



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS BY THE HONOURABLE HIDIPO HAMATA (PDM) ON THE
REGIONAL AND CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND BILL**

NOTICE OF QUESTION NO. 174 (05 OCTOBER 2023)

RESPONSE ON: 12TH OCTOBER 2023

Hon. Speaker

Hon. Members

I rise in response to a motion by Honourable Hamata, in which he is seeking an update on the status of the Constituency Development Fund Bill. I would like to thank Hon. Hamata for the question and his belief in the initiative and benefits thereof as envisioned in the Regional and Constituency Development Fund Bill which is expected to be an important tool for promoting and bringing about development for our people.

Before I deal with the specific question posed, I would like to highlight that the SWAPO-led Government is highly committed towards improving the welfare of all Namibians as demonstrated by the numerous interventions and development initiatives undertaken since independence.

In the introductory section of his motion, Hon. Hamata is insinuating that Regional Councils are restricted and controlled in the exercise of their responsibilities and utilisation of resources. I would like to remind the Hon. Member that the powers, duties and functions of Regional Councils are clearly and broadly provided for and outlined under Section 28 of the Regional Councils Act, 1992 (Act No. 22 of 1992), which is a national law. Therefore, central government has not in any way redefined or restricted

the responsibilities of regional governments as implied by the Hon. Member. The Hon. Member is further reminded that central government does not “control” the resources or affairs of regional councils, but rather plays an oversight role within the parameters of the applicable laws. In respect to capacity of regional councils, continuous capacity building is a necessity for effective and efficient systems. Capacity building is a shared responsibility between sub-national governments and central government. On the part of central government, there are continuous interventions in the form of training in areas of financial management, IT infrastructure and software support and periodic review of organizational establishments.

Hon. Speaker

It is misleading and wrong to suggest or imply that the SWAPO-led Government is delaying the enactment of the CDF law. The Hon. Member need to be reminded that the idea of the CDF is an initiative of the SWAPO-Led or dominated National Council. More importantly, I wish to assure the Hon. Member that, there is no reason for the Government to stand in its own way or that of an initiative meant to benefit the Namibian masses we pledged to serve.

Hon. Speaker,

Let me now deal with the specific question raised as follows.

First and foremost, the finalisation and enactment of the Regional and Constituency Development Fund Bill remains a top priority for government and the Ministry (MURD) in particular, and that it is also our desire to finalise all processes involved the soonest.

For information of the Hon. Member and this entire August House, I wish to provide the following brief update:

1. On October 18 2022 Cabinet (Cabinet Decision Number 18th / 18.10.22/012) granted approval to the establishment of the Regional and Constituency

Development Fund, to be achieved through the enactment of the Regional and Constituency Development Fund Bill, 2022. .

2. On 11th November 2022, after incorporating some improvements as directed by the Cabinet Committee on Treasury (CCT) and the Cabinet Committee on Legislation (CCL), the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) submitted the approved draft of the RCDF Bill to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for the purpose of legislative drafting.
3. Subsequently, on July 11, 2023, MURD and MOJ held a consultative meeting to deliberate on and clarify certain provisions of the Bill. A revised version of the bill was received from the legal drafters on 04 October 2023 for text verification and concurrence before it can be submitted to the Attorney-General's Office for scrutiny and certification.

Hon. Speaker,

In conclusion, I wish to end my response by assuring the August House, we remain committed and are doing our best to expedite the finalisation of the subject Bill following the laid down law-making process.

I thank you

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