



Thursday, 23 February 2023

No. 1 - 2023

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MINISTER:	QUESTION NO.
1. Prime Minister	15
2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation	
3. Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security	8
4. Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs	
5. Minister of Finance	3
6. Minister of Education, Arts and Culture	6, 12, 13
7. Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare	
8. Minister of Health and Social Services	5
9. Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation	10, 11
10. Minister of Mines and Energy	1
11. Minister of Justice	
12. Minister of Urban and Rural Development	2
13. Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism	

14.	Minister of Industrialisation and Trade	
15.	Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform	9
16.	Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources	
17.	Minister of Works and Transport	
18.	Minister in the Presidency	
19.	Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service	7
20.	Minister of Information and Communication Technology	14
21.	Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation	4

Question 1 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

Last year there was a heated debate in the country about who owns our minerals in this country, it was a heated debate that went to the extent that Namibians came out strongly against exploitation of our minerals by foreigners.

Hon speaker, it is important to kick off this question with the quotation from our very own Constitution, our Constitution says “all minerals rights are vested in the state and are regulated by the minerals (prospecting and mining) act of 1992”.

Our minerals (prospecting and mining) act, 1992 (no. 33 stated amongst others that this is an act to provide for the reconnaissance, prospecting and mining for, and disposal of, and the exercise of control over, minerals in Namibia”.

Having quoted the above legal provisions on our statute books one would have assumed that guided by the above, we as a country should have been in total control of our minerals resources, but this appears to not be the case.

It was and it is still disheartening to have noted both the president and the Minister of Mines trying to tell this nation last year that whoever puts the bulk of the money upfront for the exploration purposes control our minerals and have the biggest share in the long run.

I would therefore like to ask the Hon Minister to confirm or deny that this government, and those who were Ministers before him have sold this country minerals for a song or not.

Giving you the benefit of doubt and that you will not answer me like some Ministers in this house do, as if when we ask questions they are doing us a favor, while it is their constitutional obligation to do so, I now ask the following:

1. Is it true that almost all our mines are foreign owned and our government receive a pittance on behalf of the citizens only?

Is it true that Langer Heinrich Mine is 100% owned by Heinrich Uranium PTY LTD and government owns 0% and this is one of the biggest mines in the country?

2. This mine is located at the foot of the Langer Heinrich Mountain in the Namib Desert near Swakopmund. I must add that Namibia is ranked 4th largest producer of uranium worldwide, behind Kazakhstan, Canada and Australia and produce about 7.1 % of uranium oxide worldwide.

Why then does the country not benefit from its uranium and if this facts are correct, why does Langer Heinrich owns 100% of our uranium, while uranium is one of the five minerals resources that were declared strategic by the Namibian Government in 2011, is this hypocrisy on the side of the Namibian Government or simply negligent?

This mine was under care and maintenance and it is about to resume operation in 2024, my question is will it still continue under the same percentage allocation or not?

3. Is it true that Rio Tinto owns 69% in the Rossing Mine, while Government only own 3%, Iranians 15%, SA 10%, others 3%? This is the world's longest running open pit uranium and has been in operation since 1976, and yet our government own only 3%.

This Mine produced 3.711 tons of Uranium oxide, it is the fifth largest uranium mine with 8% of global output, is this correct that we as Namibians owns only 3%?

Your Ministry extended this mine license in August 2022 for another 10 years from 2026 to 2036, one would like to know, have you extended it under this draconian, insensitive terms or are there new terms in which the Namibian people through you as the line Minister will benefit properly?

4. It is true that Scorpion Zinc mine is 100% owned by Vendata and Government own 0%, while Scorpion Zinc mine is the 8th largest zinc mine in the world producing special high grade (shg). This mine has the potential to run for another 15 years, again more 15 years of nothing to the Namibian people I must add, I am aware that the mine is currently under maintenance but with a possibility of reopening soon for another 15 years.
5. Is it true that Tsumeb Smelter is 100% owned by Dundee Precious Metals a Canadian firm and again our government owns nothing at 0%? This smelter process concentrate from the Tsumeb copper mine and is one of the only five commercial scale smelters in Africa?

The same scenarios are and continue to repeat itself as follows: Navachab Mine a subsidiary of QKR Corporation Limited that owns this mine 92.5% and the Namibian government owns a mere 7.5%

Oshikoto Gold Mine B2 Gold owns 90% EVI Mining 10% and GRN 0%

Husab Mine, Swakop Uranium 90%, GRN 10%

Etango Uranium Mine, Bannerman Resources owns 100% and GRN 0%

Trekkopie Mine it is owned wholly by Areva 100% and GRN 10%

Norosa Uranium owned by Forsys Metal 100% and GRN 0%

Rosh Pinah Zinc Mine owned by Glencore 80% and GRN 0% while 20% is owned by others one wonders who are the others.

Otjihase Tschidi Matchless Coper Mines owned by Weatherly International at 95.8%, GRN 2.65 and others 1.6% who are the others?

Hon. Speaker, this point to a rather depressing picture that must not be allowed to continue.

Hon. Minister, you owe this nation a proper explanation as to what is happening to our minerals and why government allows potential investors in our mining sector, without government demanding adequate percentage for our raw materials or minerals, on behalf of the citizens of our country?

6. Is the above painted picture correct and if yes, why is the Namibian Government happy with this status quo and if not happy what are the immediate remedial interventions from the government to address this situation that is so bleak and really disappointing to the core?

How can a country so rich in minerals allow itself to be exploited by foreigners, while receiving peanuts for our minerals?

Question 2 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

Hon Deputy Minister you are aware that last year you came to me in good faith I though at the time, and humbly requested me to withdraw my motion on the conditions of local authorities in Namibia in this house.

Your words were that I repeated in this house before I withdraw my motion “that I must withdraw this motion for now as you personally have embarked upon an outreach program in the various regions and that there is a report that you have compiled that will be tabled in this house soon, and that this report will cover many issues that I have raised in my motion.

Naturally I went and told my fellow MPs on this side of the house what you requested of me, somewhere like hum, hum, at, soohoo, tah I could not understand this words from them really at the time, but I said let me give you the benefit of doubt, because in my culture when an elder say something and promise something you automatically deduce that he or she is speaking the truth and what he or she say will come to pass.

However it has been now six months or so since I moved in this house to withdraw my motion on account of your word and no courtesy was granted to by yourself since then, as to where are we with those reports of yours?

I therefore ask the following questions:

1. What has happened to the said report that you promised to table in this house dealing with the conditions of local authorities?
2. Since in the current bills that will come to Parliament there is no mention of any bill dealing with the issue of Local Authorities, is there anything in the pipeline that will eventually see the light of day in terms of a bill that will come to this house?
3. The conditions of Local Authorities still leave much to be desired and there are countless problems that continue to confront Local Authorities and this need to be addressed in this house, do you agree with this sentiment or not?
4. Finally depending on your answer I reserve the right to re-introduce this motion in this parliament again.

Question 3 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Finance:

It has come to our attention, that the Governor of the Bank of Namibia is attempting to change regulations determining the Powers of the Governor of the Central Bank. The purpose of these changes, it appears, is to prohibit or limit the authority of the commercial banks to hire or relieve of duty, executive level management members in their banks.

If this is true, it would appear that the Bank of Namibia is engaging in open public interference in labour matters of the commercial banks, which would amount to an overreach in law. Such an overreach would certainly not pass the Constitutional muster of “being necessary in a democratic society.”

It is our information that two of Mr. !Gawaxab’s protégés at Old Mutual, who are now in senior management at two commercial banks in Namibia, are finding it difficult to deliver the required performance.

It follows, that in protection of these two persons, Mr. !Gawaxab is using his office as Governor of the Central Bank, to influence Banks’ recruitment and human resources policies and powers, as employers.

I, therefore, ask the Minister of Finance:

1. Are you aware of this behind the scenes attempt to change powers in order to place the Central Bank as the police-man for non-performing executives in banks,
 2. Whereas the non-performing loans in the banking sector in this country is at a “crisis-trigger point of 6 percent, already indicated in the NAMFISA monthly report of April 2022, the action to shield non-performing executives through extra regulatory and irrational powers for the Central Bank would be a danger for our economy. Will you engage this matter urgently or will you hide under the guise of “independence of the Bank of Namibia?”
 3. Is it correct for the Central Bank to interfere in labour matters of private banks?
-

Question 4 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Kavekatora (RDP) asked the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation:

One of my many motions currently circulating in relevant parliamentary standing committees deals with equitable distribution of resources and opportunities. I still maintain that equity must have been the vision of every Namibian who fought and yearned for total liberation of Namibia. All Namibians are striving for a better life. My motion on equity should have been a wakeup call to every Minister, every Chief Executive officer, every Commander of the Armed forces, the police and anyone running a government institution.

Discrimination and all discriminatory practices have the potential of fueling civil unrest in this country and could derail the much hailed peace and stability we all cherish.

Hon. Minister, I don't know how you took the news in printed media that the majority of medical students' intake at UNAM are from one tribal grouping? The RDP and I did not take it lightly because we value the principles of equity, fairness and non-discriminatory practices.

Thus I ask:

1. How equitable is the latest UNAM medical student intake?
2. Can you itemize the current UNAM medical student intake in percentage per tribal grouping?
3. What criteria were used in the selection process and how fair are these criteria to the minority grouping in Namibia?
4. Can you share with this August House the breakdown of intakes of the previous 3 years/periods in per ethnic grouping?
5. Assuming you are not happy with this situation, and education is the greatest equalizer what do you intend to do to address this discriminatory practice?

Question 5 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Diergaardt (PDM) asked the Minister of Health and Social Services:

Kidney Dialysis is a procedure to remove waste products and excess fluid from the blood when the kidneys stop working properly. It often involves diverting blood to a machine to be cleaned. There are over hundreds of patients in Namibia that depend on the State for kidney dialysis.

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following questions:

1. If a patient gets chronic kidney problems after 60 years of age, will the State provide kidney dialysis, if the patient does not have private medical aid?
 2. If not, and a patient is already receiving kidney dialysis and turns 60 years, will the State discontinue the dialysis, and how will the patient afford the dialysis?
-

Question 6 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Diergaardt (PDM) asked the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture:

Honourable Speaker, I am of the opinion that we are all in agreement that education is a vital element in the totality of the human experience. Education fosters a clear understanding that power lies in the mind, body and spirit. I therefore cannot but agree with Lord Brougham who said: "Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive, easy to govern but impossible to enslave". Education also has a lot to do about how the system is organised, including the academic calendar and even the daily time-table.

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture released the 2023 Calendar for Government Schools in Namibia. According to the Academic Calendar, the First School term will start in January 2023 and end in June 2023 while the second and last school term will start in July 2023 and end in December 2023.

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What motivated the decision by the Ministry to continue with two semesters in the year 2023?
2. Are the two school semesters in the best interests of the learners and teachers in terms of teaching and learning?
3. What mitigation plans does the Ministry have to address the effects of exhaustion on learners and teachers during the two long semesters, apart from brief midterm breaks that serve no purpose other than being disruptive?

Question 7 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Diergaardt (PDM) asked the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service:

Namibia currently only boasts 2 major stadiums, the Sam Nuyoma and Independence stadiums, but the two venues have since been downgraded by CAF and FIFA, as they do not meet the minimum standards for international football matches. As a result of the banishment by CAF and FIFA, the national team has been forced to play all their international matches in South Africa at exorbitant costs.

Cabinet mandated the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service on behalf of Namibia to enter into a bidding process with Botswana. Namibia has since approved the co-hosting bid of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament with Botswana. Namibia approved in principle the joint bid to co-host with the Republic of Botswana on a 60:40 formula, with Namibia bearing the 40% costs and associated benefits.

Namibia has an intended budget of N\$450 million for this tournament. The matches will take place in Swakopmund and Windhoek, with the Independence stadium to host the matches in Windhoek. It was also revealed that other venues will be renovated and serve as training venues for this international soccer tournament.

Due to the poor conditions of the stadiums, local sports continue to suffer because of the absence of quality sports facilities in the country.

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Why is there a key priority to only develop the sports stadiums for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations tournament and not for the usage of local sports tournaments and events?
 2. Why is there a budget all of sudden to renovate the stadiums for this tournament and not a budget to renovate all stadiums in the country?
 3. Why is the Minister always oblivious about the state of sports facilities in the country?
-

Question 8 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Diergaardt (PDM) asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security:

People have lost their lives at the hands of the Namibian Police, who are trusted to protect the lives of people. The most direct connection between police brutality and public health is the fact that police brutality kills and injures people. The clearest indication out there is that we don't regard police brutality as a public health issue. Police brutality affects public health because it affects an indicator of population health, which is life expectancy. Police brutality is also a major violation of human rights. Incidents of police brutality in Namibia are swept under the rug.

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. How many complaints of police brutality in Namibia have been received by the Internal Investigation Directorate to date?
 2. How many Police brutality investigations are currently underway?
 3. How many prosecutions and convictions have been concluded?
 4. Is the Internal Investigation Directorate independent and impartial when investigating incidents of police brutality in Namibia?
-

Question 9 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

Hon. Minister, recently, the Ministry Agriculture, Water and Land Reform is said to have acquired about fifteen thousand hectares (15 000) for the irrigation scheme at the Necktertart Dam in the //Kharas Region.

It is our information that from the said fifteen thousand hectares of land acquired, only about two thousand hectares (2 000) is suitable for irrigation. This means that about thirteen thousand hectares will be un-used or under-utilised.

The money used to pay for the unsuitable irrigation land has gone to waste, while we are squeezed in a tight economic corner as a country.

I therefore ask the Hon. Schlettwein the following questions:

1. What were the measurements and approaches used to purchase land for irrigation, which land is unsuitable for the very purpose it was acquired for?
 2. How were the decisions arrived at to conclude that wasteland can be acquired, while the lack of resources has been touted as among the main reasons why the Necktertall Dam irrigation scheme could not get off from the ground?
 3. Has the Ministry not made plans to use the vast State land available on the side of the Naute Dam, west of the Necktertall Dam, so that not all land will be purchased before the irrigation commences.
 4. When and how will the irrigation process start and how will the people of //Kharas be accommodated in this irrigation scheme.
-

Question 10 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Hamata (PDM) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation:

The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation is mandated to provide labour (industrial) relations and employment and social protection services as per the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. Namibian workers continue to suffer as employers do not have their interest at heart. Employees continue to receive extremely low wages and salaries despite long working hours of hard work. Retail workers, petrol attendants, and security guards are being exploited by their employers. The plight of Namibian workers is being disregarded by the employers and the Ministry of Labour.

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following questions:

1. Why is the Ministry slow in responding to labour issues and disputes in Namibia?
 2. When will non-compliant employers in Namibia be held accountable?
 3. What employment creation strategies has the Ministry established to date?
 4. How is the Ministry currently addressing the high levels of unemployment in Namibia?
-

Question 11 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Hamata (PDM) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation:

The Ministry in a media release urged designated employers to report vacancies on the Namibia Integrated Employment Information System (NIEIS) as legally required. According to the Ministry, all designated employers are required by the Employment Service Act, (Act No. 8 of 2011) to notify the Employment Services Bureau of vacancies or new positions in their establishments. Employers are required by the Act to report back on recruitment or vacancies that have been filled within 30 days after the closing of such vacancies. The Ministry further outlined that the benefit for employers would include saving of cost as employers no longer have to advertise vacancies.

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. The Ministry only issued a media release and left things hanging. Will this information be comprehensively shared with the public? Like an information awareness campaign?
2. The digital divide in Namibia is wide. How will people without laptops, smartphones and other gadgets access the Namibia Integrated Employment Information System (NIEIS)?
3. How will people in rural and remote areas where there is no electricity and network, access the Namibia Integrated Employment Information System (NIEIS)?
4. Internet in Namibia is not affordable compared to global standards. How will the unemployed and vulnerable people afford internet connectivity to access the vacancies?
5. Radio stations and print media depend mainly on advertisements for income generation. If employers stop advertising their vacancies, how will radio stations, TV stations and newspapers survive financially?
6. The Ministry is supposed create employment but is jeopardizing employment at media houses like radio stations and newspapers by encouraging employers not to advertise vacancies. How will the Ministry address this issue?
7. Government vacancies are listed and shared in the Public Service Circular. Why are vacancies listed in the Public Service Circular also not listed on the Namibia Integrated Employment Information System?
8. Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies also advertise their vacancies in the media. Why has the Government also not been compliant with Employment Service Act, (Act No. 8 of 2011) and post all government vacancies on the Namibia Integrated Employment Information System?
9. Employers are required by the Act to report back on recruitment or vacancies that have been filled within 30 days after the closing of such vacancies. The recruitment process takes more than 30 days to complete especially government vacancies. Filling of government vacancies takes even more than 6 months to fill. Will government also adhere to this requirement to report back on recruitment or vacancies that have been filled 30 days after the closing of such vacancies?

Question 12 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Tjirare (PDM) asked the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture:

In the Report on the outcomes of the meeting with His Excellency, the President on the status of the 2022 Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary (NSSCO) Level and the Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary (NSSCAS) Level Examination results, the Ministry of Education outlined short term remedial measures to be implemented as soon as possible. One of the outlined measures is the provision of additional classrooms and rehabilitation of dilapidated education infrastructure. The Report further outlines the procurement of adequate teaching and learning resources for schools across the country.

Analysis of schools across all the 14 Regions, that were not included in the Report, indicate that there is a classroom deficit of 4 072 nationally to maintain a low pupil classroom and ensure quality teaching and learning.

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What action plan does the Ministry have to address the high number of classroom shortages that exist across all 14 Regions?
 2. What will be the financial implications of the provision of additional classrooms?
 3. What is the number of schools in need of adequate teaching and learning resources? And what are these teaching and learning resources?
-

Question 13 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Tjirare (PDM) asked the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture:

In the Report on the outcomes of the meeting with His Excellency, the President on the status of the 2022 Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary (NSSCO) Level and the Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary (NSSCAS) Level Examination results, the Ministry of Education outlined weak monitoring and evaluation at all levels of the basic education business as a contributing factor to the high failure rate in 2022.

Honourable Speaker, it is exceedingly important for every institution, especially a government education Ministry to have a proper, functioning and effective monitoring and evaluation system. Effective monitoring and evaluation systems are important as it aids accountability, performance, and planning. It is extremely sad that it took the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture more than 30 years to realise that they have a “weak” monitoring and evaluation system at all levels of the education business.

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. How exactly is the monitoring and evaluation weak at all levels of the basic education system?
 2. How will the existing weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation system be strengthened?
 3. When will the Ministry introduce performance agreement for Teachers, Principals, Inspectors and the Minister (line)?
-

Question 14 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology:

Hon. Minister,

We have in our possession information about the looting of State funds at the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), particularly in the Infrastructure and Maintenance Department falling under the Transmitter - DTT Projects Section. In 2016, the NBC bought certain generators from a company called Procast Engineering.

On the initial tax invoice, the generators that were bought and paid for were five (5) John Deere generators, which were priced at a total cost of N\$3.3 million. These generators were to be supplied to various NBC stations at Opuwo, Signalberg, Gobabis, Corridor 13 and Eiseb 10. However, the generators meant for Corridor 13 and Eiseb 10 have not been delivered up to date.

What is fundamentally concerning about the procurement of these generators is that the John Deere generators that were initially procured and paid for on the tax invoice are not the ones that were delivered. Instead, Scania generators were delivered at Opuwo, Gobabis and Stampriet. Of these, only the generator at Gobabis works. This points to serious irregularities and fraud in the procurement of these generators and in the general operations of the Infrastructure and Maintenance Department of the NBC.

Even more concerning is that there was no commissioning by Procast Engineering to test the effectiveness of these Scania generators before they were procured, which ultimately led to the failure of the other two generators at Opuwo and Stampriet. These failed Scania generators have joined the more than five (5) generators which are not operational at various offices of the NBC. There are also various payments that were made for the repair and maintenance of certain generators to Procast Engineering, and no repair and maintenance has been done on those generators up to date and have been dumped at the premises of the NBC, pointing to a suspicious and corrupt relationship between the NBC and Procast Engineering.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Can the Honourable Minister explain how the Infrastructure and Maintenance Department of the NBC ended up with Scania generators as opposed to the John Deere generators which were initially invoiced and paid for?
 2. Can the Honourable Minister account to this House as to why there has been up to date no repair and maintenance on various generators of the NBC, despite payments having been made to Procast Engineering in 2015 and 2016?
 3. Last but not least, will the Minister launch a comprehensive forensic audit into the financial operations of the Infrastructure and Maintenance Department of the NBC in particular and into the NBC in general in order to get to the bottom of this fraud?
-

Question 15 (2023-02-15)

Hon. Dr. Iijambo (SWANU) asked the Prime Minister:

Poverty, homelessness and landlessness in Namibia are not only real and prevalent but rampant. These caused the nation to absolutely, if not overwhelmingly, with diminished sense of hope.

There is continuous destructive and retrogressive mismanagement of public funds.

Despite State denials and pretense by the powers that be, that corruption in Namibia is not systematic, an objective analysis will show that corruption in Namibia is actually institutionalized.

Political thieves who steal, launder our monies and corrupt to the bone with impunity are by far more dangerous than ordinary thieves.

Wrong personalities in the right people's institutions happen to be one of the major factors to superficial poverty and exceeded unemployment.

Swanu of Namibia strongly propose/suggest it is time overdue to strengthen our national institutions, improve the dilapidated economy that hinges on hyperinflation and rescue our retrogressive social conduct.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, therefore the following questions:

1. Can our education system be based on the country's needs and aspirations? Hence, move away from the regurgitatory system that emphasized memorization.
 2. The land issue was, continues to be and will always be of pivotal importance. How long will sovereign Namibians live in the destructive, unlawful, less productive and unacceptable Odendaal Commission Homelands while former colonizers and elites own abundant land in the White stan?
 3. 33-years after independence, can we declare the degrading, historic Bantu- and White stans gross violation of human rights?
-