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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

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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 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 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?
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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?
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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.
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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 being 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 Kaanan 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?
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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?
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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?

Question 38 (2024-04-24)

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism:

The SME business owners of that sector have been complaining about the approach as it alienates their tour operations that have been conducted for years. The Sandwich Harbour is one of the unfortunate protected areas that are being made into a concession and being put up for tender bids. This is detrimental to the community and affects the 60 tour operators that have been conducting tour operations in that area. If Sandwich Harbour has to be made into a concession and is bidden for a tender, costs of permits may go up as the tender stipulates that exclusive rights will be given to the one who wins the tender to decide on the costs of permits etc.

The policy on tourism and wildlife and land concession of 2007 states that the State can turn protected areas into a concession and bid it for a tender to maximize State revenue, however tour operators and their clients contribute a minimum of 20 million Namibian dollars to the State coffers, hence we argue that this is the government commodification of a protected area to the betterment of a handful of individuals.

Article 23(2) states, "Nothing contained in Article 10 hereof shall prevent Parliament from enacting legislation providing directly or indirectly for the advancement of persons within Namibia who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged

by past discriminatory laws or practices, or for the implementation of policies and programs aimed at redressing social, economic or educational imbalances in the Namibian society arising out of past discriminatory laws or practices, or for achieving a balanced structuring of the public service, the police force, the Defence force, and the prison service.”

Questions:

1. Concessions are made to primarily benefit the grassroots economy, however when it is accorded through tender bids, it benefits an individual. What is more impactful? Is it when the concession is given as a tender or to the communities?
 2. Five German nationals accorded exclusive rights to operate on the Dune Belt and no other tour operators are allowed to operate there, how is that possible for five individuals to get exclusive rights to operate on the Dune Belt and exclude other tour operators on these basis?
 3. Is it the government’s intention to give all concessions as tender bids?
 4. What are the measures that the government has put in place to make sure that the grassroot’s economy benefits from these tender concessions given that the tender application for Sandwich Harbour stipulates that exclusive rights will be given to the tenderpreneur?
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