

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NAMIBIA

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Motion

By Hon. M.S. Mbundu, MP

Honorable Speaker and Honorable Members, this motion is motivated because of my desire to see this august House truly serving the interests of all sectors of our society, especially those whose voices are not heard most of the time. May you all unite with this motion as we build one inclusive Namibia.

Honorable Speaker, and Honorable Members;

When our constitution was drafted & introduced to the 1st Constituent Assembly in 1990 was it welcomed with much excitement & hope for a better future for all in the new Republic. We all believed that Namibia will have a place for all especially the future generations to come, through its constitution which proclaimed in its Preamble ***“Whereas we the people of Namibia desire to promote amongst all of us the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Namibia nation among and in association with the nations of the world”***.¹

It is such dignity that should allow each and every Namibian to benefit from our hard-earned freedoms, without feeling excluded or forgotten along the path of social progression.

¹ <https://www.lac.org.na/laws/annoSTAT/Namibian%20Constitution.pdf>

Honorable Speaker, and Honorable Members; it is known that our constitution caters to the young & old as expressed in Article 95[g]², with provisions that take care of those unable to do so for themselves. It is with this that I stand to make a clarion call to action on behalf of People With Disabilities in the Kavango East & West region. The population of People With Disabilities from the above-mentioned regions has for years been isolated from meaningful access to education and social development with a fully functional educational centre that meets their specialized needs. According to the Namibia Intercensal Demographic Survey Report of 2016³ was it confirmed that the 2 Kavango regions have the 2nd most PWD's following the Ohangwena region, furthermore it is known that most of these community members rely either on government grants, if they are registered for disability grants or family members to make sure they are educated & well taken care of. I had the firsthand experience when I got the opportunity to know about Makanga Mushongo⁴ from Rundjarara village who for most of his childhood never seen the walls of a classroom, he and a number of more than 18 000 residents in the Kavango regions are excluded from decent schooling & care by virtue of being a PWD, according to the NSI statistics of 2016.

If the government of Namibia can provide free basic education, safety and access to State resources for any child; surely should we as parliamentarians ensure that Mushongo has access to school and become a productive citizen like any other Namibian.

² Ibid.

³ Namibia Statistics Agency, 2017. Namibia Intercensal Demographic Survey 2016 Report. Namibia Statistics Agency

⁴ <https://nbcnews.na/node/101698>

Coming to my conclusion.

Honorable Speaker, and Honorable members; if we are to investigate the existing statistics from NSI, will this august House understand the urgency of this motion. That's why I seek the support of this august House for the benefit of many men, women & children living with disabilities from the Kavango East & West regions.

Herewith are my recommendations for your consideration.

- a) Allow the relevant line Ministry to present an Action Plan that includes the construction of specialized Centre's to cater for the needs of People With Disabilities in the 2 Regions,
- b) Integration of this Action Plan in the current NDP and other government developmental programmes.

I herewith submit this motion as a matter of urgency to the relevant Standing Committee for investigation & recommendations to report back to this assembly within (90) days.

I thank you, and I so move.