



Thursday, 9 November 2023

No. 24 - 2023

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

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Question 181 (2023-10-03)

Hon Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Education Arts and Culture:

Today I would like to probe the issue of bullying in our schools. Incidents of bullying are on the increase more especially in schools this side of the redline. We are hearing disturbing cases where some of the kids are committing suicide because they could not cope with the situation at schools any more. The sad version of this is that, most of these kids are not opening up, either to the school management or even to their parents at home. Reasons be that, they don't want to be seen as weak or they are threatened by the bullies that, if they reveal this to any authority, they will be dealt with severely. As a result, Honorable Speaker, Honorable Members our children are suffering in silence at the hands of these bullies. At the end of the day these kids will end up taking their lives. I am bringing up this issue because as a parent I recently experienced this at first hand. Just last week here at Windhoek High School, my son who plays in a basketball school team has to go through this. While he was undressing in the changing room, a group of bullies came in, they took his sport shoes and throw it in the toilet pot full of poop. They mercilessly run away laughing. The boy was left dumbfounded; he has to cancel the practice for that day because the shoes are in a toilet poop.

The boy came home to narrate the story. I was very furious and I was looking forward to the next day to confront these kids.

Honorable Speaker, Honorable Members guess what, this boy begged me not to try anything confrontational because he will be in trouble. He told me this is a notorious gang in their school and if they find out that he reported them he will be no longer safe in the streets of Windhoek. The boy begged me not to report it, I was very shocked. I decided to go to school the next day anonymous in order to protect my child.

I talked to the school management to see how best they can protect the children from bullies.

Honourable Speaker, Honorable Members, schools were supposed to be safe havens for the kids. Kids were supposed to be happy going to school to learn and socialize with

other kids from different backgrounds. Nowadays school is the worst place where kids are not safe and psychologically disturbed by these bullies notably coming from broken homes where the word love and care is foreign to them.

Hence I ask:

How safe are our kids in the Namibian schools? What is the policy in place to address this issue and how effective are such programmes in schools if there are any to address this very burning issue?

Question 182 (2023-10-03)

Hon Vries (PDM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

The Ministry resettled 37 families at a farm called Otjosazu Unit B 153 in May 2015 near Ovitoto communal land in the Otjozondjupa Region. The people who were resettled are former and current commercial farm workers who are previously disadvantaged and are vulnerable. They hail from the Ombotuzu District, in the Okahandja and Omatako constituencies.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Why did the Ministry resettle 37 families on a farm that is the capacity of 1800 hectares?
2. Why can the Ministry not provide bigger alternative resettlement farms to these previously disadvantaged families?
3. There is an existing water debt of N\$300 000-00 on the farm even before the farmers were resettled but the Resettlement Office is insisting that the farmers should pay the water debt. Can you please explain why the farmers are expected to pay the water debt of N\$300 000-00?
4. Access to water on the farm is currently dis-connected. Why is this the case and when will the water be re-connected?

Question 183 (2023-10-03)

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Prime Minister:

Article 41 of the Namibian Constitution directs that “*All Ministers shall be accountable individually for the administration of the work of Cabinet, both to the President and to Parliament*“. This August House has designated Thursdays for the Executive to respond to questions presented by Members of this distinguished Assembly, and this is a critical juncture for exercising checks and balances, ensuring transparency, and upholding accountability within our governance framework. However, the consistent absence of the Executive during these sessions severely undermines the effectiveness of these fundamental principles and renders the attempt to hold the government accountable nothing short of futile.

To give reference, during the previous session of Parliament, 128 questions with notice were tabled, with only 57 being replied to while 71 lapsed. The record reflects that

the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform and the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism had the most lapsed questions from the previous session, including the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation who is consistently absent, especially on Thursdays.

As elected representatives, we bear the responsibility of ensuring the Executive branch remains answerable to the public, which necessitates their active participation during parliamentary question time. The continuous lack of attendance by key Executives on Thursdays raises substantial doubts about the government's commitment to fostering an environment of openness and true democratic dialogue.

The citizens of our nation deserve a government that values and actively participates in the democratic processes designed to ensure their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed. Failure to address this critical issue with the urgency it warrants jeopardizes the integrity and trust in our democratic system.

I therefore ask the Honourable Prime Minister:

1. As the leader of government business in the House, can you explain this frivolous absence of Members of the Executive during question time on Thursdays when they are supposed to come and account to Members of the House and to the nation?
2. Would you agree with me that this continued absence of Members of the Executive on Thursday contravenes the provisions of Article 41 of the Constitution, which mandates Members of Cabinet to account to Parliament'?
3. If your answer to number 2 is in the affirmative, does Cabinet condone this frivolous contravention of the Constitution?
4. Lastly, what concrete measures will be put to rectify this detrimental practice of absenteeism by the Executive on Thursdays and reaffirm the provisions of Article 41 which speaks of Ministerial Accountability?

Question 184 (2023-10-03)

Hon Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Works and Transport:

The Managing Director of the Roads Authority noted that the KFW Development Bank's funding gave them the authority to establish participation requirements, which seemingly results in the absence of muscled medium-sized and large Namibian companies in the bidding process. This has raised questions about the responsibility of policymakers, particularly the Minister of Works and Transport, in shaping the business landscape.

The tone and demeanor of Chinese Ambassador Zhao Weiping were a cause for concern, as he proudly attributed the dominance of Chinese companies in the bidding to their competitiveness. This situation highlights a trend where anchor institutions, such as the Minister of Works and Transport, which are expected to promote the local economy through local procurement, have been favoring foreign contractors over capable local counterparts. This raises questions about when this situation changes, especially in light of the annual celebration of independence.

I seek to understand the class agenda of the Ministry of Works and Transport, particularly with regard to the class content and character of the Ministry's activities. After 33 years of independence, it appears that our country has not seen the emergence of many enterprises that have grown into large-scale companies capable of competing on a regional scale. What measures are in place to foster the development of such enterprises?

Questions:

1. Class Agenda and Character: I seek to understand the class agenda of the Ministry of Works and Transport, particularly with regard to the class content and character of the Ministry's activities. After 33 years of independence, it appears that our country has not seen the emergence of many enterprises that have grown into large-scale companies capable of competing on a regional scale. What measures are in place to foster the development of such enterprises?
 2. Funding Partner Influence: I am interested in your policies on the influence of funding partners, such as the KFW Development Bank, in defining criteria for projects and determining the shortlisted companies. Is it a case of undue influence, or does the Ministry have a say in setting criteria to drive economic growth and empowerment for Namibians?
 3. Policy Amendment: Could you provide insights into whether your Ministry intends to amend policies to establish a clear-cut class agenda? For example, could we impose criteria that reserve road construction projects under 100km for Namibian companies of all sizes, thereby promoting local economic development and empowerment?
 4. Local Economic Benefit: I kindly request a comprehensive explanation of how appointing foreign contractors on the Karibib-Usakos road project would benefit the local economy. Additionally, please share statistical information regarding the economic opportunities for local contractors, local job creation, and the procurement of materials locally.
 5. Support for Local Contractors: In the event that local contractors are unable to meet pre qualification requirements, have you expressed concern about the absence of local contractors on the prequalification list? If so, what actions have been taken to support and protect the interests of the local construction industry?
 6. Methodology for Exclusion: Could you clarify the methodology and criteria used by KFW to exclude all local contractors? If such criteria exist, why is the Ministry allowing a procurement process that consistently excludes local contractors?
 7. KFW's Powers: Does KFW possess extra-judicial powers that allow them to impose their procurement policies without government scrutiny. especially given our 33 years of independence and sovereignty?
 8. Socialism with Naamibian Characteristics: In the context of your political party's ideology of "socialism with Namibian characteristics," and your implementation of the 2019 Election Manifesto, could you shed light on whether the continued exclusion of Namibian companies in favour of foreign entities aligns with this ideology?
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Question 185 (2023-10-03)

Hon Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

Due to the frequent political harassments incited by the Minister, the recent arrests of councillors on the 2nd of October 2023 have come as no surprise. On the 1st of September the Minister wrote a letter to council to oppress and undermine the autonomy of council to resolve administrative matters. The farfetched changes of illegal appointments and changing of bank signatories, was an administrative matter that emanated from council suspending a portfolio and the acting needed to have access. The Minister's selective morality is crystal clear, as he simultaneously chooses to ignore parliamentary procedures, that subjected him to provide clarity on the case of the gross misconduct by the Karibib and Ongwediva Swapo Councillors, who do not reside in their own constituencies. Karibib Swapo councillor stays in Swakopmund and the Ongwediva Swapo councillor stays and worked in Okakarara. This is not only unlawful, but it has slackened the progress of the Ongwediva council to the extent that, they resorted to only having meetings on Friday due to the councillor's absenteeism.

The lap dog of the ruling elite the ACC has exhibited its continuous alliance with the ruling corrupt elites, such as, when Paulus Noa defended Imms Mulunga when he decided to make unauthorized payments, in which he claims were in the interests to save 'Namibia's reputation'. Furthermore when the councillor of Karasburg reported a corruption case of 10 million that went missing, under the administration of the former CEO of Karasburg, they shrugged the case off and concluded that it is internal matter of council. The same ACC has sharpened its tiny teeth to try and cause political instability in regions governed by opposition parties and has lowered its institutional mandate to conduct political rights, for the ruling Party. It is with the above statement that.

I ask the Minister the following:

1. Can the Minister deny or confirm that the arrests of our Councillors who are yet to be charged is political intimidation, and what actions will be taken to ensure the transparency and justice in this matter?
2. Regarding the claims of Swapo councillors not residing in their respective constituencies and their misconduct, when will steps be taken to legally charge the councillors for contriving the Local Authority Act?
3. Can the Minister provide report on the actions of the ACC in relation to the missing N\$10 million in the Karas Council and its contrasting response to internal issues? There is a need to review the ACC independence and effectiveness.
4. Considering the harassment and the witch hunting of Landless People's Movement councillors by Swapo leaders, what measures will be taken to safe guard the rights and security of elected officials in Namibia.

Question 186 (2023-10-03)

Hon Mootu (LPM) asked the Prime Minister:

It is to our knowledge that the matter of the vacancy for the Chief Investigation Officer position at the Corruption Commission which Mr. Phelem Masule got interviewed and

appointed for the position is in court. However to point out that it is after a while that the appointment was revoked by the Prime Minister with no due reasons. Mr Masule sought relief from the high court on the matter, and he won the case against the Prime Minister, confirming his appointment as a Chief investigating Officer, Mr Masule has a period of 2-3 years to retirement, and it is not with this intent that the Prime Minister aims to drag the matter, to further deny Mr. Masule the right to work, regardless the based on merit he surpasses all his opponents. However, the PM appealed the decision in the supreme court and in the same vein appointed Mrs. Josephine Kanyangela as Acting Chief Investigator Officers at ACC, the wife of Mr. Andreas Kanyangela, the Deputy Chief Investigating Officer. Hon Prime Minister this is pure nepotism and malpractice from an institution that is supposed to uphold moral values and integrity in society.

Honourable Prime Minister, I therefore ask the following:

1. Mr Noa and the PG are in-laws by marriage and with the current dynamics of nepotism in both institutions, how are these relations not influencing the decision-making in processes involved in both the prosecution and non-prosecution of cases, with a focus on the potential influence on the alignment of public justice system within familiar networks?
 2. Is the Prime Minister's decision not an affront on the independence of the ACC?
 3. Is it in the public interests and the fight against corruption in this country to have a politician in the position of the Prime Minister override the appointment of an ACC's Chief investigation Officer, when such was dully interviewed and appointed, especially at a time where SWAPO ex Ministers and their business partners are in jail awaiting trial for fishrot.
 4. Senior investigators at ACC have alleged that Mr. Noa exerts pressure on investigator to prematurely close some cases even when there is substantial evidence to proceed with successful investigation. Can you clarify if such allegations have had an impact on the ACC's effectiveness in investigating corrupt individuals without any fear, favour and/or prejudice?
 5. Is the appointment of Mrs Kanyangela, Mr Kanyangela's wife, as the Acting Chief Investigating Officer not going to create a situation of having corruption cases and investigation subjected to a pillow talk? Is this even safe for our country, for the couples and the ACC to have a couple in charge of investigations at the ACC?
 6. There are several investigators at ACC even with LLB degrees, why can one of them be appointed as Acting Chief investigation Officer in the meantime?
 7. Libertine Shiyaleni, an individual, filed an assault case against Sackaria Kuutondokwa, a relative of the Public, Prosecutor (PG) Shiyaleni, who was previously employed as a subordinate of the PG at Eenhana Magistrate Court, experienced persistent harassment from the PG. Consequently, she is no longer serving as a Prosecutor, as the PG revoked her delegation after she declined a transfer to Karibib citing medical reasons. Therefore, one must ask the Minister is our justice system secured given that key institutions are overlapped by family appointments and prosecution biases.
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Question 187 (2023-10-04)

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology:

Article 21 (1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees all persons the right to *'freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media*. It is because of this fundamental right and freedom that Namibia has consistently been ranked at the pinnacle of the World Press Freedom Index, with the country ranking 151 in Africa and 22nd out of 180 nations in the world according to the 2023 World Press Freedom Index.

However, recent events, particularly the suspension of the New Era's Managing Editor Jonathan Beukes, following a publication of an editorial piece questioning the transparency of the Judiciary in our country, have cast a shadow over our exemplary record in press freedom. The suspension of Mr. Beukes, without any valid reasons whatsoever, raises serious concerns regarding the sanctity of the press's independence and the preservation of freedom of expression in our democratic society.

It appears that there is gross interference in New Era's editorial by the government, which is sanctioned by the Minister and Executive Director. It is clear that government wants to stifle, gag or tame a public funded newspaper, just as we are approaching a crucial election year.

Press freedom is a cornerstone of any thriving democracy, fostering open dialogue, unhindered information dissemination, and vibrant public discourse. In light of our standing in the global press freedom index, it is imperative that we address this issue promptly and decisively to maintain the integrity of our nation's commitment to a free and open press.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. What are the reasons behind the sudden efforts to restrict, inhibit, and micro-manage a publicly funded newspaper, particularly as we approach an election year?
2. What are the circumstances surrounding the suspension of the Managing Editor at the New Era Newspaper, and how does this act align with Namibia's dedication to press freedom?
3. Does the suspension of Mr. Beukes imply that the Judiciary is exempted from public scrutiny?
4. What is your response to allegations of political and governmental interference with the operations of the press, particularly as it concerns the New Era and other State funded press?

Question 188 (2023-10-04)

Hon. Mukwiilongo (NEFF) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

We have come to learn through media reports that the Republic of Angola has decided to kick out hundreds of Namibian cattle farmers from the grazing fields of Oshimholo

in the southern “Cunene province. Reports estimate that at least 400 cattle posts and or farms in Oshimholo and the surrounding areas are alleged to back into Namibia.

Now can the Honorable Minister provide this house with answers to the following questions:

1. Knowing fully well that this situation has presented itself for the past 18 years, why was nothing done to assist our farmers to the point that today they are to be kicked out as illegal migrants?
2. Where do we border with Angola as Namibia since the area where our people are farming is Oukwanyama? Or have we robbed Angola its area and their people?
3. How are these farmers currently being assisted?
4. Has the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation been in touch with Angola on the matter and if so, what has been agreed?

Question 189 (2023-10-10)

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

Earlier this year I tabled a motion in this Parliament asking that this house discuss in details the conditions of local authorities.

After a short discussion the Deputy Minister of your Ministry Hon Natalia Goagoses took the floor and requested me to kindly withdraw that motion, as she stated that the Ministry was busy with its on review process of the local authority Act and that the Minister undertook courtesy visits to various Regional and local authority Councils in the period from 12 May 2022 to 12 October 2022.

She assured me that this report will be tabled in Parliament soon and it will detail many findings that will be of interest and help in crafting Amendments to the local authority Act.

However following Consultations this week with ECN officials on the new Amendments in the electoral Act. We were informed that there are only two amendments that will come.

The section that will be amended is section 25 of the Electoral Act that provides that a general Registration of voters GRV must take place within a prescribed period.

Then there is an Amendment of section 26 which if approved will entail that voters will only utilize their Namibian Identity Documents during voting. This is a welcome development and one hope that the document is not collecting dust as we speak on your table.

Thus I ask the following

1. Hon. Minister is there really any intention and serious political will from your Ministry and by extension from Cabinet to amend the local authority Act as your then Deputy promised?

2. Since what is on your table now is proposed Amendments to the Electoral Act and not the local Authority Act.
3. When will you table the white paper on local Authority reform in this Parliament?
4. Do you agree or disagree that the local authority Act is outdated and need serious overhaul?
5. Are you really happy with the current legislative framework under which many local Authority operate under?

Question 190 (2023-10-10)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

It has come to my attention that there appears to be a discrepancy in the compensation provided to Traditional Authorities for the erection of MTC network towers in specific areas, where some receive compensation, while others do not.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. What are the reasons for such disparities in the compensation for Traditional Authorities where some are compensated, while others are not?
2. What are the criteria or factors that MTC considers when determining whether to compensate Traditional Authorities for the erection of network towers in particular areas?
3. Lastly, Hon. Minister, what measures, if any, are in place to ensure fairness and equity in this compensation process?

Question 191 (2023-10-10)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

In its efforts to eliminate ghost membership, and as part of PSEMAS reform and member re-registration, the Medical Aid Division within the Ministry is demanding that main member submits a latest payslip, and if the main member is married and the spouse is a dependant on the medical aid, such spouse must provide a certified copy of marriage certificate and their payslip/declaration from police if unemployed.

I, thus, put to you Hon. Minister, the following questions:

1. Isn't the main member's latest payslip a Human Resources (HR) matter?
 2. What is the rationale behind requesting the spouse, who is eligible to be on their partner's medical aid, to provide their payslip?
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Question 192 (2023-10-10)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture:

As school funds are public monies, the management of these funds is subject to the requirements of the relevant legislation, which requires schools to be publicly accountable for the budget planning, allocation and use of those funds.

According to the Guidelines for the Administration of School Finances: Operational Manual, the dignity project allocates N\$5.00 per learner, as well as top-up on sanitary pads and other health and hygiene products. It is also stated in the same document that, depending on the socio-economic circumstances, learners will be required to pay N\$1.00 or N\$2.00 for the items provided when in need during school hours.

I thus wish to ask you Hon. Minister, the following:

1. According to the latest data, the Ministry apparently provides N\$ 15 per learner per year for sanitary pads, in your considered opinion, is this amount sufficient?
2. Schools operate in a business environment and their financial practices are subject to various acts and legislation. How many schools have reported in their financial reports on the usage of such money?
3. Your Ministry's Executive Director said that they take the issue of sanitary pads provision to schools very seriously. If they indeed

Take this issue seriously, why are they so afraid to be compelled by an Act of Parliament to provide sanitary pads to underprivileged school girls?

Question 193 (2023-10-11)

Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

On the 2 October 2023 the Anti-Corruption Commission arrested two LPM Councillors and the Acting Chief Executive Officer for doing their work.

Hon Minister, Chapter 12, Article 102(3) of the Namibian Constitution stipulates that "every organ of regional and local government shall have a Council as the principal governing body, freely elected in accordance with this Constitution and the Act of Parliament, with an executive and administration which shall carry out all lawful resolutions and policies of such Council, subject to this Constitution and any other relevant laws

The investigating officer Mr. Stanley Muvangua, who was under oath, expressly stated to the court that ACC was given instruction by the Hon. Erastus Uutoni to arrest LPM Councillors and Acting the CEO. However, Article 94 (3) of the Namibian Constitution stipulates that the Anti-Corruption Commission shall be an independent and impartial body. It is known that for the past 3 months Minister Erastus has been harassing our Councillors and threatening to dissolve Councils led by LPM, if they don't rescind all decisions that they have taken. The afore-going threat is asserted by Minister Erastus and his cronies, because of differences in legal interpretation, and an inability from the Minister and his team to provide convincing and solid legal arguments.

I therefore ask the following.

1. On what Constitutional and legal basis would you, as Minister, give instructions to ACC to launch arrests against the LPM or any other Councillor? Do you as Erastus Uutoni and Paulus Noa have an ethnic alliance to target specific political and ethnic groups for the purposes of creating a negative public perception about these political platforms or ethnic groups?
2. Given the fact that the ACC is supposed to be an independent body, is it right that the Minister criminalises administrative decisions of juristic bodies, as though these bodies were directorates within the MURD, through the ACC as the sharp edge of this criminalization?
3. At the Community meeting you had with the Karasburg community, on 29 June instant, you introduced yourself as the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, and a SWAPO member. Does this type of statement form the basis of your interaction with elected members of other parties, and does this attitude further determine the appropriation of funds provided to certain towns and municipalities by the MURD under your stewardship?
4. Do you fully, and legally understand the separation of powers and the elected mandate of various institutions of the State, such as local authorities, and their legal and political autonomy, as juristic bodies, as articulated in the Namibian Constitution?

Question 194 (2023-10-11)

Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprise:

Regarding N\$ 1.29 billion, that is missing at one of Namibia's Telecommunication company, MTC. Hon Minister, the said N\$ 1.29 billion that has been found funnelled out of the MTC account, at MTC, is allegedly being used to finance the Fishrot Court bill for lawyers representing all the accused persons. A systems administrator detected this transfer of the money. This a clear indication of illegal use of public funds and even possible money laundering.

I, therefore, ask the following questions:

1. Has the matter been reported to the Anti- Corruption Commission (ACC), given the magnitude of the amount of money missing?
2. Could the Minister explain why a government parastatal is involved in financing the legal bill of high profile individuals, or' if he is aware about such an operation being conducted from the pockets of taxpayers funds via MTC?
3. Hon. Minister, it has become a government culture, that parastatals are used to pay for illegal dealings of the political elites, including massive amounts for subsistence and travel allowances for some Ministers, in advancing personal gain at the expense of the taxpaying Namibians. Are you able to definitively state that taxpayer's money at parastatals under your auspices are not used to finance the trials of the Fishrot accused, or any other trials of any other high ranking official, nor for the money

to potential State witnesses with a view to undermine the States case against the accused persons.

Question 195 (2023-10-11)

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Works and Transport:

Over the past decades, the aviation landscape in Namibia has undergone significant shifts, notably with the closure of Air Namibia, a central pillar of our aviation heritage. This closure has resulted in a number of aviation professionals being absorbed into the private aviation market, stirring a frenzy of challenges and uncertainties for these individuals who had once been integral to a national icon, but it has also left a substantial number of aviation professionals facing unemployment.

A disconcerting pattern has emerged, reflecting a growing concern within our society an underrepresentation of previously disadvantaged individuals in the aviation market. This issue is even more pronounced with the influx of foreign pilots, largely of South African descent, who have been granted work permits and employed at remuneration rates significantly below market rates. This has, understandably, sent shockwaves of repercussions throughout the Namibian aviation industry, impacting its dynamics and creating an imbalanced playing field. In instances where Namibian aviation professionals do find employment, the wages offered fall far below reasonable expectations, with some earning as little as NAD 14,000.00 per month. This stark disparity between the exorbitant cost of training and the meager remuneration offered defies practicality and fairness.

I therefore ast the Honourable Minister:

1. How does the Ministry plan to address the unfair recruitment processes within the Namibian aviation industry?
2. How does the Ministry plan to manage the impact of the significant influx of foreign nationals on the local aviation market, ensuring fair wages and ample opportunities for Namibian professionals?
3. Are there comprehensive guidelines being considered to ensure reasonable wages for aviation professionals in Namibia, especially in light of the high cost of training to obtain a pilot's license?

Question 196 (2023-10-11)

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation:

In recent years, the aviation industry in Namibia has faced a considerable challenge the formidable financial barrier to training that stands as a daunting impediment for many aspiring local talents. The prohibitive cost of aviation training has rendered this dream nearly insurmountable for numerous promising individuals who possess the ambition to soar through the skies and contribute to our nation's growth.

Despite the commendable efforts of the government to provide financial support to student pilots, a notable shortfall persists. This deficit in funding for aspiring aviation professionals has resulted in a yearly shortage of licensed pilots, amplifying concerns about the sustainability and growth of our domestic aviation industry. Notably, the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) has suspended funding for aviation students until the year 2025 due to a funding backlog, leaving many promising individuals stranded in their pursuit of a career in aviation.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. What steps are you taking to address the NSFAF funding backlog and the cessation of funding until 2025 particularly in the context of aviation students, to ensure that these students are not further disadvantaged?
2. In light of the exorbitant cost of aviation training, what measures is the government considering to alleviate the financial burden on aspiring Namibian aviation professionals, making this career path more accessible and equitable?
3. Are there plans to collaborate with stakeholders to establish financial assistance programs or scholarships specifically tailored to support the aviation training needs of Namibian students?

Question 197 (2023-10-11)

Hon. Hengari (PDM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

The Zambezi chief regional officer and three other directors at the regional council were nabbed by the Anti-Corruption Commission on five counts of corruption exceeding N\$4 million. It is further alleged that the corrupt activities were perpetrated from September 2016 to December 2020.

Additionally, the Auditor General previously found that the extension of the employment contract of the Zambezi Chief Regional Officer, which was effective from March 2016 until February 2021 was unlawful. The AG made this finding in a report on the accounts of the Zambezi Regional Council for the FYE 2020. It is my understanding that the said individual is still employed as the CRO of the region, even in light of the following submissions from the AG's report:

“The AG's office advised that the contract resulted in the ultra vires action. Therefore, the auditors observed that the Council approached the Treasury in terms of section 11 subsection (3) that requests Treasury to waive the claim against such person under section 20 that he or she be discharged from liability.

1. Can the Hon. Minister furnish this House with the employment status of the Zambezi CRO, and whether or not a vacancy exists in said position?
2. What measures has/will the Ministry employ to ensure the return of the funds (N\$4 million to be precise) that was lost as a result of corruption?
3. To what extent is your Ministry committed to safeguarding against illicit financial flows at regional council level, and corruption in its entirety?

4. The report further states that Council did not disclose the shares it holds with Nored as required, can the Minister inform this House why this is the case and what has been done to resolve this issue thus far?

Question 198 (2023-10-11)

Hon. Van Wyk (PDM) asked the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security:

Crimes targeting the elderly and the vulnerable has become a normal practice in Namibia. The elderly who receive the monthly old-age grants are continuously being targeted by criminals on the days they receive their old-age grant payouts at NamPost and at various paypoints across the country. The safety of our elderly is currently being undermined by criminals which must not be tolerated.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. When will the Ministry deploy police officers to different NamPost and other paypoints to safeguard the elderly from being robbed by criminals?
2. Will it be possible for the Ministry to already draw up a plan of action to safeguard the elderly from being robbed during the month of November 2023 when they receive the double amount of the old-age grant payouts?
3. How active and involved is the community policing department within the Ministry to encourage and oversee the establishment of neighborhood watches in different communities across Namibia?

Question 199 (2023-10-12)

Hon. Dr. Iljambo (SWANU) asked the Minister Urban and Rural Development:

The crucial and very urgent matter is, 'construction' activities in a residential area. Before the whole area is infested with acute Tuberculosis, Minister better commission a team for thorough investigation.

Claudius Kandovazu Street is the very last street in Donkerhoek. The open area opposite the street, run 'power lines,' just parallel with the houses.

Historically and by law, no residences or businesses may operate in that space. Several attempts were made by people desperately looking for a place to build their (sink) houses.

Within no time those efforts were quelled. Their plot demarcations were moved immediately.

Few companies with variegated proposals who applied, were also rejected. However, around middle last year, two separate companies started to effectively operate in the area to date. They both process bitumen preparatory stones.

Residents bitterly complained about a barrage of negative effects the operations causes to the area. According to most residents, it ever falls on deaf ears. None seem interested to listen to their grievances.

Hence, the following pertinent, crucial and very necessary questions:

1. Does the Minister and his related authorities i.e. the COW, the Ministry etc., know about the crises?
2. Within a very short period, residents are suffering from dust-related diseases. Are connections and much money business more important than people's health and wellbeing?
3. The dust resulting from these operations cause all sorts of hygiene, health and social challenges. Does the Ministry realize the emergency situation?
4. What did the specific companies offer to whom and more WH questions, to deserve the restricted space?
5. The cases of TB increased in the community (area) since the operation started. Hence, the appropriacy of quoting Chomsky on government prioritizing 'profits over people'?
6. The unusual many times dusting and sweeping is irritating people. Do you, Honourable Minister envisage the usual flags to fly amidst such degradation?
7. Besides the above questions, I implore the Honourable Minister with his relevant authorities to urgently, without fail, investigate the crises before regrettable consequences.

Question 200 (2023-10-12)

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister Urban and Rural Development:

The Grootfontein Town Council mirrors a legal challenge that occurred in Keetmanshoop Town Council (Case L. CA 80/2011), whereby the council is predicament where employees were appointed without a full council resolution. In June 2021, five vacancies were advertised, including key positions such as Executive for infrastructure and Technical Services, Finance and Asset Management, Chief of Human Resource Management, Technical Services and Maintenance, and Properties Management. However, the shortlisting and selection process for these positions was orchestrated solely by the former Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Kisco Sinvula, with no involvement from the Human Resource Department. This process was carried out in apparent contravention of the Local Authority Act (Act 23 of 1992), specifically Section 27, that states 1(b) the power to appoint other staff members of the local authority in posts on fixed establishment of the local authority council, as approved by it, and as may be considered necessary for the performance of the work incidental to the functions of the local authority council, shall vest - (i) in the case of a municipal council or town council, in the management committee. Further, the Recruitment and Selection Regulations for local Authority Council, particularly Regulations 15, 23 and 24, were not adhered and the process overlooked the Affirmative Auction Policy. The appointed candidates began their roles before their employment was officially confirmed and even participated in signing their employment contracts without external witness. All these contracts were

prepared by Mr. Kisco Sinvula without any involvement from the Human Resource Department. The CEO's suspension in March 2022 is connected to these appointments. He faces various charges, including charges 18, related to the improper constitution of interview panels, as specified in the Recruitment and Sections Regulations for Local Authority Council. The employees involved in this process are Mr. Indileni, T. Lungameni, Mr Anannias Nakale, Mr Gerhart Shimwandi, Mr. Jason Linus, Mrs Fredah Mashazi (Manager Properties - Promotional position, Strategic Executive Technical Services, Chief Manager - Technical Services and Maintenance, Chief Manager - Human Resources and Strategic Executive Finance and Asset Management). Furthermore, there are concerns about the certificate of some employees qualification documents.

In a letter written by the Minister on the 15th May 2023 to the Mayor and Chairperson of Council, the Minister gave the opinion that council should allow the recruitment process to proceed, despite the corruption being alerted. Reason being that council has allowed these staff members to sign the employment contracts are under the council's payroll. Thus, they have created a legitimate expectancy, the leniency from the Minister is baffling to say the least, as the Minister was quick to point out Karasburg Council's appointment as illegal. In addition, council have reported the matter to the ACC last year, investigation officers have made their visit to council, but no arrests have been made in connection to the case.

It is with the above statement that I shall ask the Minister the following:

1. According to the Minister's moral compass why is the Minister being biased, when addressing issue of corruption within the Grootfontien Town Council, but is abrupt to declare administrative issues of Karasburg as 'illegal'? What are the Ministers alternative motives towards the case?
2. Could the Minister clarify on the similarities and differences between the Grootfontien Town Council case and the Keetmanshoop case (L.CA 80/2011) that reached the high court of Namibia?
3. Can the Minister provide clarity on why you reference the matter as a legitimate expectancy' regarding the illegal appointments of the employees, and specify which existing laws support that expectancy?
4. Why has the ACC dragged the case and has failed to lay charges and proceed with arrests?
5. Can the Minister provide a detailed explanation on how legal these appointments are, considering that the appointment made contravened the Local Authority Act and the Recruitment and Selection regulations?
6. Can the Minister provide more information about the qualifications submitted by these employees and the concerns about their certification by a Commissioner of Oath.

Question 201 (2023-10-12)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation:

Section 37(1) of the Social Security Act, 34 (Act No. 34 of 1994) as amended, provides for the establishment of the Development Fund.

I thus wish to ask you Hon. Minister, the following:

1. Is this Development Fund in operation? If not, what is the justification for this?
2. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Fund shall be applied for the conducting of training schemes and employment schemes approved by the President for the benefit of socio-economically disadvantaged persons who are unemployed. How many socio-economically disadvantaged persons who are unemployed have benefited from the Fund since its establishment to date?

Question 202 (2023-10-17)

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources:

My inquiry pertains to the fisheries infrastructure project located in Rundu, with a total value of N\$16 million, and that has been in a state of construction for an uninterrupted period of eleven years, commencing in 2012.

Hon. Minister, I trust you will concur that the ongoing infrastructure project in question stands as one of the lengthiest endeavours in sub-Saharan Africa, encompassing an expenditure of N\$16 million, yet spanning an eleven-year period from its inception. There have been allegations suggesting that the contractor, Africa Civil Engineering, which assumed responsibility for the project on 7th August 2015, in order to conclude the remaining work, may have inflated the cost, an assertion that the Ministry has yet to acknowledge. Furthermore, it has come to light that the Kavango East Fisheries Ministry division has been leasing office space at the Namibia Industrial Development Agency's (NIDA) premises, comprising approximately thirteen offices and two storerooms for its officials, for a duration exceeding a decade.

In light of the foregoing, I would like to pose the following inquiries:

1. Minister, could you provide a timeline for the resolution of this protracted crisis?
 2. To date, what is the total expenditure incurred by your Ministry on this project, including any cancellation fees?
 3. Could you elucidate the number of contractors that have been involved in this project since its commencement, and how much has been expended on this infrastructure development initiative?
 4. What punitive measures or legal actions have been initiated against the contractors who abandoned the project site?
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Question 203 (2023-10-17)

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service:

Recent events, notably the soccer match between African Stars and Eeshoke Chula Chula on Saturday, 14th October 2023, at the Hage Geingob Rugby Stadium, where disgruntled fans vented their frustration by throwing objects onto the soccer field, have cast a negative light on our soccer and the Namibia Football Association. This is of particular concern given the imminent participation of the Brave Warriors in the TotalEnergies African Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament, scheduled to take place from 13th January to 11th February 2024 in the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire (RCI).

In light of these developments, I wish to pose the following inquiries:

1. Honourable Minister, during discussions in this August House, you assured us that the renovations of the Independence Stadium would be expedited, particularly when Namibia and Botswana were vying to host the 2024 AFCON tournament. Can you provide an update on the current status of this endeavour?
2. It has come to our attention that a budget of N\$50 million was allocated in the current Medium - Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to refurbish and enhance the Independence Stadium. Are these financial resources from the Treasury deemed adequate for the project's requirements, and if not, have you explored opportunities to secure supplementary funding from the private sector?
3. How long does the Namibia Football Association (NFA) intend to continue using the Hage Geingob Rugby Stadium for soccer matches? Is there not a concern that this venue, given its size, may not be well-suited to accommodate larger soccer events with substantial attendance? What measures are in place to mitigate any potential crowd-related incidents?
4. Notably, we have observed the Deputy Minister, Honourable Emma Kantema-Gaomas, attending sporting events in your stead. Could you provide an update on your willingness and readiness to continue serving in your current portfolio? Has there been any external influence, such as pressure from President Hage Geingob, affecting your decision to remain in this role, in light of any potential constitutional obligations to the contrary?

Question 204 (2023-10-17)

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

Regarding a letter of a concerning nature that the Minister dispatched to "All Members of the Karasburg Town Council." This letter, bearing the Minister's signature and dated the 11th day of October 2023, has raised particular issues of concern.

In paragraph 3 of this letter, the Minister wrote, and I quote, "The reported assignment of the Council's vehicle, which is assigned for Mayor duties to an unauthorised driver and misuse thereof, which acts are a contravention of Rule 2 (o) of the Code of Conduct for Local Authority Councillors and must come to an end." Furthermore, in paragraph 4, under Section C, the Minister issued a direct warning and what can be interpreted as intimidation to Local Authority Councillors managed by the Landless People's

Movement (LPM), stating, and I quote, “Failure by the Council to demonstrate its full compliance to all directives and any continuous non-compliance will leave me with no other option but to invoke Section 92 of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992) as amended.”

In light of these developments, I wish to raise the following inquiries:

1. It appears that the Minister’s conclusions in paragraph 3 of his letter are based on information obtained through informal channels, potentially reliant on hearsay. Could the Minister clarify how he arrived at the conclusion that the Mayor had an unauthorized driver responsible for the Mayor’s transportation?
2. Can the Minister provide specific details regarding the alleged misuse of the Mayoral-assigned vehicle, as claimed in paragraph 3 of his letter to “All Members of the Karasburg Town Council”?
3. Has the Minister taken measures to assign investigators from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) and officials from the Auditor-General’s office to investigate the veracity of the rumours and misinformation that may have contributed to the contents of this letter?
4. Would the Minister consider making available any reports that led to the conclusion of the Mayor’s misuse of the assigned Mayoral vehicle, and by extension the whole Council for publication in the mainstream media?
5. Why does the Minister seemingly overlook formal channels for acquiring information on Council activities and increasingly rely on third-party sources such as gossip mongers and local SWAPO political circles?
6. Is it the Minister’s intention to convey a threat to Karasburg LPM Councillors with the potential aim of placing the Karasburg Town Council under administration, similar to actions taken with the Reboboth Town Council (Ms. Natalia /Goagosos), particularly given the status of the matter as “sub judice”?
7. Given that the matter is “sub judice,” where the court has yet to reach a decision, what prompted the issuance of these threatening letters to the Councillors?

Question 205 (2023-10-17)

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

My inquiries are in reference to the Second Summit and Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum, which transpired in St. Petersburg on the 27th and 28th of July 2023, under the auspices of President Vladimir Putin.

During the Second Summit and Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum, President Putin delivered a notable statement in his opening address. He asserted, “Our nation is fully capable of substituting Ukrainian grain, both through commercial transactions and as humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable African nations. This is especially relevant as we anticipate achieving another record harvest this year.” It is worth

recalling that in June 2023, a delegation led by South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, comprising President Hakainde Hichilema of Zambia, President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Azali Assoumani of the Comoros, and Egypt's Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, held discussions with President Putin. Within this interaction, the delegation presented a comprehensive 10 point plan, which included the repatriation of prisoners of war and children to their respective home countries and the facilitation of unimpeded grain exports via the Black Sea. Regrettably, these efforts have not yet borne fruit. According to the African Development Bank, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has resulted in a grain shortage of approximately 30 million tonnes in Africa.

Reflecting on these significant developments, we pose the following inquiries:

1. To what extent has the implementation of the Putin-Africa grain deal progressed?
2. Does the Putin-Africa agreement encompass Namibia?
3. In its 2022 Annual Report, the Bank of Namibia indicated the potential for wheat cultivation at the Neckartal Dam. Have you broached this topic with your Russian counterparts?
4. Could you elaborate on the key agricultural discussions that have proven advantageous to Namibia?
5. What concrete commitments or agreements have been established between Namibia and their Russian counterparts?
6. In your 2020 Budget Vote presentation for MIRCO, you stated that the development of a Namibian Embassy in Senegal was in an advanced stage. Moreover, you highlighted the potential for Namibia to export Mahangu to Senegal, given its demand in that nation. Could you provide an update on the quantity of Mahangu exports facilitated by our Embassy in Senegal to date?

Question 206 (2023-10-17)

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Prime Minister:

There have been reports circulating, and we are informed on good grounds that some senior key life threatening decision making civil servants are campaigning and serving in SWAPO political structures without any authorization from Secretary to Cabinet, Mr. George Simataa. On Friday, 11 August 2023, Mr. George Simataa reminded senior government officials that they cannot hold leadership positions in political parties. By way of an example, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Deputy Director, Ms. Elizabeth Kamutuezu was elected to serve in SWAPO local structures.

It is the same case with the Executive Director, Ms. Martha Mbombo, in the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, the Executive Director in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata, and the Executive Director in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Mr. Teofilus Nghitila, and Mr. Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), who both serve in the so-called SWAPO Think Tank. No wonder landless Namibians are unable to secure resettlement farms as these farms are allocated on the basis of political affiliation.

It is also the same with Agriculture Director, Ms. Albertina Shilongo and Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Francois Brand who are also serving actively in SWAPO structures. It is so that actually Ms. Shilongo was contesting to be re-elected as SWAPO secretary for information for Windhoek West, while Mr. Brand was vying to be elected as SWAPO treasurer for Windhoek West (12 August 2023). Our information indicates that Mr. George Simataa distributed a circular on 14 August 2023 discouraging senior government officials from taking part in political party elections and serving for them actively.

In light of this situation, we seek your attention to address the following questions and concerns:

1. Compliance with Circular: Hon. Prime Minister, could you confirm whether the circular distributed by the Secretary to Cabinet on 14 August 2023, discouraging senior government officials from participating in political party activities, is being strictly adhered to by all government officials?
2. Verification of involvement: Hon. Prime Minister, have you taken steps to follow up and verify with the Secretary to Cabinet and SWAPO Secretary-General whether the individuals mentioned, such as Ms. Elizabeth Kamutuezu, Ms. Martha Mbombo, Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata, Ms. Albertina Shilongo, and Mr. Francois Brand, have indeed been elected to serve actively within SWAPO structures?
3. Addressing Unprofessional Trends: If you have not yet conducted these verifications, what steps do you intend to take to curtail this concerning trend of senior civil servants actively participating in political party activities?
4. Productivity of Civil Servant: Is the Office of the Prime Minister planning to conduct research or surveys to assess whether senior civil servants who are actively involved in the ruling party's activities are maintaining their productivity within the public service?
5. Security Concerns: There is a possibility that some senior civil servants may have access to sensitive government information and could share it as policy proposals with the ruling party. Have any instances of such misconduct been identified, leading to disciplinary actions?

Question 207 (2023-10-17)

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister in the Presidency:

I will reference the 2nd National Conference on Gender-Based Violence, which took place from the 2nd to the 4th of July 2014. This conference aimed to address the ongoing crisis of violence against women and children and to devise strategies to combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence effectively.

During this conference, the former Right Honorable Prime Minister, Dr. Hage Geingob, received recognition for spearheading the organization of the 2nd National Conference on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and for his active engagement in its discussions. Notable outcomes of the conference included fervent appeals for the prohibition of establishing liquor outlets, particularly shebeens, in residential areas and in close

proximity to schools, as well as the complete removal of existing outlets in such areas. Additionally, there were calls for restrictions on their operating hours, with a suggestion that they should open only at 17:00.

Conference participants also advocated for the revival of traditional values and conflict resolution systems, with some proposing the establishment of an educational institution to instill moral values in boys and men, although the consensus eventually leaned towards making Life Skills an examinable subject in schools. The conference further emphasized the need to enhance the capacity of existing women's and men's groups to engage in activities aimed at reducing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Alcohol and substance abuse were identified as significant contributing factors to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

With this context in mind, I would like to pose the following questions:

1. Could you provide an update on the progress made in enacting legislation to address SGBV, as recommended by the 2nd National Conference on Gender-Based Violence held from 2-4 July 2014?
2. When does the government anticipate commencing the removal of shebeens from residential areas? What steps will be taken to achieve this objective?
3. Given the rising number of liquor outlets in Namibia, what strategies and policies does President Geingob intend to implement to address this escalating issue?
4. President Ramaphosa's recent telephone call to the Springboks captain, Siya Kolisi was well received, especially after their heart-stopping 29-28 victory against France during the 2023 Rugby World Cup Quarter finals. Conversely, President Hage Geingob's visit to a local alcohol outlet, as documented in photographs and videos, received extensive negative attention on social media. In light of the association between shebeens and alcohol-related violence, what is the perspective on President Geingob's visit to such establishments?
5. How is the President's visit to a shebeen perceived by the youth in the context of ongoing efforts to educate and sensitize them to abstain from shebeens and excessive alcohol consumption? What message is the President conveying through this action?
6. Whose initiative was it for the President to visit a shebeen, considering that there are alternative youth-led projects and impoverished communities he could have engaged with to gain insight into their circumstances?

Question 208 (2023-10-19)

Hon. Muharukua (PDM) asked the Prime Minister:

In accordance with Article 94 A (2) of the Constitution, the Anti Corruption Act, Act 16 of 2003, established the Anti-Corruption Commission. The Commission is therefore one of those measures put in place to prevent and combat corruption as specified by Article 94 A (1).

The Director General and His Deputy are appointed by and are accountable to this august house, not only in respect of demonstrating independence and impartiality, but also in respect of annual reporting

The Director General must submit to the Prime Minister no later than 31 March of each year, a report on the Commission during the previous year.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, subsection 2 compels you to within 30 days of receipt, lay such report before this august house. Transparency is a mantra of this administration, one which the Harambee Prosperity Plan reiterates as one of the enablers of successful combating and prevention of corruption.

Premised on the above, may the Right Honourable Prime Minister account for the following:

1. Is it correct that the National Assembly has no account of the ACCs' annual report for the year ending 2021 / 2022; and for the year ending 2022 / 2023?
2. Has the ACC submitted its due annual report, for the years in question to your office?
 - 2.1. If in the affirmative, why has this august house not been favoured with this due accountability?
 - 2.2. If not, what are the reasons for the failure to comply with the obligations under section 16?
 - 2.3. Who is responsible for the failures?
 - 2.4. What are the actions taken against and consequences suffered for such failures?
3. In context of the foregoing questions, and section 3(f) (ii), kindly furnish this august house with a detailed explanation(s) on what advice the ACC has been giving to private and public entities on how accountability and annual reporting could combat and prevent corruption?

Question 210 (2023-10-24)

Hon. Van Wyk (PDM) asked the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture:

Well-managed schools are the key for providing quality education and for achieving the national goals of access, equity, efficiency and life-long educational opportunities for all Namibian learners. It is at individual school level where it is decided whether quality education is achieved for every learner. Individual school principals and Heads of Departments should contribute to a more effective education service delivery system by providing a conducive atmosphere for both teaching and learning. The appointment of Principals and Heads of Departments in Namibian Schools must be prioritised to ensure effective leadership and quality education in all schools.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Schools like the Origo Primary School, Dr. Lemmer High School, and some other schools in Rehoboth and the Hardap Region, have been without appointed HOD's for about 4 to 5 years. Why has this been the case?
2. Please explain the situation of ordinary teachers in Acting capacities of School Principals at certain schools for more than one year, especially in the Hardap Region and the impact thereof on the leadership and academic performances at the schools?
3. Why has there been a significant delay in the appointment of HOD's in many schools in the Hardap Region and in some other Regions?
4. Why is Acting HOD's and Principals not paid their allowances and what are the causes of the delay in payments?
5. Please explain the delay in the appointment of Principals and HOD's at schools in Namibia?
6. Please share with this august house the number of schools in Namibia without appointed HOD's and Principals?
7. What is the impact of the absence and the non-appointment of School Principals and HOD's on the teaching and learning processes at schools in Namibia?
8. Why is there a constant delay in salary payments when teachers are appointed from temporary to permanent positions?
9. There are serious concerns about the Leadership Style and Lack of Integrity from the Hardap Regional Education Director in the appointment and placements of teachers in the regions. Can you please share with this august house the following:
 - 9.1 The number of qualified teachers appointed in all schools in the Hardap Region since the beginning of 2023 and the current existing vacancies of qualified teachers in the region?
 - 9.2 The number of HOD's in Acting capacities of Principals and the number of ordinary teachers in Acting capacities of HOD's at different schools in the Hardap Region?
 - 9.3 What interventions are undertaken by the Hardap Regional Directorate in supporting poor performing schools in the Region?

Question 211 (2023-10-24)

Hon. Mukwiilongo (NEFF) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

Honourable Minister, it has come to our attention that the Cabinet has given the green light to acquire 32 government vehicles at a cost of N\$25 million for the 2023-24 financial year, in spite of a moratorium established by President Hage Geingob in 2020 to curtail

unnecessary spending on automobiles. We have been made to understand that in the bigger picture, the government is earmarking N\$180 million for vehicle acquisitions, as indicated in the budget documents

The media have also reported that this signifies a substantial increase of N\$150.3 million compared to the previous year's expenditure of N\$29.7 million.

Therefore, I ask the following questions.

1. Why is taxpayers' money being used to buy these vehicles when we have hundreds of cars in government garages that can be fixed at a much lower cost than getting new ones?
2. Why are the cars that have been misused and are now broken down not being fixed and auctioned so we can raise money from there to get new ones?
3. Honourable Minister, your government has been telling the rest of Namibians to tighten their belts and do with what little they have, why is your Cabinet failing to do the same?
4. While your government has been crying about having huge unemployment numbers, why are you failing to create jobs for our hungry unemployed youth and allow VTC graduates to fix these cars?

Question 212 (2023-10-24)

Hon. van Den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

The role of the Auditor-General in ensuring accountability and transparency in government expenditures cannot be overstated. It is essential that we address any issues and concerns arising from the Auditor-General's findings in a timely and responsible manner. Accordingly, in the Audit Report of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the Government of Namibia for the financial year ending 31 March 2022, a number of discrepancies have been identified.

I thus consider it prudent to ask the Minister the following:

1. The Audit Report recorded an unauthorized expenditure of eight (8) votes, a total of N\$806 854 225.84. With votes such as the President, National Assembly and International Relations and Cooperations account for a variance of N\$15 214 323.12. What justifies these unauthorized expenditures?
2. According to the Management comment, the Treasury noted the recommendations by the auditor in respect of unauthorized expenditures, and committed to ensuring that the O/M/As that incurred unauthorized expenditures would seek to ensure that control measures are implemented to ensure that the budgets are executed within the approved ceiling. What exactly are these vague control measures being alluded to?
3. It is further concerning to note that (9) nine very important votes have recorded under expenditures amounting to N\$ 333 496 946.31. Among these O/M/As are votes such as Urban and Rural Development (N\$ 1 520 686 031.21) Agriculture

(N\$ 124 314 081.81) Water (N\$432 482 731.02). What is the basis of the under expenditure recorded, particularly in the wake of these votes being crucial for the socio-economic benefit of the Namibian people?

4. According to the findings of the Information Systems Audit, the report found that there are no supportive procedures on registration, keeping track and termination of personal devices. When does the Ministry estimate to implement the recommendation put forth by the audit report?
5. It is gravely concerning that the Auditor was unable to obtain background and verification documents for the employees hired during the financial year. What is the reason for this?
6. According to the auditor's report, the recommendations from the previous audit in 2018 were not implemented and the disaster recovery plan does not have sufficient details. Why were the previous recommendations not implemented and when will the disaster recovery plans and the business continuity and DR documentation be reviewed, as the Ministry committed itself to doing?
7. The audit revealed that from a sample of 25, a total of 9 suppliers' physical documents could not be found and similarly were also not found recorded in the physical register book. Accordingly, an amount of N\$ 4 661 112.96 is not accounted for. Does the Minister care to explain to this August House, how this is possible and where did the money go?
8. It was further found that 80 invoices were paid twice between 14 line Ministries, at a total estimated value of N\$ 1 665 681.52. What mechanism does the Minister envision to employ in an effort to better coordinate communication between the Ministry of Finance and line Ministries regarding contingency payments, to prevent duplicating payments?
9. Finally, has the N\$ 1 665 681.52 outlined above been recovered?

Question 213 (2023-10-26)

Hon. Amutse (SWAPO) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

Last year, I moved a motion, which Parliament approved in November 2022, that your Ministry work out a plan that will put an end to the late receiving of NSFAP grants and loans by students, and to ensure that going forward, students should be assisted financially to register, pay accommodation, taxi fares and tuition fees as early as possible. Hence, the question:

Can the Hon. Minister make Ministerial Statement before Parliament recess, to brief the nation on the progress your Ministry has made to ensure that our youth, are properly and timely funded to enable them to access education inside and outside the country?

Question 214 (2023-10-31)

Hon. Iipumbu (NEFF) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

Hon, Speaker, Hon Members, we have a duty to market our country in the best ways possible while safeguarding the best interests of our people. We may never be fully agree on how this must be done, but what I will not take away is the fact that we do this for the furtherance of a sustainable future for our people. Honourable Minister, while you were in Belgium, we became aware to the fact that your appointing authority has declared to the world that Namibia will stop all exports of raw minerals from its shoals. While I am not opposed to the noble idea of local value addition, I however seek to get clarity from you on the following questions:

1. When the President made this announcement, what timelines does he have in mind, or have you advised him as to when will this ban come into effect, so that we know how serious he is?
2. How does your Ministry see this ban being practical especially on sensitive commodities like uranium plus oil, in other words, has he told the Chinese mining uranium to also stop with their exports?
3. Has your Ministry instructed Qatar and Total Energies that they will need to set up refineries here seeing that your appointing authority no longer wants any raw exports?
4. Is there not a contraction between this that appears to be a blanket ban with a Cabinet decision to allow for the exportation of lithium or in small quantities?

Question 215 (2023-11-02)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

The existing high costs of electricity in Namibia, especially in Windhoek has become a headache for many Namibians. The majority of struggling Namibians continue to feel the pain of the ever increase in food prices caused by inflation. The high costs of electricity is another major burden and concern for many households in Windhoek and beyond. The City of Windhoek has different charges on the Municipal electricity bills, like the Electricity Control Board Levy and the National Energy Fund.

1. Please explain the purpose of the Electricity Control Board Levy and the National Energy Fund Levy?
 2. What factors determine the calculation of the above mentioned levies?
 3. Are these levies charged on a monthly or annual basis?
 4. I understand that the levy income is the Electricity Control Board's primary source of income. Why are financially struggling Namibians obligated to pay for the financial stability of the Electricity Control Board?
 5. The high costs of electricity is a heartache for Namibian households. Are there any mitigating factors to reduce the high cost of electricity?
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Question 216 (2023-11-02)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

Access to water is a fundamental right for Namibians as provided for by the Namibian Constitution under article 6, which guarantees protection and respect for life. The government has a social contract and obligation to provide a dignified life through respect, protection and fulfilment, such as providing access to water for the people. Access to water for livelihoods continues to be a serious challenge for many Namibians living in low-income communities like Groot Aub. Ever since the City of Windhoek took over the administration of Groot Aub, there has been non-stop chaos and a total disrespect for the Groot Aub community.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Why are there constant daily water disconnections in Groot Aub?
2. Honourable Minister, you made a visit to Groot Aub earlier this year, please share with us your assessment of the water issues in Groot Aub?
3. In May this year, Government made a deal with the City of Windhoek to rehabilitate and expand the water infrastructure in Groot Aub as a matter of urgency through the water rehabilitation and extension project at a cost of N\$6.8 million. Please share with this August House the status of the project and when it will be completed?
4. Who is responsible to implement the project? Further share with us the names of the contracted companies?
5. How much of the N\$6.8 million meant for the project has been spent so far?
6. When will the constant water disconnections stop at Groot Aub?

Question 217 (2023-11-02)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Works and Transport:

The Department of Government Air Transport Services within the Ministry of Works and Transport's objective is to provide safe, secure and efficient air transport services to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Government Officials to local and international destinations.

Among the aircraft under the department's custodianship include the Falcon 900B jet and a Learjet 31A.

1. Could the Minister provide this Assembly with a comprehensive overview of the total value of the air fleet under the custodianship of the Department of Government Air Transport Services?
2. Can the Minister provide clarification on the service fees associated with the use of these government aircraft as well as a detailed breakdown of what these services entail?

3. Is the Minister able to provide a thorough account of how much is annually allocated for the maintenance and repair of these aircraft, and whether these expenditures have been subject to competitive bidding processes to ensure cost-effectiveness?
4. What is the cost of renting the AS350B Helicopter?
5. Given the significance of security measures for high-ranking officials, what protocols and investments have been put in place to ensure the safety and security of government aircraft during operations and while on the ground?
6. Is the Minister able to share details about the utilization statistics of the Falcon 900B Aircraft and Learjet 31A?
7. What criteria are employed to determine which officials are granted access to these aircraft, and are these criteria subject to periodic review?
8. What measures are in place to minimize the carbon footprint of government air transport services?

Question 218 (2023-11-02)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

Debmarine Namibia's revenue surged by 83% in 2022 to N\$13.2 billion from N\$7.2 billion in 2021, this is largely owed to the diamond production, with figures indicating that Debmarine Namibia's 2022 production of 1.725 million carats is a record production in the company's short history, accounting for roughly 80% of total diamond production in Namibia. Reports indicate that of Debmarine's seven vessels in its fleet, the world's largest diamond recovery vessel, The Benguela Gem contributed 28% of Debmarine's 2022 production, second to the MV Mafuta, which contributed 36% or 613 thousand carats, while the five drill vessels contributed 36% or 632 thousand carats.

This is certainly a commendable feat and goes to underscore the importance of maintaining a healthy fleet. In this vein, it has been brought to my attention that the DebMarine vessels are being repaired in South Africa, while the Walvis Bay dry port has the necessary capacity to oversee maintenance and repairs.

I thus consider it prudent to ask the Minister the following:

1. Is the Minister aware of the Debmarine vessels being repaired in South Africa as opposed to utilizing the capacity of our own Walvis Bay dry port, which, by all accounts, possesses the capabilities to undertake such repairs?
2. Can Minister Alweendo inform this August House why domestic Namibian companies are not enlisted to oversee these vessels' repairs?
3. How does the decision to repair vessels in South Africa affect local employment and the Namibian maritime industry, and what measures are in place to minimize any adverse economic impact on our marine sector?
4. What quality assurance and compliance standards are in place to ensure that the repairs conducted in South Africa meet the safety and operational requirements of Namibian maritime regulations and international standards?

5. What is the exact amount that has been expended on repairs, to date?
6. Could the Minister provide information on the tendering and contracting processes for the vessel repairs, including details on how the bidding process, if employed, ensures that taxpayers receive the best value for their money?
7. Intriguingly, I have been informed that out of DebMarine Mining's fleet, consisting of seven vessels, three are consistently under repair each year. Can the Minister provide a detailed account of why this constant need for repairs persists and also provide the overall health of the fleet?
8. What are the underlying issues contributing to the regular maintenance requirement of these three vessels?
9. Can the Minister outline the Ministry's long-term strategy for the maintenance and management of the DebMarine Mining sea fleet, including steps to reduce the frequency of repairs and optimize the operational efficiency of the vessels?
10. What is the total value of these vessels?
11. In March of 2022, DebMarine unveiled the MV Benguela Gem, the world's largest diamond recovery vessel. What is the capacity of this vessel, as well as that of the other six vessels in DebMarine's fleet?

Question 219 (2023-11-02)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

Honorable Minister, as is public knowledge, the national electric power utility company, NamPower has an aircraft fleet consisting of a Learjet 3 IA, Bell 407 utility helicopter and a Cessna Caravan. We can appreciate the use of these aircrafts for various purposes pertaining to infrastructure inspection, emergency responses and surveying and planning, inter alia.

In light of this, I wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Could the Minister provide this Assembly with a comprehensive assessment of the total value of NamPower's airfleet, comprising the Learjet 3 IA, Cessna Caravan, and Bell 407 utility helicopter?
 2. What are the rental fees associated with the Bell 407 helicopter?
 3. In respect of the servicing costs of the aircraft, which includes maintenance and repairs, can the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the annual financial commitments required to keep these aircraft operational?
 4. Can the Minister provide insights into how frequently NamPower's airfleet is utilized, and whether the company has conducted efficiency assessments to ensure the optimal use of these assets?
 5. Has the company conducted a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis comparing the operational and financial efficiency of maintaining an in-house airfleet to the potential benefits of outsourcing such services, where applicable?
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