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No. 12 - 2023

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

# QUESTIONS

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**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?

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#### **Question 16 (2023-02-21)**

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation:

Hon. Minister, I take it on face value that you are all too aware of the Education Act that stipulates that only the University of Namibia is allowed by law to offer LLB degree in Namibia.

Despite this provision in our Education Act which in any case to me is outdated and need urgent review, I must state that to me this is an outright monopolistic policy that have no place in a modern, open and education starved Namibia. I must add that while this policy is still in place, the Qualification Authority of Namibia has accredited Triumphant College to offer a 3 year Law Advanced Diploma course.

Interestingly students studying this 3 year Advanced Diploma course are also funded by NSAF if they qualify making this College amongst those popular higher learning institutions in our country.

Hon. Speaker, I must add that those of us who have actually set in a class, studied into the wee hours of the night, did assignments and actually set for examinations with time limitations, can attest to the fact that, studying Law takes a strong mental state, perseverance and high discipline as it is one of the most difficult field of studies.

Here I'm not talking about the receivers of Honorary degrees who get them on a silver platter, not at all. This is a field in which you must invest your time and commitment, equally it is not a cheap field to study as well.

Therefore it defies logic, and one would want to know what the men's rea was of those who drafted this Education Act was at the time and I'm not referring to the criminal state of mind as in a criminal case, but merely asking the state of mind of those drafters of our Education Act at the time when they drafted this Act.

This question is important because on one hand you have an Education Act that give autonomy to Unam exclusively to offer an LLB degree in Namibia, while you have Triumphant College accredited by the Qualification Authority to offer Law at an Advanced diploma level.

However disappointingly is that students who completed their Advanced Diploma in Law at Triumphant College and apply to Unam must go and re-start their law studies from the first year, is this true Hon Minister as they don't receive credits for subjects already covered during their three years studies at Triumphant College?

Hon. Minister, is it true that a young man/woman from Katutura can study law for three years at Triumphant College and then on completion, Unam does not recognize this qualification and the poor student can be admitted to the law faculty at Unam, but he or she must re start his or her study from scratch?

This then means that a Student who start at Unam doing law will study an LLB for only 4 years, while a student who first goes and study an Advance Diploma in law at Triumphant College, will altogether study for his or her LLB a combined 7 years? What a waste, what a mockery of our education system, what a heartless education system we have in this country.

If indeed this is true Hon. Minister, don't you think this in an urgent matter that must be rectified with the outmost urgency it deserve forthwith, with the amendment of the Higher Education Act?

This is a wastage of our country resources and must be rectified soonest, because Government spend money for three years through NSAF educating this students at Triumphant College that goes to waste after their 3 years study in Law at this college, then Government spend another funds for another four years at Unam for them to obtain their LLB, this is pure illogical, wastage of meagre resources and at best misplaced in all its probabilities.

Hon. Speaker, the Minister owes this House serious and factual answers to the above questions, because this scenario cannot be allowed to continue for another day. Parents spend their hard earned money to fund this students at Triumphant College that want to pursue Law for three years, only to be told after they graduate that Unam cannot give them credits for subjects already covered and that they must start afresh, what kind of mickey mouse education is this really, it is simply not on.

When will this monopoly granted to Unam come to an end in this country, whereby they are the only institution that have the right to offer an LLB degree?

Why can't other higher institution of learning in Namibia not offer LLB, if we have the Namibia Qualifications Authority that can accredit such institutions to make sure that they meet the requirements to offer an LLB qualification just like UNAM?

Hon. Minister, you owe this nation an unfettered reply, bone to a bone, as thousands are waiting in anticipation for your answer and I hope that you will do so.

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**Question 52 (2023-03-15)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

We took note of current conversations in Namibia about the concerns by hunting associations in southern African countries, constituting Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) are enraged that hunting trophies will not be allowed to enter the United Kingdom territory. This will have a major implication to our tourism sector.

Questions:

1. Hon. Minister, are you aware of this latest development?
2. Did you meet other Ministers of Environment and Tourism forming core of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) to address this situation?
3. What is our two-way tourism traffic and tourism statistics with the United Kingdom?
4. How much, in monetary terms and services and industry are we stand to lose out as a country?
5. Hon. Minister, did you meet the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to discuss this critical situation?
6. What remedial action will you employ to address this situation?
7. Have you engage the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE), Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) and Federation of Namibian Tourism Associations (FENATA) in this regard to get better advice and commitment to ensure that our trophy hunting industry is not affected in economic terms negatively?

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**Question 54 (2023-03-15)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises.

We received information in good confidence that NIDA was unable to pay salaries for its workers in Naute Dam month end, and did not also pay overtime for over six months.

Questions:

1. Is it true that NIDA did not pay its workers at Naute Dam for last month, as well as overtime in the past six months?
  2. How did NIDA ended up employing the current manager at Naute Dam, who has failed in Aussenkehr at the grape farms?
  3. Is NIDA meeting production targets and if so, why are they not paying the workers overtime which is due to them?
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**Question 55 (2023-03-15)**

Hon. Dr. Iijaambo (SWANU) asked the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

Our different species of animals roam the diverse beautiful savanna, forests and grasslands of Namibia. Some will be found in the length and breadth of our deserts.

Since time immemorial people cohabitated and lived off the variegated species of important animals in our country, like lions, they only slaughtered what they needed to consume. Not for pleasure.

Considering the emotive and absolutely sensitive land issue, SWANU of Namibia suggest that there be a ceiling for land ownership in the country.

The land issue was, continue to be, and will always be of pivotal importance.

Consequently, unless we undo what was officially and legally systematically promulgated by the apartheid regime, we cannot have an equitable, egalitarian and transparent society. Our martyrs perished as a result of the genuine struggle for land.

The following questions are therefore worth serious consideration.

1. Why do we allow ourselves to be part of the trophy hunting bandwagon?
2. If all animals are part and parcel of Namibia's biodiversity, who solely benefit from the trophies hunted?
3. Why allow few bourgeois around the globe, especially from developed countries to devastate our animals through trophy hunting?
4. Have we reduced our variegated precious animal species to trophies that does not benefit all?
5. How many rich individuals are allowed to hunt how many trophies per annum?
6. What will our future generations be left with, if we are so desperate about the lucrative profits gained from trophy hunting currently?

7. According to the licensing department of the Ministry, a trophy hunting licence is worth N\$100. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Fellow Namibians, the average amount of a single Big Five easily amounts to ±N\$50,000-00. Who possesses the hunting licence?
8. The reality of our country's political economy and common sense, which happen not to be common, dictates that this boils down to the unresolved restitution of the prevalent land question. Who own our land?
9. Does our sovereignty's political will if any, capacitate us to redefine and re-demarcate ourselves?

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**Question 57 (2023-03-28)**

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.

Hon. Minister it was only yesterday when Namibians fought bitterly against South African racist Government apartheid laws, pledging that once we attain our independence we will get rid of all those oppressive laws. It is therefore surprising that we have laws such as the 1989 Public Gathering Proclamation still on our statute books in this day and age in an independent Namibia. A proclamation that was used to put many of our people in prison during that time and we haven't changed it to fit with the new independent Namibia narrative.

Equally of late we are informed that police brutality against innocent civilians are on the increase as to date over 248 civil cases against the police have been opened for assault to illegal detention of members of the public. This has resulted in Government paying over 3 Million and still counting after being found guilty by the courts.

I thus ask:

1. The right to protest can be located in Article 21(1) (D) of our Constitution, Hon. Minister do you agree with me that the 1989 Proclamation on Public Gathering is in total conflict with the provisions of our Constitution and that it needs to be amended with immediate effect?
2. In light of the above stated ever increasing cases of civil cases lodged against the Namibian police officers, do our police officers get basic legal training in order for them to establish the Mens Rea and Actus Reus in any given case before arresting a person, to avoid being sued later for illegal detention or arrest of a member of the public?
3. Because this are the two most important elements for one to get a conviction in especially criminal cases. Is it perhaps also not here at the level of investigation and arrest where many cases are thrown out, because they are dead on arrival and the magistrate has no other option then to struck them from the Roll?
4. Would you agree with me that although Police officers act on behalf of the State in the execution of their duties that somehow they must be made to pay from their own pockets, when found guilty of brutality and disregarding the law when arresting or dealing with members of the public?



5. Because as it stand they can beat someone, or arrest someone without following due process and at the end of the day the State is liable and pays up, which means us the tax payers continue to foot the bill of those unruly police officers?
6. Hon. Minister do you still maintain that you have a professional police force in this country, while the evidence suggest that you have a police force that is at war with its own citizens, and that lacks the most important ingredients that must be present when working with civilians which is empathy?
7. Finally Hon. Minister do you agree with me that we as people representatives must be able to identify and repeal oppressive laws now while we can, while we have this positions of power, failure to do so once we become ordinary citizens we or our kids, families risk to face the same ordeal, and by that time when we cry out and pinpoint the shortcomings in those laws, Namibians will say but you were there, you had all the powers to change those laws but you conveniently ignored them, because at the time the system protected you and you did not feel them?

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**Question 61 (2023-04-13)**

Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises.

The Zambezi Waterfront Tourism Park has not been functioning since 2016. The only time the Waterfront was optimally utilized as a COVID-19 quarantine facility. There is a 100 million dollars needed to revamp the Zambezi Waterfront Tourism Park. We are informed, after 189 million dollars was used, and 57 million dollars vanished into thin air, no arrests or inquiries were made to determine how the latter amount was spent. The land still belongs to Katima Mulilo Town Council.

This resort is in a prime location to gain greater tourists numbers from 5 different countries on the Kavango – Zambezi river's. However, two years ago, it was expressed that Government must stop building tourism facilities as it does not have the capacity to manage these profitably. This was said by the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Pohamba Shifeta.

Therefore the questions:

1. Why has there not been any concerted effort made to follow through on how \$57 million were either lost or stolen?
  2. What is the eventual plan of the government to ensure that the Waterfront of Katima becomes profitable?
  3. Will the Minister state whether they will investigate the whereabouts of the \$57 million, and when he will do so?
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**Question 63 (2023-06-06)**

Hon. Smit (PDM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises.

I believe the issue of the accountability of Parastatals and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in effectively controlling debts owed to them requires urgent attention in light of NamPower's plan to borrow N\$2 billion from the World Bank, when it made a profit of N\$1,5 billion last year. It appears that these entities are not being held accountable for their failure to manage debts, which has a detrimental effect on taxpayers. Firstly, taxpayers contribute funds through taxes to finance the operations of SOEs, and secondly, the government has to provide additional financial support due to liquidity problems arising from poor or no credit control.

One issue of concern is the practice of some SOEs not paying over taxes deducted from employees, instead using those funds to finance their operations, primarily salaries. This practice is not only fraudulent but also amounts to receiving funding twice: once through the main budget and again by not paying the due taxes to the government. It is imperative that action is taken to address this situation.

Moreover, it is troubling when users of electricity pay for its use to Local Councils and Distributors, but these entities fail to pass on the collected funds to Nampower. Nampower, in turn, fails to take adequate steps to collect the debts through strict credit control, resulting in innocent users having their power cut off despite having paid their bills through the defaulting Local Councils and Distributors.

In cases where monopolistic service providers like Nampower, Namibia Airports Company, and Namport amongst others fail to exercise proper control over their debtors, I believe it is essential for the CEOs and Credit Controllers to be held accountable and potentially dismissed from their positions.

When entities resort to borrowing funds from the government or external sources like the World Bank to finance projects or operations that could have been covered through effective control of debtors, it often leads to increased service charges. These increases can create uncompetitive situations and have negative economic consequences for the entire country.

I therefore ask:

1. Will the Honourable Minister provide information to the Namibian nation and this August House regarding the outstanding \$1.5 billion owed to Nampower, specifically, who owes what amounts, the period over which these debts have accumulated, and what steps were taken to prevent the build-up of these debts?
  2. Furthermore, I would like to understand why defaulting users have been allowed to continue accumulating debt without repercussions.
  3. Considering the potential consequences for the economy, has the management of Nampower considered the impact of cutting power to entire towns? If so, I would appreciate hearing their perspective on this matter.
  4. Can it be legal for a local authority to cut off power to users who have paid for such power when the local authority is at fault for not paying NamPower?
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**Question 64 (2023-06-06)**

Hon. Mukwilongo (NEFF) asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.

Hon Minister, it's almost going to be two months when we, as a country had received a shocking news of the 5 suspects that were gunned down near Okahandja by the Namibian Police with Windhoek City Police. We had been medially informed that a case of murder had been opened against those that had committed this glue some incident, can Hon. Minister please bear with this August House and answer to the following questions:

1. When was this case heard and in which court?
2. Who are the suspect in this matter?
3. How far are the police investigation in this matter and when can we expect the total report on this shutting?

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**Question 65 (2023-06-06)**

Hon. Van Den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation.

A private medical company trading under the registered name of Paramount Health Care Centre (Pty) Ltd on 9th March 2017 unlawfully retrenched six female employees without following the set provisions and requirements of Section 34 of the Labour Act 11, 2007. Honourable Minister, one of the selected employees was on maternity leave; been eight months pregnant at the time she was served with a notice stating her last day will be 13th April 2017.

Paramount Health Care Centre (Pty) Ltd received medical records from a certain employee that she was due for her confinement, but opted to serve her with a letter of retrenchment on 9th March 2017. The employee's confinement was on 22nd April 2017, whilst her employment was terminated on 13th April 2017. Section 26 (5) of Part D of the Labour Act 11, 2007 sets out the following; "An employer must not dismiss an employee during her maternity leave or at the expiry of that leave on any grounds contemplated in section 34.

Furthermore, a certain Ms. Jolean Louw was also part of the six selected employees that applied for annual leave on 8th March 2017, which was approved by the Director of Operations and she was also served with the notice of retrenchment 9th March 2017. The actions of Paramount Health Care Centre (Pty) Ltd violated Section 30 (5)(a) and Section 33 of the Labour Act 11 , 2007 which sets out that an employer must not give notice of termination during any period of leave to which the employee is entitled in terms of Part D of this Chapter.

Honourable Minister, on 19th April 2017, Ms. Jolean Louw referred a dispute of Unfair Labour practices to the Office of the Labour Commissioner. The first female Arbitrator who adjudicated over the case and who later on was recused from the dispute by the Labour Court of Namibia on 20th March 2020 had private discussions with Paramount Health Care Centre (Pty) Ltd Operational Manager without the knowledge of the

Applicants regarding their legal Aid funding which was approved by the Directorate of Legal Aid through a formal application. These and some other irregularities contributed to this case being unresolved.

To this very date, the dispute filed by the Applicants has not been arbitrated yet. This very dispute is still at the Conciliation stage and has reached the six-year mark ever since 19th April 2017.

I, therefore, wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. The first female Conciliator/Arbitrator that was assigned and appointed by the Office Labour Commissioner was recused by the Labour Court of Namibia on 20th March 2020 due to her lack to adjudicate properly over the dispute and the gross procedural irregularities she committed as an Arbitrator. Are the competencies of the Conciliators/Arbitrators up to standard and how are their performances assessed and monitored?
2. The second Conciliator/Arbitrator that was assigned and appointed by the Office of the Labour Commissioner refused and denied the Applicants their Constitutional Right as set out by Article 12 (1)(a) right to present their material evidence before the Arbitrator during the arbitration proceeding. How will this unjust practice be resolved?
3. How will your ministry ensure that the unfair retrenchment of Ms. Jolean Louw during her annual leave is addressed and she is fairly compensated?
4. Will the other four employees who were also unlawfully dismissed be reinstated and compensated?
5. Honourable Minister, written complaints have been submitted to the Labour Commissioner Mr. Henry Kassen as well as the Deputy Labour Commissioner Mr. Kyllikki Sihlahla during December 2018 and again during March 2023. Until this present date, your Office as well as the Office of the Labour Commissioner has not yet reverted to Mrs. Jolean Louw regarding her formal complaint on how the Office of the Labour Commissioner as well as the Arbitrator have administered and adjudicated over her dispute filed on 19th April 2017. When will your Office address this already long overdue Labour Dispute as a matter of urgency?
6. Can your Office please provide this August House with an overview of the general performance of the Office of the Labour Commissioner, the number of unresolved Labour Disputes, the challenges encountered, and how these challenges can promptly be addressed?

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**Question 66 (2023-06-07)**

Hon. Smit (PDM) asked the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

For the past four years or more the media has been full of complaints from members of the Namibian public and tourists visiting our premier game reserve, Etosha, regarding the shocking and unacceptable condition of the park's roads. Imagine my amazement and disbelief when I read in the Republikein newspaper of 31 May 2023 that the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism was patting itself on its back for spending some

N\$136 million since 2009 in upgrading Etosha's roads. I visited the park over the Africa Day long weekend, as did the Minister I believe, and I can state categorically that all the roads around the Okaukuejo rest camp are literally undriveable. Nothing has changed since my previous visit in June 2022. I had to listen to numerous foreign tourists as well as Namibian visitors complaining of damage to their vehicles and the unpleasant experience of driving around in the park. Since the ministry's director of planning and technical services said in the newspaper report that the ministry was aware of a drop in income in recent years for exactly this reason, and that this led to the so-called upgrading of roads in Etosha since 2019, I feel that I cannot keep quiet about this amazing claim.

I thus ask:

1. Can the Honourable Minister assure this August House that he has evidence that the money spent on upgrading the roads in Etosha was actually spent where it was allocated?
2. How much of the money spent went on items other than the actual upgrading of the roads?
3. What proof does the Honourable Minister have that the work done was up to standard?
4. If he believes it was up to standard, why are the roads still so bad?
5. Will the Honourable Minister investigate this matter urgently and report back to this August House on his findings, as Namibia cannot afford to chase away any more tourists when tourism is one of our most important sources of income?

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**Question 67 (2023-06-07)**

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development.

Honourable Minister,

There remains hundreds of thousands of ordinary, working class Namibians who are tenants in our ever-growing property renting market exacerbated by market forces driven by unaffordable housing and urban land as well as wages which have remained stagnant and cannot compete with inflation. These factors are well elucidated in a book by revered financial writer Chloe Timperley in her book titled "Generation Rent: Why You Can't Buy A Home Or Even Rent A Good One".

It is therefore undeniable that the significant majority of our working class people cannot afford to purchase property of their own, and have therefore resorted to become tenants. It is also a reality that renting prices in this country are exploitative and excessive, leaving tenants with no choice but to rent often sub-standard properties at unreasonable costs determined by greedy property owners.

This crisis ought to have been resolved by the proposed Rent Control Bill, which is earmarked to operationalise the Rent Control Board in an effort to regulate rent prices in our city, towns and villages, as well as handle and investigate complaints between tenants and property owners. It does appear however, for reasons known only to himself, that the Minister has been dragging his feet in bringing this crucial piece of legislation which would bring relief to tenants across our country to Parliament for debate.

This is despite the fact that under Pillar 3 of the of the Harambee Prosperity Plan 2 (Social Progression), the SWAPO government promised to “Promulgate the Rent Control Bill by the end of 2021 to enable the operationalization of Rent Control Board(s) and implementation of Rent Control Measures”.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. Why has the Honourable Minister dragged his feet in bringing the Rent Control Bill to Parliament?
2. When can we expect the Honourable Minister to table the Rent Control Bill in Parliament?
3. What are the hindrances in bringing this crucial piece of legislation to this August House?
4. Finally yet importantly, what is the ideological posture of the SWAPO government regarding the property renting market in relation to the larger question of the inadequate mechanisms in place to address housing shortages across our 61 local authorities in the country?

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**Question 68 (2023-06-07)**

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.

Access to Basic Education is a right and not a privilege I believe. Therefore government should make everything possible in order to make sure that every Namibian child have access to education.

Considering that a large portion of our National Budget goes to Education it is within the scope of Namibians to ask hard questions to the line Minister and seek redress or favorable answers.

Honorable Minister it has become natural that this time of the year schools open the process of applications for new students especially grade 1 for next year.

We are also alive to the fact that there are always chaos at the schools around the country, because parents almost fight each other to secure placement for their grade 1 kids.

I thus ask:

1. Is the Minister aware of this yearly problem facing the grade 1 learners?
  2. What is the Ministry contingency plan to address this ever increasing problem that affects thousands of young kids every year?
  3. While on the same issue the same problem confront grade 8 learners every year as well as many can't find placement in schools.
  4. How does the Minister intent to address this recurring problems?
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**Question 69 (2023-06-07)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development.

It is our understanding that the Chairperson of the Ongwediva Town Council's Management Committee, Dr Fabiam George, is employed full-time in Okakarara as a Trainee Support at the Okakarara Vocational Training Centre, 560 kilometres away from Ongwediva, where he is a councillor. This councillor is compromised under Section 13 (1)(h). There is a similar case of Councillor Kanelombe, Chairperson of the Management Committee of Karibib Town Council, who has fulltime employment in Swakopmund but remains as a Councillor in Karibib. These are both SWAPO Councillors. According to Section 13 (1)(h), Ongwediva CEO Damian Egumbo must then immediately announce the vacancy in the government gazette, the date on which the vacancy has occurred and the cause of this vacancy-that the member no longer resides or only temporarily resides within the local authority area to which they were elected. The same ought to happen in the Karibib case. CEO Lesley Goreseb was supposed to announce the vacancy and let the processes of filling the vacancy take place.

The Minister, you and Executive Director Daniel Nghidinua have audacity to perpetually write letters harassing LPM governed local authorities' about less worrisome things like an appointment of a Personal Assistant in Karasburg based on rumours but you are breaking the Local Authorities Act by not acting and removing those SWAPO Councillors.

Questions:

1. How long have you been aware that Councillor Fabiam George is the Chairperson of the Management Committee of Ongwediva but works fulltime in Okakarara thus not able to discharge his duties meaningfully?
2. Have you received any communication, Minutes of the Council meetings from Ongwediva CEO since 2020 - 2021 about the predicament of Councillor Fabiam George not being every day in Ongwediva but yet being a fulltime trainee support at Okakarara Vocational Training Centre?
3. How many councillors of local authorities in Namibia are facing similar challenges such as that being faced by Councillors Kanelombe and George?
4. In terms of breaking the Local Authorities Act by ignoring, or sweeping under the carpet wrongdoings committed by SWAPO councillors, what steps have you taken to rectify such anomalies?
5. Will you report the Executive Director to the Prime Minister for not adhering to the relevant laws pertaining to local authorities in Namibia?
6. Why did you ignore the legal advice dated January 2021 by the Attorney-General Festus Mbandeka informing you to remove Councillor George?
7. Why don't you comply with what the Attorney-General advised you about that removing a councillor who does not reside within their elected local authority is absolute and not discretionary?

8. He added that the minister, in fact, has recourse to effect the removal of non-resident councillors, and “does not have to wait for a political party” to withdraw its member.
9. The Attorney-General advised you that you have legal recourse to effect the removal of non-resident councillors, and “does not have to wait for a political party” to withdraw its member. Why do you have to wait for us to ask you questions in Parliament before you exercise your powers?

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**Question 70 (2023-06-07)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development.

Recently, Namibia ranked the worst in terms of sanitation provision in southern Africa. Recalling history, the Millennium Development Goals for Namibia highlighted this need with the ambition that half of those lacking adequate sanitation would be reached by 2015. This was never achieved and today, above million Namibians, half of the country, lack adequate access to toilets. In 2007, the National Demographic Health Survey indicated that 67% of the population in the country lacked access to decent sanitation and practiced open defecation. This amounts to some 1,411,000 people who are living mainly in rural areas and informal settlements that are peripheral to urban areas. This group is also amongst the lowest-income sector of the Namibian population.

The Namibia Sanitation Situational Report of 2009 indicated that those with access to sanitation facilities are primarily served with water-borne sewage. Sewage connections are estimated to be available to 58% of the urban population and 13% of the rural population. We are sitting on the time-bomb since 2009 when initial research showed that the country is not doing enough and should implement relevant policies and programmes to close the gap and ensure that all Namibians have better water, better sewerage and sanitation facilities and improve their health. We are living in a crisis right now and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development is the only weak link—no plan, no leadership, no programmes, more fights with local authorities and fear of implementing government and United Nations programmes. The National Sanitation Strategy (2009) provided some background we could have used as a benchmark study but there seems to be no seriousness at the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development.

Questions:

1. What are your plans to reverse the current state of concerns with regards to provision of sanitation services to all Namibians?
2. What is the budget allocated to MURD annually to address the sanitation crisis in Namibia?
3. A 2021 research conducted on poverty has expressed that 68.9% of Namibians face a sanitation crisis, has MURD, begun addressing this figure, and how?
4. Kavango East and Kavango West, are the highest areas that have Multidimensional poverty, with a percentage of 70% and 79% respectfully, yet Kavango East has the 3rd least allocation of funds for sanitation with N\$961 000, whilst areas such as Omusati and Oshanaana are getting 2 million plus for sanitation each, even though these places are lower in Multidimensional poverty. How did MURD, decide these allocations when it comes to sanitation to not prioritize the areas who need it the most.



5. What policies and programmes do you have in place to collaborate with other Ministries such as the Ministry of Health, Education, Land Reform etc. for implementation?
6. Do you have collaborative projects with United Nations and other development agencies in Namibia in terms of research, project funding, project implementation, coordination, supervision, monitoring and evaluation? Elaborate on such partnership, joint projects etc.

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**Question 71 (2023-06-07)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development.

I hereby give notice that on Thursday, 15 June 2023, I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development few questions with regards to the Capital Projects Budget 2023. Apartheid was built on creating a divide between the included and the excluded. The transition to democracy, manifested by democratic elections in 1990, was therefore accompanied by optimism that income poverty and inequality would be eliminated. We believed that the social contract was to enfranchise the impoverished and unemployed underclass, elect a pro-poor and pro-growth political establishment into office, and deracialize and detribalize public policies and private practices in favour of an all-inclusive economic growth path, with a focus on economic diversification and rapid industrialization.

Further, the coming into force of the Decentralisation Enabling Act 33 of 2000 raised our expectations that the Treasury would gradually increase funding for capital projects in regional councils and local authorities. But to our shock, in 2023, Apartheid did not die, as the Capital Projects Budget 2023 distribution depicts. Apartheid did not die but transformed into autopoiesis. The legacy of Apartheid has transformed into a self-sustaining system, and Namibia is facing mounting infrastructure challenges.

After the 2020 regional council and local authority elections in the Hardap and //Kharas Regions, there was a significant change in the understanding and definition of development. This marked a departure from Swapo's patronage system that had been in place for three decades, and resulted in the Landless People's Movement (LPM) receiving a strong mandate to govern. This shift led to a major transformation in the structure of regional and local government.

A cursory analysis of the comparative figures under the Capital Projects Budget 2023 reveals a clear implementation of passive economic sanctions by central government authorities against regional councils and local authorities not directly under Swapo's control. For example, under massive land servicing programme, the total allocation is N\$297 266 million.

From this, the local authorities falling directly under LPM administration in Hardap and //Kharas Regions are allocated the following meagre amounts: Mariental, N\$1.4 million; Gibeon, N\$3 000; Kalkrand, N\$9 000; Stampriet, N\$2.4 million; Gochas, N\$946 000; Aranos, N\$1.1 million; Maltahöhe, N\$9 000; and Hoachanas, N\$946 000. In //Kharas the allocations are for Keetmanshoop, N\$9 000; Koës, N\$6 000; and Karasburg, N\$35 000.

Comparatively, where SWAPO is in charge, with almost the same size and population, they receive generous amounts: Okahao, N\$15 million; Okalongo, N\$16.7 million; Oshikuku, N\$10.8 million; Katima Mulilo, N\$8 million; Ondangwa, N\$4 million; Omuthiya, N\$3 million; Tsumeb, N\$20 million; Helao Nafidi, N\$2.67 million; Omungwelume, N\$2.5 million; and Ongenga, N\$1.7 million. It is saddening to note that local authorities across Namibia, with similar size and population, are allocated differently notwithstanding claims of different phases of project implementation over a certain period of time.

Questions:

1. What is the rationale of MURD submissions to the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises with regards to the bulk municipal servicing and sanitation to local authorities?
2. What is the purpose of allocating a mere N\$9 000 to a municipality such as Keetmanshoop? To do what with N\$9 000?
3. Is it not shameful to allocate figures below N\$100 000 to local authorities? Do you really need to term such Capital Budget Projects?
4. Why do you continue to cut capital projects budget for local authorities' south of the Red Line?
5. Why do you have a divide and rule policy when it comes to allocation of budgets for certain municipality's thereby increasing inequality, poverty and unemployment?
6. Do you consult local authorities when deciding unilaterally on such figures as depicted in the paragraphs?
7. Have you ever complaint to the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises and the Director-General of the National Planning Commission?
8. Will you submit a revised budget to rectify this underfunding of the local authorities south of the Red Line which amounts to early warning signs of ethnic cleansing?

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**Question 72 (2023-06-08)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform.

There is a trend in Namibia, particularly along the Namibia-Angola borders, that Namibia farmers are forced to take their animals into Angola for search of better grazing areas. This trend has been ongoing for a very long time, I can argue, since independence.

Thus I ask:

1. Until when will the Namibian farmers along the borders continue to graze their animals in Angola?
  2. When will the Namibian government provide these farmers with a suitable space for grazing within the Namibian borders?
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**Question 73 (2023-06-08)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform.

The Green Scheme Program in the Kavango Region has taken long now.

Thus I ask:

1. How many local residents have so far graduated in this scheme? Any breakdown of their expertise thus far?
  2. Will the Honourable Minister predict that the Green Scheme program will by any means lead/bring Namibia to become food self-sufficiency one day in the near future?
  3. Honourable Minister seeing the importance of the Green Scheme program and the period it has taken in our country are you confident that local residents in these areas have obtains sufficient knowledge and expertise to move the Green Scheme Program forward?
  4. If the answer in (C) is positive, how long does it takes to produce a local expert?
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**Question 74 (2023-06-08)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises.

I am aware of every effort that the government is making to address the issue of unemployment and reduce poverty in Namibia, however we are seated with a serious problem whereby some investors take a large chunk of money out of Namibia circulation to their respective countries, leaving Namibia with no sufficient funds to grow the economy and create jobs for the unemployed.

Thus I ask:

1. Honourable Minister, what mechanisms are in place to prevent these devastating capital outflow to other destinations?
  2. Would you say that you are satisfied with the current trend?
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**Question 76 (2023-06-08)**

Hon. Iipumbu (NEFF) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises.

Questions:

1. Honourable Minister, can you explain why Nampower proceeded with cutting the power of residents in the north and south of Namibia, despite a clear directive from the cabinet to hold off on such actions while engagement is ongoing to resolve the matter? What led to this apparent disregard for the cabinet's directive?

2. It is concerning that Nampower's decision to proceed with power cuts undermines the ongoing efforts towards resolving the issue. What steps will you take as the Minister tasked to pass this cabinet directive to ensure that Nampower adheres to government directives and works in alignment with the cabinet's decision-making process?
3. The cabinet's directive was issued with the intention of finding a more effective means to resolve the situation. In light of Nampower's actions, how will you address the issue of non-compliance and ensure that cabinet interference is the most productive approach to reaching a satisfactory resolution? Will there be consequences for Nampower's failure to follow the directive?
4. The power cuts in the north and south of Namibia have absolutely affected the livelihoods and well-being of the affected residents. What immediate measures will you put in place to stop the power cuts and minimize the impact on individuals and businesses? Additionally, how will you prevent such situations from recurring in the future, ensuring a more reliable and consistent energy supply for all Namibians?

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**Question 77 (2023-06-08)**

Hon. Iipumbu (NEFF) asked the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.

1. Honourable Minister, the delay in disbursing the budget to Namibian schools has led to immense hardships for both educators and students. Can you explain the reasons behind this delay, and what steps are being taken to expedite the process and ensure that schools receive the necessary funding as soon as possible?
2. The situation where parents are resorting to sleeping outside schools in an attempt to secure places for their children is deeply concerning. How do you plan to address this pressing issue and provide clarity on the admission process? What measures will be taken to ensure fair and transparent allocation of school places, considering the frustration and anxiety experienced by parents and students?
3. The delay in disbursing the budget to schools directly affects the quality of education and the ability of schools to provide essential resources. What immediate actions are being taken to mitigate the impact on students' learning experiences, and how will you ensure that schools have the necessary resources to create a conducive environment for effective teaching and learning?
4. Transparency and accountability are crucial in the disbursement of public funds, especially in the education sector. Can you provide assurance that there will be a thorough investigation into the reasons behind the delay and any potential mismanagement of funds? Additionally, what measures will be put in place to prevent similar delays and ensure a more efficient budgetary process in the future?

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**Question 78 (2023-06-13)**

Hon. Van Wyk (PDM) asked the Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare.

The socio-economic gap between persons with and without disabilities is increasing because persons with disabilities experience low levels of education, higher rates of unemployment and economic inactivity, and a lack of social protection in comparison to their peers without disabilities. People living with disabilities have an important role to play to make a positive contribution in the country. Namibia has ratified various international conventions affirming a commitment to accept persons with disabilities, focusing on their abilities and not their disabilities, providing equal education, employment opportunities to them; and treating them with the respect due to every human being.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What measures are in place to oversee or monitor the implementation of Policies, Strategies, Legislation, Guidelines and Programmes to promote the Rights of persons with Disabilities?
2. What tools are in place to ensure the effective awareness raising and advocacy programmes on the Rights of Persons Living with Disabilities?
3. What modalities are in place to manage the provision of institutional support and capacity building on the Rights of Persons Living with Disabilities?
4. What is the status quo (current situation) regarding the rate of employment of Persons Living with Disabilities in Namibia?

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**Question 79 (2023-06-13)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation.

Youth unemployment in our country has reached an alarming disproportionate percentage of 47.4%. It is unlikely to significantly reduce to manageable levels. The youth unemployment rate in our country increases drastically year in year out.

Hence I ask.

1. What plan or strategies, if any, has your Ministry put in place to fundamentally address youth unemployment in our country?
  2. Our country is faced with corruption and higher level of nepotism when it comes to employment opportunities, what measures does your Ministry put in place to prevent the rot to grow bigger and larger?
  3. Often young people are encouraged to study and concentrate on their careers and successfully complete their studies, what appropriate actions does your Ministry put in place to ensure that graduates are not eventually parked and rot at home doing nothing?
  4. Does your Ministry in earnest realize that youth unemployment bearers the vicious cycle of poverty?
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**Question 80 (2023-06-13)**

Hon. Vries (PDM) asked the Minister in the Presidency.

On the 27th March 2023 at a joint Press Conference, the Director General of the National Planning Commission Honourable Obeth Kandjoze, outlined that NDP6 will be developed to cover the period of 2024/25 to 2030/31 financial years. He further outlined the extension of NDP5 for two more years to enable the completion of its programmes and projects.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What target (in percentage) to decrease food insecure individuals in Namibia have been achieved by NDP5?
2. If a target in question one has been achieved, kindly share with this August House in which regions the target has mostly been achieved?
3. According to the NDP5 Implementation Plan, the target to increase food production in the years 2021/2022 was 30%. Was this target achieved? If no, what percentage of the set target was achieved and in which regions?
4. What overall targets of the NDP5 were achieved? And which targets will NDP5 aim to achieve in the extended two years?
5. How will NDP6 be different from NDP5 in terms of implementation?

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**Question 81 (2023-06-13)**

Hon. Isaaks (LPM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises.

Namibia Revenue Agency, NamRA was created to accommodate the two Departments of the Ministry of Finance namely, Customs & Excise and Inland Revenue Departments.

In its value statement NamRa says the following.

**NamRA Vision:**

“To be a World-Class Revenue Agency, Serving with Passion to Positively Impact the livelihoods of Every Namibian”

**NamRa Values:**

“We are guided by a common set of values or principles that underpin our culture and all our actions.

**Our values are:**

**Integrity**

We have set ourselves, high ethical standards in execution of our duties and strive to do what is right in all circumstances.

### **Fairness**

We treat everyone in the same situation equally.

### **Diversity**

We recognise and appreciate differences in ethnicity, background, age, skills, perspectives, and education. We believe that a diverse workforce is one of our biggest assets.

### **Efficiency**

We continuously identify and develop solutions to address inefficiencies in our processes, systems, and operations.

### **Agility**

We believe in the concept of continuous improvement. embracing change, leveraging on information communication technology and always ready to respond to the demand of digital transformation.

In furtherance of its values of FAIRNESS and DIVERSITY, I would like to believe, NamRA contracted a human resources consultancy called "Vision" to administer the recruitment of external vacancies, as this would enable them to employ the best of the best skills available, while secondments were given preferences during the first round of vacancies, which was only advertised internally.

Information available to me, however, raises the question of whether the FAIRNESS and DIVERSITY values were applied. More specifically, whether the Human Resource Department satisfactorily upheld those values of FAIRNESS and DIVERSITY.

My probing of the employee ratio of diversity in the organization shows that one ethnic group dominates all levels of the organization, while the experience and skills of other ethnic groups are overlooked.

Honourable Minister, I appreciate the press statement in which NamRa responded to issues I raised last week. I must point out that the press statement failed to deal with the most pertinent question, which inundates most of the complaints raised. The press statement rather lectures on the process, which is standard in any organization, and further gives statistics of number of people recruited and a break down of the percentages from MoF and externally. It failed to give a breakdown of the different ethnic groups across all levels. That allegation is thus not replied to or debunked.

Therefore, does the Minister care to answer the following questions:

1. How many staff in the C5 and the entire D Band, and E Band were recruited?
2. Can you give a breakdown of ethnicity, background, and educational levels to prove diversity of the staff recruited in the above?
3. Can you give a breakdown of the ethnicity, educational backgrounds and experience of the staff recruited from the Ministry of Finance?

4. Can you give a breakdown of the ethnicity and educational backgrounds of staff recruited externally?
5. Does the Minister agree with the characterization of my issues as prejudicial in the NamRa press statement. I ask this question because the issues raised reek of prejudice to the persons who raised them?
6. And does the Minister believe that the values of FAIRNESS and DIVERSITY were in fact observed? Given that the Commissioner of NamRa, who was appointed by the Minister, claims transparency, it should not be difficult to honestly answer the questions posed in questions 1 to 6.
7. In view of the Minister's assertion that the intention was to fight corruption, can he give a breakdown of the nature of corrupt practices and the amounts involved. For instance, tax evasion, fraudulent tax refund claims as well as the number of NamRa or MoF staff involved? Are those corruption cases currently prosecuted through NamRa internal disciplinary processes or in the Courts of Namibia?

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**Question 82 (2023-06-13)**

Hon. Mike Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

In almost every town in Namibia, one would witness that cleanliness is not prioritised. Large heaps of waste is visible and people seem to be very comfortable living with the waste. This often results in people contracting diseases. On many occasions, a large volume of garbage is left uncollected in towns. Even after the garbage is taken to a waste disposal site, it is not processed appropriately and is left decomposed in piles, causing methane emissions and air, soil, or water pollution. The toxic substances generated from burning waste are extremely dangerous, as they threaten the health of residents.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Apart from the World Clean-Up Day, which is an annual and once off activity, what other consistent platforms does the Ministry have to ensure that Namibia is kept clean?
2. What modalities does the Ministry have with Regional and Local Authorities to ensure that effective waste management takes place?
3. What are the current waste disposal infrastructure needs in Namibia?
4. What awareness campaigns has the Ministry implemented to sensitize members of the public on the importance of cleaning the environment?

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**Question 83 (2023-06-13)**

Hon. Dr. Iijambo (SWANU) asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.

As a responsible nation, Namibians deserve to plan and execute our activities for long term gains. Resilient and sustainable development are of great importance.



We should by all means avoid frequent 'crisis-management' due to pressure.

Long term solutions are always less embarrassing, than the last-hour scramble and very inconveniencing conditions.

The following questions thus, suffice:

1. Do we need to clean up our streets of street vendors, street kids and struggle kids, only when other Heads of States visit?
2. If we think that street kids, vendors and struggle kids are an eyesore to visitors, why do we reckon they are normal to citizens?
3. Can the line Minister advise Cabinet for this challenge to be eradicated once and for all?
4. Unemployment has skyrocketed hence street vendors make a living through selling their meagre goods. If cleared off the street due to dignitaries visits, who should make up for their lost profits during that period?

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**Question 84 (2023-06-14)**

Hon. Mukwilongo (NEFF) asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.

We have recently come across news regarding your proposal for a visa exemption for Chinese nationals arriving in Namibia for a 30-day period.

However, there have been reports suggesting that officials at the Ministry of Home Affairs are unhappy with the relationship between senior officials and Chinese government, expressing concerns about potential disadvantages for Namibia in the agreement.

I would like to seek clarification on a few points regarding this matter:

1. Chinese nationals will be given free visa when traveling to Namibia, however, this is not the case with Namibians who travel to China? With this new development, it's just logic that China could do the same to Namibian Nationals using that country.
  2. Could you provide information on the number of tourists coming from China to Namibia in recent years? This data would help in assessing the potential impact of the visa exemption proposal.
  3. Some individuals perceive this visa exemption as another favor given to China, possibly influenced by the political ties between SWAPO and the Chinese Communist Party. How would you respond to such concerns and ensure that the decision is based on sound reasoning and the best interest of Namibia?
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**Question 85 (2023-06-14)** – *Replied to by Minister Kawana on 15 June 2023.*

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

I am not ignorant of the generally held idea that visa-free agreements are significant; they promote freedom of movement, human rights, and enhance international cooperation. Visa-free agreements are essential tools for a more just, collaborative and open world. All things considered, visa-free agreements can create an international environment appropriate for new opportunities, cultural exchanges and business partnerships.

In essence, visa exemption is a symbol of trust between two countries. However, the Namibian government extending a visa free courtesy to Chinese citizens arriving in Namibia for a period of 30 days would not be fair if the same privilege is not extended to Namibian citizens arriving in China.

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

1. Is this visa exemption to be bilateral or unilateral? If it is the latter, Hon. Kawana, is there reason to believe that citizens of Namibia might overstay or cause harm in the People's Republic of China, thereby making a mutual visa-free agreement unlikely?
2. Minister Kawana, what specific conditions and terms are included in the proposed visa exemption agreement between Namibia and China?
3. What are the concerns raised by officials in the Home Affairs Ministry regarding the relationship between senior Ministry officials and the Chinese government, particularly in relation to potential disadvantages for Namibia?
4. How the relationship between senior ministry officials and the Chinese government was established, and are there concerns about potential conflicts of interest?
5. What evidence exists to support the claim that the negotiations between Namibia and China regarding the visa exemption were kept secret by officials in the immigration Ministry?
6. Considering the concerns raised within the government about the speed at which the proposal is being pushed, can you explain why you believe this visa exemption move is truly in Namibia's best interest? Are there any social and economic benefits you have so far established?

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**Question 86 (2023-06-14)**

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare.

The Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare was established to ensure efficiency and effective service delivery for Namibia's social protection services. These services are concerned with protecting and helping those who are poor and vulnerable, such as older people, and people living with disabilities.

We know that most elderly people live off the pension, and essentially rely on these pension funds for everything, including maintaining households and taking care of grandchildren.

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

Now, you have a situation whereby a person reaches the age of sixty (60), after which they automatically *de jure* qualify to apply for the old-age pension, but such person only gets his/her pension funds three months after they've made such an application, why is it not possible for these people to apply at least three (3) months in advance and be able to have their old-age pension funds paid as soon as they turn sixty (60) instead of having to wait for three (3) months as is currently the case?

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**Question 87 (2023-06-15)**

Hon. Van Wyk (PDM) asked the Minister of Presidential Affairs.

The Namibia Statistics Agency recently announced vacancies for the 2023 Population and Housing Census. Among the announced vacancies, was the position of Enumerators. The agency seeks the services of 9 046 Enumerators countrywide, which is the highest number of the announced vacancies. The requirements for the enumerators' position are; A Degree or Diploma in Land Management, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Geoinformation Technology (GIT), Geography, Statistics, Population studies, Business and Management degrees, Economics, Accounting, and Computer science will be an added advantage or Grade 11/12 with a minimum 20 points in 6 subjects with an "E" symbol in English.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. The primary job description of an enumerator is to collect information from the respondents through interviews. Why does such an average job require a Degree or Diploma?
2. The alternative requirement is Grade 11 or 12. How will this requirement promote inclusivity of the youth?
3. Namibia has a high number of Grade 10 certificate holders. Why are they not catered for in this recruitment?
4. How many enumerators will be recruited in each region and is there a local language proficiency required?

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**Question 88 (2023-06-15)**

Hon. Van Wyk (PDM) asked the Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs.

The Namibian Defence Force (NDF) recently announced that they plan to recruit between 1 400 and 1 600 new members for the 2023/24 financial year. This was revealed in a letter the Ministry sent to regional governors and councillors earlier this month. According to the letter, the distribution of new members across the regions has been determined, with the Khomas region allocated 141 positions, the Ohangwena and Omusati regions 119 each, and the remaining 11 regions allocated 111 positions each.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. How many positions have been made available for people from the marginalised communities?
2. Will the indigenous people of the different regions in Namibia receive priority during the recruitment of the Namibian Defence Force?
3. Will the Ministry consider to relax some of the requirements to accommodate people from the marginalised communities and indigenous people of the regions where the majority did not complete Grade 12?

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**Question 89 (2023-06-15)**

Hon. Mike Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology.

Community radio stations serve local communities and normally broadcast in vernacular languages. They broadcast information that is popular and relevant to a local and specific audience but is often overlooked. Community radio stations are operated, owned, and influenced by the communities they serve. They are generally non-profit and provide a platform for individuals, groups, and communities to tell their own stories and share their experiences. Namibia has 14 Community Radio Stations that play a very important role in informing, educating and entertaining the communities.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What technical support does the Ministry provide to the community radio stations in Namibia?
  2. What is the current working relationship between government and the community radio stations in Namibia?
  3. Does the Ministry not deem it fit to offer financial support to the community radio stations in Namibia?
  4. How far is the Cabinet in approving the Community Media Framework Policy?
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