



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 February 2023

OFFICIAL OPENING OF PARLIAMENT, 2023

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon Professor Peter H. Katjavivi wishes to inform the public that the President of the Republic of Namibia His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, will officially open the Seventh Session of the Seventh Parliament on **Tuesday, 14 February, at 14h30** at the Parliament Building. This is in line with the provisions of Rule 15 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly and Constitutional responsibilities.

This ceremonial event on the calendar of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia will take place under the theme: **“Enhancing Namibia’s Parliamentary Democracy Post COVID – 19”**. The official Opening of Parliament brings together under one roof the three Organs of the State (Executive; Legislature and Judiciary).

For the past few years, Parliament was forced to scale down on the activities that are normally associated with this opening ceremony due to Covid 19. However, given the easing of restrictions, traditional activities associated with this event have been retained and will be observed this year.

This means that:

- Military procession and the ceremonies associated with it will take place.
- Cultural and school-children’s performances will also take place.

The following are some of the Bills that will potentially be tabled during the Parliament sessions of 2023:

1. High Court Amendment Bill [Review of Law on Sale of Primary Home of Debtors]
2. Magistrate Court Amendment Bill [Review of Law on Sale of Primary Home of Debtors]
3. Divorce Bill
4. Child Justice Bill

5. Ombudsman Bill
6. Marriage Bill
7. Uniform Matrimonial Property Regime Bill [Red Line Marriages]
8. Civil Registration Bill
9. Roads Bill
10. Vehicle Mass Bill
11. Land Bill
12. Research, Science, Technology and Innovation Bill

Take note that these Bills are projected to be tabled in the National Assembly during the 2023 legislative year. However, this is dependent on their finalization by the Ministry of Justice.

The National Assembly would also like to remind members of the public that all Bills for discussions in the National Assembly emanate from the Executive, which has the constitutional responsibility and mandate to propose laws for the effective administration of the Government. This means that if no Bill is forthcoming from the Executive, neither the National Assembly, nor the Speaker, can initiate any legislation, unless Members themselves make use of Article 60 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, which reads “that a private members’ bill may be introduced in the National Assembly if supported by one-third of all the members of the National Assembly”.

Media practitioners who wish to attend and cover the Opening of Parliament are kindly advised to at all times display their updated MICT accreditation badges.

The public is hereby informed and advised to follow the live-stream of the official opening ceremony as well as all sessions of parliament on the parliament’s Facebook or YouTube pages @Parliament of the Republic of Namibia starting at 14h30, Tuesdays to Thursdays.

Please take note that Robert Mugabe Avenue and Love Street (around the Parliament Gardens) might be closed-off to the public and traffic between 13h00 and 17h00 on the 14 February 2023.

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