



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS BY HON. HENNY H. SEIBEB (LPM) ON KARIBIB
TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE OF QUESTION NUMBER 19 (02 MARCH 2023)

RESPONSE ON 20 APRIL 2023

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

I rise to respond to the Questions that have been asked by Honorable Henny H. Seibeb of LPM on Karibib Town Council as follows:

QUESTION 1

Are you aware of the situation that Councillor Lazarus Kanelombe allegedly challenged the Chief Executive Officer of Karibib Town Council to a fist fight and that the Management Committee Meeting had to be cancelled as a result of this farces last week?

Answer:

We have not officially received information on the alleged fist fight challenge. An enquiry has also been made to the Council and the response received indicated and I quote *“there was no challenge from any of us two for a fist fight.”*

QUESTION 2

Do you have minutes of Karibib Town Council meetings, whereby this matter of the Councillor not residing in his area of jurisdiction, 12 months after elections was discussed and forwarded to you for your immediate attention and action?

Answer:

The Ministry has obtained Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Karibib Town Council during which Council resolved and confirmed (Resolution Number *SCM/0005/05/10/2022*) that indeed Councillor Lazarus Kanelombe has been and is still residing at Erf no: 406, Second Street, Karibib, as per his declaration dated 06 August 2021. The Minutes also indicate that Councillor Hon. Gerson Geingob was not in agreement with the above-mentioned resolution, but no details on the reasons for his disagreement has been provided.

QUESTION 3

Are you aware that Councillor Kanelombe demands invitation letters every time from Karibib Town Council Management, to attend Management Committee and Council meetings, for onward submission to his employers at Swakopmund Uranium?

Answer:

I am not aware of the purported demands for invitation letters.

But be as it may and unless if I am provided reasons to be believe otherwise, I do not foresee any problem in a Councilor asking for an invitation to a Council meeting, which is he /she is expected to attend.

As it is known, local authority Councilors are part-time employees of Councils and majority of them are employed full-time elsewhere. In terms Section 14(1)(c) of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992) as amended, formal notices of or invitations to meetings of Council are prescribed and need to be sent out to Councillors for their information and as a formality. Where required, such may be requested to be presented to an employer.

QUESTION 4

What steps/action will you take as Minister, because Councilor Kanelombe provided false claims and false proof of residence to justify his motivation that he is, indeed from Karibib and lives in Karibib? This fraudulent.

Answer:

The representation that has been made to me by the Karibib Town Council in writing through the minutes of a special council meeting that I have already referred to and submitted to the Ministry, is that Cllr Kanelombe has been and is residing at the residence that he has declared to the Council.

QUESTION 5

Why do you keep on protecting Councilor Kanelombe despite claims that your offices as well as the Office of the President are aware of this matter? What are you hiding?

Answer:

I have no reason to protect or hide anything. I can only speak for my office and the Ministry that I run, and based on the information available to us, which I have said is contrary to what the Hon Member is telling this August House. I will not hesitate to act as the powers vested upon me by the law if I am provided evidence on what is being alleged.

QUESTION 6

Did SWAPO Secretary-General instruct you not to take action with regards to this specific Councillor?

Answer:

My simple answer to the question posed is a No!

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

These are my responses to the questions posed, and I wish to thank the Hon. Member who posed them

I thank you.