



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS BY THE HONOURABLE K. HENGARI

NOTICE OF QUESTION NO. 172

RESPONSE ON: 19 OCTOBER 2023

Hon. Speaker

Hon. Members

I rise to respond to questions that have been posed by Hon. K. Hengari of PDM.

I wish to indicate that the questions asked by the Honourable Member is abit confusing in a sense that it mixed up of the regional council and local authority council. I am not sure if the questions directed are for Omaheke Regional Council or Gobabis Municipality which the Honourable Members is referring to as Omaheke Municipal Council.

The questions are as follows:

QUESTION 1: In what way has the Ministry intervened to ensure that proper and robust controls are in place to prevent further financial losses and that the Municipal Council upholds the integrity of its statements?

QUESTION 2: Honourable Minister, despite the challenges faced by many municipal councils and even line Ministries implementing recommendations aimed at enhancing service delivery and accelerating development, what measures has your Ministry employed to facilitate implementation, particularly with regard to those proposed by the Auditor General?

QUESTION 3: Finally, does the Omaheke Municipality have a debt collection policy, may the Hon. Minister Furnish this August House.

ANSWER

Since that the Honourable Member's question surround the issue of auditing and debt managment at both local and regional councils, I have the following:

1. In order to mitigate any loses or mismanagement of public resources at regional and local authority councils, the Ministry has divisions and sub divisions that are vested with the responsibilities of assessing issues of good governance at regional government levels.
2. In the same light to address the queries raised by the Honourable member in specific for Omaheke Regional Council and Gobabis Municipality, the ministerial internal auditors conducted the following audits:
 - An audit at Gobabis Municipality was conducted during the period of May – June 2019.
 - As for the Regional Council the audit was conducted in December 2019.

Therefore, in both cases, the audit reports were tabled by the Ministry for implementation of findings and recommendations raised in the reports. The said recommendations mainly touches issues concerning maladministration in certain areas identified by the audits.

The Ministry continuously engages the audited bodies within the Omaheke Region to ensure that the recommendations are indeed being implement by Management.

Finally, in reference to debt collection policy. **Yes**, it is an internal procedure that regional and local authorities to have a proper credit management system in place. However in this regard, the question is not clear as to which institution the Honourable member is referring to, whether to the Omaheke Regional Council or Gobabis Municipality.

Honourable Speaker

I so submit