



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Notice of questions by Hon. Vipuakuje Muharukua - Question 179  
(2023.10.03)**

Hon. Speaker, I rise to respond to the questions raised by Honourable **Vipuakuje Muharukua** of PDM. I thank the Honourable Member for the interest shown in this matter.

**Question 1**

**What comprehensive visa control measures are being contemplated to mitigate the risks of a surge in immigration?**

**Answer:**

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security is mandated through the Immigration Control Act of 1993 (Act No. 7 of 1993) to regulate and control the entry of persons into, and their residence in Namibia; and to provide for the removal from Namibia of certain immigrants. Honourable Members of this august House are fully aware that the issue of migration has become topical, especially in Europe and North America.

Some countries have even resorted to building walls and fences with a view to keep migrants out. These are people who are desperate and their resolve is to leave their countries and settle in more politically stable and economically affluent countries. It is common cause that they do not comply with the immigration laws of the receiving countries. The majority of these people are economic refugees, therefore, current immigration laws of almost all the countries which are targeted are inadequate to address the situation. It is for this reason that a solution lies in multilateral approach as opposed to individual country approach. It is very sad to learn that the young people of Africa are turning the Mediterranean Sea into the grave yard in search of a better life in Europe. This is a big loss for Africa because our youth are the cream of the Continent. In short, these types of immigrants have no regard for visa regime and they use ungazetted entry points. Border control measures such as patrols and other surveillance mechanisms are deployed.

Additionally, the Ministry is closely working together with other border management stakeholders in order to ensure that foreign nationals come to Namibia lawfully.

## **Question 2**

**Considering the imminent increase in the value of our national assets, what concrete physical and technological interventions are planned for fortifying our borders against unauthorized entry?**

**Answer:**

We acknowledge and are fully aware of potential surge in migration to Namibia. Consequently, we have developed policies and laws such as the Namibia Migration Policy, the Immigration Control Act, and the Refugee Act that are currently in place. Of course in doing so, we do not rule out the risk associated with migration. The Ministry continues to explore various options in which to mitigate any potential risks. In order to realize this, comprehensive and multi-faceted approaches that addresses the root causes of migration, improved border management, and promotion of stability in SADC and the entire African Continent is important. Some of the measures have security implications and, therefore, I am restrained to go into details regarding operational measures.

**Question 3**

**Finally, is government assessing the possibility of bringing constitutional changes in as far as entitlement and acquisition of Namibian permanent residency and / or citizenship?**

**Answer:**

We are currently busy reviewing a number of our laws with a view to mitigating what the Honourable Member is referring to. These laws will be tabled in this august House and I hope the Honourable Member will be in a position to positively contribute to their improvement.

Honourable Speaker, Namibia today is one of the stable and safe countries on the African Continent. This is mainly due to the positive role which our people are playing, regardless of political differences.

Despite some challenges of poverty, unemployment, and underdevelopment, Namibia is one of the shining examples of stability, safety and security. It is, therefore, the responsibility of every Namibian Citizen to ensure that this legacy is maintained for our sake and that of the future generation. Let us build a stable, secure, peaceful and prosperous Namibia so that every Namibian must enjoy the fruits of independence. No Namibian youth should turn the Mediterranean Sea into a grave yard.

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

I thank you.