



Wednesday, 11 October 2023

No. 69 – 2023

EIGHTH SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2023

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

1. The Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation.
2. **NOTICES OF QUESTIONS:**
 - (i) Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) to ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development (No. 193).
 - (ii) Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) to ask the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises (No. 194).
 - (iii) Hon. Katjimune (PDM) to ask the Minister of Works and Transport (No. 195).
 - (iv) Hon. Katjimune (PDM) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation (No. 196).
 - (v) Hon. Hengari (PDM) to ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development (No. 197).
 - (vi) Hon. Van Wyk (PDM) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (No. 198).
3. **Hon. Murorua moved without Notice in terms of Rule 27(h) of the Standing Rules and Orders:**

That leave of absence be granted to Hon. Apius Auchab until further notice.

Agreed to.

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

The Minister of Education, Arts and Culture made a Ministerial Statement in which she shared information with the House and the public at large about what provisions, systems and processes the Ministry has in place to provide sanitary materials to needy school girls in Namibia.

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

Hon. McHenry Venaani moved, seconded by Hon. Hamata:

That leave be given to introduce a Private Member's Bill to regulate the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and interests of marginalized communities in the Republic of Namibia; to foster their inclusion and participation in mainstream education and society; to establish frameworks for capacity building, socio-economic support and integration programs; to mandate regular reporting and review on progress made; and for matters incidental thereto.

The objective of this Bill is to fundamentally address and rectify the deeply entrenched social, educational, and economic disparities that marginalized communities in Namibia face. Rooted in a commitment to human dignity and equality, this legislation aims not merely to recognize the existence of these communities but to uplift them through actionable programs and reforms. It seeks to dismantle the systemic barriers that keep them on the periphery, away from mainstream opportunities and institutional benefits.

By facilitating their seamless integration into the societal fabric through targeted education access and socio-economic support, this Bill endeavours to rewrite the narrative of exclusion and disadvantage. This is not merely an act of social justice but a vital necessity for the holistic development of the nation. A society can never truly prosper when sections of its population are mired in abject poverty, cut off from education and opportunity. Therefore, the passage and rigorous implementation of this Bill are imperative for the Republic of Namibia to fulfill its constitutional promise of equal rights and social justice for all its citizens.

The Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation raised an Objection.

The Speaker ordered a division of the House.

In favour of the Motion = 23

Against the Motion = 37

Abstaining = 0

Motion rejected.

6. **THIRD NOTICE OF A MOTION** lapsed in terms of Rule 28 of the Standing Rules and Orders.

7. **FOURTH NOTICE OF A MOTION** lapsed in terms of Rule 28 of the Standing Rules and Orders.

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

Hon. Dr. Iijambo moved, seconded by Hon. Mbumbu:

Considering our country's retrogressive past history of systematic divisions, almost every Namibian yearn for unity, peace, justice and closure of past atrocities.

Unfortunately, we may NOT achieve the above without the necessary required steps to do so.

The much sought and yearned for "*One Namibia One Nation*" will remain a pipe dream if we continue to pay li service to this crucially important matter.

Therefore, I move that this Assembly –

Debates and discusses the Policy on National Reconciliation. Chapter III of the Supreme Law of the country, the Constitution of Namibia is clear on 'Protection of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms'.

Thirty-three years of independence, the hollow, and if not absent National Reconciliation Policy leave pockets of Namibian people in jeopardy. Yet Article 8 of the Constitution emphasizes Respect of Human Dignity.

On the motion of Hon. Muharukua, seconded by Hon. Van den Heever, debate adjourned until Thursday, 12 October 2023.

9. In terms of Rule 99(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 17:50 until Thursday, 12 October 2023.

MS. L. KANDETU
Secretary of the National Assembly

Compiled by H. Christiaans