



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

CONTRIBUTION BY ELMA DIENDA, MP, (PDM) ON THE MOTION TO DEBATE THE CAUSES OF HIGH CRIME RATES IN NAMIBIA AND SEEK URGENT INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE THE HIGH CRIME RATES

20
21 November 2023

Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members

Allow me to add my contribution to this very important Motion that aims to reduce the high crime rates in Namibia. Hon. Minister of Finance I have noticed a slightly increase in the budget of the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and security Midterm Budget Review. Please Hon. Minister provide not only the tools, but also provide the staff with guidelines on how to use and care for the tools. This Ministry is supposed to be a National Pride, which cater for all our citizens, but it's being neglected for too long.

¹According to the Inspector General of the Namibian Police, between 2021 and 2022, a total of **98,640 criminal cases** were

¹ <https://nbcnews.na/node/98998>

reported countrywide, showing an increase of **7%** compared to the previous year. Hon. Members I want to bring to your attention the following: Budget allocation for 2023/2024, I have to admit that I did not see the Midterm figures which were tabled yesterday. Budget for this Ministry N\$6 746,410. Budget for Very Important Persons (VIPs) N\$378 495. Budget for Personnel Expenditure N\$3 270, 752.

Honourable Members, Hon. Speaker

According to the PDMs Election Manifesto Of 2019, we believe that genuine justice is only possible if the judiciary is truly independent from political interference and control. In practice this means an independent system of appointment without political interference in the judicial budget. The justice system will only be truly independent where there is effective separation of powers between the legislature, executive and the judiciary.

It is important to remind you all that Namibia continues to experience almost all types of crimes but violent crimes such as **Robberies, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Rape, Murder and Assault** are the most frequent in Namibia. Furthermore, these crimes affect every Namibian citizen but it is important to mention that children, girls and women are the biggest victims of these crimes in Namibia. High Crime Rates is a National issue and therefore needs to be addressed with a National Mindset. No Namibian can walk freely in our society these days.

Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members

Let me remind of the most recent crimes women had to experience at the hands of men;

1. ²On the 26 July 2023, a Windhoek woman named Delin !Nawases who was 25 years old, was stabbed to death multiple times all over her body by her boyfriend.
2. ³On the 1st October 2023, a woman from Eenhana in the Ohangwena Region, named Eve Leena Kalimbo who was 31 years old, was stabbed to death by her boyfriend.
3. ⁴A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped on Friday morning, 27 October 2023 after she went looking for donkeys at a village in the Oshikoto region.
4. Another 31-year-old woman was allegedly raped by a friend, aged 48, at Ongwediva on Friday, 27 October 2023 after they had been socialising together.

Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members

² <https://namibian.com.na/family-mourns-woman-after-brutal-stabbing/>

³ <https://neweralive.na/posts/woman-killed-over-dna-results-deceased-boyfriend-allegedly-not-childrens-father>

⁴ <https://www.namibian.com.na/three-raped-over-weekend-police-report/>

We need to understand that violence against women is one of the most common Human Rights violations. It is a serious threat to the lives of women as it puts their physical and psychological health at risk. It is further a great danger to the well-being of their children and it further threatens the well-being of a peaceful and safe Namibian community. Crime in all forms need to be address as a matter of urgency, men also needs to be protected at all cost.

Honourable Members, in conclusion, crime in general is bad and should not be allowed in Namibia, but crime against women and children needs urgent interventions and should be condemned in all its strongest forms.

Hon. Speaker Hon. Members

The PDM in its Election Manifesto of 2019 are suggestioning the follow.

1. The creation and implementation of a comprehensive anti-crime strategy to ensure that criminals are swiftly arrested, tried convicted and sentenced;
2. The training of police officers to ensure that investigations result in successful convictions;
3. The decentralization of policing powers from national to regional and local authorities;
4. The creation of specialized courts and specialized police units to deal with corruption, sexual and gender-based violence, gangs and drugs;
5. Ensuring the independence of the Judiciary;

6. The creation of public awareness for individuals and businesses to adopt good cybersecurity practices and train and source skilled technicians and engineers to fully implement Cybercrime Laws.

I Thank You