



Thursday, 18 April 2024

No. 4 - 2024

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

# QUESTIONS

---

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>MINISTER:</b>	<b>QUESTION NO.</b>
1. Prime Minister	
2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Work and Transport .....	27
3. Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security .....	31
4. Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs	
5. Minister of International Relations and Cooperation .....	10, 12
6. Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises .....	4, 19, 25
7. Minister of Education, Arts and Culture .....	18, 32
8. Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare .....	17
9. Minister of Health and Social Services .....	9, 13, 14, 23
10. Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation	
11. Minister of Mines and Energy .....	15, 22
12. Minister of Justice .....	26
13. Minister of Urban and Rural Development .....	3, 20, 24
14. Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism .....	33

15.	Minister of Industrialisation and Trade	
16.	Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform .....	11, 28, 30
17.	Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources .....	21
18.	Minister in the Presidency	
19.	Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service .....	29
20.	Minister of Information and Communication Technology	
21.	Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation .....	16, 32

---

**Question 3 (2024-02-13)**

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

The Ohangwena Regional Council is investigating the disappearance of N\$200,000, intended for flood victims and donated by the Road Fund Administration (RFA) last year. The funds were allegedly misappropriated during the tenure of the former regional Governor. The former Governor's personal assistant facilitated the transfer of the money to a company called Ethics Group Holding, ostensibly for purchasing flood relief items. However, documents reveal that only N\$60,000 worth of food items were delivered, leaving N\$140,000 unaccounted for.

I thus ask:

1. Can the Minister provide an update on the Ohangwena Regional Council's investigation into the misappropriation of N\$200,000 intended for flood victims, and what action is being taken to address this issue?
2. How does the Ministry plan to ensure accountability and transparency in the management of funds allocated for disaster relief at the regional level, given the reported discrepancies in the use of the donated funds?
3. What steps will the government take to hold individuals involved in the mismanagement of these funds accountable, particularly during the tenure of the former regional Governor?
4. In light of this misappropriation, how can the Ministry guarantee that ethical leadership and integrity will be upheld at local government level, especially when handling funds allocated for crucial purposes such as disaster relief?
5. How does the Ministry intend to implement improved oversight mechanisms and ethical training for personnel involved in handling public funds at the regional level, with the goal of preventing instances of corruption and mismanagement?
6. How can citizens trust that their donations and government allocations for disaster relief will be used appropriately, considering allegations of funds being diverted for personal gain within the Ohangwena Regional Council?

7. Will the Ministry take a stance on conducting regular audits and investigation into regional councils and local government entities to ensure that funds are used ethically, and if so, what specific measures will be put in place to reduce mismanagement?
- 

**Question 4 (2024-02-13) - Sine die**

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

Meatco has reportedly been selling its products at significantly lower prices on the international markets such as Norway and South Africa compared to its local competitors. The company is facing financial challenges despite regular bailouts by the government. A report from the Bank of Namibia suggests that Meatco's revenue was N\$4 billion less than its local competitors that exported to the same market between 2018 and 2023. The bank highlights under-declaration of income by Meatco, despite holding 73% of the market share. The central bank further recommends a forensic audit into Meatco's affairs.

I thus ask:

1. What measures if any, is the government considering to address the financial challenges faced by Meatco, given the regular bailouts it requires?
  2. Can the Minister provide insights into the persistent discrepancies highlighted by the Bank of Namibia regarding Meatco's revenue compared to its local competitors between 2018 and 2023, and how the Ministry and Meatco intend to address these discrepancies?
  3. What steps is the government planning to take to investigate and address the alleged underdeclaration of income by Meatco, as indicated in the Bank of Namibia's report?
  4. How does the government plan to address Meatco's pricing disparities in international markets, such as Norway and South Africa, where Meatco's products are sold at significantly lower prices compared to its competitors?
  5. In light of the Bank of Namibia's recommendation, what actions will the government take to initiate a forensic audit into the affairs of Meatco to ensure transparency and accountability?
  6. The Bank of Namibia observed that Meatco obtains higher prices for its products from the local market as opposed to the international market. May you explain this anomaly and how it can be reversed?
  7. How does the current economic strategy of Meatco align with the goal of creating value, considering the potential long-term implications on cash flow?
  8. What considerations and assessments are being made to balance competitiveness within Meatco's current economic framework?
-

**Question 9 (2024-02-13)**

Hon. Mukwilongo (NEFF) asked the Minister of Health and Social Services:

1. Honourable Speaker, as we mourn the death of President Hage Geingob, we are quickly reminded that the President, may his dear soul rest in peace, had to be rushed to the USA for treatment. Honourable Minister, what is your Ministry currently doing to make sure that we buy ultra-modern cancer treatment machines in the country?
2. We are also aware that the state is funding cancer patients that are flocking to private hospitals. May the Honourable Minister inform this House how much we have spent thus far on cancer patients?
3. What alternatives are there to make cancer treatment more affordable in our country?

---

**Question 10 (2024-02-13)**

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

In 2014, a Namibian citizen, Mr. Junias Shomwele, found himself entangled in an ordeal beyond his control within the borders of the Republic of Zambia. Wrongfully arrested and imprisoned, Mr. Shomwele's life took a drastic turn. Mr. Shomwele was detained for a period of three years, without charges, costing him his businesses in Namibia and Zambia, as well as his car which he used to do his business in the two countries.

Mr. Shomwele's plight took a significant turn when, on 26 April 2016, the High Court in Livingstone, Zambia, rendered a judgment in his favour. The court ordered compensation of N\$600,000 or its equivalent in Zambian Kwacha, along with the return of his confiscated vehicle, or alternatively, damages equivalent to the value of the vehicle at the time. However, as we stand here today, the promise of justice remains unfulfilled. It is disheartening to note that despite the court's clear and unequivocal decision, the judgment remains unexecuted, leaving Mr. Shomwele in a state of distress. It is also concerning that the Zambian authorities seem to want to sweep this matter under the carpet.

Regrettably, the assurances provided during meetings with your Ministry have not translated into any tangible results for Mr. Shomwele. This situation is untenable, and it is imperative that we address the human cost of inaction. The consequences are dire. Mr. Shomwele has not only lost his businesses but struggles daily to provide for his family due to this prolonged injustice, and has contemplated suicide on a number of occasions.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Are you aware of the case of Mr. Junias Shomwele and the court order delivered by the High Court in Livingstone, Zambia?
2. If so, could you please enlighten this August House on the steps your office is planning to take to ensure the enforcement of the judgment?
3. Hon. Minister, can you provide a specific timeline for the implementation of measures to enforce the court judgment in Mr. Shomwele's case?

4. What are the monitoring and oversight mechanisms your office has in place to ensure the timely and effective execution of foreign court judgments involving Namibian citizens? How can we be assured that similar cases will be handled more expeditiously in the future?
- 

**Question 11 (2024-02-13)**

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

Sanitation remains a major problem in Namibia. The number of households with enough toilet facilities in rural areas currently stand at 13.4%. Many rural areas in Namibia currently still use the open defecation system, and Gam, in the Otjozondjupa Region is just one such example. The Namibian government is obligated to provide adequate sanitation to its citizens through its commitment to core international human rights treaties, as well as its own Constitution.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Why has the Ministry revised the rural sanitation targets down to 50% by 2030, after initially targeting 100%?
  2. Which Regions in Namibia have the least sanitation rates and why?
  3. What are the current challenges in providing sanitation to the rural communities?
  4. What is the government's progress in providing sanitation for the marginalised communities, such as the San Community in Namibia?
- 

**Question 12 (2024-02-13)**

Hon. Iipumbu (NEFF) asked the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

1. Honourable Minister, I rise to get your attention on the question of the collective trauma that has been faced by the Nchindo family which is in the Zambezi region after the brutal massacring by the Botswana Defence Force of their sons along the Chobe river. After the courtesy visits that were made to the Zambezi area and those from the Botswana Head of State, can the Ministry inform this House what more has been done for the family to find closure?
2. Up to this point, Botswana Defence Force soldiers that pulled the trigger and shot the Nchindo brothers have not been brought to book even in the face of undeniable evidence that these Namibians and their Zambian cousin were not poachers? What diplomatic pressure has been put on the Botswana government in order to get justice in the matter?
3. A report has been published by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security on a visit to the region where an assessment of the security situation along the border of Namibia and Botswana was made. How far are you with the response to the seven recommendations made by the committee?

4. When shall we see the increase of border patrols by the Ministry of Defense and when will the International Relations Ministry establish a consulate in Kasane to provide general consular services?

---

**Question 13 (2024-02-15)**

Hon. Moongo (PDM) asked the Minister of Health and Social Services:

Recent reports have indicated that Namibia is experiencing a shortage of materials and equipment for testing malaria infections in the northern regions of the country. It has further been expressed that since the beginning of the year, over 12 fatalities and the hospitalization of 133 individuals due to this mosquito-borne disease. The epidemic has hit at least 15 districts, surpassing epidemic thresholds and experiencing outbreaks. These include Eenhana, Okongo, Engela, Onandjokue, Omuthiya, Tsumeb, Oshakati, Oshikuku, Outapi, Rundu, Andara, Nyangana, Nkurenkuru, Ncamagoro, and Opuwo. Accordingly, the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) has officially declared a malaria epidemic across the aforementioned districts.

The rapid spread of this disease is alarming and poses a significant threat to the health and well-being of our citizens. The destructive nature of malaria cannot be understated, as it not only causes immense suffering for individuals but also hampers economic development and stability in these towns.

I therefore ask the Minister the following:

1. What steps is the Ministry taking to address the shortage of materials and equipment for testing malaria infections in the fifteen districts where alarming statistics have emerged in recent weeks?
  2. What metrics are being used to assess the effectiveness of these interventions in real-time?
  3. What immediate steps are being taken to address any identified gaps in resources or coverage?
  4. Are there any plans in place to increase the availability of testing materials and equipment to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment of malaria cases?
  5. Considering limitations such as geographical reach and resistance issues associated with IRS and mosquito nets: What additional strategies are being considered or implemented to ensure a comprehensive response?
  6. What measures are being taken to raise awareness among the population about malaria prevention, early detection, and treatment options?
  7. How is community engagement being leveraged to enhance awareness and prevention efforts?
-

**Question 14 (2024-02-15)**

Hon. Moongo (PDM) asked the Minister of Health and Social Services:

Honourable Minister, last year you informed this very August House that the Ministry has initiated the drafting of the Mental Health Bill. It is necessary to stress the urgency and importance of replacing the current Mental Health Care Act. By continuing to utilize an obsolete apartheid-era bill, we are subjecting Namibia's populace to insufficient and inadequate mental health services that fall short of international standards. The absence of the Mental Health Bill not only sidelines and disregards the urgency of mental health concerns but perpetuates the negative stigma surrounding mental health itself. By failing to provide adequate legal protection and support for those struggling with mental illness, we inadvertently reinforce the barriers preventing individuals from seeking the necessary care and treatment they require. This prevents effective intervention and exacerbates the mental health crisis that plagues our nation. To further emphasize the importance of immediate action, statistics report that just over a quarter of a million Namibians with mental illness have sought professional help between 2019 and 2021. Moreover, Namibia's alarmingly high suicide rate, currently standing at 9.7 per 1000 people, underscores the gravity of this issue. It is dear that implementing the Mental Health Bill is not only vital but essential for safeguarding the well-being and lives of our citizens

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

1. Can the Minister provide an update on the progress of the Mental Health Bill's implementation since its approval by Cabinet almost four years ago?
2. What obstacles or challenges have impeded the swift implementation of the Mental Health Bill?
3. What steps is the Ministry of Health taking to address these obstacles and accelerate the enactment of the Mental Health Bill?
4. Can the Minister shed light on how the continued use of South Africa's Mental Health Care Act of 1973 compromises the quality and effectiveness of mental health services in Namibia?
5. What measures does the Ministry of Health have in place to address the negative stigma associated with mental health, and how will the implementation of the Mental Health Bill contribute to reducing this stigma

---

**Question 15 (2024-02-15)**

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

Before I do so, I would like to give a preamble to give context to my questions as follow: Namibia has officially entered into uncharted territory with all these oil discoveries that have been made since the first quarter (Q1) of the year 2022. These discoveries have become the talk of the country on a daily basis. Namibians from all walks of life are all trying to understand what opportunity these discoveries may have for them in the Upstream Oil and Gas Sector.

One of the entry point into this very lucrative industry is via the Application for Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) in the upstream oil and gas sector. The majority of Namibians seem not to have a thorough understanding as to what the requirements are by law for the application for Petroleum Exploration Licenses.

It would be prudent to argue that no member of this August House would disagree with me that all the Namibian Laws have been deliberately crafted in such a way that they do not exclude or disadvantage Namibians and this is evident from all Government interventions including the following:

1. NDP1 to NDP5
2. New Equitable Economic Empowerment Bill (NEEEB)
3. Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP)
4. Namibia Investment and Promotion Act (NIPA)

I would like to inform you that our laws have evolved over the years through proposed amendments made in this very House whenever it was deemed necessary by the lawmakers as part of our democracy. The reason I am pointing this out is to let you know that if a certain provision is clearly legislated for in one Act (let's call it Act 1) and such a Provision is not legislated for in another Act (let's call it Act 2), such an omission is a deliberate one for various reasons ranging from avoiding excluding Namibians as well as disadvantaging Namibians by virtue of their inability to meet such a provision if it was to be legislated for in Act 2 where the cost of operating in such a space are exponentially higher than in the other space where its legislated for in Act 1.

On the 20th November 2023, I asked questions to the Minister of Mines and Energy and these questions were not answered. I hereby repost the same question so that the nation can have a better understanding of what the law requires of them to participate in this very lucrative industry.

#### Questions

1. In the decision-making process within a specific sector governed by a particular Act, what role does the Act play in shaping up 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 for by this very August House?
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 please clarify the legislative provisions for each?
4. Hon. Minister, would you agree 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, as they both deal with the requirements for applicants applying for similar licenses (Licenses to Explore) for different commodities in different directorates?
5. Notably, section 68 subsection (g) of the Minerals Prospecting and Mining Act (Act 33) of 1992 explicitly outlines the requirement for 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, in an event where your Ministerial Guidelines for the application for a Petroleum Exploration License deviates from the provisions of section 32 of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act (Act 3) of 1991 (for an example, the expectation of Paragraph 6 in your Ministerial Guidelines is absent in section 32 of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act (Act 3 of 1991), Does the Act takes precedence over your Guidelines or do the Guidelines take precedence over the Act?
7. Section 11, subsection 2 of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act (Act 3) of 1991 clearly stipulates that your decisions are subject to the provisions of this Act and not of secondary documents like guidelines, so do you agree that this provision binds to take decision strictly in line with provisions of this very Act?
8. Hon. Minister, considering the fact that section 32 of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act (Act 3) of 1991 does not prescribe the submission of documentary proof of financial resources, would you then agree that if there is an instance whereby you or your predecessors have refused any applicant's application for a Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) on the basis that they did not demonstrate financial capabilities by virtue of them not having submitted documentary proof of financial resources you or your predecessors would have acted in an *Ultra Vires* manner, implying a disregard for legal authority and being law unto yourself (i.e. above the law).

---

**Question 16 (2024-02-27)**

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

Honorable Members, education has never been described as being for the rich or poor, therefore no one should be limited to access education on the basis of their social strata.

Since the introduction of Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NASFAF), the country has seen a mass of students who were declined financial assistance on the basis of the salary brackets of their parents. Some of these students have to drop out of the institutions of high learning due to heavy financial obligations in terms of tuition fees, accommodation, transport, meals and general keep up. This is so because these parents even with a combined or single salary around N\$500 000.00 are paying even for 3 students or more at a tertiary institution.

The assumption that these parents can afford is farfetched as they have many children to look after especially at the tertiary level. There might be other factors, for example these parents are not staying together and the other party might not really take full responsibility. As a result, this arrangement can lead to uncontrollable debts that can be emotionally draining for both parents and students.

Honorable Minister of Higher Education is there no way that this clause in the NASFAF policy can be re-visited so that at least these parents can get a relief when child number two, three and so on are joining the tertiary institutions?

---

**Question 17 (2024-02-27)**

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Minister Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare:

Hon. Minister, your Ministry is one of those critical ones in the fight against poverty eradication in our country. Namibians were shaken to the core late last year in June 2023 when we received the news that over 16 members of the same family have died because of food poisoning in the Kavango East Region.

Today various media outlets are reporting that two more kids have died in the same region again, while 8 others are admitted in the Rundu State hospital because of food poisoning, God forbids that we don't hear that the remaining 8 will die at all.

Let us not forget that last year when I questioned the level of poverty in the two Kavango Regions some Ministers and Deputy Ministers who are born and bred in those two regions were trying to literally kill me, when I stated as a matter of fact that "Poverty is rampant in the two Kavango Regions" Which to me remains the up solute, unfiltered, impure and native truth till this day.

Hon. Minister it is worth noting that there are two schools of thoughts when it comes to the issue of food poisoning. One is that this can occur when someone eat leftover food and fungi/where bacteria grows in the food. If left over food is taken it causes diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, which lead to dehydration and electrolyte imbalance and can result in death.

The other school of thought is that the food or maize meal is expired and not fit for human consumption, however hunger drove them to eat it anyway because they are starving, as a result germs or other harmful things are found in those maize meals.

My question then will be.

1. Hon Minister what has happened to the laboratory test carried out since last year to determine the cause of death of those 16 family members who died of food poisoning? When will this report be made public for us to know what has happened and why this 16 family members died?

The deafening silence from your Ministry to release that report is sickening, it is an act of concealment, but the immediate families of the deceased and by extension Namibia at large needs to know which of the two schools of thoughts is real. It is high time that this report be made public for the sake of the departed souls to eventually rest in peace.

2. In terms of your Mandate as a Minister, have you undertaken familiarization visits to the said two Kavango Regions to ascertain, what the underlining reasons are of why some residents there eat expired food?
3. Subsequent to the death of the 16 family members last year, what mitigating measures have your Ministry put in place to prevent another catastrophic event like that one in the future?
4. Are you aware of the recent death of two children in the Kavango East Region who equally died of food poisoning? And will you wait until others equally die of the same before intervening?

5. Are you using the money allocated to you Ministry effectively in as far as addressing the root causes of poverty in the two regions are concerned, food distributed to those most vulnerable people in the two regions, if yes where and can you provide statistics of how this food is distributed?
- 6 Will you agree with me that the level of proverty in the two Kavango regions is out of proportions, compare to other parts of the country and need drastic intervention from your Ministry?
7. Finally, how do you sleep at night Hon Minister knowing that there are Namibians dying every year because of hunger, while there is no excuse whatsoever on this rich prone Namibia for such to happen, if only this Government priorities were right coupled with humility and duty of care towards its citizens, irrespective of tribe, social status or political affiliations?

---

**Question 18 (2024-02-28)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Education, Art and Culture:

As we are at the beginning of the year, I want us to look at challenges that are being experienced by the schools and also by parents and guardians of the school going children. Earlier I raised a concern of lack of text books in schools. The schools are expected to implement the new curriculum in the absence of important materials like text books. Could this be a contributing factor to high rate failure in the country? The question to the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture is:

What are the plans in place to address this problem that has been persisting over years since the new curriculum was introduced?

---

**Question 19 (2024-03-05)**

Hon. Murorua (UDF) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

What has the Parliament done wrong or omitted to do, that Namibia has now been greylisted after Parliament has very hastily passed thirteen (13) Amendment Bills as per your advice to avoid the greylisting of Namibia by the Financial Action Task Force.

Furthermore, you announced that Namibia did not manage to address 13 of the recommended actions outlined in the mutual evaluation report of FATF.

1. I would also want you to inform this August House on the detailed content of these 13 recommended actions that we could apparently not manage to address.
2. I would like you to also appraise this August House as to what the agreed timeframe is, into which the remaining 13 deficiencies has to be addressed as per the requirement of FATF.
3. How does the greylisting affect the cross board transactions trade for daily food supplies, automobile parts, pharmaceutical drugs, electricity supplies and electronic connectivity via the socalled “unrecognized” servers between Namibia and South Africa after the greylisting of Namibia?

4. How is the greylisting of Namibia going to affect the oil and gas developments which were so hopeful for this financial year for Namibia as a country?
5. What impact is the greylisting of Namibia going to have on the envisaged Africa Hydrogen Summit which is planned to take place in Namibia?
6. In conclusion, I would like you to appraise this August House, when after the said deficiencies has been addressed shall the greylisting of Namibia be lifted?

---

**Question 20 (2024-03-05)**

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

The consumption of expired and counterfeit foods can pose serious health risks, including food poisoning, allergic reactions and long-term health complications. There have been a number of public complaints about shops and food outlets that sell expired food while displaying valid fitness certificates. This is a dishonest practice that we must strongly condemn.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What challenges do the Health Inspectors at the City of Windhoek and all over Namibia experience in fully carrying out their mandates?
2. Is there a shortage of Health Inspectors at each of the municipalities and town councils in Namibia? If yes, please identify the municipalities and town councils, with the number of Health Inspectors that are in shortage.
3. How often do Health Inspectors visit Namibian food outlets and shops for regular inspections?
4. Do multi-national food stores also receive regular food inspections?
5. What public awareness campaigns are in place to create awareness about food safety?

---

**Question 21 (2024-03-06)**

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

In a combined effort, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation, in 2020, initiated a novel strategy under the Government Employment Redress Programme to provide tangible employment opportunities, complete with salaries, to unemployed fishermen. Following extensive negotiations, an agreement was reached in April between the two Ministries and the hake sector. According to the terms of this agreement, the hake industry has committed to the permanent employment of 681 fishermen. Minister Klazen informed the public that eventually 1700 fishermen would be employed, after successful negotiations.

As per the report of the Select Committee of the National Assembly on the Mass Resignation of Fishermen Employed Under the Government Employment Redress Programme in Walvis Bay (01-95 November 2022), the successful fishing companies that were awarded fishing quotas to employ the affected fishermen on a permanent basis, with full benefits comprise of Cavema Fishing (Pty) Ltd Joint Venture, Camoposatu Investment (Pty) Ltd, Vernier Investment (Pty) Ltd, The Rainbow Fishing Co. (Pty) Ltd, Hodago Fishing (Pty) Ltd Joint Venture and Kuiseb Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd.

Following the mass resignation of over 600 fishermen, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Peter Katjavivi, constituted a select committee to investigate the cause of said mass resignation. The committee met with the Namibia Fishing Industries (NFI) and Fishermen Workers Union (FWU). According to the report, a certain company by the name Walu Fishing Investments (Pty) Ltd demonstrated both its willingness and ability to employ the affected fishermen with better terms of employment. After the depletion of the fishing quotas purchased by Walu Fishing, from the National Fishing Corporation in Namibia, (Fishcor) in 2021, this led to retrenchments of 110 fishermen after the company failed to secure a quota allocation that year, despite several letters being sent to the Ministry of Fisheries requesting the allocation of 3650 metric tons fish quota for the vessels under the government objective designation. According to a close source, we have been informed that the utilization of the Marine Resources Act, 2015, to apply for objective quotas has led to the company's blacklisting. It is our understanding, as per the Marine Resources Act, that the acquisition of fishing rights is not a prerequisite for applying for objective quotas. However, despite adhering to the legal framework, Walu Fishing finds themselves unfairly targeted and penalized. The company also feels that the introduction of Iyaloo Women Group (Pty) Ltd orchestrated with the explicit purpose of preventing the allocation of objective quotas to the Walu Fishing company.

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

1. Is the Minister aware of the challenges levelled against the Governmental Employment Redress Programme?
2. Could the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources provide a comprehensive update on the status of the Government Employment Redress Programme initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, and Employment Creation, particularly focusing on the employment outcomes for fishermen within the hake sector?
3. Has the Ministry engaged in monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure that the committed employment of 681 fishermen by the hake industry under the Government Employment Redress Programme is being effectively implemented, and what measures are in place to address any challenges encountered during this process?
4. What were the criteria used to select participants for the Governmental Employment Redress Programme?
5. The allocated quotas seem insufficient to sustain fishing operations or procure vessels. For instance, the Ministry of Fisheries provided 6000 metric tons of Horse Mackerel to a company tasked with employing 200 fishermen. However, a single vessel typically requires 20-24 metric tons annually, and can only accommodate 90 to 100 fishermen. How does the Ministry expect companies to fulfill their obligations under such conditions?

6. The terms and conditions outlined in the designated agreements are cause for concern, particularly clause 3.5, which stipulates that if an employee resigns, retires, or passes away, the position must not be filled by another fisherman, and the quota will be reduced accordingly. How and why are companies expected to operate under such restrictive terms?
7. How many vessels are currently operating in Namibian waters for various fish species, such as Hake, Monk, and Horse Mackerel?
8. What is the ratio between the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the number of vessels available for harvesting?
9. What is the extent of uncaught quotas for different species that are returned to the Ministry of Fisheries annually?
10. How does the Ministry respond to the claims that the utilization of the Marine Resources Act, (2015) to apply for objective quotas has led to the company's blacklisting?
11. The Marine Resources Act of 2000 was amended in 2015. Who are the intended primary beneficiaries of these amendments?

---

**Question 22 (2024-03-06)**

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

On or around the 29th of January 2024, a letter purportedly drafted by Mr. Louis Beauvais on behalf of Group Shareholder for Total Energies, alleging corruption against yourself and Ms. Maggy Shino, the Petroleum Commissioner, circulated widely on social media. Reacting swiftly, you issued a Media Release addressing these allegations on the 30th of January 2024.

On the 19th of February 2024, another article surfaced on social media suggesting that a certain Dr. Eino Mvula, an acquaintance of yours, had been awarded a 5% interest in a Petroleum Exploration Licence during your tenure as Minister of Mines and Energy. Furthermore, it has been reported that you have known Dr. Eino Mvula since at least 2017. This revelation prompts the following inquiries, given the apparent longstanding relationship between yourself and Dr. Eino Mvula.

Questions:

1. What are the Petroleum Exploration Licence numbers in which Dr. Mvula and/or his company hold an interest?
2. What are the block numbers under the Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) in question?
3. Who are the shareholders in Dr. Mvula's company in question, and which companies are the operators of these Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs)? When were these Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) issued/awarded?

4. Who was the Minister and the Petroleum Commissioner at the time of the issuance/award of these Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs)?
5. How many Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) do the operators of these Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs), in which Dr. Mvula or his company holds a 5% share, operate/have?
6. Have any of these Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) been relinquished by the operators, reapplied and reissued?
7. Please indicate which Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) have been relinquished, reapplied, and reissued by which operators, to which operators, and reissued as Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs). Please provide the relevant PEL numbers.
8. Is it the case that the condition for the reissuing of those licences was that the operators accept Dr. Mvula to hold a 5% participating interest in those Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs)?
9. If the original Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) of these operators were relinquished, reapplied, and reissued, could you please provide reasons as to why you deemed it appropriate for such areas to be reissued to the same operators who may not have fulfilled their commitments to the Government?
10. Could you please share with us the time interval between when the old Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) of the operators were relinquished, when the new applications were submitted, and when the new Petroleum Exploration Licences (PELs) were issued?

---

**Question 23 (2024-03-07)**

Hon. Moongo (PDM) asked the Minister of Health and Social Services:

Honourable Minister, it has come to our attention that the Windhoek Central Hospital's Antenatal Ward has been experiencing a critical shortage of continuous cardiotocography (CTG) papers for nearly two weeks. As you may be aware, continuous cardiotocography produces a paper recording of the baby's heart rate and the mother's labour contractions.

This deficit in essential materials has significantly impacted the hospital's ability to provide proper documentation during the admission, induction, or augmentation of labour for patients. At present, medical practitioners are forced to interpret and base decisions solely on machine screens without the ability to print any evidence. This poses a serious risk to patient safety as there is no tangible proof of critical interventions, such as emergency cesarean sections due to pathological CTG results. The absence of proper documentation compromises the healthcare process, leaving both medical professionals and patients in a precarious position. It has also been brought to our attention that since December last year, the Katutura Hospital has been receiving the wrong papers for the CTG machines, which give inaccurate readings. As a matter of fact, some medical practitioners have bemoaned the fact that the CTG machine would at times record the heart rate at 130 bpm, but the print-out would indicate the heart rate was recorded at 160 bpm. This incorrect reading jeopardises both the patient and the medical practitioner.

Furthermore, the lack of CTG papers hampers the ability to trace how long a patient has been on CTG monitoring or the duration of a CTG recording. This deficiency not only impedes efficient medical procedures but also poses legal challenges, as there is no record of crucial information that could justify certain medical actions.

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

1. Is the Minister aware of the shortage of CTG papers at the Windhoek Central Hospital?
2. How is the current shortage impacting the quality of care provided to expecting mothers at the Windhoek Central Hospital?
3. In light of the absence of printed CTG recordings, how are medical professionals ensuring proper documentation of critical interventions, such as emergency cesarean sections necessitated by pathological CTG findings?
4. What measures are being taken to urgently address the critical shortage of CTG papers?
5. Could the Ministry elaborate on the contingency plans in place to safeguard patient care and maintain the necessary documentation standards during periods of material shortages, if there is any?
6. Can the Minister outline the specific steps being taken by the Ministry of Health and Social Services to address this immediate shortfall and ensure the uninterrupted supply of CTG papers in the future?
7. How does the Ministry of Health plan to address any potential legal claims arising from situations where patient interventions might be questioned due to the unavailability of CTG records?
8. Has the Ministry sought legal advice on the liability implications for the healthcare system and professionals due to the inability to provide continuous CTG monitoring, especially in cases like trial of labour after cesarean (TOLAC) where specific monitoring is deemed necessary?
9. How does the Ministry plan to address concerns regarding potential malpractice allegations against healthcare professionals who might be forced to make critical decisions without adequate CTG documentation?

---

**Question 24 (2024-03-12)**

Hon.Murorua (UDF) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

It has been reported in the news recently that the Municipality of the City of Windhoek is financially in serious dire straits.

However the very same City Council is contracting a company KeyPlot Investment to manage the parking in the CBD of Windhoek and is paying them N\$1 022 500-00 per month as per the contract between them.



1. How much does the City Council of Windhoek really receive from the parking payments that it justifies a monthly payment of N\$1 022 500-00 to KeyPlot Investments and what is the profit that the City Council of Windhoek is making on a monthly basis from the parking payments done by KeyPlot Investment?
2. What is the duration of the contract between the City Council of Windhoek and KeyPlot Investment?
3. There are people who are employed by the City Council and were tasked to collect money from the parking meters which has now been removed, would the Minister appraise us as to what productive use those people has been deployed to or whether they have been laid-off and how many they are.
4. Normally there were also gentlemen on the streets in the CBD who were assisting the public with parking and car-watching, is there a clause in the contract with KPI to employ those people seeing that they were already taking the initiative to assist vehicle owners with parking in the CBD and thus create employment for themselves to support their families, but now those old/ previous car watchers are having no income at all.

---

**Question 25 (2024-03-12)**

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

It was recently reported in the newspaper that, NIP has bought cars to the tune of N\$11 millions. May I ask the Minister the following questions

1. Can the Minister explain to this house as to what exactly means N\$11 millions to 18 vehicles particularly that, these cars are NP200? Can a Nissan NP200 cost more than 400 thousand?
2. What is that is mounted in these cars and what is the cost of mounting them?
3. With the current board members, chaired by Mr Eiseb who is the Chief of Financial Intelligence, is this not conflict of interest?
4. Can the Minister withdraw the membership of Mr Eiseb in all boards that he is serving in the country and to focus on one important aspect?

---

**Question 26 (2024-03-12)**

Hon. Hamata (PDM) asked the Minister of Justice:

Honourable Minister, as Minister of Justice who is a lawyer by profession, former chairperson of the Law Reform and Development Commission and former deputy dean and lecturer at the University of Namibia's Law School, you are undoubtedly aware of the principles of procedural fairness. I therefore, seek clarification on the following matter(s):

1. The *audi alteram partem* principle is one of the pillars of justice. It was found that your decision to withdraw Ms. Eva-Maria Phillemon as legal aid counsel

violated this principle. Would you not agree that your decision, which decision failed to adhere to this important principle, might have resulted in the erosion of public trust in yourself and your Ministry?

2. Considering that you instructed lawyers outside the office of the Government Attorneys to represent you. Can you share the total costs government has incurred to pay your lawyers, including the legal costs of Ms. Phillemon that government has to pay?

---

**Question 27 (2024-03-26)**

Hon. Hamata (PDM) asked the Prime Minister:

The creation of the office of the Leader of Opposition is an indispensable requirement in a parliamentary democracy like ours. The opposition holds an important role in the Legislative Assembly and contributes to the effectiveness of our country's parliamentary democracy by monitoring Cabinet and encouraging the government to act prudently and with accountability.

I would, therefore like to ask the Right-Honourable Prime Minister the following:

I have noticed that during national events, the Secretary-General (SG) of the ruling party - Swapo, is recognised individually and takes precedence over the Leader of Opposition. There are also other SGs from various political parties that attend these events, must they also be recognized individually? In the order of precedence, is the Swapo SG more important than the Leader of Opposition and if so, why?

---

**Question 28 (2024-03-27)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

I rise today with an urgent and grave concern regarding the humanitarian crisis unfolding before us. It is a crisis that demands our immediate attention and decisive action from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. I speak of our people who are currently stranded in the corridors of various farms, waiting for resettlement.

The reports we receive paint a distressing picture of this crisis. Families are struggling to feed themselves and their animals, with limited access to food and water. The consequences are dire, with animals dying and our citizens facing the harsh reality of starvation. This is a crisis of immense proportions, and the suffering of our fellow Namibians cannot be overstated.

While I acknowledge the recent approval of the revised National Resettlement Policy, which aims to prioritize underprivileged communities and generational farmworkers, I must emphasize the urgency of the situation at hand. The plight of these individuals and families cannot wait for bureaucratic processes or delayed interventions. Immediate action is needed to address this crisis and provide relief to those who are suffering.

Hence the questions:

- 1 How does the Ministry plan to expedite the resettlement process to alleviate the suffering of those stranded in corridors, given the urgency of their situation?
- 2 What specific support packages and immediate interventions will the Ministry provide to address the pressing needs of these vulnerable communities, including access to food, water, and essential resources?
- 3 What strategies are in place to bridge the identified gaps in the current resettlement program, such as limited access to capital, insufficient training, water scarcity, and challenges in obtaining loans from commercial banks?
- 4 Could the Ministry elaborate on the implementation strategies outlined in the new resettlement policy, particularly regarding the allocation of farms, land tenure security, and the promotion of productivity on resettlement farms?
- 5 I urge the Ministry to address reported concerns regarding corruption within resettlement committees, as raised by stakeholders. What measures are being taken to ensure transparency and accountability in the resettlement process?

---

**Question 29 (2024-03-27)**

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

For the past few weeks, the National Youth Council (NYC) has been embroiled in a power struggle between its Executive Director and Executive Chairperson. This has led to the disruption of critical meetings such as the 9th Representative Council (RC) meeting which was to take place in Ondangwa from 15-16 March 2024. This Representative Council serves as the second highest decision-making body in the absence of the General Assembly, where the board is expected to report back on NYC's activities.

Compounding this discord are allegations of financial mismanagement, with revelations of missing funds implicating the Executive Director, who is purported to be employed without a contract. Hon Minister, these unfolding events have regrettably transformed NYC into a political battleground, where political skinnishes take precedence over its mission to improve the lives of young people and promote inclusive empowerment.

I therefore ask the following questions:

1. We understand that the Minister has instituted an investigation committee to delve into these issues. When can we anticipate the results of the investigation?
2. Has the Ministry, as the custodian of the National Youth Council (NYC), reported the alleged missing money to the Anti-Corruption Commission?
3. Is the Minister aware that the Executive Director was appointed by the NYC Board without a contract in place? If indeed such a contract exists, can the Minister provide it to the House for further scrutiny? If that employment contract does not exist, what action will you take to remedy the untenable legal circumstance.
4. Are there any proposed legal and regulatory changes being considered by the Ministry to strengthen oversight functions of the National Youth Council, considering the recurring power struggles between the Executive Director and Executive Chairperson, and the faltering performance of that body.

5. The LPM Youth Command Element has applied for regional affiliation since last year, yet only three regions have obtained their regional affiliation status. Is the delay attributed to the ongoing power struggle between the Executive Committee and Executive Chairperson?

---

**Question 30 (2024-03-27)**

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

Hon. Minister individuals such as Johannes Tjipanga, Johannes Nuseb, Johannes Shilunga, John Garureb, and Gerhard Xoagub are a few of many farmers in the Gobabis Municipal area facing displacement. These individuals previously stripped of their ancestral land by the German Imperial regime and South Africa's apartheid government, have historically along with their families relied on farming as a means of survival. However, as farmworkers they have used the benefits provided by their previous employers to buy a limited number of livestock to provide for their economic sustenance, but also to preserve cultural heritage and a way of life deeply ingrained in the fabric of our society. Furthermore, the Gobabis Municipality, particularly in areas such as Kanaan A and B and Kanaan C, has initiated programs aimed at upgrading various aspects of infrastructure. These processes includes surveying, pegging and relocation necessitating cooperation from residents who currently keep livestock within town limits. Although in line with the Public and Environmental health provisions, the notice to vacate their livestock has exacerbated the existing struggles of farm workers and dwellers who have nowhere to resettle. It is with the above statement that I shall proceed to ask the following:

1. Is the Minister aware of the eviction notice, and if so what is the Minister's solution to this dire situation as these farm workers and dwellers are losing their livestock due to spatial difficulties?
2. The farm workers and dwellers have expressed their concerns in numerous letters to office bearers include the office of the Vice President. Has the Ministry made efforts to engage with the affected communities to explore alternative solutions that accommodate both the upgrading initiatives and livelihoods of the residents?
3. Has land been availed to accommodate farm workers and dwellers across the country who have been displaced?

---

**Question 31 (2024-03-03)**

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

In terms of section 4(2) of the Statistics Act, 2011 (Act No. 9 of 2011), which section lays out the purpose of national statistics system and principles of statistics, official statistics must be relevant, accurate, reliable and timely; objective and comprehensive, compiled, produced and analyzed in a scientific and transparent manner and in accordance with appropriate national and international standards and classifications.

I, therefore, seek clarification on the following matter(s):

More and more citizens have raised concerns that they were not counted during the census which took place from 18 September until 03 November 2023. People who are staying at Khomasdal soccer stadium provides a case in point. This is clear evidence that the final census results do not comply with the requirements in terms of relevant legislation as far as matters of accuracy and reliability are concerned. We can, therefore, safely conclude that the results are not a true reflection of our country's population. What are the likely ramifications to this as far as national policy, agenda setting, formulation, implementation, and evaluation are concerned?

---

**Question 32 (2024-04-08)**

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

The Namibian College of Open Learning (NAMCOL) was established under Section 2(1) of the *Namibian College of Open Learning Act, 1997 (Act No. 1 of 1997)*. Section 14 (1)(a) of the same Act provides for the appointment of the Director, who shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and be responsible for the day to day management of NAMCOL, including ensuring a financial viable institution through good financial practices, administration and identification of development opportunities.

The objects of NAMCOL are, *inter alia*, contribute towards the social and economic development of Namibia by upgrading the educational level of adults and out-of-school youths through programmes of open learning. Considering the fact that the nation is sitting with a high number of candidates who unfortunately did not qualify for higher education, NAMCOL remains an indispensable institution.

NAMCOL has been without a substantive CEO since December 2023. This could be detrimental to the daily operation and the future of NAMCOL.

I, therefore, seek clarification on the following matter(s):

1. Honourable Minister, you must be fully aware of the importance of stable and competent leadership to ensure the strategic and operational continuity of NAMCOL following Dr. Heroldt Murangi's departure. I understand that job interviews in respect of the CEO position were conducted, after which a new CEO ought to have been appointed. When is the process of selecting a new CEO going to be completed?
2. Is it true, Honourable Minister, that the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director in the Ministry applied for this position and they were allegedly unsuccessful, hence they are presently involved and are halting the recruitment process?

---

**Question 33 (2024-04-08)**

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Environment Forestry and Tourism:

I am deeply concerned about the timber issue in the two Kavango Regions, a matter that has significant implications for both environmental conservation and the livelihoods of our people. In recent years, the government's decision to halt the cutting and transportation of timber, coupled with the seizure of timber, has undoubtedly created a crisis for the communities who rely on timber for their survival.

In light of these developments, I pose critical questions to the Ministry:

1. What concrete measures does the Ministry intend to take to address the immediate needs of the affected communities who have lost their primary source of income due to the timber ban?
  2. How will the Ministry substitute the loss of livelihood for these individuals and families who have relied on the timber for generations to sustain themselves?
  3. Why wasn't a governing framework established earlier to address the grassroots struggles and basic needs of these communities, rather than resorting to punitive measures that criminalize their attempts to survive?
  4. Why hasn't the law been promptly amended to accommodate the legitimate needs to these hardworking individuals, and why hasn't a licensing system been introduced to regulate the timber trade while safeguarding the economic interests of these communities?
  5. Given the lucrative nature of the timber trade, how will the Ministry ensure that any future decisions regarding timber harvesting are made transparently and with the utmost consideration for environmental conservation?
-