



Tuesday, 6 June 2023

No. 34 – 2023

SEVENTH SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 6 JUNE 2023

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

1. The Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation.
2. **The Speaker presented a Petition to the Assembly on behalf of the Christian Coalition of Churches in Namibia, in terms of Rule 96(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders:**

The Petition which is based on the Ruling of the Supreme Court as made on 16 May 2023, recognizing Same-Sex Marriages conducted outside Namibia was lodged on Friday, 2nd June 2023 and mainly calls on the National Assembly for an Act of Parliament to be enacted that explicitly prohibits the practices of homosexuality (this includes same-sex ‘marriages’) in Namibia. This Act should further prohibit any funding that promotes such practices in the country. As such a law would put to rest the matter and articulate the values and morals of the people in Namibia.

The Speaker tabled the Petition and moved that it be referred to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee for consideration, investigation, and report back to this Assembly.

3. **URGENT ORAL QUESTIONS:**
 - (i) Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development (No. 15) – *To be put in writing.*
 - (ii) Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises (No. 16) – *Replied to.*

- (iii) Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development (No. 17) – *Question not permitted.*

4. **NOTICES OF QUESTIONS:**

- (i) Hon. Smit (PDM) to ask the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises (No. 63).
- (ii) Hon. Mukwilongo (NEFF) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (No. 64).
- (iii) Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) to ask the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (No. 65).

5. **Hon. Katjimune moved without Notice in terms of Rule 27(h) of the Standing Rules and Orders:**

That leave of absence be granted to the Hon. Winnie Rauha Moongo until further notice.

Agreed to.

6. **Announcements by the Speaker in terms of Rule 20(b) of the Standing Rules and Orders:**

- (i) The Speaker announced with sadness the passing on of former Member of the august House, Honourable Geraldine Katjiukirue Ndjoze – Muvangua, on the 23rd May 2023. The late Honourable Ndjoze – Muvangua served as a Member of the National Assembly and its various Standing Committees between 2002 - 2005.

On the request of the Speaker, the Members observed a Minute of Silence in her honour and memory.

- (ii) Lastly, the Speaker informed the House that all Members of Parliament are invited to a briefing session on Namibia's Green Hydrogen Project, by the Director-General of the National Planning Commission. The briefing will take place on Thursday, 8 June 2023 at 10:00 in the C1 Conference Room. All Members are encourage to attend this important briefing.

7. **Ministerial Statements in terms of Rule 98 of the Standing Rules and Orders:**

- (i) The Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises made a Ministerial Statement regarding the disconnection of electricity by NamPower that was effected on 05 June 2023, following the issuance of the Public Notices by NamPower announcing their intention to disconnect defaulting Local Authorities.
- (ii) The Prime Minister made a Ministerial Statement in which informed the nation that the Government sympathizes with the family in the North who

lost sixteen (16) members due to food poisoning. The Government has decided to cover the funeral expenses and offer psychosocial support to help the family cope with this disastrous situation and to ensure that the family can give their loved ones a dignified funeral. She also mentioned that the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare was tasked to assess the survival situation in that area to ensure that the welfare needed by the family and others, are provided.

In her second Ministerial Statement, the Prime Minister updated the nation on the Supreme Court judgment as was made on 16th May 2023 regarding same-sex marriages, which derived from two consolidated appeals, to recognise the foreign spouses of Namibian nationals in marriages concluded in and in accordance with the laws of countries that recognises same-sex marriages.

- (iii) The Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security made a Ministerial Statement regarding the issue of recruitment of national Police in the Police Force. He stated that the Ministry received a Petition in which some community members are complaining about the unfair manner in which the shortlisting was done in some region.
 - (iv) The Minister of Health and Social Services made a Ministerial Statement to explain to the nation what is meant by food poisoning in medical terms.
8. In terms of Rule 99(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 17:55 until Wednesday, 7 June 2023.

MS. L. KANDETU
Secretary of the National Assembly

Compiled by H. Christiaans