



Thursday, 25 April 2024

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

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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?
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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?
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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?
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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 works 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 poverty 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 so-called “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?
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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 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 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?
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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?
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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 in the Presidency:

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 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?
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Question 34 (2024-04-16)

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

Namibia is a child of international solidarity. In fact, our nation's attainment of independence on 21 March 1990 can be largely attributed to the immense role that the international community played in condemning the continued occupation of then South West Africa by the South African apartheid administration, and the support, politically or financially, that was provided by the international community to various pressure groups and anti-apartheid movements. Hence, Namibia continues to be a child of international solidarity, and this relationship is characterised by a spirit of free and courteous engagement between government and local civil society with the international community.

It was therefore quite concerning when the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) summoned envoys from the delegation of the European Commission to Namibia, as well the local German Embassy over a courtesy meeting

that recently took place between them and the leaders of one of the political parties duly registered in Namibia pursuant to our electoral laws. Indeed, this was an exceptionally bizarre intervention from the Ministry because nowhere in our laws, nor in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) “the Convention” which the Ministry quoted in its statement are such informal interactions prohibited, save where the provisions of Article 41 (1) of the Convention prohibits the interference by foreign missions into the receiving State’s internal affairs, which was not the case in this instance.

In fact, this was not the first occurrence, whether in Namibia or the globe, where the heads of foreign missions in a receiving State meet informally with political party actors or civil society as a whole, and this was confirmed by a subsequent statement released by the delegation of the European Union to Namibia.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. Is it only SWAPO politicians that are allowed to meet with members of foreign missions? And if that is the case, in what law is such a provision postulated?
2. Were these summons an attempt at intimidating members of foreign missions in Namibia, as well as opposition political parties into not having any sort of interaction with each other, especially in the context of the much-anticipated November 2024 Presidential and National Assembly elections?
3. If no, why did the Ministry only react to this particular meeting, despite the leaders of that party, as well as leaders of other political parties, having met other foreign dignitaries in the past?
4. Can the Honourable Minister assure this August House, as well as the nation at large, that this sort of intimidatory tactics will not repeat themselves during this crucial year of elections, and that the Namibian government commits itself to our deeply entrenched democratic values?

Question 35 (2024-04-16)

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

Many car accidents in Namibia that happen at night are caused by animals such as cattle, goats, horses and donkeys that roam along our busy national roads. The negligence of the communal and commercial farmers along our national roads have caused serious car accidents that claimed the lives of so many people. One such example is the accident that happened on Saturday night (13 April 2024), 10 km from Rehoboth which was caused by a cow. This accident claimed the lives of four people.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. According to the investigations done by the Namibian Police, how many car accidents on our national roads were caused by roaming animals over the past 5 years?
2. How many farmers were held liable for the car accidents caused by their animals?

3. Don't you think it's only fair that farmers are held liable for the damages caused and lives lost during the car accidents, which were a result of their animals?
4. How often do the Namibian police hold regular engagements with the farming community about the concerns of car accidents caused by their animals?

Question 36 (2024-04-16)

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

Honourable Minister, there are concerning allegations that have come to light regarding corruption, insider trading, and personal victimization within the Ministry of Mines and Energy. It has been brought to my attention that there are serious discrepancies and irregularities in the handling of mineral rights applications, which demand accountability.

Firstly, it has been alleged that the Ministry unlawfully transferred Gold Exploration Prospecting License (EPL) 5282 to a foreign-owned company named Osino Resources. It is alleged that the Minister was aware of this unlawful transfer and failed to take appropriate action to oppose or hold accountable those involved. Secondly, it has been brought to my attention that another EPL, namely 5318, was transferred to a company called Resource Hunters under questionable circumstances. It is alleged that the owner of Resource Hunters has close ties to an individual working in the Mining Commissioner's office, raising concerns of favoritism and insider dealings. Said individual is accused of deliberately preventing the renewal of nine other EPLs (3768, 3771, 3832, 3833, 3834, 3835, 3858, 3659, and 3403), leading to further suspicions of misconduct and abuse of power. Furthermore, the Ministry finds itself in contempt of court as the Windhoek High Court reviewed and set aside the matter concerning EPLs 4404 and 4405 on December 7th, 2023. Despite committing to endorse these EPLs, the Ministry has failed to do so, citing potential conflicts with other licenses, as per a letter that has been seen by my office.

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

1. Is the Minister aware of these allegations lodged against himself, and other senior ranking officials within the Ministry of Mines and Energy?
2. Can the Minister provide clarity in the alleged unlawful transfer of Gold EPL 5282 to Osino Resources and EPL 5318 to Resource Hunters, respectively?
3. What measures are being taken to investigate allegations that certain individuals within the Ministry deliberately prevented the renewal of nine other EPLs and how does the Ministry plan to deal with these allegations of abuses of power?
4. How can the Minister assure this August House that corruption and malfeasance is not rampant within the Ministry, amid allegations that certain individuals are soliciting bribes of up to 30% of applicants' income made from the EPLs?
5. Why did the Ministry grant another EPL in August 2022, knowing that EPL 4405 already occupies that area? In the same vein, why did the Ministry use the same number (EPL 4405) despite common practice being that a different number is allocated?

6. Why has the Ministry delayed the endorsement of the physical licenses of EPLs 4404 and 4405 by over three months?
7. Is the Ministry willing to squander valuable taxpayer money, should applicants pursue litigation in respect of the Ministry not complying with the High Court order?

Question 37 (2024-04-16)

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

It is widely circulated that the Namibian Police has completed and inaugurated the construction of the Onhuno police checkpoint for N\$8,3 million in Ohangwena region. Further, the Police spokesperson held that the structure was constructed within two months by August 26 Construction.

1. Can you provide a detailed breakdown of all the costs associated with the construction of the police checkpoint?
 2. Has your office investigated how the current structure cost N\$ 8,3 million? If not, why has your office not conducted an investigation into what appears to be a waste of taxpayer funds?
 3. Why was such an important and monumental structure hastily constructed without consideration for quality and sophistication?
 4. May you specify the technical team of Engineers? Architects and Surveyors who designed this project?
 5. Lastly? may you provide the design of the project and how much this design cost and can you produce the bill of quantities which breakdown the cost of all materials needed for the project.
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