



Thursday, 30 November 2023

No. 27 - 2023

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MINISTER:	QUESTION NO.
1. Prime Minister	183, 186, 206, 208, 237
2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation	188, 205, 220
3. Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security	198
4. Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs	
5. Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises	190, 191, 194, 211, 212, 222
6. Minister of Education, Arts and Culture	181, 192, 210, 235
7. Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare	
8. Minister of Health and Social Services	
9. Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation	201
10. Minister of Mines and Energy	214, 215, 218, 219, 226, 229, 230, 231, 238
11. Minister of Justice	
12. Minister of Urban and Rural Development	185, 189, 193, 197, 199, 200, 204, 216

13.	Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism	227
14.	Minister of Industrialisation and Trade	225
15.	Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform	182, 223, 224, 233
16.	Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources	202, 232
17.	Minister of Works and Transport	184, 195, 217, 221
18.	Minister in the Presidency	207
19.	Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service	203
20.	Minister of Information and Communication Technology	187, 190
21.	Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation	196, 228

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?

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. Phelim 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.

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 t

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?
-

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?

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 /Goagoses), 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?

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?

Question 220 (2023-11-07)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

“If a reparation package is determined by political elites behind closed doors, it may fail to restore the trust that has been decimated by past wrongs.” We are made to understand that, last month a new round of negotiation around the Genocide reparation agreed took place between the Namibian and the Germany’s representatives negotiation team

I thus ask:

1. How does the Namibian Government envisage to reconcile and pick further engagements with the German representatives based on agreement that has been rejected by Parliament?
 2. Is it true that an amount of N\$20 billion has been added to the initial offer of 1.1 billion euros over 30 years?
 3. The suggested agreement before us fail to address the inherent cross generational damage that was visited upon the Ovaherero and Nama during 1904 to 1908. This cross-generational damage can be adjudged in terms of loss of human life, loss of precious possessions such as livestock and land, and indeed the protracted displacement of families across the region and the continent. How will the new addendum affect the communities in the diaspora such as those in Botswana?
 4. The reparation agreement before us is contrary to what was prayed for by envisaged in the motion by the late Paramount Chief of the Ovaherero people, the Hon. Kuaima Riruako, in his motion which was adopted by this August House in October 2006, that is exactly 17 years ago today. Why has the Government deviated from Riruako’s motivation which , among others, suggested that - Germany commit to paying reparations to the communities whose lives and livelihoods were decisively interrupted and altered by the official decisions and conduct of the German Reich in Namibia, including but limited to the Order of Extermination - which resulted into the daylight killing, murder, decapitation of men, women, and children?
 5. The reparation agreement before was fundamentally flawed in numerous aspects. Firstly, while the agreement affirms the provision under the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, it fails to deal with the consequences of such a violation of law. That can only come in the form of proper and genuine reparations. How will the Government make sure that the German Government does not evade its responsibility under International Law?
 6. In the current reparation agreement, the German government uses the words “reconciliation and reconstruction” rather than “reparations”. This is because by accepting the word ‘reparations’, Germany would be expected to atone to the two affected communities at greater costs. Has the Government put the above into considerations?
-

Question 221 (2023-11-07)

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

The Road Fund Administration (RFA)'s Mission Statement is understood to be: "to manage Namibia's road user charging system to provide optimum funding for an equitable, safe and economically efficient road sector, for the benefit of road users". Meanwhile, the Khomas Region has a very well developed network of roads, Windhoek is connected to the rest of Namibia by means of the national Road Network, while a well-maintained network of gravel roads serve the rural parts of the region. The road network in the Khomas region has a total length of 2,760 km representing 6.5% of the national road network.

Yesterday, I attended a familiarization visit to the City of Windhoek, wherein I quizzed both the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Moses Matyayi, as well as the Mayor, His Worship Joseph Uapingene on the road networks in Windhoek, it was revealed to me the RFA has a current backlog funding requirement of about N\$500 million for urban roads and streets. The RFA is also said to provide N\$ 50 million per year for the city's road networks, while the city requires N\$ 180 million for road maintenance alone.

I therefore ask the Minister the following:

1. Can the Minister confirm whether he is aware of the current state of the road networks within Windhoek and the challenges faced by the City of Windhoek in maintaining and expanding these road networks?
2. Could the Minister provide this august House with insights into the strategies and mechanisms that are being considered or implemented in order to bridge this significant financial gap that has been observed between what the city requires for maintenance and what is provided by the RFA?
3. Given the importance of a well-maintained road network for the city's development and economic growth, what measures are being taken by the RFA to address the backlog faced and provide the necessary support to the City of Windhoek to mitigate the existing challenges in road maintenance?
4. What strategies and policies are being considered or developed by the Ministry of Works and Transport and the RFA to ensure that the City of Windhoek can adequately finance road maintenance and construction?

Question 222 (2023-11-07)

Hon. Smith (PDM) asked the Minister of Finance Public Enterprise :

Honourable Minister, on the 5th September 2023, in this august House I put some questions to you regarding a letter that had been sent out by the management of TransNamib Ltd to its pensioners informing them that it had decided unilaterally to stop paying its share of their contribution to their medical aid payments to medical aid providers.

I pointed out that this unilateral decision, apart from being illegal, would create severe

hardship for many of the pensioners who are at an age where medical aid is possibly their single most important cost each month. The shocking news conveyed in the letter has created severe stress for many of these people.

Honourable Minister, on the 21st September you responded to the House and stated that after you had realised that the proposed actions would have a negative impact on the pensioners going forward, you (management?) had shelved the decision and that consultations would be entered into between TransNamib Ltd's management and representatives of the pensioners on the way forward.

I therefore ask:

1. Are you aware that the shelving of the unilateral decision has not been conveyed to any of the pensioners or their representatives?
2. Are you aware that two weeks after you informed this House that the illegal and unilateral decision taken by TransNamib Ltd was allegedly shelved the management of TransNamib Ltd appointed outside council to oppose any action that the pensioners may feel compelled to take to preserve what they are entitled to?
3. Are you aware that to date TransNamib's management has made no attempt to enter into negotiations with any pensioners or their representatives and that time is running out to do so?
4. Can you give an assurance that no pensioners will be prejudiced either by the stopping payment of TransNamib's share of their medical aid contributions or by in any way downgrading their medical benefits?
5. Are you aware that in 2002 the High Court of Namibia gave a ruling against TransNamib Ltd with costs, for doing what they are now again attempting to do?

Question 223 (2023-11-08)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

Water scarcity in Namibia presents a critical challenge due to its semi-arid climate, with demands increasingly outstripping the supply of this precious resource. Desalination, the process of removing salt from seawater to produce fresh water, has the potential to revolutionize water accessibility in Namibia. This technology can harness the Atlantic's vast waters bordering the country, transforming them into a reliable water source. Desalination could not only provide a sustainable supply of water but also spearhead a green revolution in Namibia, mitigating dependency on rainfall and reducing the overexploitation of aquifers.

1. What legislative or financial incentives has the Namibian government implemented to support water desalination projects within the country?
2. Can you detail the current progress made by the Namibian government in forming partnerships for the construction of desalination facilities?

3. What is the estimated investment required to establish a desalination plant in Namibia, factoring in the specific economic and environmental considerations of the region?
4. Once initiated, what is the projected timeline for a desalination plant to become fully operational in Namibia?

Question 224 (2023-11-08)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

The Ohangwena region sits atop the Ohangwena II Aquifer, a vast underground reservoir, yet it grapples with water scarcity. This aquifer could provide a sustainable water source for the region, which is particularly important given the arid nature of the country.

1. How many boreholes has the Namibian State commissioned to access the Ohangwena II Aquifer, and what is their capacity?
2. When were the existing boreholes established, and how have they impacted the region's water supply?
3. What is the future plan for borehole drilling in the Ohangwena region to effectively utilize the aquifer?
4. Currently, how many households in the Ohangwena region are experiencing water scarcity, and what measures are being taken to alleviate their situation?

Question 225 (2023-11-09)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Industrialisation and Trade:

Trade attaches have a deep understanding of the economies and trade regulations of the countries where they are posted. They can use this knowledge to help Namibian businesses identify new export opportunities and navigate the challenges of doing business in foreign markets. They can further assist Namibian businesses to build relationships with key buyers and decision-makers in foreign markets. This can be essential for success in international trade, considering that it can give businesses access to valuable information and insights, and help them to overcome cultural barriers. We further acknowledge that for a small country like Namibia, which has limited resources to devote to international trade promotion, trade attaches can play a vital role in helping businesses to succeed in foreign markets.

1. How many Namibian embassies have fully employed trade attaches around the world, as well as which specific countries those attaches are attached to?
2. How do the trade attaches influence volumes of trade between the countries they are attached to, and Namibia?

3. What is the global trade volume between Namibia and the USA, and how has it increased in the last two financial years?
4. What are the direct benefits for SMEs under AGOA, between Namibia and the USA?
5. How does the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade in Namibia ensure trade participation among small and medium enterprises to benefit from multilateral trade agreements?
6. What is the role of trade attaches in the context of Namibia's economic development strategy?
7. What are the challenges and opportunities facing Namibian businesses in accessing international markets, and how can the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade assist Namibian businesses in overcoming these structural challenges?

Question 226 (2023-11-14)

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

A company, Zambezi Exploration (Pty) Ltd (Applicant) applied for two oil blocks namely 2712A and 2812A, offshore, Orange basin, on the 06 April 2022, just after the announcement of the oil discovery, in which application they promised financial capability.

On the 08 December 2022, Applicant was awarded block 2812A, the Minister of Mines and Energy issues a letter to the Applicant requesting a Bank guarantee within 30 days prior to the signing of the Petroleum Agreement (PA) in terms of clause 4.7 and 30 of the agreement failing which the Applicant's application will be deemed unsuccessful.

On the 09 January 2023, the 30 days had lapsed as the Applicant had failed to submit the bank guarantee requested and thus their application had been deemed unsuccessful.

On 17 January 2023, the Applicant applied for an extension, a week after the application had been deemed unsuccessful and thus non-existent.

On 10 February 2023, the Ministry granted the Applicant a final opportunity till the 28 February 2023 failing which their application will be considered unsuccessful and closed on records.

On 28 February 2023, the Applicant failed to submit the bank guarantee once more and being the final opportunity, their application was once again unsuccessful and finally closed on record.

Due to their failure to obtain the bank guarantee the Applicant requested the Ministry to amend the Petroleum agreement to enable the Applicant to secure the bank guarantee.

30 June 2023, four months after Applicant failed to submit their guarantees, the Minister amended the Petroleum Agreement and inserted a suspensive condition which state that after 30 days of signing the agreement, the Applicant should provide bank guarantee failing which the agreement and its associated application automatically lapses without

giving notice to the Applicant.

Parties signed the agreement by end of August and beginning September 2023, technically the Applicant had 60 days to secure the bank guarantee given the Petroleum Agreement was only signed 30 days after the issuance of the 30th June 2023 letter. The new expiration date, for the Applicant was 29 September 2023.

Despite the amendment to the Petroleum agreement to assist and give an advantage to the Applicant, they failed to secure the bank guarantee by 29th September 2023 and thus again the agreement and application automatically lapsed. However, a week after the Applicant applied for an extension and was granted such extension till the 14 November 2023.

The Law

The Petroleum Exploration and Production Act 2 of 1991 does not provide for appeal procedure to an applicant after his application is deemed lapsed or unsuccessful, nor does it provide the Minister powers to resuscitate an application that has lapsed or deemed unsuccessful.

The law also dictate that a public official cannot extend something that has already lapsed as there is nothing to extend.

Under the *functus officio* doctrine, a functionary generally cannot change her mind and cancel, revoke, or amend his decision once she has made a final decision. Generally, a final decision is one that is not stated or implied as being only a preliminary decision, and it becomes final once it is published, announced, or otherwise conveyed to those affected by it. Generally, the decision maker can only reopen or revoke her final decision if authorized by statute.

The reason for the rule is to allow ‘both the decision maker and the subject to know where they stand. At its core, therefore, is fairness and certainty.’ Para 134/135 *Xinfeng Investments (Pty) Ltd v Minister of Mines and Energy*. In terms of the Anti-Corruption Act 8 of 2003, section 38 (c) prohibits the granting of an advantage to a any person, section 42 (2) prohibits the using of influence for the promotion, execution or procuring of any contract and section 48 the duty to report corrupt activity.

Questions

1. Hon. Minister you made a *functus* decision on the 08 December 2022 as it was written and communicated to the Applicant, on what basis in law was this decision overridden and extended?
2. On 10 February Hon. Minister made another *functus* decision written and communicated to the Applicant, which decision was made final, on what basis in law was this decision overridden and extended?
3. How were there extensions to an application that was deemed unsuccessful and lapsed in finality and thus non existed?
4. The application being unsuccessful, Hon. Minister amended the agreement and inserted a suspensive condition, on what basis in law did you overwrite your previous *functus* decision?
5. Why did Hon. Minister sign the agreement knowing the Applicant’s application was

- already unsuccessful and lapsed?
6. The amendment to the Petroleum Agreement assisted and aided the Applicant to be placed in a position to obtain the bank guarantee?
 7. Is it also correct to state that the continuous extension after the expiration due dates gave the Applicant an advantage and assistance in order to meet the requirement of obtaining the bank guarantee?
 8. That Hon. Minister used your influence to grant all those unlawful extensions?
 9. On what basis was the Applicant given another extension after the expiration of the due date of the suspensive condition in the signed Petroleum Agreement?
 10. What checks and balances are in place to ensure that officials making recommendations such as the Petroleum Commissioner and Executive Directors are not compromised or corrupted?
 11. Why was Redsoil Energy and Exploration not afforded the same treatment as the Applicant of 2812A?

Question 227 (2023-11-14)

Hon. Vries (PDM) asked the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism:

Tourism is very important because it offers great opportunities for emerging economies and developing countries like Namibia. Tourism creates job opportunities, strengthens the local economy, contributes to local infrastructure development and helps to conserve the natural environment and cultural assets as well as traditions. The safety of tourists in Namibia has been compromised, as there have been many incidents of tourists being attacked and robbed. The most recent incident was when four tourists from America and the Netherlands were robbed and assaulted at a hotel in Klein Windhoek last week.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. How many incidents of tourist attacks and robberies have been reported to your office in the years 2022 and 2023?
2. In which regions of Namibia are the attacks and robberies on tourists more frequent?
3. What is the impact of these attacks and robberies on the tourism sector in Namibia?
4. Does the Ministry have any crime prevention strategies, together with stakeholders such as the Namibian Police to ensure the safety of tourists in Namibia? And if not, when will such strategies be developed and implemented?

Question 228 (2023-11-15)

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation:

1. Does the Hon Minister realize that there is a high degree of the mushrooming of

- institutions of higher learning in our country?
2. Education is one of the most appropriate strategies for empowerment of our people. However, when the entry requirement is lowered to grade 10 or 10 points in grade 12, the empowerment element gets compromised. Does the Hon Minister know that some Namibians who love cutting corners do welcome such institutions with lower entry requirements?
 3. Another debilitating practice commonly found in these institutions of Higher learning is the fact that proper supervision and monitoring standards and quality assurance is too relaxed such that curriculum implementation does not meet market demands. Thus it is not surprising that today Namibia has more unemployable graduates than 20 years earlier.
 4. Why is it fashionable today for some of these institutions of Higher learning to be engaged in a business of producing graduates who are not employable? What is the Ministry of Higher learning doing to curtail this mass production of unemployable graduates? Who are we benefiting in allowing these practices?
 5. I am concerned by the fact that today most Namibian students at Higher institution of learning are acquiring their qualifications through corrupt practices of so called consultancy services whereby much of their academic writing are done by the so called consultants in exchange of all kinds of commodities be it finance, goods and even marks for sex. The country in the process is left with people half educated unable to run offices and departments efficiently and competently.
 6. The registration of the mushrooming of these institutions of Higher learning need serious review in terms of their suitability, standardization, curriculum supervision and monitoring. It is high time that we refuse to compromise quality education for our people. Otherwise Namibia will continue hiring educated people from other countries at the expense of our own people with useless qualifications.
 7. Independence honeymoon is long gone. The ambitious goal of Namibia to become an industrialized nation by 2030 will not be realized if the above concern is not addressed as a matter of urgency.

Question 229 (2023-11-15)

Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

About a criminal case made against Mr. Jurgen Jacobs, the Chief Operations Officer at NAMDEB, based in Oranjemund, and 12 others regarding illegal mining activities in Oranjemund. The case was made at NAMPOL but up to date there seems to be no progress made. Mr. Jurgen Jacobs is known to be a very close family and associate of Riaan Burger, the CEO of NAMDEB.

Despite these allegations made against senior executives, Riaan Burger has not acted against any of them. But if it were the ordinary workers, they would have been suspended without pay and they would have been paraded in the media as bad employees.

Questions

1. Is the Minister aware of the allegations of illegal mining by various NAMDEB executives, who engage in this diamond mining business during working hours,

- despite exorbitant salaries they are already paid from taxpayer's money?
2. Does the Minister agree with the definition of 'Life of mine' and non-viable mining areas which NAMDEB executives appear to be selling to themselves via private sector companies owned by their friends and associates?
 3. If it is decided that an area is no longer "viable for mining," what is the involvement of the State in assessing the correctness of that decision?
 4. What State security level clearance is given to non-Namibian executives at NAMDEB, before they are sourced as "skilled labour" into the country?
 5. Will the Minister conduct an investigation into the allegations herein contained, to provide satisfactory policy direction in these matters?
 6. Is it possible that NAMPOL officers are paid off to keep quiet on the criminal charges of illegal mining against these rich executives, who are stealing our diamonds with impunity.
 7. Why has Jurgen Jacobs and the 12 other executives not been suspended pending the outcome of the criminal cases against them, while other ordinary workers, the real wealth producers for NAMDEB, are being abused, trampled upon, fired, discriminated and harassed?
 8. What State security level clearance is given to non-Namibian executives at NAMDEB, before they are sourced as "skilled labour" in the country?

Question 230 (2023-11-15)

Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

I want to ask the Minister about OMDIS, a so called Non Governmental Organisation (NGO), but in fact, a section 21 Company with board members constituting Riaan Burger, Libertha Kapere-Mutambo, Jurgen Jacobs and many others, registered in 2016.

An OMDIS NGO is financed by NAMDEB and is led by their Operations Manager Mr. Tony Bessinger, who was allegedly drawn in to help transform Oranjemund into a thriving Town. NAMDEB spent N\$20 million for simply setting up this NGO and they have also set-up an OMDIS consulting firm, which includes business in property estates. They have also set up a wind farm of N\$1,2 billion. Yet they have also received support through royalty waiver to the tune of 1.2 billion to extend to 'life of mining'

1. Does the Ministry endorse the wind-farm of 35-Megawatt farm, which seems to be co-funded by NAMDEB with Anglo-American, an SPV jointly owned by these entities.
2. Is it correct that funds to extend the life of mine are being used to finance a power generation project with taxpayer's money? How does this contribute to the overall objectives of NAMDEB core business?
3. How can NAMDEB manage a wind farm if they can't manage the mining operations?
4. Who are the other shareholders in this wind farm apart from Anglo America and NAMDEB of the total exclusion of the OTC?

5. Does the Minister approve the exclusion OTC by NAMDEB, in undermining an elected political structure of state?
6. And does the Minister consider NAMDEB a success story in the public enterprise regime, and if so, why does he consider NAMDEB to be a success story?

Question 231 (2023-11-15)

Hon. Swartbooi (LPM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

I would like to ask the Minister about the N\$ 700 million wasted by NAMDEB, in less than 2 years on a failed Sand-to-Sea Project. This project used a Conveyor Belt system to transport sand into the sea, to push the sea back, and to mine for diamonds . This investment was made by NAMDEB, whilst a functional, already existing Truck-Transporting system is available, and which is more effective, more efficient and less expensive.

This project was abandoned because NAMDEB realized that the sand was “finished “ and the project was found to be ultra-expensive. This means that no proper study of the business and operational plan was done to project expense -estimates and costs total was done by the management. What a colossal failure of so-called excellent and celebrated executives.

Questions

1. Is the Minister aware of the colossal wastage of State resources by the NAMDEB management, without any explanation or any consequence of such a bad investment?
 2. The government of Namibia granted royalty remission to NAMDEB for 5 years. This means that the State receives 5 % less dividends for 5 years, despite NAMDEB upscaling production with its ramp-up phase. During this rump-up phase, NAMDEB generating more diamonds, more carats and more revenue. Yet we still have a waiver in place. Why, Hon. Alweendo, are we still subsidizing the NAMDEB? Is it the right policy decision by the government to bail out this unpatriotic NAMDEB, and what legal, political and operational facts justifying this continued bail out?
 3. The Ministry of Mines and Energy and NAMDEB in their close door discussions in Oranjemund, hosted in the Sperrgebiet Guesthouse, just shortly before the approval was granted, discussed this entire matter. What are the verifiable facts Hon. Alweendo that NAMDEB provides to the State to require a royalty remission, and if their financial resources and endowments are so scarce, why are they able to waste nearly a billion Namibian Dollars without any consequence? There is just total impunity! Why do you allow this Hon. Alweendo?
 4. Did the Sand - to - Sea project aim to creating business opportunities for Riaan Burger and his cronies in the executive, as well as his pals in the private sector, why was it even attempted while a fully functional system already exists?
-

Question 232 (2023-11-16)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources:

Government employees are the backbone of progress, dedicated to serving the greater good. Therefore, the commitment to transparency and accountability of leaders in government agencies, and especially our Ministries, help to strengthen the bond between government and the people.

Employees of the Patrol and Research Vessels under the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources are faced with a number of challenges including unpaid overtime spanning 4 to 6 months, faced with discrimination based on ethnicity at workplace, and denial to further studies.

I thus ask:

1. Is the Minister aware of the situation faced by the employees in the Ministry's Patrol and Research Vessels?
2. Is it true that the Marine Resource Fund has no money, yet top executives in that directorate are allegedly traveling nearly every month using money from the same Fund?
3. What plans does the Minister have to mitigate the situation, particularly these challenges faced by the employees as mentioned above?
4. The department is also said to possess valuable equipment that are profitable enough to be auctioned off, but are left to rust away. What is the rationale behind abandoning these valuable equipment?

Question 233 (2023-11-16)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

The Namibian dairy sector is battling to survive, with production decreasing and the price-cost squeeze forcing producers to exit the sector. According to Kok Ide Adriaanse in 2021, the Chairperson of the Namibia Dairy Producers' Association, raw milk production dropped from 21,8 million litres in 2019 to 17,2 million litres, which was a 21,1% decline in volumes. The organisation and various other role players, including milk buyers and trade specialists, had therefore petitioned the Namibian government to introduce a subsidy on animal feed. However, a decision on the matter was still awaited.

The majority of animal feed in Namibia was being imported from South Africa, with transport costs constituting about 20% of the cost, pushing production prices sky-high. The drought that had been experienced during the past few years also resulted in low water levels in local dams, and a significant decline in fodder production in the Hardap Dam area, where close to 80% of the country's raw milk was being produced.

1. How many Namibian farmers are operating dairy farms and how many liters are produced by these farmers in a month?

2. Is the Minister aware that out of the nearly 36 farmers, only an approximate number of 9 farmers are left in this industry, due to the heavy input costs associated?
 3. How many liters of milk are consumed in Namibia per month, and how many liters are imported from South Africa and elsewhere?
 4. What is the government's plan to subsidise dairy farmers to increase food security and sustainability, in the country?
-

Question 234 (2023-11-16)

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

Questions

1. In the decision-making process within a specific sector governed by a particular Act, what role does the Act play in shaping your decisions as a Minister?
 2. Do you concur with the distinction that guidelines are non-mandatory and non-statutory, while requirements are both mandatory and statutory as they are legislatively mandated?
 3. Under section 68 of the Minerals Prospecting and Mining Act (Act 33) of 1992, and section 32 of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act (Act 3) of 1991, could you clarify the legislative provisions for each?
 4. Hon. Minister, what is your answer, in a broad sense, that section 68 of the Minerals Prospecting and Mining Act (Act 33) of 1992 is analogous to section 32 of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act (Act 3) of 1991?
 5. Notably, section 68 ss (g) of the Minerals Prospecting and Mining Act (Act 33) of 1992 explicitly outlines the requirement for the demonstration of financial resources by an applicant. Conversely, this expectation is absent in section 32 of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act (Act 3) of 1991. Could you provide insight into this disparity?
 6. Hon. Minister, is it your considered decision that, in instances where guidelines deviate from the provisions of the Act, the Act takes precedence over the guidelines?
 7. Hon. Minister, considering section 32 of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act (Act 3) of 1991, if you mandated the demonstration of financial capabilities through documentary proof to applicants seeking a Petroleum Exploration License (PEL), would such actions be considered ultra vires, implying a disregard for legal authority and acting above the law?
-

Question 235 (2023-11-20)

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Education:

Regarding the lamentable conditions of Shipando Junior Primary School in Ndyona Constituency, Kavango East Region. Currently accommodating 96 learners from Grade I to 3, this school has been identified by the LPM Youth Command Element as being in a state of severe disrepair.

To shed light on this matter, the LPM Youth Command Element Leader, Duminga Ndala has recorded a video illustrating the appalling conditions of Shipando JP School and has shared it on the X social media platform. The Observer Namibia online newspaper has similarly disseminated this video on its X social media platform.

Questions:

1. Could the Hon. Minister confirm awareness of the existence of Shipando Junior Primary School in Ndyona Constituency, Kavango East Region?
2. What plans does the Ministry have in place to address the current state of the school, including the demolition of existing structures and the construction of a new, modern facility?
3. Could the Hon. Minister provide information on the allocated budget for the comprehensive overhaul of the existing structures and the construction of a new, modern school, inclusive of hostel facilities?

Question 236 (2023-11-20)

Hon. Seibeb (LPM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

Regarding the persistent lead exposure affecting children in Rosh Pinah. This matter remains unresolved, as the findings presented by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and by implication, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, lack comprehensiveness. Therefore, this notice serves as a precursor to a follow-up inquiry seeking additional information on the matter.

Questions:

1. Persistent lead contamination in airborne dust particles within the town persists due to the mining company's utilization of a truck-operated street cleaner for dust removal. What proactive measures does the Ministry intend to implement to alleviate the airborne lead exposure impacting the residents of Rosh Pinah?
2. Outdoor play for children is restricted to prevent exposure, adversely affecting the motor skills development of youngsters. How does the Ministry plan to address and mitigate these detrimental effects on children's development?
3. Despite elevated lead levels, the mining company has not engaged industry specialists to address potential chronic illnesses in children. What rationale underpins this decision? Additionally, is there a plan for the Ministry or the mining company

to provide compensation to affected children? If so, when will medical coverage commence, and what will be the extent of financial compensation, considering the severity of this environmental and human rights violation?

4. The administration of vitamins to minors has proven ineffective in reducing lead levels, largely due to the absence of adequate control measures. What strategies does the Ministry propose, in collaboration with the mining company, to enhance the efficacy of vitamin intake among minors?
5. Honourable Minister, have you apprised the Cabinet and relevant Cabinet Committee of this matter? What was the response from President Hage Geingob? Furthermore, why has there been a lack of communication from the Minister of Information and Communication Technology following Cabinet meetings, deviating from established communication practices to inform the nation with regards to lead exposure of children in Rosh Pinah?

Question 237 (2023-11-21)

Hon. Smith (PDM) asked the Minister

I give notice that on Thursday, 30 November 2023, I shall ask the Right Honorable Prime Minister the following:

The Office of the Auditor General discovered that money from the National Emergency Fund was used for security installations and renovations at the Prime Minister's Office and also to renovate the old State House. This is in contravention of the aim of the National Emergency Fund. The Auditor General highlighted two transactions that took place in the years 2014 and 2016, which amounts to N\$30 million.

1. Why was N\$30 Million used for security installations and renovations at your office and as well as renovations at the old State House?
2. What was the importance and urgency in using funds from the National Emergency Fund?
3. How has this inappropriate use of funds affected the operations and aims of the National Emergency Fund?
4. Will the used funds be replaced? If Yes, when? If No, please explain in detail.

Question 238 (2023-11-21)

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

We are concerned about the developments surrounding Namcor, which reportedly faces the looming threat of liquidation due to outstanding debts owed to two companies, prompting legal intervention. The potential liquidation of Namcor carries substantial implications, particularly during this pivotal juncture when Namibia's upcoming oil economy hinges on Namcor's stability and effective operation. Unfortunately, recent revelations pertaining to Namcor have been disheartening, as we've been besieged by successive distressing news. From unsettling allegations involving a board chairperson

allegedly found with drugs in her car to the suspension of the Managing Director on suspicions of overstepping prescribed mandates, Namcor has been marred by a series of setbacks.

These distressing occurrences paint a worrying picture. Hence, I ask

1. Are you, Honourable Minister, acquainted with the joint endeavor between Ndakalimwe Investments and Revival Construction and Engineering? Allegedly, this collaboration has issued a stern caution to Namcor regarding unsettled debts totaling N\$13 million.
 2. Could you elucidate on the genesis of these outstanding debts and whether Namcor possesses the means to settle them?
 3. Could you provide this esteemed assembly with details regarding the work undertaken by Ndakalimwe Investments and Revival Construction and Engineering for Namcor in Walvis Bay? Furthermore, what was the comprehensive cost of the project?
 4. Media reports suggest that this joint venture, represented by FB Law Chambers, has demanded settlement of the overdue amount within seven days. Does Namcor have the capability to meet this stringent deadline?
 5. If not, does the ministry possess the financial capacity to intervene and aid Namcor?
 6. In light of the looming specter of liquidation hovering over Namcor what are the odds of salvaging the corporation, and what strategies are being considered?
-