



Tuesday, 17 October 2023

No. 71 – 2023

EIGHTH SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 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 yesterday morning he learnt with a heavy heart the passing on of His Excellency Mattu Athisaari, former President of Finland, a great Finnish Statesman and a dear friend of Namibia.

The Speaker said Matti Athisaari's legacy transcend borders and is deeply cherished in both his home country and here in Namibia. As the United Nations Special Representative for Namibia from 1977 to 1990, his leadership was instrumental in our journey to independence. His guidance in shaping the Namibian peace plan and our transition to democracy has left an indelible mark on our nation's development and reconciliation efforts, the Speaker remarked.

On behalf of the Namibian Parliament, the Speaker expressed collective heartfelt condolences to his wife Eeva, his son Marco, and the entire family.

A Minute of Silence was Observed in his memory.

- (ii) The Speaker reminded all Members of Parliament and in particular Members from the Executive Branch of Government that in terms of Rule 34(e) "*No Bills shall be tabled before the Assembly after 1 November each year, unless the Assembly considers the matter urgent in accordance with Rule 52*".

Rule 52 provides partly that; "*A Minister may declare in the House that the Bill is an urgent Bill, and on such a declaration, the question "That the Bill is an urgent Bill", shall be put forthwith: Provided that the Presiding Member is*

satisfied that such a motion is not a misuse of the Standing Orders, or infringes on the rights of the minority”.

The Speaker advised Members that there are approximately 2 weeks before the deadline and Members are urged to submit Bills before the deadline taking into consideration that the National Council also must review the Bills passed by the National Assembly.

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

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

- (i) Regional Council of the //Kharas Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2020;
- (ii) Regional Council of the Kavango East for the financial year ended 31 March 2019;
- (iii) Village Council of Tses for the financial years ended 30 June 2018 and 2019; and;
- (iv) Diamond Board of Namibia for the financial years ended 31 December 2021 and 2022.

4. NOTICES OF QUESTIONS:

- (i) Hon. Seibeb (LPM) to ask the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources (No. 202).
- (ii) Hon. Seibeb (LPM) to ask the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service (No. 203).
- (iii) Hon. Seibeb (LPM) to ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development (No. 204).
- (iv) Hon. Seibeb (LPM) to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (No. 205).
- (v) Hon. Seibeb (LPM) to ask the Prime Minister (No. 206).
- (vi) Hon. Seibeb (LPM) to ask the Minister in the Presidency (No. 207).

5. ORAL URGENT QUESTION:

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (No. 38) – *Replied to.*

6. FIRST NOTICE OF A MOTION:

Hon. Hengari moved, seconded by Hon. Katjimune:

That this Assembly –

Discusses the deplorable state of holding cells and correctional facilities countrywide that call for urgent intervention, and even a total reconstruction as it constitutes a

serious violation of human rights. The persistent problem of over-crowdedness at over 90% of the police cells worsens the prevailing appalling conditions under which trial awaiting and sentenced persons are held. Moreover, it is important that this House commit to a comprehensive prison reform strategy that not only addresses infrastructure and capacity issues, but also strengthens the delivery of justice, enhances staff competence, and uplifts the health and safety standards within our facilities. In doing so, we will pave the way towards a fairer, more human prison system reflective of the value we hold as a nation.

That this Motion be referred to a relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee for further scrutiny and report back to this Assembly, and following the adoption of recommendations, that Rule 66 of the Standing Rules and Orders be applied.

Since a similar Motion was already discussed in the House and referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security for further scrutiny and report back to this Assembly, it was agreed that her motivation be submitted to the said Committee to enrich their Report.

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

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

That leave be given to introduce a Private Member's Bill to amend the Marine Resources Act 27 of 2000 to regulate the provisions related to the allocation of quotas by the Minister to the National Fishing Corporation and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

The aim of this Private Member's Bill is to limit the discretionary authority vested in the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources with respect to the allocation of quotas for non-commercial harvesting or reserve purposes. Specifically, the Bill seeks to ensure that such allocations are made in strict adherence to the criteria and considerations outlined in Sections 32 and 33 of the Marine Resources Act.

The Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation raised an Objection to the Question put by the Speaker whether Hon. Venaani can move his Motion.

House divided.

In favour of the Motion = 22

Against the Motion = 46

Abstaining = 0

Motion rejected.

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

Hon. Mbundu moved, seconded by Hon. Tjiveze:

That this Assembly –

Debates the feasibility and establishment of specialized schools for the Kavango East and West region as a matter of urgency. Taking into consideration the neglect and abandonment the disabled community faces in those regions.

Furthermore, that this Motion be referred to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee for investigation and report back to this Assembly.

9. In terms of Rule 99(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 17:45 until Wednesday, 18 October 2023.

MS. L. KANDETU

Secretary of the National Assembly

Compiled by I. Nehoya