



Thursday, 14 September 2023

No. 58 – 2023

EIGHTH SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 14 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) On behalf of the National Assembly the Speaker congratulated the national soccer team, the Brave Warriors for qualifying for the 2024 African Cup of Nations. The Speaker said as usual, the nation is behind the national soccer team when they will go and represent the nation in January 2024 in Cote d'Ivoire.
 - (ii) Secondly, with regard to the interaction between Hon. Nekundi and Hon. Seibeb, the Speaker ruled that he is of the view that it all boils down to how we pronounce or read English words and that does not necessary constitute the use of words that are unparliamentarily. That although English is our official language, it is not a home language to many of us. However, it being an official language we must try by all means to use it correctly.
3. **URGENT ORAL QUESTIONS:**
 - (i) Hon. Van Wyk (PDM) asked the Minister in the Presidency (No. 30) – *Deferred to next week for the Minister's reply.*
 - (ii) Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy (No. 31) – *Replied to.*
4. **NOTICE OF A QUESTION:**

Hon. Mootu (LPM) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (No. 150).

5. Ministerial Statement in terms of Rule 98 of the Standing Rules and Orders:

The Minister of Justice made a Ministerial Statement in response to Hon. Van den Heever's questions which were posed during the Seventh Session of Parliament but have lapsed. The Questions were about the status of the twin legislative frameworks on whistle blower and witness protection promulgated in 2017. The Minister reported that these two pieces of legislation were regrettably not being operationalized but this was about to change.

The Minister said the major factor that has caused the delay for operationalizing the two laws and the consequent setting up of the Whistleblower Protection Office is primarily related to the lack of adequate budget allocation. A budget of N\$50,000,000.00 (Fifty Million Namibian Dollars) was allocated to Vote 16 – Ministry of Justice for the current financial year to operationalise the Witness Protection Unit and Whistleblower Protection Office. For an overall picture and to express the mammoth task facing the Ministry, the Witness Protection Unit will require approximately N\$160,000,000.00 (One Hundred and Sixty Million Namibian Dollars) per annum.

The Minister reported that the Ministry now plan to ensure that by the end of the current financial year, the law is operationalised, the key staff have been appointed and trained, the office accommodation has been procured, and the process of the taking over of witness protection services will commence.

6. QUESTIONS DEALT WITH:

- (i) Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises (No. 129) – *Stands over*.
- (ii) Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy (No. 130) – *Stands over*.
- (iii) Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises (No. 131) – *Stands over*.
- (iv) Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Prime Minister (No. 132) – *Replied to*.
- (v) Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy (No. 133) – *Misdirected*.
- (vi) Hon. Smit (PDM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises (No. 134) – *Stands over*.
- (vii) Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (No. 135) – *Replied to*.
- (viii) Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation (No. 136) – *Stands over*.
- (ix) Hon. Hamata (PDM) asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (No. 137) – *Replied to*.

- (x) Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (No. 138) – *Misdirected*.
- (xi) Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Health and Social Services (No. 139) – *Replied to*.

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

The Deputy Minister of Works and Transport moved, seconded by Hon. Kandjimi:

That this Assembly –

Discusses the possibility that Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) incentivize loan beneficiaries with the aim to stimulate entrepreneurship and job creation.

On the motion of Hon. Katjimune, seconded by Hon. Moongo, debate adjourned until Wednesday, 20 September 2023.

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

Hon. Vries moved, seconded by Hon. Hamata:

That this Assembly –

Debates the food security situation in Namibia, its impact on the livelihoods of Namibians and seek urgent interventions to ensure food security situation in Namibia.

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 Deputy Minister of Marginalised People, seconded by Hon. Dr. Ndjoze-Ojo, debate adjourned until Wednesday, 20 September 2023.

9. In terms of Rule 99(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 17:49 until Tuesday, 19 September 2023.

MS. L. KANDETU
Secretary of the National Assembly

Compiled by I. Nehoya