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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 pursuit sustainable development, effective governance and an improved quality of life for all residents of Uis.

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

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 151 (2023-09-19)

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

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

Questions:

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

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

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

Thus I ask:

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

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

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

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. The Office of the Prime Minister through the Disaster Risk Fund outlined that the long-term strategy of government's livestock support programme is to improve the performance of the livestock value chain within the mainstream supply channels, as well as to help farmers develop resilience against growing problems of climate change. Is it then not discriminatory, inconsiderate and against the aim of the livestock support programme to turn away farmers for subsidy assistance that started moving to new grazing areas before 1 October 2023?
2. The farmers that will not benefit from transport subsidies to and from grazing areas, as well as subsidies for leasing grazing areas, will they then qualify for livestock marketing incentives?
3. What will happen to all farmers who have badly been affected by the drought from the beginning of the year? Will they also be eligible for assistance from the Livestock Support Programme?
4. Furthermore, Farmers whose livestock sold in the areas of the leased grazing land do not qualify for livestock marketing incentives. How is this justifiable?
5. Right Honourable Prime Minister, you indicated that there is only N\$200 million in the account of the Disaster Risk Fund and an additional N\$600 million is needed to implement the programme so that all affected farmers receive assistance. Where will your office acquire the needed N\$600 million and what impact does the absence of the needed N\$600 million have on the effectiveness of the livestock support programme?

Question 154 (2023-09-19)

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

I have previously asked Minister Schlettwein about how far the process of winding up the mismanaged AgriBusdev has gone, as well as the status of the employees and equipment. The Minister reported back to this assembly that as of June 2023, at least 32

former workers from Agribusdev have been integrated into the Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. He further informed the nation that the integration process began in 2022 and is still ongoing.

I wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

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

Question 155 (2023-09-19)

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

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

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Why was August 26 Construction handed the tender when there is a desperate need for construction work in the private sector?
2. Can your Ministry please provide this August house with a competitive analysis between August 26 and private companies in the construction industry regarding performance and timely completion of projects?
3. How many staff does August 26 Construction currently have and when is the commencement of the project?
4. Assuming that August 26 subcontracted other companies, (which I strongly believe they have), then how was the work subcontracted and who are the beneficiaries?
5. If August 26 denies that they have not subcontracted other companies, can they therefore please provide Good Standing Certificates from the Social Security Commission which indicates the number of employees and therefore their capacity to have the construction work done?
6. Does the Ministry of Education's failure to select the right contractors in the past justify the appointment of August 26 Construction?
7. Are soldiers and employees of the Namibian Defence Force involved in the construction of classrooms?

8. It appears that August 26 is able to build at a lower cost. Are the workers paid according to Gazetted mandatory minimum wages?
9. How many staff does August 26 Construction currently have and when is the commencement of the project?
10. According to the Auditor General Junias Kandjeke, the Audit Report of August 26 for the Financial Years 2019/2020 indicated that there was a cross subsidization of salaries amounting to over N\$3 million from the state, while August 26 and the state reportedly has no relationship. How will cross the subsidization of salaries avoided in this current construction tender?

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?

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?

Question 158 (2023-09-21)

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

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

I therefore wish to ask the Minister the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Question 160 (2023-09-20)

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

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

Hence I ask.

1. What plan or strategies, if any, has your ministry put in place to fundamentally address youth unemployment in our country?
2. Our country is faced with corruption and higher level of nepotism when it comes to employment opportunities, what measures does your ministry put in place to prevent the rot to grow bigger and larger?

3. Often young people are encouraged to study and concentrate on their careers and successfully complete their studies, what appropriate actions does your ministry put in place to ensure that graduates are not eventually parked and rot at home doing nothing
4. Does your Ministry in earnest realize that youth unemployment bearers the vicious cycle of poverty?

Question 161 (2023-09-20)

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

There is a trend in Namibia, particularly along the Namibia-Angola borders, that Namibia farmers are forced to take their animals into Angola for search of better grazing areas. This trend has been ongoing for a very long time, I can argue, since independence.

Thus I ask:

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

Question 162 (2023-09-20)

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

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

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

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

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

My question are:

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

Question 163 (2023-09-20)

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

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

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

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

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

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

I therefore put the following question:

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

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?

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?

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?

Question 168 (2023-09-26)

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

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

I, therefore, ask the following questions:

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

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

2. The Ministry has allowed and is undertaking an experiment of pelagic fishing between the depths of 150 and 200 mtrs, the request of the pelagic industry. This is also a directive from the Cabinet. Can we get an update on the results of the two month experiment, which was recently completed.

3. Also explain to this House, why the Ministry of Fisheries only took a two-month experimental run on the pelagic fishing of 150 and 200 meters, while the Cabinet Decision has indicated that the experiment must run for three months?
4. Lastly, do the allegations of large outstanding quota fees and levies of Fishcor corporation, owed to the government hold any content. Such alleged outstanding levies and fees refer to the period of 2017/2018/2019. Meanwhile, if the afore going is right, how does the Ministry of Fisheries justify the legal requirement imposed upon the private sector companies, which are not allowed to license a vessel unless their levies and fees are fully paid up, while Fishcor seems to be immune, and exempted.

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?

Question 170 (2023-09-26)

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister of Justice:

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

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

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

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

I therefore ask:

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

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?

Question 172 (2023-09-26)

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

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

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

I thus ask:

1. In what way has the Ministry intervened to ensure that proper and robust controls are in place to prevent any further financial losses and that the Municipal Council upholds the integrity of its statements?
 2. Honorable Minister, despite the challenges faced by many municipal councils and even line ministries in implementing recommendations aimed at enhancing service delivery and accelerating development, what measures has your Ministry employed to facilitate implementation, particularly with regards to those proposed by the Auditor General?
 3. Finally, does the Omaheke Municipal Council have a Debt Collection Policy, may the Hon. Minister furnish this House with such?
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Question 173 (2023-09-26)

Hon. Hamata (PDM) 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.

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?

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?

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.

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?

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?

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?

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 Ombotozu 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?

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 Naamibian 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?

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 indermine 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 porfolio and the acting needed to have access. The Minister's selective morality is crystal clear, as he simultaneously choses to ignore parliamentary procudures, 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 safeguard the rights and security of elected officials in Namibia.

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.

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?

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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