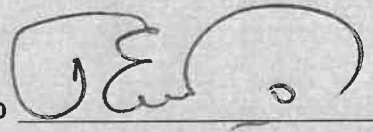


NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Notice of Questions

(NEFF)
Honorable J E P Mukwilongo



On **Thursday 02 November 2023** I shall ask the **Honorable Minister of Finance Iipumbu Shiimi**

Honourable Minister, it has come to our attention that the Cabinet has given the green light to acquire 32 government vehicles at a cost of N\$25 million for the 2023-24 financial year, in spite of a moratorium established by President Hage Geingob in 2020 to curtail unnecessary spending on automobiles. We have been made to understand that in the bigger picture, the government is earmarking N\$180 million for vehicle acquisitions, as indicated in the budget documents.

The media have also reported that this signifies a substantial increase of N\$150.3 million compared to the previous year's expenditure of N\$29.7 million.

Therefore, I ask the following questions.

1. Why is taxpayers' money being used to buy these vehicles when we have hundreds of cars in government garages that can be fixed at a much lower cost than getting new ones?
2. Why are the cars that have been misused and used and are now broken down not being fixed and auctioned so we can raise money from there to get new ones?
3. Honourable minister, your government has been telling the rest of Namibians to tighten their belts and do with what little they have, why is your cabinet failing to do the same?
4. While your government has been crying about having huge unemployment numbers, your boss telling our children that government is not God and that they should thus create their own jobs, why are you failing to create jobs for our hungry unemployed youth and allow VTC graduates to fix these cars?

I so submit

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE OF QUESTION**BY****Hon. Jennifer van Den Heever (PDM)****Signature:**

I hereby give notice that on Thursday, 26 October 2023, I shall ask the **Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Honourable Iipumbu Shiimi** the following:

The role of the Auditor-General in ensuring accountability and transparency in government expenditures cannot be overstated. It is essential that we address any issues and concerns arising from the Auditor-General's findings in a timely and responsible manner. Accordingly, in the Audit Report of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the Government of Namibia for the financial year 31 March 2022, a number of discrepancies have been identified.

I thus consider it prudent to ask the Minister the following:

1. The Audit Report recorded an unauthorized expenditure of eight (8) votes, a total of N\$ 806 854 225.84. With votes such as the President, National Assembly and International Relations and Cooperations account for a variance of N\$ 15214323.12. What justifies these unauthorized expenditures?
2. According to the Management Comment, the Treasury noted the recommendations by the auditor in respect of unauthorized expenditures, and committed to ensuring that the O/M/As that incurred unauthorized expenditures would seek to ensure that control measures are implemented to ensure that the

budgets are executed within the approved ceiling. What exactly are these vague control measures being alluded to?

3. It is further concerning to note that (9) nine very important votes have recorded underexpenditures amounting to N\$ 333 496 946.31. Among these O/M/As are votes such as Urban and Rural Development (N\$ 1 520 686 031. 21) Agriculture (N\$ 124 314 081.81) Water (N\$ 432 482 731.02) What is the basis of the underexpenditure recorded, particularly in the wake of these votes being crucial for the socio-economic benefit of the Namibian people?
4. According to the Findings of the Information Systems Audit, the report found that there are no supportive procedures on registration, keeping track and termination of personal devices. When does the Ministry estimate to implement the recommendation put forth by the audit report?
5. It is gravely concerning that the Auditor was unable to obtain background and verification documents for the employees hired during the financial year. What is the reason for this?
6. According to the auditor's report, the recommendations from the previous audit in 2018 were not implemented and the disaster recovery plan does not have sufficient details. Why were the previous recommendations not implemented and when will the disaster recovery plans and the business continuity and DR documentation be reviewed, as the Ministry committed itself to doing?
7. The audit revealed that from a sample of 25, a total of 9 suppliers' physical documents could not be found and similarly were also not found recorded in the physical register book. Accordingly, an amount of N\$ 4 661 112.96 is not accounted for. Does the Minister care to explain to this August House, how this is possible and where did the money go?
8. It was further found that 80 invoices were paid twice between 14 line ministries, at a total estimated value of N\$ 1 665 681.52. What mechanism does the Minister envision to employ in an effort to better coordinate communication between the Ministry of Finance and Line Ministries regarding contingency payments, to prevent duplicating payments?
9. Finally, has the N\$ 1 665 681.52 outlined above been recovered?

I so submit.