



OPENING REMARKS BY

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VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL &

CHAIRPERSON OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND

COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

PRESENTED AT

THE WORKSHOP AT THE EVALUATION WORKSHOP ON

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK OF NATIONAL

COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEES

4TH TO 8TH MARCH 2024, CROCODILE FARM,

OTJIWARONGO

- Honourable Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of the National Standing Committees,
- Staff and Clerks of Standing Committees,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to Otjiwarongo and to the Evaluation Workshop of the work of Standing Committees of the National Council. Otjiwarongo means, *'beautiful town'* and we can only expect to achieve beautiful results.

Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen,

Ironically, we are at a crocodile farm but I am assured that no crocodile will touch any of us. So, relax and let's make sure to achieve what has brought us here. Without your presence, this workshop would not have been a reality. I therefore thank each and everyone of you for making the time to come to Otjiwarongo for us to review what we have done for the financial year 2023/2024 which is coming to an end.

Honourable Members,

Implementation or let me say, any work we are doing goes hand in hand with evaluation. One cannot continue to plant and

plant seeds without looking over your shoulder as to whether the seeds are falling at the right place. The same goes with the work of Standing Committees which undertake oversight missions to ascertain as to whether government programs and projects are implemented effectively and efficiently. In the same way, we also have a duty to review the implementation of our activities in order to improve.

Every year, Standing Committees receive financial resources to achieve their respective mandates and we have to account to the public as what we do with these resources, hence this evaluation workshop. Committees draw up work plans and commit to achieve them within the given resources and it is therefore important to come together and hold each other accountable to what we said we will do. The National Council's Rules and Orders has given this important function to the Implementation and Coordination Committee (ICC), hence this workshop.

Honourable Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons,

Ideally, the monitoring and evaluation exercise of the work of Standing Committees requires the participation of all the Members but unfortunately, time and resources cannot allow us to bring everyone to Otjiwarongo. As a result, the Implementation and Coordination Committee decided to rather

hold an expanded session of the Committee which includes the Vice Chairpersons of Committees to ensure broad participation. The report from this session will be shared with all the Members of Standing Committees at a dedicated session in April 2024. At this juncture, the Standing Committees will be afforded an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned and propose activities for 2024/2025 financial year. Rest assured therefore that all the Members of the Standing Committees will have an opportunity to reflect on what the Committees have done to date and also plan together for the upcoming financial year. Furthermore, I am delighted to report that the Implementation and Coordination Committee in terms of its Work plan is mainly given resources to hold workshops like this, and this we have accomplished.

Honourable Members,

We took note however from our Benchmark study to the Parliament of Kenya that the role of our counterpart Committee is important and central to the oversight function of that Parliament. The Committee is equally financially supported to ensure the follow up regarding the implementation of the recommendations of Committees to Government. We should therefore adopt a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system which includes;-

- a. performance indicators,
- b. feedback from stakeholders, and
- c. reporting on implementation of recommendations.

One of the mandates of the Implementation and Coordination Committee is to study Regional Council's reports and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the National Council. This is an important area of our mandate which we have to prioritize and devise clear strategies to implement.

The current Parliament of the National Council is approaching the end of its term and it is therefore important to demonstrate that we are indeed achieving what we were elected to do. The electorates out there want results and we can only achieve this by regularly looking over our work and learning from experience. Standing Committees and the National Council as a whole still has a chance to accomplish anything which may be lagging behind but this requires considerable efforts.

With these few remarks,

I declare this Workshop officially opened and wish us all fruitful deliberations.

I THANK YOU