



MOTIVATION STATEMENT BY HON. TJEKERO TWEYA, MP

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MASS RESIGNATION OF FISHERMEN EMPLOYED UNDER GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYMENT REDRESSING PROGRAM IN WALVIS BAY FROM 01 TO 05 NOVEMBER 2022.

27 APRIL 2023

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

I stand before this August House to present the report of the Parliamentary Select Committee of the National Assembly on the Mass Resignation of Fishermen employed under Governmental Employment Redressing Program in Walvis Bay.

On the 4th October 2022, Hon. Derek Klazen, MP, the Minister of Fisheries & Marine Resources delivered a ministerial statement in the National Assembly with regard to the mass resignation of the aforesaid fishermen. A Select Committee of the National Assembly was then constituted to undertake an urgent fact finding visit to Walvis Bay.

The fact finding visit took place from the 1st to 5th November 2022 with a specific mandate, among others, to investigate and find out the reasons for the mass resignations of the fishermen; probe their conditions of service; employment agreements; the prospects of them being re-instated; to come up with recommendations, and report back to the National Assembly.

The delegation met with different stakeholders such as, the affected fishermen; the trade unions; leaders of the companies awarded fishing quotas for the purposes of permanently employing the affected workers and from where the fishermen resigned; leaders of Walu Fishing Company as an interested party and who offered a proposal to the government for the employment of the fishermen; the

Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources as well as the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment Creation, respectively.

These meetings assisted the delegation to get the relevant information pertaining to the matter at hand.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members,

It is not my intention to go into the depth of the report which is before this House today, or to anticipate the discussions. However, I am optimistic that the Honourable Members had an opportunity to look through the report and will make important contribution when we discuss the report in detail.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

Allow me to highlight some few issues observed by the delegation. The delegation found that the designation agreements were not adhered to in many aspects. There is a general lack of coordination between the concerned ministries, fishing companies, and the affected workers, and this could be perceived as the reasons for inability and/or inefficiency to address the challenges encountered in the implementation process of the designation agreements. This lack of proper coordination had the potential to cause negative consequences to the government, the fishing industry and the workers. Monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance to the designation agreements were also found lacking.

It was further observed that government has designation agreements with other fishing companies such as Hangan Sea Food and Merlus Fishing companies, to mention a few, but why mass resignations only occurred from these five companies as opposed to others is a serious matter of concern. There is an urgent need to arrest such demeaning incidences, and that future beneficiaries of governmental objectives quotas must show real intention to assist government in its programs aimed at improving the livelihood of its citizens, the affected fishermen in this instance.

Lastly, I would like to stress that the findings included in this report reflects the real matters found on the ground and the recommendations are therefore based on such findings.

Finally, I would like to thank the delegation and all stakeholders whom we consulted for their positive cooperation throughout this exercise.

I, therefore, request the National Assembly to discuss and adopt this report.

I thank you,