



Thursday, 26 October 2023

No. 22 - 2023

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

# QUESTIONS

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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 pursue 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 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 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 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 questions 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 field, and how many qualified/ graduated and enlisted 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 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 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 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. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Information and Communication 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 169 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. 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 , can the 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 171 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. 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 173 (2023-09-26)**

Hon. Hamata (PDM) asked the 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) asked the 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 Minister the following:

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 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

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?
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**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 and 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 Oniungwelope: 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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**Question 179 (2023-10-03)**

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

As remarked by Mahomed AJ in *S v Acheson*, our borders are porous.

Namibia is poised to be epicenter of sustainable energy in the Southern African Development Community; and mooted to be the modern wealth hub of Africa.

With our comparatively small population and abundance of valuable resources, our porous border makes us vulnerable to illicit activities aimed at exploiting our natural endowments. The faster we acknowledge that we are not only at the risk of a surge in undocumented and unlawful immigration, but also a positive net migration. The foregoing is likely to have an adverse impact on the equitable distribution and utilization of these resources for our own citizens.

Premised on the above, I shall ask the following:

1. What comprehensive visa and control measures are being contemplated to mitigate the risk of a surge in immigration?
  2. Considering the imminent increase in the value of our national assets, what concrete concrete physical and technological intervention are planned for fortifying our borders against unauthorized entry?
  3. Finally, is government assessing the possibility of bringing constitutional change in as far as entitlement and acquisition of Namibia permanent residency and or citizenship?
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**Question 180 (2023-10-03)**

Hon Muharukua (PDM) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

Article 1(1) of the Constitution of our Republic emphasises the sovereignty of our Republic, our territorial integrity, and the autonomy of our people.

One notes with interest that The United States of America has completed the construction of its new consulate. Which essentially spans across a substantial part of a residential block.

According to Article 21 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961: "The receiving State shall either facilitate the acquisition on its territory, in accordance with its laws, by the sending State of premises necessary for its mission or assist the latter in obtaining accommodation in some other way."



Further, Article 22, binds Namibia to a “special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity. “

If one looks the size of our own Parliament, Supreme Court, and many other State institutions, one realizes that they are in no way comparable to the stature of the new US Embassy.

Premised on the above, I shall ask the following:

1. Did Namibia assist or play any role in the acquisition of this residential block for the United States?
2. When was the land acquired; and was the land acquired from any of our of public/ government entities?
3. Is it right then to assume that the entire residential block is deemed ‘*necessary for the mission*’ of the USA in Namibia?
  - 3.1. Begging the question, what is the mission that necessitates the USA to have premises of that magnitude in Namibia?
  - 3.2. In terms of capacity, does your Ministry, or any of our security agencies, know the estimate human headcount/personnel that this building can accommodate at a single occasion?
4. Given the size of the land and taking into account the exemptions contained in Article 43 of the said convention, what is the opportunity costs to the City of Windhoek in respect of municipal charges and levies?
5. In accordance with the said ‘Special Duty.’ Article 22, are there any extra costs associated with Namibia’s duty to protect the premises of the USA Mission?
6. Faced with the military might, technological advancements of the USA and an embassy of such prominence, what measures are in place to protect Namibians against untoward surveillance and other infringements of our privacy?
7. Can Minister assure this august House that the prominence of this mission does not enhance the USA’s ability to act militarily against any member of the SADC neighbourhood, or any of our sister African states?

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**Question 181 (2023-10-03)**

Hon Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Education Arts and Culture:

Today I would like to probe the issue of bullying in our schools. Incidents of bullying are on the increase more especially in schools this side of the redline. We are hearing disturbing cases where some of the kids are committing suicide because they could not cope with the situation at schools any more. The sad version of this is that, most of these kids are not opening up, either to the school management or even to their parents at home. Reasons be that, they don’t want to be seen as weak or they are threatened by the bullies that, if they reveal this to any authority, they will be dealt with severely. As a result, Honorable Speaker, Honorable Members our children are suffering in silence at the hands of these bullies. At the end of the day these kids will end up taking their lives.

I am bringing up this issue because as a parent I recently experienced this at first hand. Just last week here at Windhoek High School, my son who plays in a basketball school team has to go through this. While he was undressing in the changing room, a group of bullies came in, they took his sport shoes and throw it in the toilet pot full of poop. They mercilessly run away laughing. The boy was left dumbfounded; he has to cancel the practice for that day because the shoes are in a toilet poop.

The boy came home to narrate the story. I was very furious and I was looking forward to the next day to confront these kids.

Honorable Speaker, Honorable Members guess what, this boy begged me not to try anything confrontational because he will be in trouble. He told me this is a notorious gang in their school and if they find out that he reported them he will be no longer safe in the streets of Windhoek. The boy begged me not to report it, I was very shocked. I decided to go to school the next day anonymous in order to protect my child.

I talked to the school management to see how best they can protect the children from bullies.

Honourable Speaker, Honorable Members, schools were supposed to be safe havens for the kids. Kids were supposed to be happy going to school to learn and socialize with other kids from different backgrounds. Nowadays school is the worst place where kids are not safe and psychologically disturbed by these bullies notably coming from broken homes where the word love and care is foreign to them.

Hence I ask:

How safe are our kids in the Namibian schools? What is the policy in place to address this issue and how effective are such programmers in schools if there are any to address this very burning issue?

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**Question 182 (2023-10-03)**

Hon Vries (PDM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

The Ministry resettled 37 families at a farm called Otjosazu Unit B 153 in May 2015 near Ovitoto communal land in the Otjozondjupa Region. The people who were resettled are former and current commercial farm workers who are previously disadvantaged and are vulnerable. They hail from the Ombotzu District, in the Okahandja and Omatako constituencies.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Why did the Ministry resettle 37 families on a farm that is the capacity of 1800 hectares?
2. Why can the Ministry not provide bigger alternative resettlement farms to these previously disadvantaged families?
3. There is an existing water debt of N\$300 000-00 on the farm even before the farmers were resettled but the Resettlement Office is insisting that the farmers should pay the water debt. Can you please explain why the farmers are expected to pay the water debt of N\$300 000-00?

4. Access to water on the farm is currently dis-connected. Why is this the case and when will the water be re-connected?

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**Question 183 (2023-10-03)**

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Prime Minister:

Article 41 of the Namibian Constitution directs that “*All Ministers shall be accountable individually for the administration of the work of Cabinet, both to the President and to Parliament*“. This August House has designated Thursdays for the Executive to respond to questions presented by Members of this distinguished Assembly, and this is a critical juncture for exercising checks and balances, ensuring transparency, and upholding accountability within our governance framework. However, the consistent absence of the Executive during these sessions severely undermines the effectiveness of these fundamental principles and renders the attempt to hold the government accountable nothing short of futile.

To give reference, during the previous session of Parliament, 128 questions with notice were tabled, with only 57 being replied to while 71 lapsed. The record reflects that the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform and the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism had the most lapsed questions from the previous session, including the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation who is consistently absent, especially on Thursdays.

As elected representatives, we bear the responsibility of ensuring the Executive branch remains answerable to the public, which necessitates their active participation during parliamentary question time. The continuous lack of attendance by key Executives on Thursdays raises substantial doubts about the government’s commitment to fostering an environment of openness and true democratic dialogue.

The citizens of our nation deserve a government that values and actively participates in the democratic processes designed to ensure their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed. Failure to address this critical issue with the urgency it warrants jeopardizes the integrity and trust in our democratic system.

I therefore ask the Honourable Prime Minister:

1. As the leader of government business in the House, can you explain this frivolous absence of Members of the Executive during question time on Thursdays when they are supposed to come and account to Members of the House and to the nation?
2. Would you agree with me that this continued absence of Members of the Executive on Thursday contravenes the provisions of Article 41 of the Constitution, which mandates Members of Cabinet to account to Parliament’?
3. If your answer to number 2 is in the affirmative, does Cabinet condone this frivolous contravention of the Constitution?

4. Lastly, what concrete measures will be put to rectify this detrimental practice of absenteeism by the Executive on Thursdays and reaffirm the provisions of Article 41 which speaks of Ministerial Accountability?

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**Question 184 (2023-10-03)**

Hon Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Works and Transport:

The Managing Director of the Roads Authority noted that the KFW Development Bank's funding gave them the authority to establish participation requirements, which seemingly results in the absence of muscled medium-sized and large Namibian companies in the bidding process. This has raised questions about the responsibility of policymakers, particularly the Minister of Works and Transport, in shaping the business landscape.

The tone and demeanor of Chinese Ambassador Zhao Weiping were a cause for concern, as he proudly attributed the dominance of Chinese companies in the bidding to their competitiveness. This situation highlights a trend where anchor institutions, such as the Minister of Works and Transport, which are expected to promote the local economy through local procurement, have been favoring foreign contractors over capable local counterparts. This raises questions about when this situation changes, especially in light of the annual celebration of independence.

I seek to understand the class agenda of the Ministry of Works and Transport, particularly with regard to the class content and character of the Ministry's activities. After 33 years of independence, it appears that our country has not seen the emergence of many enterprises that have grown into large-scale companies capable of competing on a regional scale. What measures are in place to foster the development of such enterprises?

Questions:

1. **Class Agenda and Character:** I seek to understand the class agenda of the Ministry of Works and Transport, particularly with regard to the class content and character of the Ministry's activities. After 33 years of independence, it appears that our country has not seen the emergence of many enterprises that have grown into large-scale companies capable of competing on a regional scale. What measures are in place to foster the development of such enterprises?
2. **Funding Partner Influence:** I am interested in your policies on the influence of funding partners, such as the KFW Development Bank, in defining criteria for projects and determining the shortlisted companies. Is it a case of undue influence, or does the Ministry have a say in setting criteria to drive economic growth and empowerment for Namibians?
3. **Policy Amendment:** Could you provide insights into whether your Ministry intends to amend policies to establish a clear-cut class agenda? For example, could we impose criteria that reserve road construction projects under 100km for Namibian companies of all sizes, thereby promoting local economic development and empowerment?
4. **Local Economic Benefit:** I kindly request a comprehensive explanation of how appointing foreign contractors on the Karibib-Usakos road project would benefit the local economy. Additionally, please share statistical information regarding the

economic opportunities for local contractors, local job creation, and the procurement of materials locally.

5. Support for Local Contractors: In the event that local contractors are unable to meet pre qualification requirements, have you expressed concern about the absence of local contractors on the prequalification list? If so, what actions have been taken to support and protect the interests of the local construction industry?
6. Methodology for Exclusion: Could you clarify the methodology and criteria used by KFW to exclude all local contractors? If such criteria exist, why is the Ministry allowing a procurement process that consistently excludes local contractors?
7. KFW's Powers: Does KFW possess extra-judicial powers that allow them to impose their procurement policies without government scrutiny, especially given our 33 years of independence and sovereignty?
8. Socialism with Namibian Characteristics: In the context of your political party's ideology of "socialism with Namibian characteristics," and your implementation of the 2019 Election Manifesto, could you shed light on whether the continued exclusion of Namibian companies in favour of foreign entities aligns with this ideology?

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**Question 185 (2023-10-03)**

Hon Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

Due to the frequent political harassments incited by the Minister, the recent arrests of councillors on the 2nd of October 2023 have come as no surprise. On the 1st of September the Minister wrote a letter to council to oppress and undermine the autonomy of council to resolve administrative matters. The farfetched changes of illegal appointments and changing of bank signatories, was an administrative matter that emanated from council suspending a portfolio and the acting needed to have access. The Minister's selective morality is crystal clear, as he simultaneously chooses to ignore parliamentary procedures, that subjected him to provide clarity on the case of the gross misconduct by the Karibib and Ongwediva Swapo Councillors, who do not reside in their own constituencies. Karibib Swapo councillor stays in Swakopmund and the Ongwediva Swapo councillor stays and worked in Okakarara. This is not only unlawful, but it has slackened the progress of the Ongwediva council to the extent that, they resorted to only having meetings on Friday due to the councillor's absenteeism.

The lap dog of the ruling elite the ACC has exhibited its continuous alliance with the ruling corrupt elites, such as, when Paulus Noa defended Imms Mulunga when he decided to make unauthorized payments, in which he claims were in the interests to save 'Namibia's reputation'. Furthermore when the councillor of Karasburg reported a corruption case of 10 million that went missing, under the administration of the former CEO of Karasburg, they shrugged the case off and concluded that it is internal matter of council. The same ACC has sharpened its tiny teeth to try and cause political instability in regions governed by opposition parties and has lowered its institutional mandate to conduct political rights, for the ruling Party. It is with the above statement that.

I ask the Minister the following:

1. Can the Minister deny or confirm that the arrests of our Councillors who are yet to be charged is political intimidation, and what actions will be taken to ensure the transparency and justice in this matter?
2. Regarding the claims of Swapo councillors not residing in their respective constituencies and their misconduct, when will steps be taken to legally charge the councillors for contriving the Local Authority Act?
3. Can the Minister provide report on the actions of the ACC in relation to the missing N\$10 million in the Karas Council and its contrasting response to internal issues? There is a need to review the ACC independence and effectiveness.
4. Considering the harassment and the witch hunting of Landless People's Movement councillors by Swapo leaders, what measures will be taken to safe guard the rights and security of elected officials in Namibia.

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**Question 186 (2023-10-03)**

Hon Mootu (LPM) asked the Prime Minister:

It is to our knowledge that the matter of the vacancy for the Chief Investigation Officer position at the Corruption Commission which Mr. Phelem Masule got interviewed and appointed for the position is in court. However to point out that it is after a while that the appointment was revoked by the Prime Minister with no due reasons. Mr Masule sought relief from the high court on the matter, and he won the case against the Prime Minister, confirming his appointment as a Chief investigating Officer, Mr Masule has a period of 2-3 years to retirement, and it is not with this intent that the Prime Minister aims to drag the matter, to further deny Mr. Masule the right to work, regardless the based on merit he surpasses all his opponents. However, the PM appealed the decision in the supreme court and in the same vein appointed Mrs. Josephine Kanyangela as Acting Chief Investigator Officers at ACC, the wife of Mr. Andreas Kanyangela, the Deputy Chief Investigating Officer. Hon Prime Minister this is pure nepotism and malpractice from an institution that is supposed to uphold moral values and integrity in society.

Honourable Prime Minister, I therefore ask the following:

1. Mr Noa and the PG are in-laws by marriage and with the current dynamics of nepotism in both institutions, how are these relations not influencing the decision-making in processes involved in both the prosecution and non-prosecution of cases, with a focus on the potential influence on the alignment of public justice system within familiar networks?
2. Is the Prime Minister's decision not an affront on the independence of the ACC?
3. Is it in the public interests and the fight against corruption in this country to have a politician in the position of the Prime Minister override the appointment of an ACC's Chief investigation Officer, when such was dully interviewed and appointed, especially at a time where SWAPO ex Ministers and their business partners are in jail awaiting trial for fishrot.
4. Senior investigators at ACC have alleged that Mr. Noa exerts pressure on investigator to prematurely close some cases even when there is substantial evidence to proceed



with successful investigation. Can you clarify if such allegations have had an impact on the ACC's effectiveness in investigating corrupt individuals without any fear, favour and/or prejudice?

5. Is the appointment of Mrs Kanyangela, Mr Kanyangela's wife, as the Acting Chief Investigating Officer not going to create a situation of having corruption cases and investigation subjected to a pillow talk? Is this even safe for our country, for the couples and the ACC to have a couple in charge of investigations at the ACC?
6. There are several investigators at ACC even with LLB degrees, why can one of them be appointed as Acting Chief investigation Officer in the meantime?
7. Libertine Shiyaleni, an individual, filed an assault case against Sackaria Kuutondokwa, a relative of the Public Prosecutor (PG) Shiyaleni, who was previously employed as a subordinate of the PG at Eenhana Magistrate Court, experienced persistent harassment from the PG. Consequently, she is no longer serving as a Prosecutor, as the PG revoked her delegation after she declined a transfer to Karibib citing medical reasons. Therefore, one must ask the Minister is our justice system secured given that key institutions are overlapped by family appointments and prosecution biases.

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**Question 187 (2023-10-04)**

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

Article 21 (1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees all persons the right to *'freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media'*. It is because of this fundamental right and freedom that Namibia has consistently been ranked at the pinnacle of the World Press Freedom Index, with the country ranking 151 in Africa and 22nd out of 180 nations in the world according to the 2023 World Press Freedom Index.

However, recent events, particularly the suspension of the New Era's Managing Editor Jonathan Beukes, following a publication of an editorial piece questioning the transparency of the Judiciary in our country, have cast a shadow over our exemplary record in press freedom. The suspension of Mr. Beukes, without any valid reasons whatsoever, raises serious concerns regarding the sanctity of the press's independence and the preservation of freedom of expression in our democratic society.

It appears that there is gross interference in New Era's editorial by the government, which is sanctioned by the Minister and Executive Director. It is clear that government wants to stifle, gag or tame a public funded newspaper, just as we are approaching a crucial election year.

Press freedom is a cornerstone of any thriving democracy, fostering open dialogue, unhindered information dissemination, and vibrant public discourse. In light of our standing in the global press freedom index, it is imperative that we address this issue promptly and decisively to maintain the integrity of our nation's commitment to a free and open press.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. What are the reasons behind the sudden efforts to restrict, inhibit, and micro-manage a publicly funded newspaper, particularly as we approach an election year?
2. What are the circumstances surrounding the suspension of the Managing Editor at the New Era Newspaper, and how does this act align with Namibia's dedication to press freedom?
3. Does the suspension of Mr. Beukes imply that the Judiciary is exempted from public scrutiny?
4. What is your response to allegations of political and governmental interference with the operations of the press, particularly as it concerns the New Era and other State funded press?

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**Question 188 (2023-10-04)**

Hon. Mukwiilongo (NEFF) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

We have come to learn through media reports that the Republic of Angola has decided to kick out hundreds of Namibian cattle farmers from the grazing fields of Oshimholo in the southern "Cunene province. Reports estimate that at least 400 cattle posts and or farms in Oshimholo and the surrounding areas are alleged to back into Namibia.

Now can the Honorable Minister provide this house with answers to the following questions:

1. Knowing fully well that this situation has presented itself for the past 18 years, why was nothing done to assist our farmers to the point that today they are to be kicked out as illegal migrants?
2. Where do we border with Angola as Namibia since the area where our people are farming is Oukwanyama? Or have we robbed Angola its area and their people?
3. How are these farmers currently being assisted?
4. Has the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation been in touch with Angola on the matter and if so, what has been agreed?

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**Question 189 (2023-10-10)**

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

Earlier this year I tabled a motion in this Parliament asking that this house discuss in details the conditions of local authorities.

After a short discussion the Deputy Minister of your Ministry Hon Natalia Goagoses took the floor and requested me to kindly withdraw that motion, as she stated that the Ministry was busy with its on review process of the local authority Act and that the Minister undertook courtesy visits to various Regional and local authority Councils in the period from 12 May 2022 to 12 October 2022.



She assured me that this report will be tabled in Parliament soon and it will detail many findings that will be of interest and help in crafting Amendments to the local authority Act.

However following Consultations this week with ECN officials on the new Amendments in the electoral Act. We were informed that there are only two amendments that will come.

The section that will be amended is section 25 of the Electoral Act that provides that a general Registration of voters GRV must take place within a prescribed period.

Then there is an Amendment of section 26 which if approved will entail that voters will only utilize their Namibian Identity Documents during voting. This is a welcome development and one hope that the document is not collecting dust as we speak on your table.

Thus I ask the following

1. Hon. Minister is there really any intention and serious political will from your Ministry and by extension from Cabinet to amend the local authority Act as your then Deputy promised?
2. Since what is on your table now is proposed Amendments to the Electoral Act and not the local Authority Act.
3. When will you table the white paper on local Authority reform in this Parliament?
4. Do you agree or disagree that the local authority Act is outdated and need serious overhaul?
5. Are you really happy with the current legislative framework under which many local Authority operate under?

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**Question 190 (2023-10-10)**

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

It has come to my attention that there appears to be a discrepancy in the compensation provided to Traditional Authorities for the erection of MTC network towers in specific areas, where some receive compensation, while others do not.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. What are the reasons for such disparities in the compensation for Traditional Authorities where some are compensated, while others are not?
2. What are the criteria or factors that MTC considers when determining whether to compensate Traditional Authorities for the erection of network towers in particular areas?

3. Lastly, Hon. Minister, what measures, if any, are in place to ensure fairness and equity in this compensation process?

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**Question 191 (2023-10-10)**

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

In its efforts to eliminate ghost membership, and as part of PSEMAS reform and member re-registration, the Medical Aid Division within the Ministry is demanding that main member submits a latest payslip, and if the main member is married and the spouse is a dependant on the medical aid, such spouse must provide a certified copy of marriage certificate and their payslip/declaration from police if unemployed.

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

1. Isn't the main member's latest payslip a Human Resources (HR) matter?
2. What is the rationale behind requesting the spouse, who is eligible to be on their partner's medical aid, to provide their payslip?

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**Question 192 (2023-10-10)**

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

As school funds are public monies, the management of these funds is subject to the requirements of the relevant legislation, which requires schools to be publicly accountable for the budget planning, allocation and use of those funds.

According to the Guidelines for the Administration of School Finances: Operational Manual, the dignity project allocates N\$5.00 per learner, as well as top-up on sanitary pads and other health and hygiene products. It is also stated in the same document that, depending on the socio-economic circumstances, learners will be required to pay N\$1.00 or N\$2.00 for the items provided when in need during school hours.

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

1. According to the latest data, the Ministry apparently provides N\$ 15 per learner per year for sanitary pads, in your considered opinion, is this amount sufficient?
2. Schools operate in a business environment and their financial practices are subject to various acts and legislation. How many schools have reported in their financial reports on the usage of such money?
3. Your Ministry's Executive Director said that they take the issue of sanitary pads provision to schools very seriously. If they indeed

Take this issue seriously, why are they so afraid to be compelled by an Act of Parliament to provide sanitary pads to underprivileged school girls?

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**Question 193 (2023-10-11)**

Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

On the 2 October 2023 the Anti-Corruption Commission arrested two LPM Councillors and the Acting Chief Executive Officer for doing their work.

Hon Minister, Chapter 12, Article 102(3) of the Namibian Constitution stipulates that “every organ of regional and local government shall have a Council as the principal governing body, freely elected in accordance with this Constitution and the Act of Parliament, with an executive and administration which shall carry out all lawful resolutions and policies of such Council, subject to this Constitution and any other relevant laws

The investigating officer Mr. Stanley Muvangua, who was under oath, expressly stated to the court that ACC was given instruction by the Hon. Erastus Uutoni to arrest LPM Councillors and Acting the CEO. However, Article 94 (3) of the Namibian Constitution stipulates that the Anti-Corruption Commission shall be an independent and impartial body. It is known that for the past 3 months Minister Erastus has been harassing our Councillors and threatening to dissolve Councils led by LPM, if they don’t rescind all decisions that they have taken. The afore-going threat is asserted by Minister Erastus and his cronies, because of differences in legal interpretation, and an inability from the Minister and his team to provide convincing and solid legal arguments.

I therefore ask the following.

1. On what Constitutional and legal basis would you, as Minister, give instructions to ACC to launch arrests against the LPM or any other Councillor? Do you as Erastus Uutoni and Paulus Noa have an ethnic alliance to target specific political and ethnic groups for the purposes of creating a negative public perception about these political platforms or ethnic groups?
  2. Given the fact that the ACC is supposed to be an independent body, is it right that the Minister criminalises administrative decisions of juristic bodies, as though these bodies were directorates within the MURD, through the ACC as the sharp edge of this criminalization?
  3. At the Community meeting you had with the Karasburg community, on 29 June instant, you introduced yourself as the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, and a SWAPO member. Does this type of statement form the basis of your interaction with elected members of other parties, and does this attitude further determine the appropriation of funds provided to certain towns and municipalities by the MURD under your stewardship?
  4. Do you fully, and legally understand the separation of powers and the elected mandate of various institutions of the State, such as local authorities, and their legal and political autonomy, as juristic bodies, as articulated in the Namibian Constitution?
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**Question 194 (2023-10-11)**

Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprise:

In regarding N\$ 1.29 billion, that is missing at one of Namibia's telecommunication company, MTC. Hon Minister, the said N\$ 1.29 billion that has been found funnelled out of the MTC account, at MTC, is allegedly being used to finance the Fishrot Court bill for lawyers representing all the accused persons. A systems administrator detected this transfer of the money. This a clear indication of illegal use of public funds and even possible money laundering.

I, therefore, ask the following questions:

1. Has the matter been reported to the Anti- Corruption Commission (ACC), given the magnitude of the amount of money missing?
2. Could the Minister explain why a government parastatal is involved in financing the legal bill of high profile individuals, or' if he is aware about such an operation being conducted from the pockets of taxpayers funds via MTC?
3. Hon. Minister, it has become a government culture, that parastatals are used to pay for illegal dealings of the political elites, including massive amounts for subsistence and travel allowances for some Ministers, in advancing personal gain at the expense of the taxpaying Namibians. Are you able to definitively state that taxpayer's money at parastatals under your auspices are not used to finance the trials of the Fishrot accused, or any other trials of any other high ranking official, nor for the money to potential State witnesses with a view to undermine the States case against the accused persons.

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**Question 195 (2023-10-11)**

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

Over the past decades, the aviation landscape in Namibia has undergone significant shifts, notably with the closure of Air Namibia, a central pillar of our aviation heritage. This closure has resulted in a number of aviation professionals being absorbed into the private aviation market, stirring a frenzy of challenges and uncertainties for these individuals who had once been integral to a national icon, but it has also left a substantial number of aviation professionals facing unemployment.

A disconcerting pattern has emerged, reflecting a growing concern within our society an underrepresentation of previously disadvantaged individuals in the aviation market. This issue is even more pronounced with the influx of foreign pilots, largely of South African descent, who have been granted work permits and employed at remuneration rates significantly below market rates. This has, understandably, sent shockwaves of repercussions throughout the Namibian aviation industry, impacting its dynamics and creating an imbalanced playing field. In instances where Namibian aviation professionals do find employment, the wages offered fall far below reasonable expectations, with some earning as little as NAD 14,000.00 per month. This stark disparity between the exorbitant cost of training and the meager remuneration offered defies practicality and fairness.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. How does the Ministry plan to address the unfair recruitment processes within the Namibian aviation industry?
  2. How does the Ministry plan to manage the impact of the significant influx of foreign nationals on the local aviation market, ensuring fair wages and ample opportunities for Namibian professionals?
  3. Are there comprehensive guidelines being considered to ensure reasonable wages for aviation professionals in Namibia, especially in light of the high cost of training to obtain a pilot's license?
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**Question 196 (2023-10-11)**

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

In recent years, the aviation industry in Namibia has faced a considerable challenge the formidable financial barrier to training that stands as a daunting impediment for many aspiring local talents. The prohibitive cost of aviation training has rendered this dream nearly insurmountable for numerous promising individuals who possess the ambition to soar through the skies and contribute to our nation's growth.

Despite the commendable efforts of the government to provide financial support to student pilots, a notable shortfall persists. This deficit in funding for aspiring aviation professionals has resulted in a yearly shortage of licensed pilots, amplifying concerns about the sustainability and growth of our domestic aviation industry. Notably, the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) has suspended funding for aviation students until the year 2025 due to a funding backlog, leaving many promising individuals stranded in their pursuit of a career in aviation.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. What steps are you taking to address the NSFAF funding backlog and the cessation of funding until 2025 particularly in the context of aviation students, to ensure that these students are not further disadvantaged?
  2. In light of the exorbitant cost of aviation training, what measures is the government considering to alleviate the financial burden on aspiring Namibian aviation professionals, making this career path more accessible and equitable?
  3. Are there plans to collaborate with stakeholders to establish financial assistance programs or scholarships specifically tailored to support the aviation training needs of Namibian students?
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**Question 197 (2023-10-11)**

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

The Zambezi chief regional officer and three other directors at the regional council were nabbed by the Anti-Corruption Commission on five counts of corruption exceeding N\$4 million. It is further alleged that the corrupt activities were perpetrated from September 2016 to December 2020.

Additionally, the Auditor General previously found that the extension of the employment contract of the Zambezi Chief Regional Officer, which was effective from March 2016 until February 2021 was unlawful. The AG made this finding in a report on the accounts of the Zambezi Regional Council for the FYE 2020. It is my understanding that the said individual is still employed as the CRO of the region, even in light of the following submissions from the AG's report:

“The AG's office advised that the contract resulted in the ultra vires action. Therefore, the auditors observed that the Council approached the Treasury in terms of section 11 subsection (3) that requests Treasury to waive the claim against such person under section 20 that he or she be discharged from liability.

1. Can the Hon. Minister furnish this House with the employment status of the Zambezi CRO, and whether or not a vacancy exists in said position?
2. What measures has/will the Ministry employ to ensure the return of the funds (N\$4 million to be precise) that was lost as a result of corruption?
3. To what extent is your Ministry committed to safeguarding against illicit financial flows at regional council level, and corruption in its entirety?
4. The report further states that Council did not disclose the shares it holds with Nored as required, can the Minister inform this House why this is the case and what has been done to resolve this issue thus far?

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**Question 198 (2023-10-11)**

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

Crimes targeting the elderly and the vulnerable has become a normal practice in Namibia. The elderly who receive the monthly old-age grants are continuously being targeted by criminals on the days they receive their old-age grant payouts at NamPost and at various paypoints across the country. The safety of our elderly is currently being undermined by criminals which must not be tolerated.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. When will the Ministry deploy police officers to different NamPost and other paypoints to safeguard the elderly from being robbed by criminals?
2. Will it be possible for the Ministry to already draw up a plan of action to safeguard the elderly from being robbed during the month of November 2023 when they receive the double amount of the old-age grant payouts?

3. How active and involved is the community policing department within the Ministry to encourage and oversee the establishment of neighborhood watches in different communities across Namibia?

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**Question 199 (2023-10-12)**

Hon. Dr. Iljambo (SWANU) asked the Minister Urban and Rural Development:

The crucial and very urgent matter is, 'construction' activities in a residential area. Before the whole area is infested with acute Tuberculosis, Minister better commission a team for thorough investigation.

Claudius Kandovazu Street is the very last street in Donkerhoek. The open area opposite the street, run 'power lines,' just parallel with the houses.

Historically and by law, no residences or businesses may operate in that space. Several attempts were made by people desperately looking for a place to build their (sink) houses.

Within no time those efforts were quelled. Their plot demarcations were moved immediately.

Few companies with variegated proposals who applied, were also rejected. However, around middle last year, two separate companies started to effectively operate in the area to date. They both process bitumen preparatory stones.

Residents bitterly complained about a barrage of negative effects the operations causes to the area. According to most residents, it ever falls on deaf ears. None seem interested to listen to their grievances.

Hence, the following pertinent, crucial and very necessary questions:

1. Does the Minister and his related authorities i.e. the COW, the Ministry etc., know about the crises?
2. Within a very short period, residents are suffering from dust-related diseases. Are connections and much money business more important than people's health and wellbeing?
3. The dust resulting from these operations cause all sorts of hygiene, health and social challenges. Does the Ministry realize the emergency situation?
4. What did the specific companies offer to whom and more WH questions, to deserve the restricted space?
5. The cases of TB increased in the community (area) since the operation started. Hence, the appropriacy of quoting Chomsky on government prioritizing 'profits over people'?
6. The unusual many times dusting and sweeping is irritating people. Do you, Honourable Minister envisage the usual flags to fly amidst such degradation?



7. Besides the above questions, I implore the Honourable Minister with his relevant authorities to urgently, without fail, investigate the crises before regrettable consequences.

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**Question 200 (2023-10-12)**

Hon.Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister Urban and Rural Development:

The Grootfontein Town Council mirrors a legal challenge that occurred in Keetmanshoop Town Council (Case L. CA 80/2011), whereby the council is predicament where employees were appointed without a full council resolution. In June 2021, five vacancies were advertised, including key positions such as Executive for infrastructure and Technical Services, Finance and Asset Management, Chief of Human Resource Management, Technical Services and Maintenance, and Properties Management. However, the shortlisting and selection process for these positions was orchestrated solely by the former Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Kisco Sinvula, with no involvement from the Human Resource Department. This process was carried out in apparent contravention of the Local Authority Act (Act 23 of 1992), specifically Section 27, that states 1(b) the power to appoint other staff members of the local authority in posts on fixed establishment of the local authority council, as approved by it, and as may be considered necessary for the performance of the work incidental to the functions of the local authority council, shall vest” - (i)” in the case of a municipal council or town council, in the management committee. Further, the Recruitment and Selection Regulations for local Authority Council, particularly Regulations 15, 23 and 24, were not adhered and the process overlooked the Affirmative Auction Policy. The appointed candidates began their roles before their employment was officially confirmed and even participated in signing their employment contracts without external witness. All these contracts were prepared by Mr. Kisco Sinvula without any involvement from the Human Resource Department. The CEO’s suspension in March 2022 is connected to these appointments. He faces various charges, including charges 18, related to the improper constitution of interview panels, as specified in the Recruitment and Sections Regulations for Local Authority Council. The employees involved in this process are Mr. Indileni, T. Lungameni, Mr Anannias Nakale, Mr Gerhart Shimwandi, Mr. Jason Linus, Mrs Fredah Mashazi (Manager Properties - Promotional position, Strategic Executive Technical Services, Chief Manager - Technical Services and Maintenance, Chief Manager - Human Resources and Strategic Executive Finance and Asset Management). Furthermore, there are concerns about the certificate of some employees qualification documents.

In a letter written by the Minister on the 15th May 2023 to the Mayor and Chairperson of Council, the Minister gave the opinion that council should allow the recruitment process to proceed, despite the corruption being alerted. Reason being that council has allowed these staff members to sign the employment contracts are under the council’s payroll. Thus, they have created a legitimate expectancy, the leniency from the Minister is baffling to say the least, as the Minister was quick to point out Karasburg Council’s appointment as illegal. In addition, council have reported the matter to the ACC last year, investigation officers have made their visit to council, but no arrests have been made in connection to the case.

It is with the above statement that I shall ask the Minister the following:

1. According to the Minister’s moral compass why is the Minister being biased, when addressing issue of corruption within the Grootfontien Town Council, but is abrupt



to declare administrative issues of Karasburg as 'illegal'? What are the Ministers alternative motives towards the case?

2. Could the Minister clarify on the similarities and differences between the Grootfontein Town Council case and the Keetmanshoop case (L.CA 80/2011) that reached the high court of Namibia?
3. Can the Minister provide clarity on why you reference the matter as a legitimate expectancy' regarding the illegal appointments of the employees, and specify which existing laws support that expectancy?
4. Why has the ACC dragged the case and has failed to lay charges and proceed with arrests?
5. Can the Minister provide a detailed explanation on how legal these appointments are, considering that the appointment made contravened the Local Authority Act and the Recruitment and Selection regulations?
6. Can the Minister provide more information about the qualifications submitted by these employees and the concerns about their certification by a Commissioner of Oath.

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**Question 201 (2023-10-12)**

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation:

Section 37(1) of the Social Security Act, 34 (Act No. 34 of 1994) as amended, provides for the establishment of the Development Fund.

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

1. Is this Development Fund in operation? If not, what is the justification for this?
2. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Fund shall be applied for the conducting of training schemes and employment schemes approved by the President for the benefit of socio-economically disadvantaged persons who are unemployed. How many socio-economically disadvantaged persons who are unemployed have benefited from the Fund since its establishment to date?

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**Question 202 (2023-10-17)**

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

My inquiry pertains to the fisheries infrastructure project located in Rundu, with a total value of N\$16 million, and that has been in a state of construction for an uninterrupted period of eleven years, commencing in 2012.

Hon. Minister, I trust you will concur that the ongoing infrastructure project in question stands as one of the lengthiest endeavours in sub-Saharan Africa, encompassing an expenditure of N\$16 million, yet spanning an eleven-year period from its inception.

There have been allegations suggesting that the contractor, Africa Civil Engineering, which assumed responsibility for the project on 7th August 2015, in order to conclude the remaining work, may have inflated the cost, an assertion that the Ministry has yet to acknowledge. Furthermore, it has come to light that the Kavango East Fisheries Ministry division has been leasing office space at the Namibia Industrial Development Agency's (NIDA) premises, comprising approximately thirteen offices and two storerooms for its officials, for a duration exceeding a decade.

In light of the foregoing, I would like to pose the following inquiries:

1. Minister, could you provide a timeline for the resolution of this protracted crisis?
2. To date, what is the total expenditure incurred by your Ministry on this project, including any cancellation fees?
3. Could you elucidate the number of contractors that have been involved in this project since its commencement, and how much has been expended on this infrastructure development initiative?
4. What punitive measures or legal actions have been initiated against the contractors who abandoned the project site?

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**Question 203 (2023-10-17)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister Sport, Youth and National Service:

Recent events, notably the soccer match between African Stars and Eeshoke Chula Chula on Saturday, 14th October 2023, at the Hage Geingob Rugby Stadium, where disgruntled fans vented their frustration by throwing objects onto the soccer field, have cast a negative light on our soccer and the Namibia Football Association. This is of particular concern given the imminent participation of the Brave Warriors in the TotalEnergies African Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament, scheduled to take place from 13th January to 11th February 2024 in the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire (RCI).

In light of these developments, I wish to pose the following inquiries:

1. Honourable Minister, during discussions in this August House, you assured us that the renovations of the Independence Stadium would be expedited, particularly when Namibia and Botswana were vying to host the 2024 AFCON tournament. Can you provide an update on the current status of this endeavour?
2. It has come to our attention that a budget of N\$50 million was allocated in the current Medium - Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to refurbish and enhance the Independence Stadium. Are these financial resources from the Treasury deemed adequate for the project's requirements, and if not, have you explored opportunities to secure supplementary funding from the private sector?
3. How long does the Namibia Football Association (NFA) intend to continue using the Hage Geingob Rugby Stadium for soccer matches? Is there not a concern that this venue, given its size, may not be well-suited to accommodate larger soccer events with substantial attendance? What measures are in place to mitigate any potential crowd-related incidents?

4. Notably, we have observed the Deputy Minister, Honourable Emma Kantema-Gaomas, attending sporting events in your stead. Could you provide an update on your willingness and readiness to continue serving in your current portfolio? Has there been any external influence, such as pressure from President Hage Geingob, affecting your decision to remain in this role, in light of any potential constitutional obligations to the contrary?

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**Question 204 (2023-10-17)**

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

Regarding a letter of a concerning nature that the Minister dispatched to “All Members of the Karasburg Town Council.” This letter, bearing the Minister’s signature and dated the 11th day of October 2023, has raised particular issues of concern.

In paragraph 3 of this letter, the Minister wrote, and I quote, “The reported assignment of the Council’s vehicle, which is assigned for Mayor duties to an unauthorised driver and misuse thereof, which acts are a contravention of Rule 2 (o) of the Code of Conduct for Local Authority Councillors and must come to an end.” Furthermore, in paragraph 4, under Section C, the Minister issued a direct warning and what can be interpreted as intimidation to Local Authority Councillors managed by the Landless People’s Movement (LPM), stating, and I quote, “Failure by the Council to demonstrate its full compliance to all directives and any continuous non-compliance will leave me with no other option but to invoke Section 92 of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992) as amended.”

In light of these developments, I wish to raise the following inquiries:

1. It appears that the Minister’s conclusions in paragraph 3 of his letter are based on information obtained through informal channels, potentially reliant on hearsay. Could the Minister clarify how he arrived at the conclusion that the Mayor had an unauthorized driver responsible for the Mayor’s transportation?
2. Can the Minister provide specific details regarding the alleged misuse of the Mayoral-assigned vehicle, as claimed in paragraph 3 of his letter to “All Members of the Karasburg Town Council”?
3. Has the Minister taken measures to assign investigators from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) and officials from the Auditor-General’s office to investigate the veracity of the rumours and misinformation that may have contributed to the contents of this letter?
4. Would the Minister consider making available any reports that led to the conclusion of the Mayor’s misuse of the assigned Mayoral vehicle, and by extension the whole Council for publication in the mainstream media?
5. Why does the Minister seemingly overlook formal channels for acquiring information on Council activities and increasingly rely on third-party sources such as gossip mongers and local SWAPO political circles?
6. Is it the Minister’s intention to convey a threat to Karasburg LPM Councillors with the potential aim of placing the Karasburg Town Council under administration,

similar to actions taken with the Reboboth Town Council (Ms. Natalia /Goagoses), particularly given the status of the matter as “sub judice”?

7. Given that the matter is “sub judice,” where the court has yet to reach a decision, what prompted the issuance of these threatening letters to the Councillors?

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**Question 205 (2023-10-17)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

My inquiries are in reference to the Second Summit and Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum, which transpired in St. Petersburg on the 27th and 28th of July 2023, under the auspices of President Vladimir Putin.

During the Second Summit and Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum, President Putin delivered a notable statement in his opening address. He asserted, “Our nation is fully capable of substituting Ukrainian grain, both through commercial transactions and as humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable African nations. This is especially relevant as we anticipate achieving another record harvest this year.” It is worth recalling that in June 2023, a delegation led by South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, comprising President Hakainde Hichilema of Zambia, President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Azali Assoumani of the Comoros, and Egypt’s Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, held discussions with President Putin. Within this interaction, the delegation presented a comprehensive 10 point plan, which included the repatriation of prisoners of war and children to their respective home countries and the facilitation of unimpeded grain exports via the Black Sea. Regrettably, these efforts have not yet borne fruit. According to the African Development Bank, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has resulted in a grain shortage of approximately 30 million tonnes in Africa.

Reflecting on these significant developments, we pose the following inquiries:

1. To what extent has the implementation of the Putin-Africa grain deal progressed?
  2. Does the Putin-Africa agreement encompass Namibia?
  3. In its 2022 Annual Report, the Bank of Namibia indicated the potential for wheat cultivation at the Neckartal Dam. Have you broached this topic with your Russian counterparts?
  4. Could you elaborate on the key agricultural discussions that have proven advantageous to Namibia?
  5. What concrete commitments or agreements have been established between Namibia and their Russian counterparts?
  6. In your 2020 Budget Vote presentation for MIRCO, you stated that the development of a Namibian Embassy in Senegal was in an advanced stage. Moreover, you highlighted the potential for Namibia to export Mahangu to Senegal, given its demand in that nation. Could you provide an update on the quantity of Mahangu exports facilitated by our Embassy in Senegal to date?
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**Question 206 (2023-10-17)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Prime Minister:

There have been reports circulating, and we are informed on good grounds that some senior key life threatening decision making civil servants are campaigning and serving in SWAPO political structures without any authorization from Secretary to Cabinet, Mr. George Simataa. On Friday, 11 August 2023, Mr. George Simataa reminded senior government officials that they cannot hold leadership positions in political parties. By way of an example, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Deputy Director, Ms. Elizabeth Kamutuezu was elected to serve in SWAPO local structures.

It is the same case with the Executive Director, Ms. Martha Mbombo, in the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, the Executive Director in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata, and the Executive Director in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Mr. Teofilus Nghitila, and Mr. Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), who both serve in the so-called SWAPO Think Tank. No wonder landless Namibians are unable to secure resettlement farms as these farms are allocated on the basis of political affiliation.

It is also the same with Agriculture Director, Ms. Albertina Shilongo and Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Francois Brand who are also serving actively in SWAPO structures. It is so that actually Ms. Shilongo was contesting to be re-elected as SWAPO secretary for information for Windhoek West, while Mr. Brand was vying to be elected as SWAPO treasurer for Windhoek West (12 August 2023). Our information indicates that Mr. George Simataa distributed a circular on 14 August 2023 discouraging senior government officials from taking part in political party elections and serving for them actively.

In light of this situation, we seek your attention to address the following questions and concerns:

1. Compliance with Circular: Hon. Prime Minister, could you confirm whether the circular distributed by the Secretary to Cabinet on 14 August 2023, discouraging senior government officials from participating in political party activities, is being strictly adhered to by all government officials?
2. Verification of involvement: Hon. Prime Minister, have you taken steps to follow up and verify with the Secretary to Cabinet and SWAPO Secretary-General whether the individuals mentioned, such as Ms. Elizabeth Kamutuezu, Ms. Martha Mbombo, Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata, Ms. Albertina Shilongo, and Mr. Francois Brand, have indeed been elected to serve actively within SWAPO structures?
3. Addressing Unprofessional Trends: If you have not yet conducted these verifications, what steps do you intend to take to curtail this concerning trend of senior civil servants actively participating in political party activities?
4. Productivity of Civil Servant: Is the Office of the Prime Minister planning to conduct research or surveys to assess whether senior civil servants who are actively involved in the ruling party's activities are maintaining their productivity within the public service?

5. Security Concerns: There is a possibility that some senior civil servants may have access to sensitive government information and could share it as policy proposals with the ruling party. Have any instances of such misconduct been identified, leading to disciplinary actions?

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**Question 207 (2023-10-17)**

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister in the Presidency:

I will reference the 2nd National Conference on Gender-Based Violence, which took place from the 2nd to the 4th of July 2014. This conference aimed to address the ongoing crisis of violence against women and children and to devise strategies to combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence effectively.

During this conference, the former Right Honorable Prime Minister, Dr. Hage Geingob, received recognition for spearheading the organization of the 2nd National Conference on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and for his active engagement in its discussions. Notable outcomes of the conference included fervent appeals for the prohibition of establishing liquor outlets, particularly shebeens, in residential areas and in close proximity to schools, as well as the complete removal of existing outlets in such areas. Additionally, there were calls for restrictions on their operating hours, with a suggestion that they should open only at 17:00.

Conference participants also advocated for the revival of traditional values and conflict resolution systems, with some proposing the establishment of an educational institution to instill moral values in boys and men, although the consensus eventually leaned towards making Life Skills an examinable subject in schools. The conference further emphasized the need to enhance the capacity of existing women's and men's groups to engage in activities aimed at reducing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Alcohol and substance abuse were identified as significant contributing factors to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

With this context in mind, I would like to pose the following questions:

1. Could you provide an update on the progress made in enacting legislation to address SGBV, as recommended by the 2nd National Conference on Gender-Based Violence held from 2-4 July 2014?
2. When does the government anticipate commencing the removal of shebeens from residential areas? What steps will be taken to achieve this objective?
3. Given the rising number of liquor outlets in Namibia, what strategies and policies does President Geingob intend to implement to address this escalating issue?
4. President Ramaphosa's recent telephone call to the Springboks captain, Siya Kolisi was well received, especially after their heart-stopping 29-28 victory against France during the 2023 Rugby World Cup Quarter finals. Conversely, President Hage Geingob's visit to a local alcohol outlet, as documented in photographs and videos, received extensive negative attention on social media. In light of the association between shebeens and alcohol-related violence, what is the perspective on President Geingob's visit to such establishments?



5. How is the President's visit to a shebeen perceived by the youth in the context of ongoing efforts to educate and sensitize them to abstain from shebeens and excessive alcohol consumption? What message is the President conveying through this action?
6. Whose initiative was it for the President to visit a shebeen, considering that there are alternative youth-led projects and impoverished communities he could have engaged with to gain insight into their circumstances?

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**Question 208 (2023-10-19)**

Hon. Muharukua (PDM) asked the Prime Minister:

In accordance with Article 94 A (2) of the Constitution, the Anti Corruption Act, Act 16 of 2003, established the Anti-Corruption Commission. The Commission is therefore one of those measures put in place to prevent and combat corruption as specified by Article 94 A (1).

The Director General and His Deputy are appointed by and are accountable to this august house, not only in respect of demonstrating independence and impartiality, but also in respect of annual reporting

The Director General must submit to the Prime Minister no later than 31 March of each year, a report on the Commission during the previous year.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, subsection 2 compels you to within 30 days of receipt, lay such report before this august house. Transparency is a mantra of this administration, one which the Harambee Prosperity Plan reiterates as one of the enablers of successful combating and prevention of corruption.

Premised on the above, may the Right Honourable Prime Minister account for the following:

1. Is it correct that the National Assembly has no account of the ACCs' annual report for the year ending 2021 / 2022; and for the year ending 2022 / 2023?
2. Has the ACC submitted its due annual report, for the years in question to your office?
  - 2.1. If in the affirmative, why has this august house not been favoured with this due accountability?
  - 2.2. If not, what are the reasons for the failure to comply with the obligations under section 16?
  - 2.3. Who is responsible for the failures?
  - 2.4. What are the actions taken against and consequences suffered for such failures?

3. In context of the foregoing questions, and section 3(f) (ii), kindly furnish this august house with a detailed explanation(s) on what advice the ACC has been giving to private and public entities on how accountability and annual reporting could combat and prevent corruption?

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**Question 209 (2023-10-19)**

Hon. Muharukua(PDM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

Joint Operation Agreements are very common in the fossil fuel and gas industry, as IOC's spread risks and share operational capital among themselves. In respect of the companies that are operating under petroleum and gas licenses in the Namibian offshore fields where commercially viable fossils are discovered; and given that Namcor will hold the Namibian(s) stake in these operations, kindly furnish this august house with answers to the following questions:

1. Are any of the exploration licence holders conducting downstream activities committed to JOA's with other IOC's?
  - 1.1. If in the affirmative, account to the august house detailing the identities of the companies that are party to these JOA's.
2. Is there any Namibian company, other than Namcor, that is party to any JOA? If so, furnish the august house with the identity of such company(ies) and the magnitude of their respective stake(s).
3. Are there any foreign national companies that are party to any of these JOA's? If so, what are the names and origins of such companies, and what are their stakes?
4. Has the Namibian Government made any determination of on the need to force through Unitisation Agreements between these IOC's?
  - 4.1. If in the affirmative, in respect of which fossil fuel and/or gas fields have we done so; and
  - 4.2. What benefits will such Unitisation Agreement yield for Namibians?
  - 4.3. If in the negative, and the considerations have not been merely geological, what what considerations caused the government to deem it not necessary to insist on unitisation?