



Tuesday, 31 October 2023

No. 77 – 2023

EIGHTH SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2023

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

1. The Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation.
2. **Announcements by the Speaker in terms of Rule 20(b) of the Standing Rules and Orders:**

- (i) The Speaker reported that on Friday, 27 October 2023, the country learnt with sadness about the passing on of Mr. Axali Doeseb, a renowned musical composer, a conductor, and a well-known figure in Namibia’s cultural and artistic heritage. Mr. Doeseb was also instrumental in the composition of our national anthem “*Namibia Land of the Brave*”.

On behalf of the National Assembly, the Speaker expressed sincere condolences to the bereaved widow and the entire family during this difficult time of mourning.

A Minute of Silence observed in his honour

- (ii) Secondly, the Speaker expressed collective congratulations to the South African National Rugby Team, for bringing back the Rugby World Cup to the African continent
3. **URGENT ORAL QUESTION:**

Hon. Vries (PDM) asked the Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs – (No. 40) – *Replied to.*

4. **NOTICE OF A QUESTION:**

Hon. Iipumbu (NEFF) to ask the Minister Mines and Energy – (No. 214).

5. **NOTICE OF A MOTION:**

The Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises moved, seconded by Hon. Kooper:

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Appropriation Act, 2023 so as to increase and decrease certain amounts of money in the Schedule to that Act to meet the financial requirements of the State during the remainder of the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

Agreed to.

Appropriation Amendment Bill [B. 21 – 2023] read a First Time.

The Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises moved, subject to Rule 32(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, seconded by the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation: That the Bill be read a Second Time.

Second Reading of the *Bill* deferred by the Deputy Speaker for the Speaker's Ruling on who to take the floor first between Hon. Katamelo and Hon. Smit. Hon. Katamelo adjourned the *Bill* to Wednesday, 1 November 2023 while Hon. Smit adjourned it to Thursday, 9 November 2023.

6. **FIRST ORDER READ:**

Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *High Court Amendment Bill* [B. 18 – 2023].

Question before the Assembly on Wednesday, 25 October 2023, as moved by the Minister of Justice (page 205): That the Bill be read a Second Time.

On the motion of Hon. Katamelo, on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology, seconded by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, debate adjourned until Wednesday, 1 November 2023.

7. **SECOND ORDER READ:**

Resumption of Debate on the issue of family separation due to long-distance marriages and the negative impacts this has on the psychological health and financial status of families.

Question before the Assembly on Wednesday, 25 September 2023, as moved by Hon. Hamata (page 181).

Question put: That the Motion be referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for further scrutiny and report back.

Agreed to.

8. **THIRD ORDER** deferred by the Deputy Speaker to Wednesday, 1 November 2023, for her reply.

9. **FOURTH ORDER READ:**

Resumption of Debate on the causes of the high crime rates in Namibia and urgent interventions required to reduce it.

Question before the Assembly on Wednesday, 27 September 2023, as moved by Hon. Mike Venaani (page 195): That the Motion be referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for further scrutiny.

On the motion of Hon. Muharukua, seconded by Hon. Tjirare, debate adjourned until Wednesday, 1 November 2023.

10. **FIFTH ORDER** deferred by Hon. Hengari to Wednesday, 1 November 2023.

11. **SIXTH ORDER READ:**

Resumption of Debate on the recognition of the Namibian sign language as one of the national languages in Namibia and the appointment of a sign language interpreter on live parliamentary debate.

Question before the Assembly on Tuesday, 12 September 2023, as moved by the Deputy Minister of Disability Affairs (page 171): That the Motion be referred to a relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee for further scrutiny and report back to this Assembly.

On the motion of Hon. Karondo, seconded by Hon. Amutse, debate adjourned until Wednesday, 1 November 2023.

12. In terms of Rule 99(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Deputy Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 17:49 until Wednesday, 1 November 2023.

MS. L. KANDETU
Secretary of the National Assembly

Compiled by I. Nehoya