

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Contribution by Hon. Hamata, MP (PDM) to the Motion to discuss the issue of High Crime Rate in Namibia as moved by Hon. Mike Venaani, MP (PDM)

October 2023

Thank you, Hon. Speaker,

1. I rise today to contribute to the debate on the causes of the high crime rate in Namibia and the urgent interventions required to reduce it, as presented by my esteemed senior colleague, Hon. Mike Venaani. This matter is of paramount importance, and I believe it is essential to focus our attention on the underlying factors contributing to the surge in criminal activities within our nation and the immediate measures needed to address this critical issue.
2. Namibia is facing an alarming rise in criminal activities, posing a severe threat to the safety and well-being of our citizens. These escalating crime rates are undermining the social fabric of our communities and instilling fear in the hearts of our fellow Namibians. As responsible representatives of the people, it is our duty to urgently address this issue comprehensively and with determination.

3. One of the significant contributors to the high crime rates in Namibia is the leniency of our existing laws and regulations. In particular, the accessibility of firearms has played a critical role in exacerbating the problem. Our current firearm regulations, in some cases, allow these weapons to fall into the wrong hands, leading to tragic consequences. To effectively combat this surge in criminal activities, we must consider a holistic approach that includes revisiting and strengthening our firearms regulations. By doing so, we can address some of the significant root causes of crime. It is imperative that we implement comprehensive background checks, establish mandatory waiting periods, and introduce a need-based approach for firearm ownership. These measures will reduce the availability of firearms for criminal purposes, ultimately enhancing public safety.
4. The challenges do not end there. We must acknowledge that many law enforcers are working with criminals, driven by the harsh reality of low salaries. It is vital that we take harsh measures to control the actions of police officers, even if it means equipping them with tracking devices to ensure their accountability and commitment to the law.
5. Bank officials have also been intertwined with criminal elements due to a lack of strict controls in the financial system. It is high time that we put an end to bank officials having cell phones at their disposal while working. Harsh measures are needed to ensure the integrity of the financial sector and the elimination of criminal collaborations.

6. Additionally, we cannot ignore the issue of security officers employed by private security companies. Many security guards have troubling backgrounds, making them vulnerable to becoming part of criminal networks. It is imperative that we establish a vetting process, led by the Namibian police, to assess the suitability of individuals before they are allowed to work as security guards.
7. In conclusion, we must address these pressing issues comprehensively. By strengthening firearms regulations, enhancing law enforcement accountability, and securing our financial and security systems, we can create a safer and more secure environment for our fellow Namibians. Let us remain committed to this cause, for the well-being of our nation depends on it.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.