

**MOTIVATION SPEECH BY HONOURABLE NATANGUE ITHETE,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ON THE REPORTS OF THE
AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC AND EUROPEAN UNION STATES
(OACPS-EU) JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY HELD IN STRASBORG-
FRANCE, FROM 29 MARCH TO 03 APRIL 2022 AND MOZAMBIQUE
MAPUTO FROM 25 OCTOBER TO 02 NOVEMBER 2022**

Hon. Speaker, before I start my motivation of my report, I want to draw attention of the House to the complex humanitarian situation emerging in Sudan. This is important because the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly has as its focus the promotion of human rights, democracy and cooperation among member states with emphasis on social and economic development of ACP States.

It is in this light that I want to highlight the outbreak of conflict in Sudan and the efforts by the international community to secure a ceasefire between the armed factions in the conflict. To this end I want to re-echo the statement issued by the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU JPA on 21st April 2023, condemning the escalation of violence between the different armed forces in Sudan and the resultant loss of lives including civilians, ~~express my~~ (our) heartfelt condolences to affected families in Sudan and call on all factions to agree to an immediate ceasefire to enable humanitarian action. I further call on all factions in the conflict to start immediate negotiations towards a peaceful settlement under the auspices of the African Union.

Having said that, I now have the honour to motivate the reports of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly held in France-Strasbourg and Mozambique-Maputo during the period of April and November 2022. First and foremost, the Committee on Economics and Public Administration wishes to express its profound gratitude to the National Assembly for being accorded with the opportunity, mandate, support and resources to attend these Sessions.

Hon. Speaker, fellow members, allow me to present a brief summary of the aforesaid reports in relation to the following:

The 60th Session of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the 41st Session was attended by members of the European Parliament and their counterparts from seventy-eighty (78) countries of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. The Namibian Parliament was represented by myself, in my capacity as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration.

The joint sessions were preceded by three meetings of the OACPS Committee and among issues discussed were; the challenges of peace and security within Members of the OACPS Committees and climate change, in particular, the European Commission's proposal to establish a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism with the European Union.

Honourable Speaker, fellow members, I am pleased to inform you that the meetings of the 61st Session of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly held in Maputo Mozambique from 25 October to 02 November 2022, was organized by the Southern African Region

It was also during these sessions that the current President of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly was elected from the Southern African Region, namely; Honourable Ana Rita Sithole of Mozambique. Some of the issues discussed during the meeting were; the delay in signing the OACPS New Partnership Agreement (NPA); exchange of views on the draft Rules of Procedures for the Assemblies under the post Cotonou Agreement

Hon. Speaker, with these few remarks and not wanting to pre-empt the discussions on these reports, I now have the honour to present the resolutions adopted at the aforesaid Sessions to this

august House for discussion and consideration as well as to urge the government of the Republic of Namibia to ensure the following:

- (a) place more emphasis on investments in projects and infrastructure that will make the ACP States in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS) more resilient in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change and better adapt to it
- (b) With the support of the EU and member's governments, our government is encouraged to work with all relevant multilateral institutions towards building their resilience and sustainability
- (c) mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies as well as disaster risk reduction strategies into its sustainable development policies and plans at all levels.
- (d) support the development and transformation of resilient local food systems; encourages community-based adaptation strategies, including the use of traditional knowledge in farming, agro-ecology, agro forestry and fisheries
- (e) mainstream the gender perspective into climate policies and promote the participation of indigenous women and women's rights

*Agencies said that I now further call upon
His Honourable Speaker to consider and approve
the committee report.*

I so move Honourable Speaker