

Thank you, Hon Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to say something on this motion. I myself was very excited when the motion was tabled, I started to prepare before the motivation was done, but got disappointed on the way.

multiautle Hon Speaker, Hon members, the motion as tabled is very important as it was meant to give us the disparities between private and public schools and the discussions would have been surrounding that important topic, so that parliament comes up with recommendations that would assist to better the situation where necessary. But I'm not foreseeing that happening due to the structural impediments in the motivation caused by the mover of the motion.

Hon Speaker, Hon Members, as lawmakers we are here to discuss, agree to disagree to agree at the end on issues that would better the lives of our people, but nowadays parliament has become a campaign platform. I foresee this year to be worse as it is an election year! Hon. Speaker, it is for a long-time that I have observed motions being tabled in this August House that do not add value to the subject matter as identified and even worse when the tabled motion and the motivation thereof do not match.

As I have stated before, this is an important issue to be discussed but I think the mover got carried away by campaign fever and in his motivation came up with the usual baseless assertions and accusations on the SWAPO led government. Is this done perhaps to negatively influence the electorates against the SWAPO Party? If it is knives out then let it be!

Hon Speaker if you would listen to the discussions on this motion, you will observe that each speaker will raise with a total different issue, which at the end will make the discussions so broad, not knowing where to start and where to end. This will happen because the motion as tabled and the motivation are totally different. In the motivation you get unrelated issues mentioned and the mover of

the motion didn't come up with recommendations that would help to narrow or guide the discussions.

Hon Speaker, Hon Members, if the motivation is not structured, then it influences the discussions, the discussions are jumping all over the place, unstructured and confusing as the core matter as tabled is nowhere to be found in the motivation. I just stood up to add to that confusion.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Hamata, tabled the motion that reads:

That this assembly discusses the disparity between private and public schools continues to widen, with the latter's performance deteriorating year in and year out. This unsettling trend has been majorly attributed to the fact that the government opts for a ceiling policy and does not, amongst other things, avail adequate resources appropriate for public schools to also excel. Factors such as lack of literature, teachers' poor motivation, lack of text books, and lack of interest, coupled with working in a conducive environment, are some of the major factors to which poor performance could be partly attributed. That this Motion be referred to the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committees for further scrutiny and report back to this House.

The first sentence forms the core of the motion so tabled, which reads: *That this assembly discusses the disparity between private and public schools continues to widen, with the latter's performance deteriorating year in and year out.*

In the motivation you expect the mover to come up with statistics to show out the disparity between the private and public schools and to show out how the performance in public schools is deteriorating in comparison with private schools.

Up to the end of the motivation Hon Speaker, there is nothing of such or not even the mention of private schools, than you ask yourself on what does the Hon. Member based his assertions? Or what is the motion all about if private schools

value for money

don't appear anywhere in the motivation. I want to show the disparity between **the motion as tabled** and the **motion as motivated**. It is not the first time, Hon. Speaker that Hon. Members put motions on the order paper but when the motivation is done, it is different from what was initially tabled, I want to know what happens in between the tabling and motivation of the motion? Did the Hon member change position or is it someone else who did not understand the assignment, but if you change position then you can amend the motion Hon. Member.

The heading of the motivation reads: **Motivation by Hon. Hamata regarding the motion to discuss the issue of poor performance vis a vis government schools**. The motion tabled did not read as such.

In paragraph 3, the mover states that "Parents are burdened with financial responsibilities of purchasing school stationeries, providing food for those in hostels and meeting various other expenses, which is not good. The mover should show us the disparity with the private school so that we help you adopt the motion. In the absence of that this motion cannot go anywhere!

Paragraph 4, the current government practice of providing a mere N\$300 per child falls drastically short of meeting basic needs. One wonders how the SWAPO led government arrived at this amount. I will not claim that this amount is enough, but a mere calculation will help us, but not giving me how the private schools attain their funds, how much and from who to compare with what the government does, it becomes difficult for a one-sided approach. The Hon member should come up with empirical comparative studies that he did, which will convince us to support the motion.

In paragraph 5, the mover asked and I quote: **“is it true that government schools are far behind in comparison with private schools?”** Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, this is what I mean confusion. The Hon. Member should have established the facts of this statement before tabling the motion. This shows to us that he doesn’t know what he is talking about. He is responsible for giving us factual information that drove him to bring the motion, and us based on his facts or agree or disagree with him and assist him to get the motion adopted. The Hon Member continues to tell us that what is affirming the disparities is the fact that most of **you**, send your children to private schools! I don’t know who the “you” is referring to. It is so bad to create impression that only swapo parliamentarians’ children are the ones in private schools!

In paragraph 6, the Hon. Member said: *“the burden of seeking resources should not be a weight carried by parents and teachers, it is a shared responsibility that our government must bear”*.

Here I agree with you that it is “a shared responsibility” but just tell us that government should share this responsibility with who, if it is not with parents and teachers.

After that motivation where no comparison between private and public school is made, Hon. Hamata, in paragraph 10, comes with a recommendation, and I quote: *“I urge this house to advocate for a return to the old, but proven, method of direct procurement and distribution of essential supplies to every school through established circuits”*. The Hon. Member then continued to list what the centralised procurement and distribution system can do, and then the motivation ended.

Hon. Speaker, we should ask ourselves, what is this motion all about? I’m still of the opinion that the motivation did not guide the discussions and did not fit the motion as tabled, and therefore I again ask, is the motion about the disparity

between private and public schools, is the motion about the disparity in funds received by the schools, is it about poor performance in public schools, is it about financial burdens on parents or is it about procurement methods used in schools? Perhaps the last mentioned is the right one because the only recommendation is about procurement.

The other problem Hon Speaker, is when this motion is referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee without recommendations, poor committee staff will have to go and break their heads to conceive something on paper that can be taken out for outreach. Perhaps that's why most of the motions adopted here are not coming back because motions are not straight forward on what they seek.

In conclusion, Hon Speaker, Hon Members, the concentration should not be about the quantity of motions tabled but it should be about the quality of the motion that will add value to the subject matter being discussed and would help modify the systems. This motion is not passing the test!

I THANK YOU!