

of finalizing a website for the Parliamentary office which will soon come into effect.

It's a learning experience and together with my colleagues and staff we are trying to create the "Tomorrow" we are going to be proud of and therefore working hard as possible.

2. As a Chief Whip, what are the greatest challenges you face in executing your responsibilities?

I should really be honest and tell you that we have the best team that works together so well and is very cooperative. The greatest challenge is the insufficient budget allocated to my office to execute all its plans and wishes of the Members.

3. How do you balance your work as a Chief Whip, MP and Constituency Councillor?

It has not been that simple, but I have always drawn my inspiration from the trust that the people have in me. So far, I have worked tirelessly to make sure that I attend to all of my responsibilities as expected of me. I first of all priorities and weight the cost and benefit of tasks to be undertaken so as to give sufficient support to all my responsibilities.

4. If any, what change would you like to see in the Whip system of the National Council after 25 years of existence?

We are moving forward and never backward, our WHIP system should be at par with the time we are in. The system should be effective in the sense that the Chief whip should be in a position to

view/access new law at the initiation stage and analyze them as to how they will be of benefit to the people of Namibia. The Chief Whip should also be strengthened with enough resources to capacitate Members of Parliament for them to fully participate in the discussion in the house and in the whole legislative process. The system needs capable staff such as Personal Assistants, Private Secretaries, Researchers to assist Parliamentarians in doing research for their contributions in the crafting and reviewing of laws.

5. What message would you like to share to other Whips to ensure that the laws that are reviewed are in the best interest of the citizens of this country?

I would like urge all Whips to work together in making sure that the reviewing process of the laws is effective. Effective in ensuring that we all work together and play our role in the review and amendments of bills before us so as to denote the interest of the people we represent. I also want to propose that we be furnished with sufficient research personnel to guide us thoroughly in our contributions so that our contributions are of benefit to the Nation.



THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Role of Parliament in Promoting Good Governance is that as legislatures we are obliged to carry out our legislative constitutional obligation to formulate development and implementation of laws, policies and practices that will benefit the nation once passed.

As outlined by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's Book on The Role of Parliament in promoting good governance, "Parliaments worldwide perform three core **functions**: to represent citizens interests, to pass **laws** and to monitor the actions of the government. They perform a legislative **function** because, in addition to introducing legislation on their own, they have the power to amend, approve or reject government draft **laws**".

My duty as Chairperson of the National Council was to ensure that all Bills, policies and reports referred to the House were reviewed in full because that is the mandate of the Upper House. And to ensure that all political parties in the House received equal debating opportunities during every sitting. Affective legislatures in the world should contribute to effective governance by performing important functions which are necessary to sustain our democracy across the nation. Although, I represented the Ruling Party SWAPO, I did not facilitate debates to promote the SWAPO Members, but ALL at large.

In addition to the debates, I also attended various Conference of Parliamentary Organisations that the Namibian Parliament is a member As such, I was elected Chairperson of the CPA Africa Branch and when the time came to hand over that position at the end of my reign, fellow African Parliamentarians came to Namibia to attend the handover ceremony and also to attend the CPA Conference. Hence, National Council hosted the 44th CPA African Region Conference which was attended by over 2 000 delegates and was officially opened by H.E. Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba.



Hon. Asser Kapere, Former Chairperson of the National Council From 2004-2015, Addressing the IPU 3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

I also had the opportunity to receive delegates from other Parliaments who were on benchmark exercise such as the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, Parliaments of Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, and Uganda amongst others.

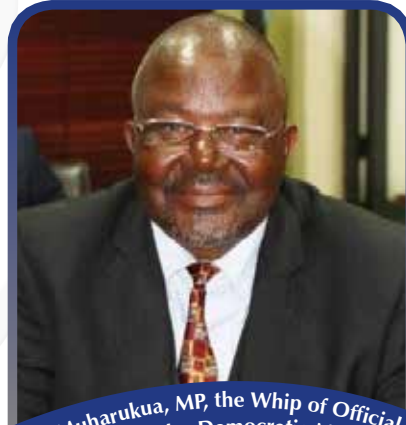
Besides the above, my colleague, sister and Vice-Chairperson then, Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams also initiated the:

1. Youth Parliament which was part of the Women Day of Democracy in March 2011 which brought about Youths from various organisations and was officially opened by former First Lady Madam Penexupifo Pohamba
2. Rural Women Parliament with Male as Partners in September 2012 which brought delegates from our 13 regions to debate on pertaining to grassroots development.

Lastly, as National Council celebrates 25 years, I am indeed humbled to having been part of these years. Together we worked for our electorates and people and also represented Namibia globally. Let us continue to pass laws which will attract and motivate other legislatures to emulate and be ambassadors of the people.

VOICES OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Honourable Nguzu Muharukua hails from the Kunene region, where he is the Regional Councillor of the Epupa Constituency. Muharukua is a member of the Popular Democratic Movement and is one of the two opposition Members in the National Council. Muharukua joined the 5th National Council which was sworn-in in December 2015 for a five-year term.



Hon. Nguzu Muharukua, MP, the Whip of Official Opposition Party Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)

As a member of the Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) in the House of Review, I serve not only the interests of the political party on whose ticket I am on, but also the interest of all Namibians whose voices need to be heard and whose needs need to be addressed. My experience in the National Council has been that despite party affiliation, we as MPs support or oppose motions and Bills regardless of our political affiliation, and more so for the interest of the people of Namibia. However, if we are to predict future events given the disproportion of party representation in the National Council, opposition parties would always be at a disadvantage because there are simply not enough voices to swing a vote or make significant impact on something the ruling SWAPO party may agree to.

Our work as Members of the opposition is made easier because of the good relationship we share with our colleagues, most especially the government Chief Whip, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams is fair and gives everyone a chance regardless of their party Membership. She is also a very good communicator, enabling and encouraging everyone to give contributions and participate in the review and oversight function of our work. I can also say the same for Hon. Lebbius Tobias, the SWAPO Chief Whip, who treats

us all with respect. These formidable relationships have enabled the National Council to function as it should, in the interest of the citizens.

As expected, it is challenging to balance both portfolios, as Regional Councillor and as National Council Member. I mitigate this by organising the office staff Members to follow the development program calendar of the constituency while I am away at the National Council Sessions. I also implore on them to keep in contact with me regularly regarding issues affecting the constituency. However, this does not always happen as staff do not follow the development program accordingly due to lack of staff and guidance as I am away. I therefore would suggest that every member of the National Council be provided with transport and accommodation in order for us to fully perform our duties between our constituencies and the National Council. .

I have very fond memories of my time as MP. One that comes to mind is a five-day training course we attended in England on the subject of Parliamentary Affairs.

Secondly, our visit to Ghana in the year 2017 that focused on benchmarking on Mix Farming was of great benefit to me and my community as I gained a lot of insight on poultry and crop farming. Locally, every day is a learning adventure in my line of work, like the oversight visit to the Gohas sewage construction site in |Karas Region and the Ongongo Vocational Training Centre construction site in

the Omusati Region. As an MP of the official opposition, I would expect that democracy be the main pillar of politics. Attention should be given to any motion from every member in the National Council regardless of their political party. We must all work towards respect and dignity for all, as guided by our constitution.

Honourable Peter Kazongominja is a Member of the 5th National Council, which term runs from 2015 to 2010. In the National Council, Hon. Kazongominja serves as his party's Whip and as the Chairperson of the Public Accounts and Economy Committee. Hon. Kazongominja is the Constituency Councillor of the Aminuis Constituency in the Omaheke region, a seat which led to his election to the House of Review. He represents the National Unity Democratic Organization, NUDO, and is one of the two National Council Members from opposition political parties in the House. Here he narrates his experience as A member of Parliament in the National Council.



Hon Peter Kazongominja posing a question to the President during the State of the Nation Address 2018

My role as Member of Parliament (MP) is to represent the Namibian electorate irrespective of their political affiliation. Before I became a National Council Member, I am foremost a representative of my Constituency and my region and the people of the great Omaheke region entrusted me to be a steadfast mouthpiece for my region and subsequently, represent the broader Namibia at the National Council as a national leader. Being on a particular party ticket does not stop me from exercising my duties as a National Leader, as I strive to deliver service without favour.

Being one of only two MPs from the opposition parties in the National Council is not an easy task. Our greatest challenge is that if we have to vote on an issue, we will be

out-voted every single time. Additionally, proper research and hard work is required for us to be visible in the house, despite the numbers, through the quality of work we bring forth. Proper understanding of the subject matter is very important as it enables us fully take part in the debates of the house where needed and lobbying skills from our side as minority parties must be at an advance stage in order for us to influence legislation beyond the parameters of the Chamber.

Despite these challenges, we enjoy a very healthy relationship with the Chairperson of the National Council, Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams and the Government Chief Whip, Hon. Lebbius Tobias. This is primarily because this working relationship is guided by respect and mutual understanding of parliamentary practice and procedures. This has also resulted in me, being the sole representative of the NUDO party in the house, to not limit my participation in the debates of the house.

We can only applaud the Namibian Constitution for ensuring its unique parliamentary democracy and freedom that makes it possible for minority voices to be heard within the legislature. I am a member of the National Council Steering Committee, Privileges Committee, Rules and Order Committee as well as the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee. All these portfolios assigned to me makes me very humbled and honoured.

With all these obligations at national level, it becomes daunting to balance national duties and regional duties. As a Regional Councillor, it is not an easy task to attend to both and proper planning of national and constituency activities is the order of the day as we must never neglect our constituencies and our people.

For the next 25 years, the National Council should become a true mouthpiece of the Namibian people through proper monitoring and evaluation of issues that are raised in the House as well as the implementation of recommendations coming from this house by line Ministries and Agencies. I would also like to see an improvement in the security detail to ensure the safety of its Members. I hereby also call for the necessary budgetary provisions that will allow the National Council to carry out its oversight function effectively.

Lastly, the establishment of the National Council was an extraordinary move, which must be applauded. What we must work hard to achieve now is for the institution to function independently without intimidation or interference.



Administration Building of the National Council

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AS A HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT

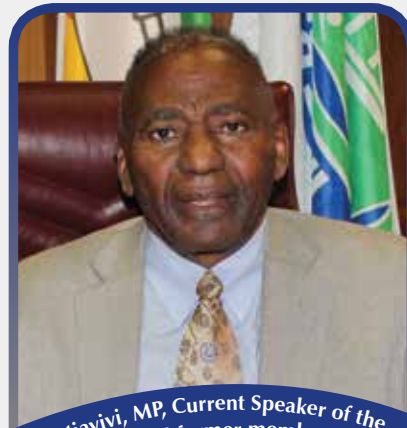
With its powers vested under Article 74 of the Namibian Constitution, the House of Review of the Namibian Parliament has made great strides towards the development of democracy in Namibia since its inception in 1993.

After the 1989 elections, a body under the name *Constituent Assembly* was formed and was tasked with the responsibility of drafting the Constitution of Namibia. A few Members of the Constituent Assembly were selected to serve on the drafting committee, under the Chairmanship of the current President, H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, of which the current head of the National Council counterpart, Speaker of the National Assembly Prof. Peter Katjavivi was a member. At the time of Constitution drafting exercise, there was a discussion as to whether Namibia would go for a one Chamber Parliament or a Bicameral Parliament, with two Chambers. After deliberations, a consensus was achieved that indeed, Namibia should have a Bicameral Parliament system.

Prof. Katjavivi has shared what it takes for National Council to be part of the Law-making process. He pronounced that the creation of the National Council has added great value to the country's Legislature;

1. What are your recollections of the transition from one chamber to two three years later?

Having agreed for the creation of a second Chamber, the Government did everything to have it done as smoothly as possible. However, the rest of the arrangements relating to coordination between the two Houses was supposed to be addressed under the theme code named, *'Agenda for Change'*. This referred to particular reforms which Parliament envisaged, could modernise our Parliament to be able to benchmark against other regional and international Parliaments, especially in the Commonwealth system. This endeavour is still ongoing. For instance, it is only now, after 25 years, that we have finally managed to



Prof. Peter Katjavivi, MP, Current Speaker of the National Assembly and former member of the Constituent Assembly

concretise Joint Rules and Orders for the joint sitting of both Houses.

2. On 23 February 2018 National Council turned 25 years, what is your reflection on this milestone?

Parliament of Namibia have become a firm feature on the Namibian democratic landscape. A great deal has been achieved in terms of the law making process. The creation of the National Council has added great value to our Legislature and continues to perform its mandate adequately.

3. What would you say are some of the greatest contributions the National Council continues to make as a House of Review in the legislature?

The National Council as the House of Review, ensures thorough checks and balances of any legislation passed by the National Assembly. In this way, it plays a very important role of ensuring that the laws that are made are in line with the National Constitution.

VOICES FROM FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Hon. Nico Kaiyamo was the first Regional Councilor for Tsumeb Constituency and representative from the Oshikoto Region in the National Council. He was not only a one of the founding Members of the National Council but was also the youngest Member of Parliament in 1993. During his two term as an MP he focused more on issues dealing with the youth, sport and poverty alleviation.



Hon. Nico Kaiyamo
Former Member of Parliament in the National Council
From 1993-2004

He was the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security. The mandate of this Standing Committee was to oversee the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security that included Home Affairs and Immigration. To seek public and stakeholders inputs in the law-making process through conducting of Public hearings on bills related to those Ministries. The Committee undertook regional visits to familiarized themselves with the functioning of those Ministries and implementation of their Capital projects in the regions. As part of some of their recommendations, after a regional visit to Border Posts in the year 2000, the Committee recommended to the line ministries for proper staff accommodation to be built at these Border Posts as staff were accommodated in dilapidated structures.

Hon. Kaiyamo noted that it is pleasing to see that today those staff at most if not all border posts have now decent accommodations facilities.

What message do you have as National Council celebrates her 25th Silver Jubilee Anniversary?

Looking back over the 25 years of existence of the National Council, proud on the foundation laid. National Council started with one woman representation out of 24 Members and today not only has the number of females MP's treble but the NC is chaired by a Woman. This is a milestone that we should be proud of as a nation. It is my wish and hope that the 6th National Council will see youth faces among its Membership.

I am wishing the National Council a Happy and proud Silver Jubilee as they continue to represent their regions without fear or favour.

Long Live the National Council!

Q: You were the Regional Councillor for Walvis Bay Urban Constituency and Erongo Region representative to the National Council, what were your Debates concentrating on?

A: Indeed. My Debates mostly focused on regional and national development.

Q: Which Standing Committee did you serve and was there a need to conduct public hearings?

A: I served in the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security and was the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal. Definitely, there is always a need for public hearings. Remember the National Council is a House of Review, Bills passed must be credible and need public scrutiny.

Q: What message do you have as National Council celebrates her 25th Silver Jubilee Anniversary?

A: Congratulations! The National council did a wonderful job in fulfilling its mandate entrusted by the Namibian people. I am humbled to having been part of the law makers the past 25 years.



Hon. Hafeni Ndemula
Former Member of Parliament in the National Council
From 1999-2010

Hon. Dax was elected as a Rehoboth Urban East Constituency Councillor in the Hardap Region, subsequently leading him to becoming Member of Parliament in the National Council after he was voted for by his region's respective Regional Council. During his tenure, Hon. Dax served as Chairperson of two Standing Committees.

He served as a member of the National Council for 6 years and was exposed to so many national, regional and international duties. He chaired the Standing Committee on Habitat and later on the Standing Committee on Regional Development and Reports after Comrade Theophilus Eiseb resigned from the National Council to take up the position of Governor of Otjozondjuba region.

The contributions he made in his term were limited as he only served one term but the network created during those



Hon. Alfred Stephanus Dax.
Former National Council MP, from 1999-2004

six years enabled him to garner skills and experience that is still being used in the development of his region and nation as a whole. He is currently the Special Advisor to the Governor of the Hardap region. This appointment according to him has enabled him to continue with the work that he advocated for and started in the National Council.

WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Hon. Generosa Andowa is a former female MP in the National Council from 1998-2004. She shared her experience when she was amongst the two female MPs in the Second National Council alongside the current Chairperson of the National Council, Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams.

Given the new global consensus about the importance of increasing women's representation in national parliaments, women in leadership in old and modern era are under-represented in most countries worldwide.

In the National Council the level of women representation has been on increase session by session and as such the status of Namibian women in politics has been elevated:

Number of female MPs in the National Council from 1993-2020:

First National Council- 1993-1998- 1 female MP out of 26 Members

Second National Council 1998-2004- 2 female MPs out of 26 Members

Third National Council 2004-2010 - 7 female MPs out of 26 Members

Fourth National Council 2010-2015- 7 female MPs out of 26 Members

Fifth (current) National Council-2015-2020- 11 female MPs out of 42 Members. Since the beginning of the Fifth National Council, there were 11 female MPs, unfortunately one passed away earlier in 2018 and she has been replaced by a man, reducing the number of female MPs in the current session to 10.



Hon. Generosa Andowa, Former National Council MP
Assistant Chief Whip of the SWAPO PARTY
From 1998-2004

As the two female MPs at that time, how were the interactions and the representation of the voice of women in the National Council and in the legislature in general, and were there any major challenges?

During the debates on some bills it was not really easy to get support for my views from men MPs especially when I would bring up the idea of focusing on bringing more matters concerning women on the table. It was really difficult in raising women voices since I was the only female MP to contribute as my sister Mensah-Williams was mostly presiding as Vice-Chairperson.

What would be your message to the National Council in celebrating 25 years of providing profound legislative review?

My experience as a female MP and as a Regional Councillor at that time has taught me to be a strong woman and I was so motivated to raise our voices as women so that change can be made in all the sections, and today I am so proud to hear that the current Session has more women on board. To previous colleagues and former Members of the National

Council, you have been very helpful and committed to the development of the institution and Namibia in general, may God bless you. **Happy 25th Anniversary to the House**

of Review of the Namibian Parliament and continue reviewing bills in the best interest of our beautiful country and its citizens.



Hon. Josephine Kandjambanga hails from Ohangwena Region and she was the first female Member of Parliament in the House of Review from 1993-1999. Hon. Kandjambanga narrated how her role as an MP.

It was a humbling opportunity for me to having been nominated by my Political Party SWAPO to contest the first Regional Councils Elections and to have won as well and became the first Woman MP in the National Council.

I was proud that I stood for all women at the grass root level and I had to ensure that their issues were brought forth during my debates. Hence, whenever I debated in the House, I not only concentrated on my region, but the nation at large.

Networking was my priority both with men and women to lobby for gender issues as well as women empowerment. It was a challenge as the only woman amongst male MPs, but as time went on, my fellow men MPs understood the essence of having women issues address equally. We passed numerous bills that benefited women and whenever I stood to contribute, my fellow male MPs were always supportive.



**Hon Josephine Hamutwe Kandjambanga
First Female MP in the National Council
From 1993-1999**

I would also like to thank the support staff of the National Council who rendered me their support at all levels during my tenure. My doors are still open for consultations as a former and first woman MP.

As National Council celebrates her 25th Silver Jubilee, I would like to wish her prolonged years of review and to ensure that issues of women continues to be seriously addressed.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE ON LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) opened its doors in July of 1988 in Windhoek. As a non-governmental organization, the LAC's main objective is to protect the human rights of all Namibians. The LAC covers work in the fields of Research, information and advice, law reform and advocacy, amongst others. These are all concepts that are close to the work of any Parliament and as such, collaboration between the National Council and the Legal assistance Centre has thrived in recent years. In this Article, the LAC's Dianne Hubbard talks on the importance of the review function in law making and the role of the National Council in building a strong democracy.



Ms. Dianne Hubbard has been the Coordinator of the Gender Research and Advocacy Programme of the LAC since 1993

How important is the National Council and its review function in the law making process?

I believe that the value of the review function is underestimated. I have been involved in advocacy around several pieces of legislation over the years where the National Council has proposed significant changes that were incorporated into the final law. The most dramatic involved the Labour Act, where the National Council proposed stronger protection against sexual harassment and introduced protection against discrimination on the basis of pregnancy or HIV – crucial issues which improved the law enormously.

As a House of Review, how would you scan the environment in which the National Council operates?

I believe an increased capacity is needed to conduct more public hearings in order to take bills to the regions for comment more frequently. However, public hearings on bills are not very useful unless the public is well-prepared by having received clear presentations which explain proposed bills in simple terms. I believe that there is more scope for public-private partnerships in the Parliamentary arena to assist with some of these challenges.

What are the conditions within the legislature and law-making that could improve for citizens in Namibia?

The public needs to be enabled to play a more active role in shaping legislation. Bills should be published in the Government Gazette one month before they are debated in Parliament (except in unusual cases of urgency), along with simple-language summaries which could inform journalists and NGOs - who could then help spread accurate information about proposed laws.

How can the National Council further contribute towards law making and democracy in Namibia?

The National Council's regional basis gives it a unique perspective on draft legislation. We have also utilised the ability to make presentations to the National Council when it is meeting as a Committee of the Whole House. This is a wonderful forum for stakeholders to discuss draft laws with MPs, and the public should be alerted to this possibility - which is not very well-known.

As LAC, what laws would you like to see either introduced or amended that speak to the livelihoods of people?

We support the basic income grant and the right of everyone in the nation to clean water and decent sanitation. In a country with a small population like Namibia's, no one should be living in poverty. It is also crucial to pass a new divorce law with mechanisms to achieve fairness between divorcing spouses whatever their marital property regime, and also to enact some basic protections for informally-cohabiting couples.

Could you describe the areas of cooperation you currently enjoy with Parliament as the LAC, specifically the National Council?

We often make presentations to Parliamentary committees and at committee hearings. We frequently prepare simplified

materials, research material and advocacy documents on bills under discussion, which have been well received by MPs. We have conducted numerous workshops on specific topics relating to forthcoming legislation (such as family law issues) and on occasion provided research for speeches by individual MPs. Most importantly, we have provided annotated statutes and regulations for the Parliamentary website, which we continue to update regularly. This is a very important undertaking to enable everyone free and easy access to the law.

What would your message be to the NC at 25?

Congratulations and viva!

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN LAW MAKING PROCESS

Throughout the years, the National Council has built solid relationships with its stakeholders, specifically our partners in civil society. These are affiliations which the institution treasures and continuously works to improve and strengthen in the quest to promote democracy and enhance public participation in the law making process. We gauge the views of Namibia Institute of Democracy (NID) Executive Director, Ms. Naita Hishoono on the cooperation the two institutions have enjoyed over the years as well as the place of civil society in the legislature.

How important is the review function in the law making process in the larger Namibian society?

The review function serves as a balance and check for one house of parliament to the other. Namibians want to



Ms. Naita Hishoono,
Namibia Institute of Democracy Executive Director

know that vital decisions impacting their livelihoods are thoroughly considered. Laws are guide lines for our daily interaction, be that in private or public sector or matters. The law makers should not shy away from controversial debates. Such debates enrich our democratic culture. A balanced view, which the National Council provides from a regional and local perspective, is vital for Namibia.

As Civil society, what engagement would you identify as critical between National Council and NGO's to improve the livelihoods of people?

National Council Members have their "eyes and ears" on the ground. This function is very similar to the work of civil society organisations. Our mandate is to engage the community on crucial matters such as *advocating for decent housing and education, promoting health and family support*. Councilors who understand and work with their local civil society organisations are therefore at an advantage compared to those who don't. Civil society organisations and MPs need their facts and figures right to have holistic understanding of what is working or not for their communities and this can be a good area of cooperation between the two entities, for the betterment of the country.

What are the conditions within the legislature and law making that is not favorable for citizens in Namibia and how can they be improved?

By voting for their leaders, Namibians by extension vote for dignified lives and services. The checks and balances between the two houses of Parliament serve to ensure laws that are in our best interest. Conditions that are not favorable are that the budget for decentralisation is centralized, the development committees are not legally empowered, certain controversial laws are not attuned to present-day conditions and citizens lack access to crucial information to influence laws. To improve these conditions, legislators need to remain faithful to their oath.

What opportunities exist for National Council as a House of Parliament in strengthening civil society in Namibia?

National Council MPs need to advocate strongly for decentralization. Secondly, they need to take parliament to the people for more visibility and inclusivity. Be proactive and engage with your electorate. Finally, work more closely with civil society to address social challenges and ensure that people's voices are included in the law-making process.

Would you say enough has been done in educating and creating awareness on the work of parliament and in turn, producing a populace that is well versed on issues of law making, if not, why?

Since 1990, the Namibian Parliament and civil society organisations have conducted several outreach programmes and information campaigns to create awareness on the work of Parliament. However we need to ensure that the information is sustainable. Adding Civic Education to the Namibian school curriculum would be a sustainable manner to preserve and pass on this information for generations to come. Parliamentary outreach programmes and nation-wide education campaigns can be costly. Thus sustainability, access to information and civic education needs to be integrated in our education system.

What would your message be to the NC at 25?

Congratulations to 25 years of reviewing Namibia's laws. The National Council is our life-line in Namibia's Decentralisation process and we as citizens count on you. As the House of Review your decisions are informed by the regional citizens. National Council, it is imperative that you ensure that the all voices in Namibia are included in the law making process.

IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

As National Council celebrates its 25 year silver jubilee, over the years, a number of Parliamentarians have passed on during their term in office. This publication also serves as an attempt to remind us of those gallant Namibians who departed while serving this country. We salute them. We thank them for their enormous contribution in their various individual capacities in shaping laws of this country.

May their souls continue to rest in eternal peace.



Late Hon. Michael Hishikushitja
1993-2001



Late Hon. Moses Coma
2009-2010



Late Hon. Ruth Nhinda
2004-2014



Late Hon. Rosa Kavara
2010-2018



Late Hon. Ndapewa Nambili
2010-2015



Late Hon. Germina Shitaleni
2010-2015



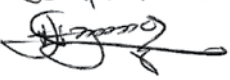
NATIONAL COUNCIL IN ACTION





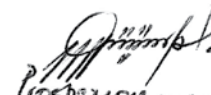


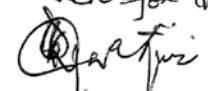


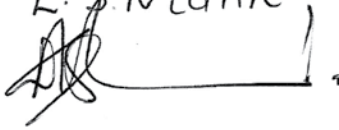
Silver Jubilee Celebration

RUUSA JOKE NANGULA NAMUTHUJA
Mphahlele. CONGRATULATIONS
CONTINUE TO BE THE VOICE
OF THE PEOPLE
JOHANNES NANGULA
Complement to NC


 helthins vras
Government Chief Advisor
JOHN MUSIAMELE LIKANDO

continue to be the voice of the people

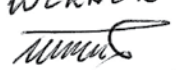
 SIPAPELE
W. CLETIUS
Prosperous new years
to come.

Elected by the people for the people
Be there for them. Long Live!


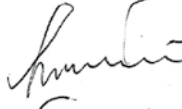
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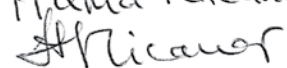
Representing the Omusati Region
and other Nations.

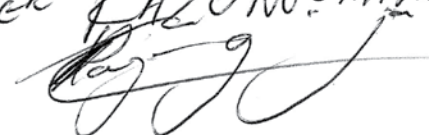
• WERNER KAPI

Congrats

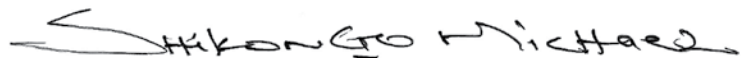
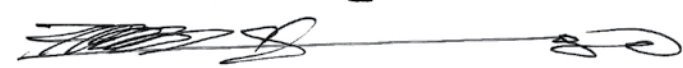
Maula Betty Kaula
Be the voice of the voiceless!!!

 Hilma Nicanor
we love you continue to be
talk to people. Transma CHAUZ.

ROSALIA SHILENGA
Representing the people
the OSITANA REGION
Rflulanga

Hilma Nicanor


PETER KAZONGOMINTA


 SHIKONGO MICHAEL

Voice of the
people!!!

• CONGRATULATIONS

National Co

JOHANNES -T. HAMUTENYA
Hamutanya
 Voice of the people

P.W. *[Signature]*
 For Independent and
 Critical Review
 process.

PETRUS NI KAVHURA

[Signature]
 VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

[Signature]
 Hon. Phillip H. Shikongo

[Signature]
 Hon. Mupfema

JASON N. NDAKUNDA

[Signature]

Viva Silver Jubilee

Hon Victoria M Kauma
 Happy birthday NC We
 are proud of this House
 as a House of review.
 Thanks *[Signature]*

Hans NAMBONI
[Signature]
 "Jubilee"

Ambrosius Kaindu
 An Mutu

Paulus A. *[Signature]*

The true representatives of the
 Namibian people
 Volante Nango
[Signature]

[Signature]
 Simon Chosky
 Dukeleni

Institution of the
 voiceless

Lotto Kuushower
[Signature]

TORY MESSAGES.



uncil Members

we thank God
for the 25th Anniversary
many blessings and wisdom we
ask from God upon all decisions
made by the house of Review
from: Moringa ♥ ♥ ♥
Dagose

Happy 25th Anniversary
Hendrik Afkane

Hendrik Afrikaans
Happy 25th National Council
Frank (Breda)
Happy 25th anniversary
Hendrik Breda

happy 25th anniversary
Heinrich Heide
25 years service

To another 25 years
of superb service.
Dent Pamela Mark.

I thank God
for the 25th Anniversary
May Jesus is with us
we are not going for white
we need God for white
Dennis
Poult

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY
MOSHA
MATIAS N'DUMBA

Happy 25th Anniversary
to the House of Review.
Let's continue to ensure
that Laws passed in the
House of Review are
of those that represent
regional concerns.
Dale Anette
Wintambemengwe

As we are celebrating the 25 year Silver Jubilee of the existence of the National Council, I want to pay a special tribute to the forefathers of the National Council who laid a strong foundation of this institution for us to be part of it. The challenge is now upon all of us to develop it further for our future generations.

congratulations.

Thomas Shipu


Happy 25th Anniversary
National Council
Blind H. Heita

Happy 25th Anniversary to the
National Council. Continue with your
great job of ensuring that the laws that are
passed are in the best interest of Americans.

M. Rajeev Kumar

Today you have hit a silver jubilee,
Happy quarter Century to the
house of review, keep on reviewing.

A very warm wishes and
Good Luck for future and
today 25yrs has been completed
with the blessings of God
Raminat Jafet

Happy 25th Anniversary
to the House of
Wachse 

Happy 25th Anniversary
to the House of Review
and another 25 years
more.

Thombe M.P

Wish Happy 25th anniversary
to National Council
U. A. J. Fike
ALEX S. TEKAYABONE

BRIAN KERUAKO to
NC Happy 25th BS
all the best
many more to
come!!!

To another 25 years
of National Council
Kapumba Mathews

25 years is a milestone achieved
by the National Council. I wish
that the institution will continue
to strive towards achievement of
their strategic objectives, in order
to be contribute meaningfully to
the nation building.

Augustinus Nowaseb

Happy 25th Anniversary!!
Keep going Strong!!
Introp

What a tremendous achievement
Cheers to MPS, Management
and staff, wish the institution
a successful future with
God strength. Marianne Senko

Happy 25th
anniversary.
A great milestone of achievement
indeed. Brownman

TO THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES
OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, MY
ONLY EMPLOYER FOR 8 YEARS.
25 YEARS OF REPRESENTATION,
GLORY TO THE MOST HIGH
Blindie

Happy 25th Anniversary to the
House of review and another
25 years more!!!
MUK

Happy 25 years
Second House of
Parliament of Namibia
G. P. Tjipepa

Happy 25 Anniversary
to NLC keep on with your
great job. Allettra Kapwaga

ORY MESSAGES.

ncil Secretariat

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY TO THE HOUSE OF
REVIEW! MAY THE LORD SHOWER US ALL
AND THE LEADERSHIP WITH WISDOM FOR
THE NEXT
25 years

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY
TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.
WE PRAY THAT THE ALMIGHTY
BLESS OUR LEADERS WITH
THE NECESSARY WISDOM TO
LEAD US FOR ANOTHER
25 YEARS.

Unjaye
Mupfema

With so many blessings
from above

Wish the NC all the prosperity. Libby

LIST OF ALL NATIONAL COUNCIL MPs

FIRST NATIONAL COUNCIL: 1993 - 1998

Hon. Mumbuu Upundua Edward - DTA/UDF Coalition
Hon. Hendjala Erasmus - SWAPO
Hon. Ya Kasita Sheya Henock - SWAPO
Hon. Kaiyamo Hosea Nico - SWAPO
Hon. Hakaye Haikela Jhonny - SWAPO
Hon. Wilfred I Emvula - SWAPO
Hon. Esegel M /Uirab - SWAPO
Hon. Martin Kapewasha - SWAPO
Hon. Josephine Hamutwe Kandjambanga - SWAPO
Hon. Hishikushitja Michael Ndapamapedu - SWAPO
Hon. Mujoro Zedekia (Vice Chairperson) - SWAPO
Hon. Cloete Samuel Petrus - DTA/UDF Coalition
Hon. Nehova "Kandy" Shafodino Hinananye (Chairperson) - SWAPO
Hon. Eiseb Theofelus - SWAPO
Hon. Walubita Mukelabayi - DTA
Hon. Sheyapo Fidelis - SWAPO
Hon. Sizimbo Francis Fanie - DTA
Hon. Cloete Herman H. - DTA
Hon. Haingura Ambrosius - SWAPO
Hon. Hango Asser - SWAPO
Hon. Huiseb Johannes Sitore - DTA
Hon. Kaatura Nehemia - DTA
Hon. Kairabeb Lazarus - SWAPO
Hon. Kamanya E.S. Vilho - SWAPO
Hon. Kapirika Servaius - SWAPO
Hon. Minnaar Jakobus - SWAPO



SECOND NATIONAL COUNCIL: 1999 - 2004

Hon. Nehova "Kandy" Shafodino Hinananye (Chairperson) - SWAPO
Hon. Kapere Asser Kuveri (Chairperson) - SWAPO
Hon. Mensah-Williams Margaret Natalie (Deputy Chairperson) - SWAPO
Hon. Nguvauva Kilus
Hon. Dax Alfred Stefanus - SWAPO
Hon. Shangheta Bartholomeus Tuhafeni - SWAPO
Hon. Mumbuu Upundua Edward - DTA/UDF Coalition
Hon. Hendjala Erasmus - SWAPO
Hon. Samuehl Fluksman - SWAPO
Hon. Basson Benedictus Franciskus - SWAPO
Hon. Andowa Generosa - SWAPO
Hon. Ndemula Hafeni Ludwig - SWAPO
Hon. Ya Kasita Sheya Henock - SWAPO
Hon. Shihwameni Shikongo Herbert - SWAPO
Hon. Kaiyamo Hosea Nico - SWAPO
Hon. Thighuru Haushiku Johannes - SWAPO
Hon. Hakaye Haikela Jhonny - SWAPO
Hon. Masake Joseph Sitali - SWAPO
Hon. Shinohamba Karlous Marx - SWAPO
Hon. Kerina Mburumba DTA/UDF Coalition
Hon. vHishikushitja Michael Ndapamapedu - SWAPO
Hon. Mujoro Zedekia - SWAPO
Hon. Tuhadeleni Noah Lyaalala - SWAPO
Hon. Mwala Peter Mwala - SWAPO
Hon. Ndjambula Phillemon - SWAPO
Hon. Cloete Samuel Petrus - DTA/UDF Coalition
Hon. Murorua Themistokles Dudu - DTA/UDF Coalition
Hon. Ya Ndakolo Penda - SWAPO
Hon. Eiseb Theofelus - SWAPO
Hon. Hoveka Wilfred Uaonga - SWAPO
Hon. Hifitikeko Lucas - SWAPO
Hon. Haingura Ambrosius - SWAPO

THIRD NATIONAL COUNCIL: 2004 - 2010

Hon. Kapere Asser Kuveri (Chairperson - SWAPO
Hon. Mensah-Williams Margaret Natalie (Deputy Chairperson) - SWAPO
Hon. Diergaardt Theo Vivian - SWAPO
Hon. Kankoshi Henok Tangeni - SWAPO
Hon. Martin Aram - SWAPO
Hon. Nakwafila Johannes Kamati - SWAPO
Hon. Namwandi Barakias - SWAPO
Hon. Nguvauva Kilus
Hon. Nhinda Ruth Kepawa (DECEASED)
Hon. Nicanor Hilma Ndinelago - SWAPO
Hon. Sibatani Bernard Songa - SWAPO
Hon. Shangheta Bartholomeus Tuhafeni - SWAPO
Hon. Ndemula Hafeni Ludwig - SWAPO
Hon. Ya Kasita Sheya Henock - SWAPO
Hon. Hakaye Haikela Jhonny - SWAPO
Hon. Ndjambula Phillemon - SWAPO
Hon. Sibiya-Mwashekele Rosalia Mwadina - SWAPO
Hon. Appollus Willem Rudolf
Hon. Karupu Sebastiaan
Hon. Siwombe Frieda Mwadina - SWAPO
Hon. Kabula Dorothy Mareka - SWAPO
Hon. Mwillima Leonard Yamba - SWAPO
Hon. Mogotsi Stefanus Orateng - SWAPO
Hon. Kavetuna Ferdinand Frederick - SWAPO
Hon. !Coma Moses (DECEASED)
Hon. Kavetu Lydia Nghauvi - DTA
Hon. !Gobs Sebastiaan Ignatius - UDF



FOURTH NATIONAL COUNCIL: 2010 - 2015

Hon. Kapere Asser Kuveri (Chairperson of the National Council) - SWAPO
Hon. Mensah-Williams Margaret Natalie - (Deputy Chairperson) - SWAPO
Hon. Boois Dawid - SWAPO
Hon. Diergaardt Theo Vivian (Deputy Minister: Lands and Resettlement) - SWAPO
Hon. Gaobaeb Hendrik UDF
Hon. Kandji Ambrosius - SWAPO
Hon. Kankoshi Henok Tangeni (RESIGNED) - SWAPO
Hon. Kapenambili Isai Paulus - SWAPO
Hon. Katamelo Phillipus Wido - SWAPO
Hon. Kaujeua Issaskar Kaunako - SWAPO
Hon. Kavara Rosa Kunyanda (DECEASED 02/01/2018) - SWAPO
Hon. Martin Aram - SWAPO
Hon. Muremi Nimrod Mbandu - SWAPO
Hon. Nakwafila Johannes Kamati - SWAPO
Hon. Nambili Ndapewoshali (DECEASED) - SWAPO
Hon. Namwandi Barakias - SWAPO
Hon. Nguvauva Kilus - SWAPO
Hon. Nhinda Ruth Kepawa (DECEASED) - SWAPO
Hon. Nicanor Hilma Ndinelago - SWAPO
Hon. Shekutamba Bernardinus Petrus - SWAPO
S Hon. hilenga Rosalia - SWAPO
Hon. Shitaleni Germina Ndupia (DECEASED) - SWAPO
Hon. Sibatani Bernard Songa - SWAPO
Hon. Sipapela Cletius Sipapela - SWAPO
Hon. Tjeundo Kazeongere Zeriapi - DTA
Hon. Tobias Lebibus Tangeni - SWAPO
Hon. !Coma Moses (DECEASED) - SWAPO
Hon. Shikongo Darius Tatekulu - SWAPO
Hon. Nangolo, Johannes
Hon. Shimutwikeni, Leonard
Hon. Ghauz, Fransina

5TH NATIONAL COUNCIL: 2015 - 2020

Hon. Margaret Natalie Mensah-Williams (Chairperson) - SWAPO
Hon. Bernard Songa Sibatani (Vice-Chairperson) - SWAPO
Hon. Lebibus Tangeni Tobias (Chief Whip) - SWAPO
Hon. Dawid Boois - SWAPO
Hon. Ambrosius Kandji - SWAPO
Hon. Phillipus Wido Katamelo - SWAPO
Hon. Sikondo Johannes Kahonzo (Replaced the late Hon. Rosa Kunyanda Kavara) - SWAPO
Hon. Hilma Ndinelago Nicanor (Deputy Minister of veterans' Affairs) - SWAPO
Hon. Rosalia Shilenga - SWAPO
Hon. Sipapela, Cletius Sipapela - SWAPO
Hon. Johannes Nangolo - SWAPO
Hon. Johannes Tuhafeni Hamutenya - SWAPO
Hon. Melania Ndjago - SWAPO
Hon. Simon Christy Dukeleni - SWAPO
Hon. Nico Herman Mungenga - SWAPO
Hon. Jeremias Gregory Van Neel - SWAPO
Hon. Paulus Amukoshi Ephraim - SWAPO
Victoria Mbawo Kauma - SWAPO
Hon. Petrus Muyenga Kavhura - SWAPO
Hon. Michael Mukoya Shipandeni Shikongo - SWAPO
Hon. Lukas Sinimbo Muha - SWAPO
Hon. Damian Haikera Nakambare - SWAPO
Hon. Ruusa Joyce Nangula Namuhuja - SWAPO
Hon. Johannes Hishidimbwa Antsino - SWAPO
Hon. Nguzu Johannes Pelsa Muharukua - SWAPO
Hon. Weich Murle Uapendura Mupya - SWAPO
Hon. Jason Nghipeha Ndakunda - SWAPO
Hon. Phillip Haitange Shikongo - SWAPO
Hon. Shinana, Lonia Kaishungu - SWAPO
Hon. Cornelius Vejama Kanguatjivi - SWAPO
Hon. Peter Chance Kamangusi Razungama Kazongominja - NUDO
Hon. Werner Kalipi - SWAPO
Hon. Titus Kanye - SWAPO
Hon. Gerhard Shiimi - SWAPO
Hon. Lotto Kuushomwa - SWAPO
Hon. Joseph Mupetami - SWAPO
Hon. Betty Beatrice Kaula - SWAPO
Hon. Hans Linekela Nambondi - SWAPO
Hon. Steve Biko Booy - SWAPO
Hon. Fransina Ghauz - SWAPO
Hon. John Likando - SWAPO
Hon. Laina Mekundi - SWAPO

NOTES

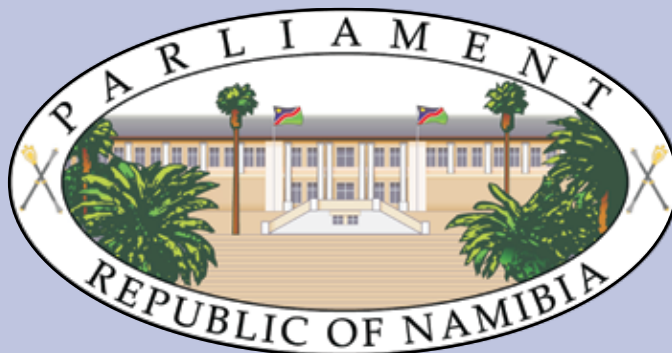


NATIONAL COUNCIL

25
years

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION

1993 - 2018



NATIONAL COUNCIL

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