



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS BY THE HONOURABLE AUCHAB OF UDF

NOTICE OF QUESTION NO. 142

RESPONSE ON: 12 October 2023

Hon. Speaker
Honourable Members

I rise to respond to the questions that have been asked by Honorable Apius Auchab of UDF.

Question 1 and 2

May the Honourable Minister share the progress report of Uis after 13 years under the care of Erongo Regional Council and how often does the Ministry receive report from the Erongo Regional Council? And;

What Criteria has been used to monitor progress of Uis to regain its status?

Answer (Question 1 and 2)

The mandate of the Regional Council as derived from Article 103 (3) and Article 108 of the Namibian Constitution, and Section 28 of the Regional Council Act, Act No. 22 of 1992 as amended, is to plan and develop the region in a sustainable manner for the benefit of the people in establishing, managing and controlling of Settlement areas focusing on the core services (water, electricity, sewer and roads).

Therefore, Uis was downgraded from Village Council to Settlement Area in 2010 due to the fact that, they could not sustain itself in terms of revenue collection and provision of services to the communities.

After the downgrading of Uis Village Council to Settlement Office, the area in question fell in the care of Erongo Regional Council. A lot of progress have been made by the Regional Council which is evident and in our view, warrant Uis Settlement Area to be upgraded again to either a Village Council or Town Council. The progresses are as follow:

- **Services Provided:** Initially, there was no proper sewerage network in place especially at the Upper town of Uis and the proper internal water reticulation with water meter was a challenge. There was no approved land fill with Environmental Management Plan in place.

Currently, the entire Upper Town of Uis Settlement Area (Location) was fully serviced with Sewage network and water with water meter. This contributed to an improvement on the revenue collection at Uis Settlement Area. The communities are paying for basic services including refuse removal.

The Regional Council manage to put up a land fill that is conforming to the standard as set out by the Environmental Management Act, Act 07 of 2007 with an approved Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) as well as the Environmental Management Plan.

In terms of street, the bitumen street in town was rehabilitated and streets at the upper town was re-gravelled.

- **Expansion of Town Land Boundaries:** The land earmarked for expansion was all surveyed and submitted to Office of Surveyor General last year (2022/23) for the approval of the diagram. Still awaiting the approval from office of the SG.
- **Valuation Roll:** Erongo Regional Council compiled the valuation roll for all the properties in Uis and this document is approved and runs from 2021-2025.
- **Audit Report:** In 2019, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development compiled an audit report and most of the audit recommendation has been implemented by Erongo Regional Council.
- **Uis Extension 3:** This land belongs to a private developer and after the development, 300 erven were created and all erven were sold out. There is still huge need for private owned land for industrial and business and residential purposes.
- Erongo Regional Council manage to construct the new Settlement Office to bring services closer to the people with the 5% Assessment Rate funds received from our Local Authorities.
- Since the re-opening of Tin Mine and the opening of Lithium mines as well as the Daures Green Hydrogen, this is one of the most competitive investment in Uis and it boosted the economy of Uis. However, with the opening of Uis tin Mine alone, Metal Mill Engineering, NEXUS, Gorogon Securities are some of the companies contracted under the Uis tin mine, contributing to the employment and economic development of Uis.

Currently the Settlement is experiencing an influx of people from all corners of Namibia with the expectation to get employment in Uis due to economic activities as mentioned above. Therefore, this causes people to create more shacks at Tatamutsi.

Therefore, Erongo Regional Council is planning to formalize the Tatamutsi Informal Settlement and currently busy appointing consultant for this exercise. A bulk water pipe line will also be provided to Tatamutsi while waiting for the process of formalization to be completed.

However, the challenges that the Erongo Regional Council is having is, there is huge demands of land ownership which cannot be met. Private businesses including the mines are also requesting for land to construct houses for their employees but there is no privately serviced land available and all this hinders development in town.

Therefore, with the Townland boundaries expanded, land will be available but businesses need ownership of land to secure funding from the Financial Institution of which Regional Council cannot do in Settlement areas as the Regional Council Act does not allowed to sell land. Hence, there is a need to upgrade Uis Settlement Areas to either a Village Council or Town Council due to the economic activities in towns.

Question 3

Honourable Minister, what is the criteria that Uis need to meet before it can be declared as village Council?

Answer:

In the exercise of the powers conferred on the Regional Council by Section 31 (1) of the Regional Councils Act, 1992 (Act No. 22 of 1992) as amended, and the Minister by Section 3 of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992) as amended, respectively, both the Regional Council and the Minister need to satisfy themselves that the following criteria are met when considering the declaration of an area as a Settlement area or a Local Authority area:

- Locality and strategic location
- Physical and topographic factors
- Population
- Economic activities
- Institutional functions
- Political factors and policy matters
- Sustainability model
- Financial model

I so submit, Hon. Speaker.