



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**Notice of questions by Hon. Utaara Mootu - Question 150
(2023.09.14)**

Hon. Speaker, I rise to respond to the questions raised by Honourable **Utaara Mootu** of LPM. I thank the Honourable Member for the interest shown in this matter.

Question 1

In terms of the Police Act, Act 19 of 1990 the Namibian Police is mandated to investigate report crimes. Can the Minister provide insight on the status of the police investigation from when the case was reported to their office on the 11th of September 2017?

Answer:

The disappearance of the quartet was investigated from the onset when it was reported to the police and all allegations levelled against a certain individual were looked into and the following findings were made:

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- All the four missing persons are relatives.
- Majority of the people interviewed and statements obtained are relatives of the quartet who were mostly giving information based on hearsay as there was no person who directly heard the farm owner telling or speaking to one of the four missing persons to go to the farm.
- The alleged cell phone numbers as provided by the relatives who attempted to call them were traced through MTC but results returned with no data to show.
- The threat to kill the four cannot be proven until now.
- It was further established through the investigator that the family are acting on rumours and all this does not assist the investigation.
- There is no single witness who saw the quartet boarding the vehicle of the farm owner in Grootfontein except when they were observed by two witnesses in a loading box of a brown Land Cruiser in the area of Rietfontein.
- The stock theft case was provisionally withdrawn in absentia against all four accused persons and an order was made for bail money to be handed back to the depositor on 03 October 2017.
- The Family is always getting feedback from the police at Grootfontein.
- The alleged vehicle registration mentioned N 307 T, belongs to a Police vehicle Toyota Hilux 2.4. Allocated to Grootfontein Criminal Investigation Unit.

A.k.

Investigation to trace the quartet continues in order to establish whether indeed they are missing.

- A search warrant to trace all cell phones used during the time from employer to employees and relatives was conducted and did not depict any number of the missing persons or the alleged farm owner being in contact, as there is no data of the numbers of the missing persons against the number of the farm owner.
- A search warrant to establish whether the farm owner does own a brown Land Cruiser or if such is not registered to any of his farms/businesses was also conducted at Natis, and found to be negative.
- Efforts were also made to establish as to how many farms farm owner owns and also to where exactly these farms are situated was done and it was established that he owns more than 3 farms and all are situated en-route from Rietfontein to Waterberg Plateau Park.

A missing person's report was fully run and well publicized in all media houses but no trace of the missing persons could be made up to now.

Question 2

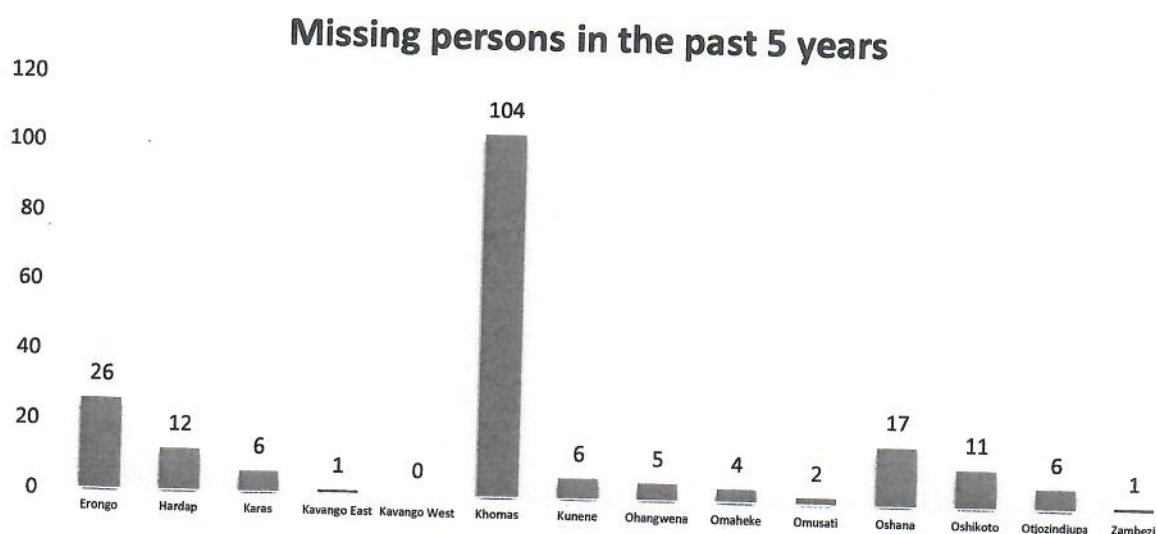
In an article titled "Over 170 people missing" by Confidante on 3 December 2022, indicates that the Namibian Police (Nampol) has revealed that they are yet to find 179 people included 29 children. Can the Minister provide a detailed report on the statistics of missing persons to date, and why the Namibian Police is decelerating in solving cases of missing persons?

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Answer:

Reported cases for missing persons from 2019 to 2023 (January to September 2023)

REGIONS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Erongo	5	1	2	1	17	26
Hardap	3	0	0	1	8	12
Karas	0	2	0	1	3	6
Kavango East	0	0	0	1	0	1
Kavango West	0	0	0	0	0	0
Khomas	19	9	61	14	1	104
Kunene	0	4	0	0	2	6
Ohangwena	0	0	2	2	1	5
Omaheke	0	1	0	2	1	4
Omusati	0	0	0	1	1	2
Oshana	0	2	0	1	14	17
Oshikoto	1	0	3	1	6	11
Otjozondjupa	1	1	1	1	2	6
Zambezi	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	29	20	69	26	57	201



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During the past five (5) years approximately two hundred and one (201) missing persons were reported to the Namibian Police Force countrywide. Khomas Region recorded the highest number of missing persons (104) followed by Erongo Region with 26 missing persons recorded. The remaining Regions recorded between 0 and 17 missing persons.



2021 recorded the highest missing persons with sixty nine (69) followed by 2023 (January to September) which recorded fifty seven (57) missing persons country wide. Out of fifty seven (57) missing persons recorded in 2023, twenty (20) were found, of which fifteen (15) were alive and (5) were dead. This depicts a found rate of approximately 35%. Approximately 22% of the missing persons were juveniles.

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Methods of reporting a missing person

- Generally, members of the public are allowed to report missing persons at any police station in all 14 regions. When a missing person is reported, details of the missing person including his/her picture is required and recorded by an officer in the charge office at the Police Station. Such information is recorded in a missing person register and the person who made the missing person report is required to provide a statement stating the circumstances in which the person got missing and a file is normally opened and handed over to an investigator, who in return will gather more information on the matter from other/more witnesses and further provide such information to the Police Public Relations Division, which then will share the information with all the Media House, Print and Electronic in the country for publication.
- The main challenge which the police are faced with is that in most cases, the public does not come back to the police station where they have reported a missing person to notify them whether the missing person was found or not, that renders the statistics inaccurate.

Once again, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for showing interest in this matter.

I thank you.

A.K.