

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Hon. Hamata's right of response to MPs' contributions regarding the Motion to discuss the issue of family separation due to redeployment

October 2023

Thank you, Hon. Speaker,

1. Firstly, it gives me great pleasure to thank all honorable members on both sides for their comments to this important motion which not only seeks to protect the holiness of marriage but also seeks to protect the Namibian family unit as provided for under our Constitution.
2. I listened attentively and have taken note of all your inputs. However, it is worth reminding Members today that this is not a Hamata issue, but a national issue affecting many people across our country and, thus, deserves our consideration collectively. I cannot quite believe that some need reminding of that, but clearly they do, after having listened to their arguments in this house.
3. Be that as it may, **Hon. Members**, this house is our people's house. We give all Namibians a voice and we have the power to choose how that voice is heard. We represent, but we must also lead. It is up to each of us to show that, whatever the national issue or the political pressures that are brought to bear, we can debate and discuss the challenges we face rationally and calmly. This place must represent conviction, but it must also represent respect, humility and kindness. Family separation is a serious issue that can have undesirable effects – both financial and psychological – on families.

4. Lastly, I wish to inform the honorable members who have shown keen interest in this motion, that the debate must continue, the motion must be diligently discussed and the recommendations thereto be taken into consideration, and that this motion be referred to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee.
5. This is our debating chamber. Namibians must be proud of our democracy and those that serve them.

I thank you.