

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE OF QUESTION

BY

Hon. Henny H. Seibeb

Signature: _____)

I hereby provide formal notice that on the 26th of October 2023, I intend to inquire of The Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Saara Nandjila Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, a series of questions pertaining to the employment of senior public servants within the SWAPO party structures and the Think Tank.

There have been reports circulating, and we are informed on good grounds that some senior key life threatening decision making civil servants are campaigning and serving in SWAPO political structures without any authorization from Secretary to Cabinet, Mr. George Simataa. On Friday, 11 August 2023, Mr. George Simataa reminded senior government officials that they cannot hold leadership positions in political parties. By way of an example, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Deputy Director, Ms. Elizabeth Kamutuezu was elected to serve in SWAPO local structures.

It is the same case with the Executive Director, Ms. Martha Mbombo, in the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, the Executive Director in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata, and the Executive Director in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Mr. Teofilus Nghitila, and Mr. Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), who both serve in the so-called SWAPO Think Tank. No wonder landless Namibians are unable to secure resettlement farms as these farms are allocated on the basis of political affiliation.

It is also the same with Agriculture Director, Ms. Albertina Shilongo and Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Francois Brand who are also serving actively in SWAPO structures. It is so that actually Ms. Shilongo was contesting to be re-elected as SWAPO secretary for information for Windhoek West, while Mr. Brand was vying to be elected as SWAPO treasurer for Windhoek West (12 August 2023). Our information indicates that Mr. George Simataa distributed a circular on 14 August 2023 discouraging senior government officials from taking part in political party elections and serving for them actively.

In light of this situation, we seek your attention to address the following questions and concerns:

- 1) **Compliance with Circular:** Hon. Prime Minister, could you please confirm whether the circular distributed by the Secretary to Cabinet on 14 August 2023, discouraging senior government officials from participating in political party activities, is being strictly adhered to by all government officials?
- 2) **Verification of Involvement:** Hon. Prime Minister, have you taken steps to follow up and verify with the Secretary of Cabinet and SWAPO Secretary-General whether the individuals mentioned, such as Ms. Elizabeth Kamutuezu, Ms. Martha Mbombo, Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata, Ms.

Albertina Shilongo, and Mr. Francois Brand, have indeed been elected to serve actively within SWAPO structures?

- 3) **Addressing Unprofessional Trends:** If you have not yet conducted these verifications, what steps do you intend to take to curtail this concerning trend of senior civil servants actively participating in political party activities?
- 4) **Productivity of Civil Servants:** Is the Office of the Prime Minister planning to conduct research or surveys to assess whether senior civil servants who are actively involved in the ruling party's activities are maintaining their productivity within the public service?
- 5) **Security Concerns:** There is a possibility that some senior civil servants may have access to sensitive government information and could share it as policy proposals with the ruling party. Have any instances of such misconduct been identified, leading to disciplinary actions?

I so submit!

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I hereby provide notice of my intention to pose inquiries to The Minister of International Relations and Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Nandi Netumbo-Ndaitwah, on the 26th of October 2023. These inquiries are in reference to the Second Summit and Russia–Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum, which transpired in St. Petersburg on the 27th and 28th of July 2023, under the auspices of President Vladimir Putin.

During the Second Summit and Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum, President Putin delivered a notable statement in his opening address. He asserted, "Our nation is fully capable of substituting Ukrainian grain, both through commercial transactions and as humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable African nations. This is especially relevant as we anticipate achieving another record harvest this year." It is worth recalling that in June 2023, a delegation led by South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, comprising President Hakainde Hichilema of Zambia, President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Azali Assoumani of the Comoros, and Egypt's Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, held discussions with President Putin. Within this interaction, the delegation presented a comprehensive 10-point plan, which included the repatriation of prisoners of war and children to their respective home countries and the facilitation of unimpeded grain exports via the Black Sea. Regrettably, these efforts have not yet borne fruit. According to the African Development Bank, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has resulted in a grain shortage of approximately 30 million tonnes in Africa.

Reflecting on these significant developments, we pose the following inquiries:

1. To what extent has the implementation of the Putin-Africa grain deal progressed?
2. Does the Putin-Africa agreement encompass Namibia?
3. In its 2022 Annual Report, the Bank of Namibia indicated the potential for wheat cultivation at the Neckartal Dam. Have you broached this topic with your Russian counterparts?
4. Could you elaborate on the key agricultural discussions that have proven advantageous to Namibia?
5. What concrete commitments or agreements have been established between Namibia and their Russian counterparts?
6. In your 2020 Budget Vote presentation for MIRCO, you stated that the development of a Namibian Embassy in Senegal was in an advanced stage. Moreover, you highlighted the potential for Namibia to export Mahangu to Senegal, given its demand in that nation. Could you provide an update on the quantity of Mahangu exports facilitated by our Embassy in Senegal to date?

I so submit!

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I hereby provide notice of my intention to pose a question to The Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Mr. Derek Klazen, on the 26th of October 2023. The inquiry pertains to the fisheries infrastructure project located in Rundu, with a total value of N\$16 million, and that has been in a state of construction for an uninterrupted period of eleven years, commencing in 2012.

Hon. Minister, I trust you will concur that the ongoing infrastructure project in question stands as one of the lengthiest endeavours in sub-Saharan Africa, encompassing an expenditure of N\$16 million, yet spanning an eleven-year period from its inception. There have been allegations suggesting that the contractor, Africa Civil Engineering, which assumed responsibility for the project on 7th August 2015, in order to conclude the remaining work, may have inflated the cost, an assertion that the Ministry has yet to acknowledge. Furthermore, it has come to light that the Kavango East Fisheries Ministry division has been leasing office space at the Namibia Industrial Development Agency's (NIDA) premises, comprising approximately thirteen offices and two storerooms for its officials, for a duration exceeding a decade.

In light of the foregoing, I would like to pose the following inquiries:

1. Honorable Minister, could you provide a timeline for the resolution of this protracted crisis?
2. To date, what is the total expenditure incurred by your Ministry on this project, including any cancellation fees?
3. Could you elucidate the number of contractors that have been involved in this project since its commencement, and how much has been expended on this infrastructure development initiative?
4. What punitive measures or legal actions have been initiated against the contractors who abandoned the project site?

I so submit!

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Signature: _____)

I hereby give notice of my intention to raise a question with The Honourable Minister of Sport, Youth, and National Service, The Honourable Agnes Tjongarero, on the 26th of October 2023, regarding the status of the Independence Stadium and its preparedness to host sporting events. Recent events, notably the soccer match between African Stars and Eshoke Chula Chula on Saturday, 14th October 2023, at the Hage Geingob Rugby Stadium, where disgruntled fans vented their frustration by throwing objects onto the soccer field, have cast a negative light on our soccer and the Namibia Football Association. This is of particular concern given the imminent participation of the Brave Warriors in the TotalEnergies African Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament, scheduled to take place from 13th January to 11th February 2024 in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (RCI).

In light of these developments, I wish to pose the following inquiries:

1. Honourable Minister, during discussions in this August House, you assured us that the renovations of the Independence Stadium would be expedited, particularly when Namibia and Botswana were vying to host the 2024 AFCON tournament. Can you provide an update on the current status of this endeavour?
2. It has come to our attention that a budget of N\$50 million was allocated in the current Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to refurbish and enhance the Independence Stadium. Are these financial resources from the Treasury deemed adequate for the project's requirements, and if not, have you explored opportunities to secure supplementary funding from the private sector?
3. How long does the Namibia Football Association (NFA) intend to continue using the Hage Geingob Rugby Stadium for soccer matches? Is there not a concern that this venue, given its size, may not be well-suited to accommodate larger soccer events with substantial attendance? What measures are in place to mitigate any potential crowd-related incidents?
4. Notably, we have observed the Deputy Minister, Honourable Emma Kantema-Gaomas, attending sporting events in your stead. Could you provide an update on your willingness and readiness to continue serving in your current portfolio? Has there been any external influence, such as pressure from President Hage Geingob, affecting your decision to remain in this role, in light of any potential constitutional obligations to the contrary?

I so submit!

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Signature: _____)

I hereby provide notice of my intent to pose several questions to The Honorable Minister of Urban and Rural Development, The Honorable Amutenya Erastus Uutoni, on the 26th of October 2023, regarding a letter of a concerning nature that he dispatched to "All Members of the Karasburg Town Council." This letter, bearing his signature and dated the 11th day of October 2023, has raised particular issues of concern.

In paragraph 3 of this letter, the Minister wrote, and I quote, "The reported assignment of the Council's vehicle, which is assigned for Mayor duties to an unauthorised driver and misuse thereof, which acts are a contravention of Rule 2 (o) of the Code of Conduct for Local Authority Councillors and must come to an end." Furthermore, in paragraph 4, under Section C), the Minister issued a direct warning and what can be interpreted as intimidation to Local Authority Councillors managed by the Landless People's Movement (LPM), stating, and I quote, "Failure by the Council to demonstrate its full compliance to all directives and any continuous non-compliance will leave me with no other option but to invoke Section 92 of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act No.23 of 1992) as amended."

In light of these developments, I wish to raise the following inquiries:

1. It appears that the Minister's conclusions in paragraph 3 of his letter are based on information obtained through informal channels, potentially reliant on hearsay. Could the Minister clarify how he arrived at the conclusion that the Mayor had an unauthorized driver responsible for the Mayor's transportation?
2. Can the Minister provide specific details regarding the alleged misuse of the Mayoral-assigned vehicle, as claimed in paragraph 3 of his letter to "All Members of the Karasburg Town Council"?
3. Has the Minister taken measures to assign investigators from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) and officials from the Auditor-General's office to investigate the veracity of the rumours and misinformation that may have contributed to the contents of this letter?
4. Would the Minister consider making available any reports that led to the conclusion of the Mayor's misuse of the assigned Mayoral vehicle, and by extension the whole council for publication in the mainstream media?
5. Why does the Minister seemingly overlook formal channels for acquiring information on Council activities and increasingly rely on third-party sources such as gossip mongers and local SWAPO political circles?
6. Is it the Minister's intention to convey a threat to Karasburg LPM Councillors with the potential aim of placing the Karasburg Town Council under administration, similar to actions taken with the

Rehoboth Town Council (Ms. Natalia /Gôagos), particularly given the status of the matter as "sub judice"?

7. Given that the matter is "sub judice," where the court has yet to reach a decision, what prompted the issuance of these threatening letters to the Councillors?

I so submit!

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I hereby provide notice of my intention to present questions to the Minister in the Presidency, The Honourable Christine //Hoebes, on the 26th of October 2023, regarding the pressing need to address the escalating issues of alcoholism, substance abuse, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), feticide, femicide, and related crimes in our country. I will reference the 2nd National Conference on Gender-Based Violence, which took place from the 2nd to the 4th of July 2014. This conference aimed to address the ongoing crisis of violence against women and children and to devise strategies to combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence effectively.

During this conference, The Right Honorable Prime Minister, Dr. Hage Geingob, received recognition for spearheading the organization of the 2nd National Conference on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and for his active engagement in its discussions. Notable outcomes of the conference included fervent appeals for the prohibition of establishing liquor outlets, particularly shebeens, in residential areas and in close proximity to schools, as well as the complete removal of existing outlets in such areas. Additionally, there were calls for restrictions on their operating hours, with a suggestion that they should open only at 17:00.

Conference participants also advocated for the revival of traditional values and conflict resolution systems, with some proposing the establishment of an educational institution to instill moral values in boys and men, although the consensus eventually leaned towards making Life Skills an examinable subject in schools. The conference further emphasized the need to enhance the capacity of existing women's and men's groups to engage in activities aimed at reducing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Alcohol and substance abuse were identified as significant contributing factors to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

With this context in mind, I would like to pose the following questions:

1. Could you provide an update on the progress made in enacting legislation to address SGBV, as recommended by the 2nd National Conference on Gender-Based Violence held from 2-4 July 2014?
2. When does the government anticipate commencing the removal of shebeens from residential areas? What steps will be taken to achieve this objective?
3. Given the rising number of liquor outlets in Namibia, what strategies and policies does President Geingob intend to implement to address this escalating issue?
4. President Ramaphosa's recent telephone call to the Springboks captain, Siya Kolisi was well-received, especially after their heart-stopping 29-28 victory against France during the 2023 Rugby World Cup Quarterfinals. Conversely, President Hage Geingob's visit to a local alcohol outlet, as documented in photographs and videos, received extensive negative attention on social media. In

light of the association between shebeens and alcohol-related violence, what is the perspective on President Geingob's visit to such establishments?

5. How is the President's visit to a shebeen perceived by the youth in the context of ongoing efforts to educate and sensitize them to abstain from shebeens and excessive alcohol consumption? What message is the President conveying through this action?
6. Whose initiative was it for the President to visit a shebeen, considering that there are alternative youth-led projects and impoverished communities he could have engaged with to gain insight into their circumstances?

I so submit!