



Thursday, 5 October 2023

No. 19 - 2023

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

# QUESTIONS

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>MINISTER:</b>	<b>QUESTION NO.</b>
1. Prime Minister .....	129, 153, 159
2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation .....	156,175
3. Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security .....	150
4. Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs	
5. Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises .....	131, 152,176
6. Minister of Education, Arts and Culture .....	155, 158
7. Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare .....	151
8. Minister of Health and Social Services .....	141, 157, 162
9. Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation .....	144, 160, 163
10. Minister of Mines and Energy .....	130
11. Minister of Justice	
12. Minister of Urban and Rural Development .....	142, 143, 147,177,178
13. Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism .....	146

14.	Minister of Industrialisation and Trade	
15.	Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform .....	140, 154
16.	Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources	
17.	Minister of Works and Transport .....	164
18.	Minister in the Presidency .....	148
19.	Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service	
20.	Minister of Information and Communication Technology	
21.	Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation .....	136

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**Question 129 (2023-07-11)**

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Regarding Ministers who receive S&T from State parastatals. Honourable Minister, it has come to media headlines that the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Hon. Itah Kandjii-Murangii received an amount of N\$ 310 400 in S&T for traveling purposes in July last year. This raises concerns because the university has a history of targeting disadvantaged students who failed to pay tuition fees, at a value that is lower than the amount dashed out to the Minister by the university. Furthermore, the kleptocratic nature of some Ministers to loot State resources under the disguise of ‘S&T’ is alarming. It is in light with the above statement that I proceed to ask the following:

1. Can the Minister provide which policies and procedures that permits Ministers to solicit traveling S&T from State parastatals?
2. If there is an existence of such policies, what are the mechanisms in place to ensure that tax payers’ money is not spent on unproductive trips, and that corruption is limited?
3. How many Ministers have benefited from requesting S&T from parastatals, and at what value? Can it be made public?
4. If such requests are provided for via a policy, why has it not been reported back to the August House during the budget debates?

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**Question 130 (2023-07-11)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy.

Regarding the current issue of lead exposure among infants and children in Rosh Pinah, there have been allegations of a potential cover-up by the mining company, Trevali

Mining Corporation, which happens to be one of Namibia's largest and most significant lead and zinc mines.

A medical report exists that reveals the findings of lead concentration tests conducted on 30 children. According to the report, all 30 children exhibited high levels of lead in their blood. These tests were performed by a medical doctor who was previously employed by the mining company. The doctor recommended concrete measures be taken and advised the company to inform the Ministries of Health and Social Services, Mines and Energy (Mining Commissioner), and Environment, Forestry and Tourism (Environmental Commissioner). Unfortunately, the doctor's contract was abruptly terminated, and he subsequently relocated to Cape Town. It's worth noting that the doctor's employment contract contained a Non-Disclosure Clause, prohibiting him from contacting anyone outside the scope of his employment. Nevertheless, he compiled a report that has been in existence for the past three years. The local clinic in Rosh Pinah is well aware of this situation; however, it appears that Trevali Mining Corporation is attempting to suppress this matter from becoming public knowledge. The health implications of lead exposure in children are significant. At high levels of exposure, lead can severely impact the brain and central nervous system, potentially leading to coma, convulsions, and even death. Another medical doctor conducted tests on 10 children, and in one instance, a one-year-old baby exhibited a lead concentration of 25 in the body, while a two-year-old child had a concentration of 22. The blood lead reference value (BLRV) for children should not exceed 5 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ). In some countries, a blood lead reference value of 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  is utilized. If this lower value were applied in Namibia, it is possible that more children would be identified as having lead exposure.

This would enable parents, doctors, public health officials, and communities to take early action to reduce the children's future exposure to lead. Children who survive severe lead poisoning may experience intellectual disabilities and behavioral disorders. Even at lower levels of exposure that do not produce obvious symptoms, lead is known to cause a range of injuries across multiple body systems. Lead is distributed throughout the body, including the brain, liver, kidneys, and bones. It accumulates over time in the teeth and bones, and during pregnancy, lead in bone can be released into the blood, thereby becoming a source of exposure for the developing fetus. It is important to note that there is no known level of lead exposure that is without harmful effects. One week ago, officials from the Ministry of Health and Social Services visited the clinic in Rosh Pinah to assess the situation on the ground.

Questions:

1. Honourable Minister, I would like to inquire if you are aware of the existence of a medical report compiled by a former medical doctor employed by Trevali Mining Corporation?
2. Has Trevali Mining Corporation informed you about the elevated lead concentration levels found among children in Rosh Pinah?
3. Is the Mining Commissioner informed about the lead exposure issue and the alleged cover up by Trevali Mining Corporation?
4. Has the Mining Commissioner dispatched a team of investigators to Rosh Pinah to assess the lead exposures and determine the necessary remedial actions?

5. Honourable Minister, I understand that officials from the Ministry of Health and Social Services were sent to Rosh Pinah to meet with the clinic administration. Could you provide us with information on when you plan to conduct joint meetings with your Cabinet colleagues, the Ministers of Health and Social Services, and Environment, Forestry and Tourism, in order to investigate these issues thoroughly and deliver a comprehensive briefing to this esteemed House?

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**Question 131 (2023-07-12)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises.

It has come to my attention that there have been recurring concerns regarding the utilization of subsistence and travel allowance funds by various Ministers, with a recent focus on the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, who is alleged to have benefited from such claims across multiple public enterprises within the education sector. However, it is worth noting that this issue extends beyond the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, as it appears that several Ministers have also availed themselves of similar arrangements.

During the Fishrot trial, former fisheries minister Bernhardt Esau explicitly mentioned how Ministers would exploit these opportunities to claim excessive subsistence and travel allowances, thereby accumulating substantial financial gains. Furthermore, it is important to highlight that there is currently no provision within the Public Enterprises Governance Act that explicitly authorizes Ministers to request subsistence and travel allowances from Public Enterprises.

In light of these circumstances, I seek clarification from the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises regarding the legitimacy and appropriateness of these claims made by Ministers, particularly with regard to Public Enterprises. Additionally, I request information on any directives or guidelines in place, or any potential plans to establish them, to ensure proper governance and oversight of subsistence and travel allowances within the context of Public Enterprises.

Therefore, the following questions:

1. Hon. Minister, are you aware that the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and his Personal Assistant has been always claiming subsistence and travel allowances from the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) to attend COP (Conference of the Parties) meetings every year? COP is the main decision-making body of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC).
2. Will you investigate such claims against the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and his Personal Assistant and publish such findings/avail it to this August House?
3. Hon. Minister are you aware that even the former Minister of Environment and Tourism, Uahekua Herunga (now Swapo Deputy Secretary-General) used to claim subsistence and travel allowances from the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) during his short stint as the Minister of Environment and Tourism?
4. Will you investigate such claims against the former Minister of Environment and Tourism and publish such findings/avail it to this August House?

5. Hon. Minister can you confirm or deny that when the Public Enterprises were transferred to your Ministry, you received subsistence and travel allowances request made to the Environmental Investment Fund by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism but you refused to accede to such requests arguing that it is wrong and that all Ministries must budget for subsistence and travel allowances. Kindly produce such a letter of request by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and your concomitant response?
6. When will you develop laws, regulations, policies prohibiting the Executive and their support staff from requesting subsistence and travel allowances from public enterprise operating in their sphere of control?
7. Hon. Minister, can you investigate written letters to all the Managing Directors, Chief Executive Officers of all the public enterprises and request them to provide whether they have not received subsistence and travel allowances requests from the Executive, and the amounts thereof?

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**Question 136 (2023-09-05)**

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation.

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) has been embroiled in a protracted fight between members of former Council as well as infighting among senior members of its Management. The university has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons from allegations of nepotism, tribalism, abuse of power and theft culminating in an ongoing investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) against the Vice-Chancellor.

The former Chairperson of Council warned that '*the institution faces mayhem if critical governance shortcomings are not addressed*'<sup>1</sup>. The crisis at NUST therefore highlights the fundamental challenge faced by higher education, especially when it concerns the erosion of corporate governance, and the comments by the former Chairperson of Council must not be taken lightly. It is clear that NUST is on the verge of collapse and it has become imperative that the Minister intervene.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. Can the Honourable Minister provide a comprehensive analysis and account to this August House as to what has led to the collapse in leadership and corporate governance at the Namibia University of Science and Technology under her watch as the responsible line Minister?
  2. Has it not become prudent that the Minister appoints the three (3) members of the Panel of Enquiry established in terms of section 37 of the Higher Education Act 26 of 2003<sup>2</sup> (as amended) to investigate the collapse in corporate governance at NUST pursuant to section 37(2)(a) of the Act<sup>3</sup>?
  3. Lastly, but most fundamentally, how long will NUST have an interim Council while we wait on the Minister to appoint a substantive Council in terms of Section 7 of the Namibia University of Science and Technology Act 7 of 2015<sup>4</sup>?
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**Question 140 (2023-09-12)**

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.

As is common cause, approximately 92% of the country is defined as very arid, arid or semi-arid, and its rainfalls are rare and erratic. In the last decade, Namibia's government declared national emergencies three times due to severe droughts that caused substantial harm to the country's agriculture and economy.

Farmers are now using a combination of nuclear techniques and a water-saving irrigation technology, known as small-scale drip irrigation, for watering their fields. Based on cosmic ray neutron sensors, which provide real-time data on soil moisture, farmers can deliver small but precise amounts of water directly to the plants. We understand the science behind drip irrigation, to be made possible with the help of nuclear and isotopic techniques that can measure moisture levels in both the soil and the plants, and enables farmers to work out exactly how much water and nutrients to use and when.

Irrigation has been a cornerstone of agriculture for thousands of years and has helped food production expand apace with population growth. Today, the 18% of global cropland that receives irrigation water accounts for about 40% of global food production. It is understood that the Namibian government is developing programmes to enhance food security and strengthen food production. The plan includes increasing yields of major crops, such as maize, sorghum and cowpea by 25 to 50 per cent. As part of these efforts, the government is exploring the possibility of introducing more small-scale drip irrigation systems to increase the efficiency of agricultural output, protect water resources and expand the cultivation of other high-value crops.

I, therefore, wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Can the Minister of Agriculture provide this August House with the current number of rural areas or known communal areas within the country that have functional irrigation projects, specifically those that yield harvests contributing to our national food production?
2. In pursuit of a deeper understanding of the efficacy of these projects, may the Minister furnish this August Assembly with the most recent data pertaining to the turnover capacity of rural areas operating under drip irrigation systems in Namibia?
3. To facilitate a nuanced evaluation, I request the Minister to present a detailed breakdown of the water capacity of each existing drip irrigation project across the nation. This should encompass the precise capacity of each individual project, alongside their respective geographical locations for reference.
4. It is of paramount importance to ascertain the extent of support that the government extends to the promotion of drip irrigation technology. To this end, could the Minister elucidate the number of hectares of land allocated by the government annually to bolster drip irrigation schemes in rural and communal areas within our nation?
5. I seek clarification on the strategies and mechanisms the government intends to employ to assist and incentivize farmers who demonstrate a commitment to investing in drip irrigation schemes.

6. Building on the notion of expanding the reach and efficacy of drip irrigation, could the Minister provide an accurate figure regarding the total hectares of commercial farms currently benefiting from drip irrigation technology?
7. Additionally, I am interested in understanding the overarching policy framework designed to augment and replicate successful models similar to that of Morocco, wherein drip irrigation has been notably successful. Does a policy to that effect exist?

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**Question 141 (2023-09-12)**

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Universally, it is strongly held that quality, affordable and accessible health care is the foundation for our citizens to lead productive and fulfilling lives and for our country to have a strong economy.

Without a doubt, health is an essential part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, the SDG 3.8 target aims to achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

Without UHC, we will not be able to make the most of our strongest asset: human capital.

I, thus, put to you Honourable Minister, the following questions:

1. What is the current *status quo* as regards Namibia's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) policy framework?
2. Has a feasibility study been conducted in this regards, and if so, when does the government envisage to fully implement UHC policy framework?
3. How do we, as a country, ensure that people have access to the health care they need, when they need it, wherever they live, without suffering financial hardship?
4. What is the current *status quo* regarding the PSEMAS in the light of recent plans to ensure sustainability of the Medical Aid Scheme?

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**Question 142 (2023-09-12)**

Hon. Auchab (UDF) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development.

Uis was downgraded to a Settlement in 2010, we are in the 13th year after downgrading. With the current economic activities taking place in Uis, I am convinced that Uis deserve to be upgraded to the level of a Village. This move will pursuit sustainable development, effective governance and an improved quality of life for all residents of Uis.

1. May the Honourable Minister share the progress of Uis after 13 years under the care of Erongo Regional Council, and how often does the Ministry receive reports from the Erongo Regional Council?
2. What criteria has been used to monitor the progress of Uis to regain its status?
3. Lastly, Honourable Minister, what is the criteria that Uis needs to meet before it can be declared as a village again?

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**Question 143 (2023-09-12)**

Hon. Auchab (UDF) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development.

The case of Mr Khamseb is provocative Honourable Minister, the pain is too much, your knee is on Khamseb's neck and he cannot breath.

Because of justice, I personally consulted you and your Deputy Minister on separate occasions over this case.

Secondly, I brought you and the Regional Councilors and Governor of Kunene on the same table to discuss the issue and to find a solution.

Thirdly, if you remember Honourable Minister, we had a very fruitful discussion on the spot where you are seated now, together with the right Honourable Prime Minister over the same case.

Honourable Minister, after all this meetings, you have withdrawn the case against Mr. Khamseb, meaning there is no case against Mr. Khamseb.

But Honourable Minister, as I speak, Mr. Khamseb's employee number to receive his salary is not yet issued by your Ministry for 2 years, meaning Mr. Khamseb has not been paid for more than 2 years now, but still (he) Mr. Khamseb is serving Kunene Regional Council and your Ministry loyally and diligently.

1. Honourable Minister, do you have any other legal reason as to why Mr. Khamseb cannot be issued with an employee number to receive his monthly salary?
  2. How would you react if you were not paid for more than 2 years and only surviving on S & T and workshops allowances?
  3. I demand to get a prompt response from you as the head of the Ministry as it is unfair to treat a patriotic Namibian Citizen who is serving the Government and the people of the region, even though you have decided to withhold his salary till date.
  4. Honourable Minister, you must come clear as to what is the issue here. Is Mr. Khamseb being treated like this, because he is affiliated with UDF?
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**Question 144 (2023-09-12)**

Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation.

A private medical company trading under the registered name of Paramount Health Care Centre (Pty) Ltd on 9th March 2017 unlawfully retrenched six female employees without following the set provisions and requirements of Section 34 of the Labour Act 11, 2007. Honourable Minister, one of the selected employees, a certain Ms. Shireen Rooi was on maternity leave; been eight months pregnant at the time she was served with a notice stating her last day will be 13th April 2023.

Paramount Health Care Centre (Pty) Ltd received medical records from Ms. Shireen Rooi that she was due for her confinement, but opted to serve her with a letter of retrenchment on 9th March 2017. Ms. Shireen Rooi's confinement was on 22nd April 2017, whilst her employment was terminated on 13th April 2017. Section 26(5) of Part D of the Labour Act 11, 2007 sets out the following; "An employer must not dismiss an employee during her maternity leave or at the expiry of that leave on any grounds contemplated in section 34.

Furthermore, a certain Ms. Jolean Louw was also part of the six selected employees that applied for annual leave on 8th March 2017, which was approved by the Director of Operations and she was also served with the notice of retrenchment on 9th March 2017. The actions of Paramount Health Care Centre (Pty) Ltd violated Section 30(5)(a) and Section 33 of the Labour Act 11, 2007 which sets out that an employer must not give notice of termination during any period of leave to which the employee is entitled in terms of Part D of this Chapter.

Honourable Minister, on 19th April 2017, Ms. Jolean Louw and Ms. Shireen Rooi referred a dispute of Unfair Labour practices to the Office of the Labour Commissioner. The first female Arbitrator who adjudicated over the case and who later on was recused from the dispute by the Labour Court of Namibia on 20th March 2020 had private discussions with Paramount Health Care Centre (Pty) Ltd Operational Manager without the knowledge of the applicants regarding their legal Aid funding which was approved by the Directorate of Legal Aid through a formal application. These and some other irregularities contributed to this case being unresolved.

To this very date, the dispute filed by the applicants has not been arbitrated yet. This very dispute is still at the conciliation stage and has reached the six-year mark ever since 19th April 2017.

If, therefore, wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. The first female Conciliator/Arbitrator that was assigned and appointed by the Office of the Labour Commissioner was recused by the Labour Court of Namibia on 20th March 2020 due to her lack to adjudicate properly over the dispute and the gross procedural irregularities she committed as an Arbitrator. Are the competencies of the Conciliators/Arbitrators up to standard and how are their performances assessed and monitored?

2. The second Conciliator/Arbitrator that was assigned and appointed by the Office of the Labour Commissioner refused and denied the applicants their Constitutional Right as set out by Article 12(1)(a) right to present their material evidence before the arbitrator during the arbitration proceeding. How will this unjust practice be resolved?
3. How will your office ensure that the unfair dismissal of Ms. Shireen Rooi during her maternity leave is resolved and she is fairly compensated?
4. How will your Ministry ensure that the unfair retrenchment of Ms. Jolean Louw during her annual leave is addressed and she is fairly compensated?
5. Will the other four employees who were also unlawfully dismissed be reinstated and compensated?
6. Honourable Minister, written complaints have been submitted to the Labour Commissioner Mr. Henry Kassen as well as the Deputy Labour Commissioner Mr. Kyllikki Sihlahla during December 2018 and again during March 2023. Until this present date, your Office as well as the Office of the Labour Commissioner has not yet reverted to Mrs. Jolean Louw regarding her formal complaint on how the Office of the Labour Commissioner as well as the arbitrator have administered and adjudicated over her dispute filed on 19th April 2017. When will your Office address this already long overdue Labour Dispute as a matter of urgency?
7. Can your Office provide this August House with an overview of the general performance of the Office of the Labour Commissioner, the number of unresolved Labour Disputes, the challenges encountered, and how these challenges can promptly be addressed?
8. What measures does the Office of the Labour Commissioner have in place to ensure compliance from different employers on the rulings made by the Labour Commissioners Office?

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**Question 146 (2023-09-12)**

Hon. Isaaks (LPM) asked the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

The National Policy on Tourism and Wildlife Concessions on State Land refers to a concession as “the right, whether full or restricted or shared or exclusive to conduct tourism activities and/or to commercially use of State owned plant and/or animal resources (collectively referred to as wildlife resources) on business principles in proclaimed protected areas and any other State Land for a specified period of time.”

Further the granting of concessions in Namibia by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, and previously other authorities, dates back over several decades. The concessions mostly for tourism, hunting and timber in proclaimed protected areas and on communal land.

Concessions also create opportunities for business development and the economic empowerment of formerly disadvantaged Namibians through the tourism, hunting and forestry industries.

Communal conservancies, on their part, are self-governing, democratic entities, run by their members, with fixed boundaries that are agreed with adjacent conservancies, communities or land owners.

The first four communal conservancies gazetted in 1998 were NyaeNyae in the east of Namibia; Salambala in the north east, on the border to Botswana ≠Khoadi-//Hôas, in the Kunene Region; and Torra, spreading westwards towards the Skeleton Coast.

These pioneer conservancies established the model for economic survival and growth in harsh rural settings. As legal entities with wildlife utilisation plans, they were allowed to hunt. Broadly, hunting falls into two areas: trophy hunting, which brings income to pay for game guards and anti-poaching activities, and meat harvesting, which provides a valuable dietary supplement.

For those conservancies with tourism potential, tourism enterprises were established through joint ventures with the private sector, which could bring capital and experience.

As wildlife numbers grew and were sustained by conservation measures, lodges found a sure footing in some conservancies, bringing income and creating employment.

However, not all conservancies have the potential to earn strong incomes from trophy hunting or tourism. Many are on marginal land with little wildlife, but with a strong conservation value to Namibia.

The latter makes it curious whether and how successful and profitable the average conservancy and how concession holders actually become prosperous and empowered in Namibia.

Questions:

1. How many concessions are gazetted as of 31st August 2023 and where are they found? If possible, can the Honourable Minister provide a list?
  2. Who are the beneficiaries of the concessions, and how are such benefits determined and distributed or disbursed if such benefits are monetary?
  3. How many conservancies are registered and gazetted, and where are they found?
  4. Does the Ministry have monitoring tools and systems in place that enables it to track the performance of conservancies and tourism activities operated in conservancies?
  5. How much revenue was in total generated over the past 5 years and how was that revenue shared between the State and the conservancies and concession holders?
  6. How many previously advantaged Namibians, who participate as investors, are benefitting from tourism and hunting in conservancies and concession areas?
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**Question 147 (2023-09-12)**

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development.

The Namibian working class confronts formidable challenges when it comes to unaffordable housing. The burgeoning property rental market, fueled by market dynamics, has left hundreds of thousands of ordinary, hardworking Namibians in the precarious position of being tenants. With housing costs soaring beyond their means, exacerbated by stagnant wages struggling to keep pace with inflation, the dream of homeownership remains elusive for many. The gap between income levels and the cost of urban land and housing continues to widen, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive housing policies and initiatives that can provide affordable and sustainable housing solutions for Namibia's working class. This factors are well elucidated in a book by revered financial writer Chloe Timperley in her book titled "*Generation Rent: Why You Can't Buy A Home Or Even Rent A Good One*".

It is therefore undeniable that the significant majority of our working class people cannot afford to purchase a property of their own, and have resorted to become tenants and rent. The harsh reality unfurls as rental rates in Namibia reach exploitative and exorbitant heights, pushing tenants into the labyrinth of subpar housing options while greedy landlords fatten their coffers. This crisis ought to have been resolved by the proposed Rent Control Bill, which is earmarked to operationalise the Rent Control Board in an effort to control renting prices in our city, towns and villages as well as handle and investigate complaints between tenants and land lords. It does appear however, for reasons known only to himself, that the Minister has been dragging his feet in bringing this crucial piece of legislation which would bring relief to tenants across our country to Parliament for debate.

This is despite the fact that under Pillar 3 of the of the Harambee Prosperity Plan 2 (Social Progression), the SWAPO government promised to "Promulgate the Rent Control Bill by the end of 2021 to enable the operationalization of Rent Control Board(s) and implementation of Rent Control Measures"

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. Why has the Honourable Minister dragged his feet in bringing the Rent Control Bill to Parliament?
  2. When can we expect the Honourable Minister to table the Rent Control Bill in Parliament?
  3. What are the hindrances in bringing this crucial piece of legislation to this August House?
  4. Last but not least, what is the ideological posture of the SWAPO government regarding the property renting market in relation to the larger question of the inadequate mechanisms in place to address housing shortages across our local authorities in the country?
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**Question 148 (2023-09-13)**

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister in the Presidency.

It is widely known that the Presidential Economic Advisor, James Mnyupe, who is also the Green Hydrogen Commissioner, has been assigned to manage the Green Hydrogen (GH2) Implementation Authority Office at the Ministry of Mines and Energy under the GH2 Namibia Program.

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following questions:

1. Given that Mr. James Mnyupe holds multiple roles as the Presidential Economic Advisor, the Green Hydrogen Commissioner, and the manager of the Green Hydrogen Implementation Authority Office, is there not a risk of duplication of duties?
  2. How does the Government justify one individual holding multiple roles across different public sectors, and what measures are in place to prevent potential conflicts of interest?
  3. Are there established procedures for ensuring that the tasks and responsibilities in each of Mr. Mnyupe's roles are distinct, to avoid redundancy and ensure effectiveness?
  4. Does the appointment of the same individual to multiple roles violate the principles of separation of powers, especially if the roles are meant to have checks and balances on each other?
  5. How does the Government ensure that the roles of Presidential Economic Advisor and Green Hydrogen Commissioner do not overlap or conflict with the duties of the Green Hydrogen Implementation Authority Office?
  6. What are the key performance indicators (KPIs) for each role Mr. Mnyupe holds, and how is his performance being objectively evaluated?
  7. Is there a documented rationale for assigning these multiple roles to a single individual, and if so, could it be made transparent for public scrutiny?
  8. Given the multiple hats worn by Mr. Mnyupe, how is the Government ensuring that the policies and strategies of the Green Hydrogen Implementation Authority Office align with the broader economic objectives advised by the Presidential Economic Advisor?
  9. Are there protocols for the Presidential Economic Advisor to recuse himself from discussions and decisions that may affect the GH2 Namibia Program, to prevent any perception of conflict of interest?
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**Question 150 (2023-09-14)**

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.

Four Namibian male farm workers named Bernard Neibeb, Rodney Willemse, Gerson Willemse, and Siefries Uirab mysteriously went missing, according to the family of missing persons the last time that they were seen is when they entered a police car with a Tsumeb registration number.

The four males were out on bail of N\$500.00 (five hundred Namibian dollars) in connection with a stock theft case 108/2017 and were said to have begun negotiations with the farm owner to drop the case and return to their workstation. Thus, the reason that the police officer in a grey police vehicle registered N 307 T, picked up the farm workers to be transported to the farm owners on the 8th of September 2017 and were unreachable ever since. This brought panic to the family members, and the matter was first reported to the Grootfontien Police station on the 11th of September 2017. Subsequently there was a no show of the accused members at set date of the court case on two occasions. It is important to note that the gentlemen where the bread winners of their families and their dependents are left impoverished, without hope and the constant worry of where the next meal will come. When the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare was approached they were unable to assist the children of the missing persons with grants since the status of their fathers are unknown.

It is with the above statement that I shall proceed to ask the following questions:

1. In terms of the Police Act, Act 19 of 1900 the Namibian Police is mandated to investigate reported crimes. Can the Minister provide insight on the status of the police investigation from when the case was reported to their office on the 11th of September 2017?
2. In an article titled 'Over 170 people missing' by Confidante on 3 December 2022, indicates that the Namibian Police (Nampol) has revealed that they are yet to find 179 people including 29 children. Can the Minister provide a detailed report on the statistics of missing person to date, and why the Namibian Police is decelerating in solving cases of missing persons?

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**Question 151 (2023-09-19)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare.

I give notice that on Thursday 28th of September 2023. I shall ask the Hon. Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare Honourable Doreen Sioka the following questions.

On 26 August 2023 on the Nbc news, the minister was addressing the people with Leprosy in Masha re constituency in Kavango East. Kavango is no doubt one of the regions where poverty and destitution is the order of the day. The minister in her address revealed a very good news that all the people in the country and Kavangos in particular are looking forward to.

Questions:

1. Is it true and confirmed that Namibia will introduce a grant of N\$600.00 to all unemployed citizens from the age of 18 to 59 years?
  2. Was the Honourable minister correctly quoted when she was making promises to the Mashare community in the Kavango East that hunger and poverty will soon be something of the past and no Namibian should go to bed hungry anymore?
  3. If all the above are in order can the minister share with us in the house the date this programme will be implemented?
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**Question 152 (2023-09-19)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises.

I am aware of every effort that the government is making to address the issue of unemployment and reduce poverty in Namibia, however we are seated with a serious problem whereby some investors take a large chunk of money out of Namibia circulation to their respective countries, leaving Namibia with no sufficient funds to grow the economy and create jobs for the unemployed.

Thus I ask:

1. Honourable Minister, what mechanisms are in place to prevent these devastating capital outflow to other destinations?
  2. Would you say that you are satisfied with the current trend?
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**Question 153 (2023-09-19)**

Hon. Vries (PDM) asked the Right Honourable Prime Minister:

Government, through the Disaster Risk Fund under the Office of the Prime Minister was expected to start with the roll-out of drought relief food and monetary incentives to farmers by 1 July 2023. This comes after the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform took a decision to assist farmers, especially in drought stricken regions of Omaheke, Kunene, Hardap, //Kharas and parts of Erongo for six months from 1 July to 31 December 2023. The interventions include: livestock marketing incentives, subsidy for transportation of livestock to and from grazing areas, and subsidy for lease of grazing. Most farmers had started moving to new grazing areas from March 2023 onwards. Hence, they are in need of the above-mentioned assistance. To the disappointment and shock, most farmers, those who were to submit their claims, especially for lease of grazing were turned away. Reasons given is that the subsidy is only applicable to those that started moving from 1 July only.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. The Office of the Prime Minister through the Disaster Risk Fund outlined that the long-term strategy of government's livestock support programme is to improve the performance of the livestock value chain within the mainstream supply channels,

as well as to help farmers develop resilience against growing problems of climate change. Is it then not discriminatory, inconsiderate and against the aim of the livestock support programme to turn away farmers for subsidy assistance that started moving to new grazing areas before 1 October 2023?

2. The farmers that will not benefit from transport subsidies to and from grazing areas, as well as subsidies for leasing grazing areas, will they then qualify for livestock marketing incentives?
3. What will happen to all farmers who have badly been affected by the drought from the beginning of the year? Will they also be eligible for assistance from the Livestock Support Programme?
4. Furthermore, Farmers whose livestock sold in the areas of the leased grazing land do not qualify for livestock marketing incentives. How is this justifiable?
5. Right Honourable Prime Minister, you indicated that there is only N\$200 million in the account of the Disaster Risk Fund and an additional N\$600 million is needed to implement the programme so that all affected farmers receive assistance. Where will your office acquire the needed N\$600 million and what impact does the absence of the needed N\$600 million have on the effectiveness of the livestock support programme?

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**Question 154 (2023-09-19)**

Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.

I have previously asked Minister Schlettwein about how far the process of winding up the mismanaged AgriBusdev has gone, as well as the status of the employees and equipment. The Minister reported back to this assembly that as of June 2023, at least 32 former workers from Agribusdev have been integrated into the Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. He further informed the nation that the integration process began in 2022 and is still ongoing.

I wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. How far is the integration process of the former AgriBusdev employees?
  2. When does the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform envision completing this integration process?
  3. Are the absorbed employees still acting as a support team to the Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and Engineering Services (DAPEES), seeing as this was only meant to be an interim arrangement?
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**Question 155 (2023-09-19)**

Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has contracted the Namibian Defence Force company August 26 Construction to build classrooms and ablution facilities at public schools countrywide to the tune of N\$255, 5 million. According to the Construction Industries Federation, August 26 Construction does not have sufficient capacity to execute the work as the company reportedly has an annual construction turnover of less than N\$5 million.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Why was August 26 Construction handed the tender when there is a desperate need for construction work in the private sector?
  2. Can your Ministry please provide this August house with a competitive analysis between August 26 and private companies in the construction industry regarding performance and timely completion of projects?
  3. How many staff does August 26 Construction currently have and when is the commencement of the project?
  4. Assuming that August 26 subcontracted other companies, (which I strongly believe they have), then how was the work subcontracted and who are the beneficiaries?
  5. If August 26 denies that they have not subcontracted other companies, can they therefore please provide Good Standing Certificates from the Social Security Commission which indicates the number of employees and therefore their capacity to have the construction work done?
  6. Does the Ministry of Education's failure to select the right contractors in the past justify the appointment of August 26 Construction?
  7. Are soldiers and employees of the Namibian Defence Force involved in the construction of classrooms?
  8. It appears that August 26 is able to build at a lower cost. Are the workers paid according to Gazetted mandatory minimum wages?
  9. How many staff does August 26 Construction currently have and when is the commencement of the project?
  10. According to the Auditor General Junias Kandjeke, the Audit Report of August 26 for the Financial Years 2019/2020 indicated that there was a cross subsidization of salaries amounting to over N\$3 million from the state, while August 26 and the state reportedly has no relationship. How will cross the subsidization of salaries avoided in this current construction tender?
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**Question 156 (2023-09-19)**

Hon. Hamata (PDM) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation.

People worldwide should live without fear of violence, regardless of their social status, ethnicity, nationality, or sexual orientation.

Recent regrettable incidents in neighboring South Africa, where a Namibian citizen suffered an attack by South African individuals, leaving him blind, highlight the urgent need for both countries to diligently address conditions for a life of dignity for all.

I, thus, put to you Honourable Minister, the following questions:

1. Can the Minister please share with this August House what exactly transpired in regard to the attack on the Namibian man by the South Africans?
2. Was this attack xenophobic?
3. What safety measures are in place to ensure the safety of Namibian Truck and Bus drivers in South Africa?
4. Is government going to assist the victim medically?
5. How will this attack impact the diplomatic ties between the two countries?

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**Question 157 (2023-09-20)**

Hon. Diergaardt (PDM) asked the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Cancer is a leading cause of deaths worldwide, responsible for approximately 10 million deaths every year. Cancer mortality is reduced when cases are detected and treated early. There are two components of early detection: early diagnosis and screening. Namibia has a challenge of late staging and effective treatment of cancer which in many instances results in the deaths. To effectively treat cancer in Namibia, accessibility and accessibility of the treatment facilities will have to be prioritised.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. How many private and state-owned Oncology Centers are there in Namibia and where are they located?
2. Do these Oncology Centers fully cater for the medical needs of all cancer patients in Namibia?
3. Does the ministry not deem it important to establish Oncology Centers or even Oncology Departments at every district Hospital in Namibia?
4. How many state patients have been referred to private Oncology Centers and what were the financial implications?

5. How many State Oncologists do we currently have in Namibia, what training and studying opportunities does the ministry have together with stakeholders to encourage and assist students to become Oncologists?
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**Question 158 (2023-09-21)**

Hon. Diergaardt (PDM) asked the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.

On 10 August 2023, it was reported in the Namibian newspaper that the Ministry of Education has noted with great concern that some schools do not provide parents with financial accountability reports, while at the same time continuing to demand contributions from them. Article 20 of the Namibian Constitution, guarantees the provision of free education to every citizen of Namibia. The article further says the state shall provide reasonable facilities to render effective article 20, by establishing and maintaining state schools at which primary education will be provided free of charge.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What type of contributions can schools request from parents?
  2. How does the absence and lack of these contributions at schools affect the academic performance of the learners and how is the ministry mitigating the absence of these contributions?
  3. Why does the ministry not deem it fit to provide schools with the needed materials/contributions seeing that education is deemed to be free in Namibia?
  4. Understanding that parents also have an obligation towards their child's education, what are the current needs schools in Namibia have that require contributions from the parents?
  5. To what extent are fundraising activities allowed at primary and secondary schools understanding the difference in their financial and material needs?
  6. Is there a limited number of fundraising activities allowed at schools per semester to avoid the disruption of the teaching and learning activities at the schools?
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**Question 159 (2023-09-20)**

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Honourable Prime Minister, I would like to raise a matter of great significance concerning the recent signing of a groundbreaking N\$10 billion agreement between our esteemed government and Hyphen Hydrogen Energy to develop Sub-Saharan Africa's largest Green Hydrogen Project in Namibia.

While the ambition and potential benefits of this project are to be admired, it has come to my attention that the agreements regarding this significant venture have been conducted in secrecy and have not been brought before Parliament for scrutiny and review.

Article 63(2)(d) of our Namibian Constitution grants the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia the responsibility and authority to scrutinize all agreements entered into by the Namibian government. This critical provision is intended to ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful oversight.

In light of this, I wish to ask the Honourable Prime Minister the following:

1. What is the reason behind keeping the details of these agreements concealed and not submitting them to Parliament for proper scrutiny as required by our Constitution?
2. When will this agreement be made available for public consumption, ensuring that our citizens are well-informed about such a significant project that will ultimately impact their lives?
3. Furthermore Honourable Prime Minister, can you explain to this Assembly why the government has opted not to engage in public consulting before committing to such a momentous agreement on behalf of our people.

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**Question 160 (2023-09-20)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation.

Youth unemployment in our country has reached an alarming disproportionate percentage of 47.4%. It is unlikely to significantly reduce to manageable levels. The youth unemployment rate in our country increases drastically year in year out.

Hence I ask.

1. Honourable Uutoni Nujoma what plan or strategies, if any, has your ministry put in place to fundamentally address youth unemployment in our country?
2. Our country is faced with corruption and higher level of nepotism when it comes to employment opportunities, what measures does your ministry put in place to prevent the rot to grow bigger and larger?
3. Often young people are encouraged to study and concentrate on their careers and successfully complete their studies, what appropriate actions does your ministry put in place to ensure that graduates are not eventually parked and rot at home doing nothing
4. Does your ministry in earnest realize that youth unemployment bearers the vicious cycle of poverty?

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**Question 161 (2023-09-20)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.

There is a trend in Namibia, particularly along the Namibia-Angola borders, that Namibia farmers are forced to take their animals into Angola for search of better

grazing areas. This trend has been ongoing for a very long time, I can argue, since independence.

Thus I ask:

1. Until when will the Namibian farmers along the borders continue to graze their animals in Angola?
2. When will the Namibian government provide these farmers with a suitable space for grazing within the Namibian borders?

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**Question 162 (2023-09-20)**

Hon. Isaaks (LPM) asked the Minister of Health and Social Services.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services received the 2nd highest allocation of the National Budget for the past three financial years. Since 2000, the share of spending on the health sector as a percentage of Gross Domestic Percentage has consistently been hovering between 9 and 10 percent, the lowest being 8.32 (eight-point-three-two) percent in 2018 which is still a decent figure.

In dollar terms, this means that the Ministry of Health and Social Services received over N\$ 26 billion (NAD 26 billion) over the past three financial years alone.

Given all the good financial policy and development plans at the disposal of the government and the Ministry in particular, it would be a reasonable expectation that decent amounts of such allocations will be directed and spend at the places that matters most to the public. One should also expect that such spending would go towards establishing a decent public health service and systems. One should expect that the challenges that have plagued the sector for as long as can be remembered will be fixed systematically over time, and that acceptable standards would be established.

This appears not to happen at all and the conditions at Health care facilities remain depressingly disappointing, evidence shows. The challenges of shortages of medical professionals, challenging working conditions and departures of health professionals, persist.

My question are:

1. What percentage of the total allocation to the the Health Minister since 2000 has been spend on upgrades of Primary Health Care facilities, Hospitals and Specialised Medical Services?
  2. What percentage of the allocation over the same period was spent on training of health and medical professionals, in which fild, and how many qualified/ graduated and enlised with or took up employment at state health facilities?
  3. How many health and medical professionals did the state loose over the past 23 years or at least the last ten years?
  4. What were the reason for such departure from the state health services?
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**Question 163 (2023-09-20)**

Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation.

On the 23rd of April 2023, the Employee Representative Committee (ERC), comprising of eight (8) Sperrgebiet Diamond Mining employees was elected, as per instruction from the Company's payroll administrator. The following day, on 24th April, the Company's Management called for a meeting with all employees to notify them of the Company's intention to retrench sixty (60) employees. The meeting took place. In total, six (6) consultative meetings were held between Management and ERC and in almost all meetings ERC complained about the lack of transparency, non-compliance and unaudited documents provided by Management. Henceforth, this practice has raised suspicion that Management is deliberately misleading the ERC.

In terms of section 33(a) of the Labour Act, 2007 (Act No. 11 of 2007) as amended, an employer must not, whether notice is given or not, dismiss an employee, without a valid and fair reason.

Therefore, any dismissal (whether or not notice has been given in accordance with the Labor Act or any contract or collective agreement) without a valid reason, and not in compliance with a fair procedure, shall be regarded as having been taken unfairly.

The current dispute, which has since been lodged with the Office of the Labour Commissioner, is concerning unfair termination of employment, which according to the employees is not compliant with certain provisions of the Labor Act, specifically section 34 of the Act.

According to these employees, it's been almost a month since the dispute was lodged, and no response has been received yet.

I, therefore, put to you, Hon. Minister, the following question(s):

Are you aware, Honourable Minister, of the ongoing labor dispute involving Sperrgebiet Diamond Mining (SDM) and certain employees, and what's the current *status quo* regarding the same?

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**Question 164 (2023-09-21)**

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Works and Transport.

The housing sub-division of the Ministry in question with its approximately 8 354 government quarters provides official accommodation to civil servants. The audit, which has been undertaken by the Office of the Auditor-General, revealed some indicators of inefficiency and ineffectiveness in the allocation and utilization of government quarters, such as that the system of waiting lists does not function properly, officials are not placed on the relevant lists and some lists such as the normal waiting list are not even looked at, and finally, there are approximately 600 officials who are waiting for the allocation of a quarter for more than six years. Furthermore, many of the quarters are illegally occupied and government loses revenue as a result.

I, thus, put to you Honourable Minister, the following questions:

1. How far is the process and when can we expect the finalization of the assets register?
2. What security measures will be put in place to ensure the overall safety of data for immovable assets that will be uploaded in the electronic asset register?
3. When will the occupants of these government houses be eligible to purchase them from government?

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**Question 165 (2023-09-26) (PDM)**

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises

In terms of section 5(a) of the Pension Funds Act, 1956 (Act No. 24 of 1956) as amended, “a registered fund may, if its rules so provide, grant a loan to a member by way of investment of its funds to enable the member to redeem a loan granted to the member by a person other than the fund, against security of immovable property...”

The procedures for Members of Parliament (MPs) to apply for this GIPF loan are that: one must submit a current credit report painting a positive credit profile, a tax certificate in good standing from NAMRA, latest municipal taxes and rates statement (having been settled not more than 30 days prior), and lastly, authorization from the Secretary to Cabinet on behalf of the government. The bank (Standard) must elect whether to approve or reject the client’s application based on the above criteria.

I, thus, put to you Hon. Minister, the following questions:

1. As MPs, where is our money invested and why must we sign an agreement with Standard Bank?
2. How will this loan agreement affect my 1/3, lump sum when I am no longer an MP?
3. The granted loan is to be paid back with interests, do these interests go to GIPF or the bank?
4. MPs’ deductions go directly to Standard Bank, as per the agreement that the GIPF has with the members, so where does the Bank come in?
5. When will civil servants be eligible to benefit from this service?

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**Question 166 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. T. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Information Communication and Technology

Honourable Minister,

Access to information is an inherent right, and this was further entrenched by this August House when we passed the Access to Information Act, 2022 (Act. No. 8 of 2022). One of the inherent pillars which facilitates access to information is connectivity through telecommunications devices, and sim cards are the means through which the mass citizenry communicates and has access to information.

We have taken note that the Ministry, through a statement released on 21 September 2023, has stated that the ongoing SIM card registration deadline will not be extended beyond 31 December 2023, which means that hundreds of thousands of Namibians who have still not registered their SIM cards will be left out of the grid and without connectivity.

It is incomprehensible that the Ministry plans to cut disconnect hundreds of thousands of people's SIM cards and them unable to communicate and without access to information. This is even more egregious because of the fact that there has not been enough dissemination of information to the mass citizenry about the SIM card registration process. The only logical conclusion is that the Minister must extend the deadline for the registration of SIM cards beyond 31 December 2023.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. Is it not logical, and prudent, that the Ministry considers extending the deadline for the registration of SIM cards beyond 31 December 2023?
2. Has the Ministry investigated the hesitation of citizens who are grappling to adhere to registration requisites? If so, how has the Ministry attempted to assure citizens of the process?
3. What collaborative efforts has the Ministry engaged in with mobile service providers, such as MTC, to activate a constituency-by-constituency registration approach, in an attempt to avoid cumbersome travels and prolonged waiting periods for citizens, especially in the rural areas?

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**Question 167 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. Vries (PDM) asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security

A well developed and functioning civil registration system ensures the timely registration of all important events such as births, marriages and deaths and issues relevant certificates as proof of such registration. The Ministry of Health plays an important role in birth and death registrations, including determining the causes of deaths but are unable to issue death certificates. Where unnatural death is involved, the Namibian police ascertain the cause of death. It is important to outline that the civil registration department under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is the only office that can issue death certificates in Namibia. Civil registration, especially the issuance of death certificates must be accessible to all Namibians, especially those in far to reach remote and rural areas.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:



1. People in remote and rural areas have to travel long distances at a high cost to obtain death certificates of their loved ones. When will the ministry decentralise the issuance of death certificates to people in far rural and remote areas?
  2. Stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health and Social Services is a key player in birth and death registrations but is unable to issue death certificates. Why can the government not also allow hospitals, clinics and police stations to issue death certificates?
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**Question 168 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) asked the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources

The fishing Industry is an indispensable cornerstone of the Namibian economy, contributing to employment creation and foreign exchange earnings. An estimated number of fourteen thousand direct jobs as well as many indirect jobs are created by the industry. For many years, illegal fishing activities, perpetrated by Angolan flag bearing vessels, have inflicted major damage to the Namibian fishing industry.

I, therefore, ask the following questions:

- 1) We have seen reports and articles highlighting the continued illegal fishing activities on our Northern border. According to industry sources, these alleged illegal fishing activities have been ongoing for at least five to seven years. What exactly is the Ministry doing to address this challenge, which they are fully aware of?

It is also our understanding that one of the alleged pirate vessels “Sei Whale” has been licensed to work in Namibia? How is that possible? And to what extent have investigations been launched to verify the veracity of such claims?

- 2) The Ministry has allowed and is undertaking an experiment of pelagic fishing between the depths of 150 and 200 mtrs, the request of the pelagic industry. This is also a directive from the Cabinet. Can we get an update on the results of the two month experiment, which was recently completed.
  - 3) Also explain to this House, why the Ministry of Fisheries only took a two-month experimental run on the pelagic fishing of 150 and 200 meters, while the Cabinet Decision has indicated that the experiment must run for three months?
  - 4) Lastly, do the allegations of large outstanding quota fees and levies of Fishcor corporation, owed to the government hold any content. Such alleged outstanding levies and fees refer to the period of 2017/2018/2019. Meanwhile, if the afore going is right, how does the Ministry of Fisheries justify the legal requirement imposed upon the private sector companies, which are not allowed to license a vessel unless their levies and fees are fully paid up, while Fishcor seems to be immune, and exempted.
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**Question 169 (2023-09-26)**

Hon LN Iipumbu ( NEFF) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises

The Central Procurement Board of Namibia's review panel has refused to change its decision concerning the awarding of a N\$1 .3 billion dollar tender to a company whose majority shareholder is a five year old boy. His father, a Zimbabwean national, also has a stake in this company called Cospharm. Mr. Speaker looking at the general uproar this immoral decision has created amongst Namibians,

1. Why is the finance minister quiet on this issue given that his deputy, Honorable Maureen Hinda-Mbuende, has questioned the morality of this action?
2. Mr. Speaker, given the fact that this tender is the first in the history of our country to be won by a child who is barely of school going age, can the finance minister provide for us,,what is the moral basis of this decision?
3. Can the minister of finance inform this house, what the powers of the president are in relation to such a widely contested tender? Can he inform this house why the president can cancel the airport tender and does not cancel this one?
4. Lastly Honorable Speaker. Can the Honorable minister of Finance inform this house when he will investigate the CPBN given the fact that too many tenders awarded by these people have been controversial and what reason is there not to fire its members?

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**Question 170 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. Mootu ( LPM) asked the Minister of Justice

Hon. Dausab about a criminal case that was opened against the Grootfontein Constituency Councilor Hon. Felipe, who ganged up and beat up on one of the Grootfontein Municipality employee and a another resident, viz., Mr: Patrick Tsibeb and Efraim Tsibeb.

The victims reported the matter to the Grootfontein police and opened a criminal case against the Constituency Councilor. The case is noted as: CR65.05.2023. However, the perpetrator in question has not yet had his day in Court.

Mr Tsibeb is constantly being told that the matter has been sent to the Prosecutor General's Office. No feedback is obtained.

It has become a regular feature that the PG's Office delays or sits on matters that regard political Office bearers, and that victims of violence from politically connected individuals are not able to have justice.

I therefore ask:

1. Does the PG, Mrs Martha Imalwa, decide on her own how the criminal justice system must operate, who it must favour and who the justice system must disadvantage?
2. Does the PG use political considerations in her prosecutorial decisions, or does she use her political considerations as a tool of legal application and thereby compromising the functioning of the criminal justice system as it were?
3. Why has the Prosecutor General not yet acted on the matter? Is it because the person in question is a colleague of the PG in Swapo Party of Namibia?
4. Would you agree with me that if the above is the way in which the PG does her work, that the criminal justice system is no longer work for the Namibian people, and that the system would be protecting politicians of the SWAPO Party?

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**Question 171 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. K. Hengari (PDM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development

The Auditor General was not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion, hence the disclaimer.

As if this was not enough, the Auditor General further discovered a lack of adherence to Section 27 of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992). According to this section, the Management Committee is responsible for appointing or reappointing the CEO, in consultation with the Minister. However, it was revealed that the CEO himself prepared a submission recommending his own appointment while it was supposed to be executed by the members of the Management Committee. This discovery highlights potential issues surrounding internal governance and decision-making processes within local authorities.

The CEO of the Council did not comply with the Procurement Act when procuring the services of a Consultant to prepare financial statements, according to the Auditor's report. Additionally, the Auditors were unable to perform a Key Performance Information Audit due to the non-submission of approved strategic and Annual Plans.

I thus ask:

1. As a governing body with jurisdiction over regional and local government, what is the Ministry's responsibility in regards to monitoring the actions of Village Councils, including that of Okongo Village Council?
  2. The recurring incapacity of Municipal/Town/Village Councils to formulate and present the necessary financial reports for audit is a matter of apprehension. What measures and tactics has the Ministry implemented to ensure that Councils possess the proficiency to compile their records in accordance with global accounting standards, such as IPSAS?
  3. Could the Honorable Minister provide an explanation for how a CEO is able to compose a submission for their own reappointment? Additionally, were you consulted on this matter and if not, what justifies such a reappointment?
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**Question 172 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. K. Hengari (PDM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development

The report from the Public Service Commission as cited in the (Auditor General's Report on the Omaheke Municipal Council for the Financial year ended March 2020) found strong evidence that employees in the Human Resource department had committed fraud. Specifically, the report identifies instances of employees inflating their working hours, claiming false overtime payments, and misappropriating funds for personal use. It is my understanding that the employees repaid Council and are no longer in the employ of Council. However, the ineffectiveness and/or absence of controls that allowed for such embezzlement are cause for concern.

On the 5th of August in the year 2020, the Internal Audit Division of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development successfully completed and duly signed off on the Internal Audit Report. Within this report, various findings were outlined and recommendations were provided to address these issues. Despite these recommendations, it has been noted that there has been a lack of progress made by Council in implementing them. This could potentially lead to further complications if these concerns are not addressed in a timely manner.

I thus ask:

1. In what way has the Ministry intervened to ensure that proper and robust controls are in place to prevent any further financial losses and that the Municipal Council upholds the integrity of its statements?
2. Honorable Minister, despite the challenges faced by many municipal councils and even line ministries in implementing recommendations aimed at enhancing service delivery and accelerating development, what measures has your Ministry employed to facilitate implementation, particularly with regards to those proposed by the Auditor General?
3. Finally, does the Omaheke Municipal Council have a Debt Collection Policy, may the Hon. Minister furnish this House with such?

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**Question 173 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. Hamata (PDM) I shall ask the Honorable Minister of Urban and Rural Development,

Honorable Minister, the misuse of power, as we are very aware, has consequences far beyond the individuals it directly impacts. It not only jeopardizes the integrity of fellow leaders but also casts a shadow over the development, democracy, and the rule of law that our nation holds dear. The quest of political progress and justice through the abuse of power is a disloyal path, one that threatens the very fabric of our society. Our citizens, the very heart of our nation, place their trust in us to lead with responsibility and honor. It is this trust that forces us to address these grave concerns with urgency and diligence.

Honorable Minister, for the sake of insight and accountability that will guide us towards a brighter and more just future for our beloved country, allow me to ask you the following questions:

1. Honorable Minister, according to Section 14(2)(a)(i) of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992) as amended and Code 6(5) of the Code of Conduct for members of local authority councils, a two-thirds majority vote is required for suspending a member. However, in practice, this provision is often not adhered to. How does your Ministry plan to ensure that local authority councils follow the prescribed processes, especially when it comes to voting and adhering to the two-thirds majority requirement? And if such is not adhered to, what consequences, if any, are meted out to the council to avoid doing same in future?
2. Section 10(3) of the Act grants the Minister the authority to prescribe a code of conduct for members of local authority councils. Why has the code of conduct not been updated to include the provision for ceasing or forfeiting a suspended member's benefits, despite it being outlined and provided for under Section 10(4)(a)(ii) of the Act?
3. Section 10(4)(a)(i) of the Act provides that a member may not be suspended for a period not exceeding 30 days. When a local authority council extends a member's suspension beyond this period, under what legal authority is it done, and if there is an exception hereto, under which circumstances are provided for by the law?
4. In the case of the Omuthiya Town Council, members were suspended before the Council verified and confirmed whether the minutes of the meeting where such decision was based indeed indicates that there was a two-thirds majority vote of members present. Is it legally permissible for Council decisions, which are in violation of the Code of Conduct for members of Local Authority Council, to be implemented prior to ensuring that indeed there was confirmation as per the formal meeting minutes that there was such two-thirds majority vote of members present? In the failure of such adherence what measures, if any, are applicable to prevent such situations from occurring in future to ensure due process?
5. Honorable Minister, can you provide a clear and detailed account of the events and decisions that transpired at Omuthiya Town Council that led to the suspension of members, including the subsequent events thereafter, the handling of meeting minutes, and actions, if any, taken by your Ministry in response to the situation?

Honorable Minister, when answering the above-mentioned questions, kindly take note that this is a serious matter affecting many Local Authorities, not only Omuthiya Town Council, and we seek a transparent and factual account to address these concerns appropriately.

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**Question 174 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. Hamata (PDM) I shall ask the Honorable Minister of Urban and Rural Development

Despite regional councils having been established more than thirty-years ago, these important bodies are still given limited functions. They have been allowed restricted responsibility for carrying out their own work and controlling their own resources, much of which is still done under agency arrangements. Regional councils have, as a result, been able to build only limited capacity. Their capacity - financial and human resources - must, therefore, be increased to cope both with their existing functions and

the functions which have been decentralized to them. Regional councils should be provided with their own budget to enable them to carry out their functions.

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is aimed to empower the local communities at constituency level with resources to initiate and implement their own development projects as per their needs. The CDF Bill is long overdue, and it is no longer acceptable for people to suffer because the Swapo led government is preventing them from enjoying the benefits that come with independence. The more Regional Councils have own and control over their budgets, the more we can ensure that people have access to and are able to enjoy the fruits and resources of our motherland. Hon. Minister, accountability should be of importance when Councils are provided with own budget since irregularities occur too frequently.

I, thus, wish to ask you, Hon. Minister, the following:

1. Please update this Assembly on what the current *status quo* is regarding the CDF Bill?

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**Question 175 (2023-09-27)**

Hon Seibeb (LPM) asked the Hon. Minister of International Relations, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

The Namibian delegation to the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78) held in New York, consisting of a hundred members, is unusually large, especially considering the challenging economic circumstances we currently face, including rising food and fuel prices.

In this context, I would like to pose the following questions for your consideration:

1. Could you honestly explain the political, economic, cultural, social, technological, environmental, and legal factors that informed the decision to constitute such a large Namibian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly?
2. Can you provide details regarding the total expenses incurred by the Namibian Government on behalf of the taxpayers for the preparations, during the attendance, and after the conclusion of the United Nations General Assembly in New York?
3. Honourable Minister, could you furnish us with a comprehensive list of all members included in the Namibian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly?

**Question 176 (2023-09-27)**

Hon Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises,

PayPal has become the most widely used payment platform worldwide. It has empowered individuals not only in South Africa but also in Mozambique, Botswana, and various other African nations to engage in global commerce using nothing more than a smartphone, a product to sell, and Facebook, Instagram, or Etsy accounts, along with a PayPal account. This accessibility enables them to reach a global market, sell their products, and receive real-time payments. For small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) engaged in internet based businesses, the ability to receive prompt and secure payments is the key to success.

PayPal has fundamentally changed the global economy by allowing solo entrepreneurs from virtually anywhere in the world to pursue their dreams of financial independence. However, it is noteworthy that Namibia is an exception in this regard. Namibians are currently excluded from participating in the global social media-based economy because they are unable to receive payments through PayPal. While some might argue that PayPal does work in Namibia for making purchases, the issue lies in the inability to receive payments. Businesses in Namibia can receive payments through PayPal but are unable to withdraw these payments in cash.

Over the past decade, numerous efforts have been made by various segments of Namibian society, both formal and informal, to draw attention to this issue. This includes efforts to engage the Bank of Namibia (BON), which occurred during your tenure as the head of the BON, as well as reaching out to the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises and The Namibian Presidency.

In light of the above, I would like to pose the following questions to you:

1. Could you please explain why Namibia does not have PayPal as a payment receipt option, given the global significance and convenience of this platform?
2. Does the Honourable Minister fully appreciate the importance of ensuring that Namibia remains internationally up-to-date in financial matters, and thus creating an enabling financial environment for all Namibian citizens to participate in the global economy?

I am eager to receive your insights on these matters, which have far-reaching implications for Namibia's economic inclusivity and global competitiveness.

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**Question 177 (2023-09-27)**

Hon Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development,

I wish to discuss cases involving Councillor Fabiam George, Chairperson of the Ongwediva Town Council's Management Committee, and Councillor Kanelornbe, Chairperson of the Management Committee of Karibib Town Council, both of whom are employed full-time outside their respective local authorities. Such situations are in apparent violation of Section 13(1)(h) of the Local Authorities Act.

It has come to our attention that Councillor Fabiam George is employed as a Trainee Support at the Okakarara Vocational Training Centre, which is located 560 kilometers away from Ongwediva, where he serves as a Councillor. This scenario raises concerns about compromised representation, as outlined in Section 13(1)(h) of the Local Authorities Act. A similar situation has been observed in the case of Councillor Kanelombe, who holds full-time employment in Swakopmund while simultaneously serving as a Councillor in Karibib. Both of these Councillors belong to the SWAPO party.

According to Section 13(1)(h) of the Local Authorities Act, it is incumbent upon Ongwediva CEO Damian Egumbo and the CEO of Karibib Town Council to promptly announce any vacancy that arises due to a member no longer residing or only temporarily residing within the local authority area to which they were elected. Such announcements should be made in the government gazette, specifying the date on which the vacancy occurred and the cause thereof.

Our concern is that while you, the Minister, and the Executive Director, Daniel Nghidinua, have consistently communicated with LPM-governed local authorities on various matters, including less significant issues like the appointment of a Personal Assistant in Karasburg based on rumors,

there appears to be a disregard for the Local Authorities Act when it comes to addressing the situation of SWAPO Councillors who do not meet the residency requirements.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully request that the Minister of Urban and Rural Development provides responses to the following questions:

1. How long have you been aware that Councillor Fabiam George serves as the Chairperson of the Management Committee of Ongwediva but works full-time in Okakarara, rendering him unable to meaningfully discharge his duties as a Councillor?
2. Have you received any communication or minutes of Council meetings from Ongwediva CEO since 2020-2021 regarding Councillor Fabiam George's predicament of not being present in Ongwediva on a daily basis while holding a full-time position at Okakarara Vocational Training Centre?
3. How many councillors of local authorities in Namibia are facing similar challenges, such as those being faced by Councillors Kanelombe and George?
4. Concerning the alleged violation of the Local Authorities Act by disregarding or neglecting wrongdoings committed by SWAPO councillors, what steps have you taken to rectify such anomalies?
5. Will you consider reporting the Executive Director to the Prime Minister for not adhering to the relevant laws pertaining to local authorities in Namibia?
6. Could you explain why you ignored legal advice dated January 2021 from Attorney General Festus Mbandeka, which informed you to remove Councillor George?
7. Given that the Attorney-General advised that the minister has legal recourse to effect the removal of non-resident councillors and "does not have to wait for a political party" to withdraw its member, why have you not taken action independently?



8. The Attorney-General emphasized that you have legal recourse to effect the removal of non-resident councillors and “does not have to wait for a political party” to withdraw its member. Why have you delayed taking action thus far?
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**Question 178 (2023-09-27)**

Hon Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban arid Rural Development

This inquiry seeks to address concerns about the distribution of resources and funding allocations to regional councils and local authorities.

The historical context is essential to our discussion. Apartheid, as a system, thrived on division, creating disparities between the privileged and the marginalized. The transition to democracy, marked by the democratic elections of 1990, was accompanied by great hopes of eradicating income poverty and inequality. It was believed that a new social contract would empower the impoverished and unemployed, usher in a pro-poor, pro-growth political establishment, and dismantle racial and tribal biases in public policies and private practices. This transformation was envisioned to lead to an all-inclusive economic growth trajectory, focusing on economic diversification and rapid industrialization.

The enactment of the Decentralisation Enabling Act 33 of 2000 further raised expectations that funding for capital projects in regional councils and local authorities would gradually increase. However, the Capital Projects Budget for 2023 paints a different picture, one that is deeply troubling. Rather than witnessing the demise of apartheid, we are witnessing its transformation into a self-sustaining system, presenting Namibia with mounting infrastructure challenges.

The shift in the understanding and definition of development following the 2020 regional council and local authority elections in the Hardap and //Kharas Regions marked a significant departure from the patronage system that had been in place for three decades. This shift resulted in a mandate for the Landless People’s Movement (LPM) to govern, leading to substantial structural changes in regional and local government.

A cursory examination of the Capital Projects Budget 2023 reveals what appears to be the implementation of passive economic sanctions by central government authorities against regional councils and local authorities not under the direct control of SWAPO. For instance, in the massive land servicing program, a total allocation of N\$297,266 million is made. However, local authorities under LPM administration in the Hardap and //Kharas Regions are allocated disproportionately small amounts, as follows:

- o Mariental: N\$1.4 million
- o Gibeon: N\$3,000
- o Kalkrand: N\$9,000
- o Stampriet: N\$2.4 million
- o Gochas: N\$946,000

- o Aranos: N\$1.1 million
- o Maltahohe: N\$9,000
- o Hoachanas: N\$946,000

In the //Kharas region the allocations are as follows:

- o Keetmanshoop: N\$9 000
- o Koes: N\$6 000
- o And Karasburg: N\$35 000.

In stark contrast, local authorities under SWAPO's control with similar size and population receive significantly more substantial amounts, such as:

- o Okahao: N\$15 million
- o Okalongo: N\$16.7 million
- o Oshikuku: N\$10.8 million
- o Katima Mulilo: N\$8 million
- o Ondangwa: N\$4 million
- o Omuthiya: N\$3 million
- o Tsumeb: N\$20 million
- o Helao Nafidi: N\$2.67 million
- o Oniungwelumbe: N\$2.5 million
- o Ongenga: N\$1.7 million

It is disheartening to observe such disparities in allocation, especially when local authorities across Namibia, regardless of size and population, claim various phases of project implementation over a specified period. In light of these concerns, I respectfully request that the Minister of Urban and Rural) Development provides the following information:

1. What is the rationale behind MURD submissions to the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises regarding bulk municipal servicing and sanitation allocations to local authorities?
2. Are there plans to make adjustments during the mid-term Budget review in October 2023?
3. What is the purpose of allocating a mere N\$9,000 to municipalities like Keetmanshoop? How can they effectively utilize such a limited budget?

4. Is it not a matter of concern to allocate figures below N\$ 1 00,000 to local authorities? Does this truly qualify as Capital Budget Projects?
  5. Why is there a consistent reduction in the capital projects budget for local authorities' south of the Red Line?
  6. Could you explain the allocation strategy that appears to promote inequality, poverty, and unemployment by dividing and ruling when distributing budgets for certain municipalities?
  7. Do local authorities have a say or are consulted in the unilateral decision-making process that leads to such allocations?
  8. Have any formal complaints been lodged with the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises or the Director-General of the National Planning Commission?
  9. Is there a plan to submit a revised budget to address the underfunding of local authorities' south of the Red Line, which is indicative of early warning signs of ethnic cleansing?
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