



Tuesday, 12 September 2023

No. 56 – 2023

EIGHTH SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

1. The Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation.
2. **Announcements by the Speaker in terms of Rule 20(b) of the Standing Rules and Orders:**

- (i) The Speaker reported that in April 2023, he had a consultation with the Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia (EPDN) Programme Technical Assistance Team, discussing on how to bring Parliament closer to Civil Society. As part of this initiative, Parliament jointly with the EPDN Programme Technical Assistance Team will have an Interface Session with Civil Society Organizations on Thursday, 14 September 2023 from 09:00 to 13:00 in C1 Conference Room.

All Members of Parliament are invited to attend this important event and to interface with different Civil Society Organizations.

Honourable Members are also reminded that 15 September is annually observed as the International Day of Democracy.

- (ii) The Speaker announced and welcomed Grade 7 learners in the Public Gallery from E. H. W. Baard Primary School, located in the town of Noordoewer in the Kharas Region.

These learners embarked on a journey to Windhoek and to Parliament to gain first-hand knowledge about the democratic processes of our great nation. The visit is a testament to their curiosity and eagerness to learn the qualities that are greatly admired and encouraged.

3. **NOTICES OF QUESTIONS:**

- (i) Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (No. 140).
- (ii) Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services (No. 141).
- (iii) Hon. Auchab (UDF) to ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development (No. 142).
- (iv) Hon. Auchab (UDF) to ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development (No. 143).
- (v) Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) to ask the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (No. 144).
- (vi) Hon. Hamata (PDM) to ask the Minister of Justice (No. 145).
- (vii) Hon. Isaaks (LPM) to ask the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (No. 146).
- (viii) Hon. Katjimune (PDM) to ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development (No. 147).

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

That leave of absence be granted to Hon. Koviào Inna Hengari due to official duties until further notice.

Agreed to.

5. **The Deputy Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises laid upon the Table:**

Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the –

- (i) Government of Namibia for the financial year ended 31 March 2022;
- (ii) Social Security Commission, Maternity Leave, Sick Leave and Death Benefit Fund, Employee's Compensation Fund and Development Fund for the financial year ended 28 February 2022; and
- (iii) Municipality of Mariental for the financial year ended 30 June 2021;
- (iv) Town Council of Karasburg for the financial year ended 30 June 2020;
- (v) Town Council of Oranjemund for the financial years ended 30 June 2020 and 2021;
- (vi) Town Council of Katima Mulilo for the financial year ended 30 June 2020; and
- (vii) Village Council of Divundu for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

6. **FIRST NOTICE OF A MOTION:**

Hon. Kauandenge moved, seconded by Hon. Seibeb:

That –

Namibia is about to go to the National elections next year with the same Constitutional provisions that discriminate against some members of our society to participate freely in our election process.

That he was a victim of that Constitutional provision in 2019 as well, that he believes that he is the right person to move this Motion in this House.

Therefore, that this Assembly –

Discusses the Constitutional provision of Article 47(1), (e) and (f) of our Constitution as it clearly discriminates against Regional Council, Local Authorities employees, as well as civil servants to participate freely in parliamentary elections.

On the motion of the Minister of Justice, seconded by Hon. Kooper, debate adjourned until Tuesday, 19 September 2023.

7. **SECOND NOTICE OF A MOTION:**

Hon. Seibeb moved, seconded by Hon. Mootu:

That this Assembly –

Engages in a deliberate discourse concerning the establishment institution known as the “Namibian Creative Hall of Fame”. This Hall of Fame encompasses a wide spectrum of creative domains, including but not limited to the following: Visual Arts and Crafts, Film and Television, Photography, Museums, Libraries and Galleries, Literature, Graphic Design, Fashion and Product Design, Architecture, Advertising and Marketing, Music, Performing Arts, as well as pertinent Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

That this Motion subsequently be referred to an appropriate Parliamentary Standing Committee for thorough consideration and report back to this Assembly.

On the motion of Hon. Kauandenge, seconded by Hon. Shekupakela, debate adjourned until Tuesday, 19 September 2023.

8. **THIRD NOTICE OF A MOTION:**

The Deputy Minister of Disability Affairs moved, seconded by the Deputy Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs:

The recognition of Namibian Sign Language as one of the national languages in the country and the appointment of sign language interpreters on live parliamentary debate.

Article 3 in the Namibian Constitution recognises the right of Namibians to learn in their mother tongue, as well as the Language Policy for Schools in Namibia (2003).

Namibia has signed and ratified the UNCRPD and five articles in the CRPD have direct reference to deaf people and sign languages, and by recognising NSL, we will fulfil our pledge made in the UNCRPD. The UNCRPD emphasises that without respecting linguistic rights of deaf, their human rights cannot be fulfilled.

All deaf people have the right to the sign language of their country. Namibian Sign Language is the mother tongue of deaf people in Namibia. Currently, deaf people do not have access to live parliamentary debates due to the absence of a sign language interpreter and we need to create such positions on our structures and appoint sign language interpreters to ensure deaf people could participate fully in all spheres of the Namibian society.

It is therefore, against this background, that this Assembly –

Discusses and Recommends that Namibian Sign Language be recognised as one of the national languages in Namibia and the appointment of a sign language interpreter on live Parliamentary debate, and that this Motion be referred to a relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee for further scrutiny and report back to this Assembly.

On the motion of the Deputy Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, seconded by Hon. Elago, debate adjourned until Wednesday, 20 September 2023.

9. **FOURTH NOTICE OF A MOTION** deferred by the Mover to Wednesday, 13 September 2023.

10. **FIFTH NOTICE OF A MOTION:**

Hon. Van Wyk moved, seconded by Hon. Vries:

That this Assembly –

Discusses the current lack of support for Namibian musicians and look into the establishment and development of infrastructure and resources for the music industry in Namibia and also call for the deliberate support of Namibian music.

That the Motion be referred to a relevant Parliamentary Stranding Committee to propose recommendations to this august House after conducting diligent work on the subject matter. Finally, that the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee, in conformity with the rule be encouraged to have associate Members of Parliament contribute to its work.

On the motion of Hon. Kauandenge, seconded by Hon. Dr. Iijambo, debate adjourned until Wednesday, 20 September 2023.

11. In terms of Rule 99(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 17:47 until Wednesday, 13 September 2023.

MS. L. KANDETU
Secretary of the National Assembly

Compiled by I. Nehoya