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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

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Question 63 (2024-07-02)

Hon. Benz (PDM) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Transport:

Government fleet must play an important role in service delivery for the greater good of the Namibian people. Many ministries, police stations and hospitals are unable to deliver important services to the people because they do not have the needed vehicles or the vehicles are not operational due to mechanical problems. This obstructs effective service delivery in Namibia.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Share with us a comparative analysis of the total number of operational and non-operational government fleet and further inform us on the strategy in fixing the non-operational government fleet?
2. What are the yearly cost implications in maintaining government fleet and how can this costs be possibly reduced?
3. Many police stations and hospitals in Namibia do not have enough vehicles to deliver timely services to the people. Are there any plans to procure enough vehicles for these two important ministries or to at least repair the existing broken vehicles ?
4. How effective are government garages in fixing or repairing government fleet?
5. What best practices can be employed to maintain and sustain government fleet?

Question 65 (2024-07-02)

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

The Baynes Dam project has raised significant concerns among the OvaHimba communities and other socio-economic stakeholders. Issues of proper consultation, adherence to constitutional rights, and the inclusion of all affected parties in the decision-making process have been brought forward. Recent developments include a newly launched Bio-Cultural Protocol highlighting the spiritual and livelihood significance of the Kunene River for the OvaHimba people.

The experience of the Necktartal Dam and the exclusion of the traditional communities from proper resettlement farms as promised, has raised further suspicion among most of the OvaHimba regarding the actions of the State in construction of Dams in this country. I now therefore ask the following questions:

1. Given the existence of two factions in the community: those for and those against the project, it is crucial to ensure that both are adequately represented to reflect the diverse perspectives within the community. How are the interests of the faction led by Mutaambanda Kapika being addressed?
 2. A newly launched Bio-Cultural Protocol for the OvaHerero of Kaokoland in Namibia and Angola has come into existence. This protocol emphasizes the spiritual and livelihood connections to the Kunene River and its surrounding ecosystems. How does the project plan to respect and integrate these cultural and spiritual values into its development and operational plans?
 3. The Bio-Cultural Protocol mentions several sacred sites significant to the OvaHimba community. How does the current project plan address the protection and preservation of these sacred sites? Are there any specific measures in place to ensure that these cultural heritage sites are not disturbed or desecrated during the construction and operational phases of the dam?
 4. It has been brought to our attention that there are no adequate sand resources at the Baynes Dam construction site. How does the project plan to procure the necessary sand for construction?
 5. There are concerns regarding the potential use of the Omuhonga River for sand mining. Can you confirm whether this river is being considered as a source for sand? If so, has the project obtained consent from the local communities affected by this decision? What steps are being taken to ensure that the environmental and social impacts of sand mining are mitigated?
 6. Despite the establishment of the Baynes Stakeholder Steering Committee, there are allegations that the broader OvaHimba community has not been adequately informed or consulted about the construction of the dam. Additionally, a petition with 1,000 signatures from affected community members, including those from the faction led by Mutaambanda Kapika, the Orokau and surrounding villages, Oviyeerere community, and Otjimbombonga community, indicates significant concern. How does the project plan to address these allegations and ensure that Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is genuinely obtained from all affected communities without any prejudices?
 7. Given the significant environmental and social implications of the Baynes Dam, what steps are being taken to ensure that all relevant environmental and social impact assessments (ESHIA) are comprehensive and inclusive of community input? How will the findings from these assessments be transparently communicated to the affected communities, and how will their feedback be incorporated into the project planning and execution, should the project go ahead?
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Question 67 (2024-09-03)

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister in the Presidency:

The Vice President H.E Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, has voiced serious concerns about the prolonged delay in the renovation of the stadium despite budget allocations made in the 2022/2023 budget. Further, her claims state that communications were made that by August, 28, 2024 indicating that a contractor had been secured and that progress was made. Yet, her office has notched recover any follow-up communication to arrange a site visit to date. It is with the above statement that I shall proceed to ask the following:

1. Why has there been no transparency or feedback to her office, and what steps are being taken to ensure that communication improves?
2. Given the severity of the situation and failure of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service to act within the allocated time frame, will you be advising the President to take immediate action, including the possible dismissal of the Minister responsible? If not, what justifies retaining the Minister in her position?
3. With elections on the horizon, there is a growing perception that these actions are a political stunt aimed at swaying the youth vote. Can you assure the public that this is not merely a tactic to influence voters, and will decisive actions be taken before the election period beings?

Question 71 (2024-09-03)

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

The recent developments regarding the proposed electricity tariff increments have sparked widespread discontent among our people. This seeks to address the issue of the increment of electricity tariffs, the government's intervention, and to propose tangible solutions for curbing expensive electricity tariffs in the future.

From the financial year 2016/2017, NamPower applied for an effective bulk tariff increase from N\$1.28 to N\$1.68 per kWh, and the end-user tariffs were approved at an average tariff of N\$2.00/kWh. In the 2022/2023 financial year, a tariff increase of 12.8% was requested, but the Electricity Control Board (ECB) approved a lower average bulk increase of 7.3%

The City of Windhoek had proposed a 10.3% increase in electricity tariffs, which was met with strong opposition from various stakeholders, including the Trade Union Congress of Namibia (TUCNA) and the general public. The Electricity Control Board (ECB) conditionally approved a reduced tariff hike of 7.9% . However, the government has since intervened by availing N\$365 million to subsidize electricity consumers for the 2024/ 025 financial year, effectively canceling the increment for 2024 and 2025.

While the government's intervention provides temporary relief, there are concerns about what will happen beyond 2025, especially after the elections. The ECB has projected further increases in electricity tariffs for the subsequent years, with significant hikes expected from 2025/2026 onwards. This raises the question of sustainability and the long-term affordability of electricity for Namibian households and businesses.

I therefore ask the following:

1. The constant increment of electricity tariffs in Namibia suggests that the government is prioritizing profit-making, with exorbitant profit margins at the expense of the public. Is the government trying to make a profit from electricity tariffs?
2. Despite Namibia's vast potential for solar energy, there seems to be a lack of urgency in harnessing this cheaper and more sustainable energy source. Instead, significant funds are exported to Zimbabwe, which further exacerbates the economic strain on local consumers. Why are we exporting billions to Zimbabwe when we could be investing in our own renewable energy infrastructure?
3. Should we not liberate the capacity of local authorities to implement the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) system, allowing them to generate and manage their own energy?. This could reduce NAMPOWER's role to just supplying businesses, potentially lowering costs for consumers. Where does the revenue generated from these high tariffs go? How much does energy actually cost the government?
4. Is the ECB's current model viable for the livelihoods of ordinary Namibian people who already struggle with a repo rate of 7.75% and an inflation rate of about 4.90%? The ECB's model appears disconnected from the economic realities faced by Namibians. The combination of high electricity tariffs, a steep repo rate, and inflation is crippling for households and businesses alike.
5. Are there no other means of sourcing electricity besides relying on imports from South Africa? The government's approach seems more focused on generating revenue than providing affordable energy to its citizens. Why are we not exploring and investing in other local and renewable energy sources?
6. What is the status quo with NAMPOWER's BioMass project in the Oshikoto region? This project has the potential to provide sustainable energy solutions, yet there seems to be little progress or transparency about its development. Why is there a lack of progress on such promising initiatives?

Question 72 (2024-09-10)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) ask the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

In light of the Bank of Namibia's recent announcement that electronic fund transfers (EFT) between Namibia, South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini will no longer be possible at the end of this month.

In light of this, I ask:

1. How does the Ministry plan to ensure seamless trade between Namibia and South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini following this change in the payment system?
2. What alternative financial mechanisms will be implemented to facilitate cross-border transactions?

3. In urgent situations where money needs to be transferred fast what provisions will be put in place to ensure that such transactions can be conducted efficiently?
4. Lastly, as per the announcement from the Bank of Namibia, when did the Bank formally inform the public about the cessation of EFT services between Namibia and these countries, and through which channels was this information communicated to ensure public awareness?

Question 74 (2024-09-10)

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

Honorable Minister. the recent ruling by the High Court of Namibia (in the matter of Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF), Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) has raised serious concerns about the competence and preparedness of the Commission. The court found that the Commission acted unlawfully by deregistering a political party without affording it the right to be heard, a violation of Article 18 of the Namibian Constitution. This premature action by the Commission not only shows a failure to follow due process but also threatens the integrity of our democratic systems, particularly as we approach the upcoming elections. One wonders whether we can trust the Commission to conduct free, fair and transparent elections given this early constitutional breach.

I therefore, put to you, Hon. Minister, the following questions:

1. Hon. Minister, with the High Court finding the Commission to have acted unlawfully in the recent deregistration of a political party, can you confidently state whether the Commission is fully prepared to conduct this year's elections in a free and fair manner? What measures are in place to ensure the electoral body is ready and capable?
2. Considering the Commission's early violation of constitutional principles, do you believe the Namibian public can trust the Commission to carry out this year's elections impartially and transparently? What steps is your Ministry taking to restore public confidence in the electoral body?
3. In light of the court's ruling, will you, as the Minister responsible for Urban and Rural Development, be advocating for the resignation of the Commissioners involved? Do you believe there should be consequences for this breach of public trust, and what actions will be taken to hold the Commission accountable?
4. Given this serious misstep by the electoral body, what assurances can you provide that the upcoming elections will be fair and transparent? Can we expect tighter oversight or reforms to ensure that the Commission adheres strictly to legal and constitutional requirements during the election process?
5. Hon. Minister, what is your take on the Commission's handling of this matter and what guarantees can you give the Namibian people that the elections will not be compromised? What concrete measures will be implemented to ensure that the elections remain a true reflection of the people's will, free from any form of manipulation or misconduct?

Question 75 (2024-09-11)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister in the Presidency:

The Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) has consistently raised concerns since 2017 regarding the failure of August 26 Holdings (Pty) Ltd to deliver audited financial records to the National Assembly since its inception in 1998. On 24 April 2024, I had dispatched a written communication addressed to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Director-General, Mr. Paulus Noa. The subject matter of the letter was to procure insights into and demand an investigation concerning the unseen audited report of August 26's books, held confidential by the Auditor-General's Office. During a meeting in July of this year with President Nangolo Mbumba, he disclosed to myself and my delegation that although he has received the reports, his office had not yet had the opportunity to thoroughly review the financial documents assigned to the Auditor-General by the late President Geingob in 2021. It was further revealed that upon completion of the above-mentioned assignment, the Auditor-General's Office reportedly received no further directives regarding the report from the Presidency.

I thus ask the Minister:

1. What are the specific reasons for August 26 Holdings (Pty) Ltd's persistent failure to provide these audited financial reports, despite repeated requests and the involvement of the Ombudsman?
 2. Why has the President delayed in completing this review, and what immediate actions are being taken to address this delay?
 3. What immediate and concrete steps is the Presidency undertaking to ensure that the audited financial reports and ACC findings are released without further delay? What is the expected timeline for this release, and how will the Presidency ensure that such delays are prevented in the future?
 4. Can the Minister provide a detailed explanation as to why August 26 Holdings (Pty) Ltd has not complied with the legal requirement to submit audited financial records to the National Assembly, despite multiple requests?
 5. What specific measures has the Presidency taken to address this non-compliance and ensure that August 26 Holdings (Pty) Ltd meets its statutory obligations?
 6. What directives or actions have been taken by the Presidency following the receipt of the ACC findings, and why has there been a lack of follow-through on the part of the Presidency regarding these findings?
 7. How does the Presidency plan to address and rectify the consequences of the delayed publication of these financial reports and the subsequent lack of parliamentary oversight?
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Question 76 (2024-09-11)

Hon. Diergaardt (PDM) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Transport:

The Namibian Traffic Identification System (NATIS) testing centers and offices in various parts of Namibia continue to experience serious practices of widespread corruption where learners' and drivers' licences as well as roadworthy certificates are sold to the public. Natis testing office are accused of deliberately failing people during their driving license tests if no backdoor payment is made to them. This practice has been normalised at many Natis centers in Namibia. When incapable people buy drivers licenses, they pose major risk to pedestrians and other motorists.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Is the Ministry aware of the corrupt and maladministration at Natis centers and offices in Namibia? If yes, what interventions have been made so far? And how effective are these interventions ?
2. How many Natis officers in Namib have been implicated in corruption and maladministration and what were the implications?
3. What corruption prevention strategies has your Ministry implemented so far?
4. Is it not advisable to establish a functional task team to specifically investigate corruption and maladministration at all Natis centers country wide?
5. There also seems to be a lack of service delivery at many Natis offices. How will your Ministry ensure that service delivery at Natis offices is improved?

Question 79 (2024-09-17)

Hon. Ekandjo (SWAPO) ask the Minister in Presidency:

Honorable Minister, Article 30 of the Namibian Constitution deals with the Oath or Affirmation the President takes before assuming office. Of critical importance for the purpose of my question, the oath in part read as follow:

“That I will strive to the best of my ability to uphold, protect and defend as the Supreme Law the constitution of the Republic of Namibia...”

Keeping the above in mind, in July 2023, a Private members' bill that I moved in this August House was passed by more than two thirds majority, and I must add, without a single objection neither a single abstain.

Comrade Minister, our constitution under article 56(2) is the applicable in the case of the bill concerned. The article 56(2) read as follows:

Where a bill is passed by a majority of two-thirds of all members of the National Assembly and has been confirmed by the National Council, the President shall be obliged to give his or her assent thereto.

I therefore now ask:

1. Has the President complied with article 56(2) of our constitution?
2. Has the President defied the oath of office as outlined in article 30 of the Namibian constitution in as so far as the bill is concerned?
3. Why has the President not complied with article 56(2) of the Namibian constitution, which is an obligatory clause?

Question 81 (2024-09-17)

Hon. Tjiramba (LPM) ask the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

On the issue of NAMRA (Namibia Revenue Agency) and some Provisional Tax payers with particular focus on farmers who claimed tax return on goods they bought for agricultural operations between the period of January 2020 and December 2021. NAMRA established that fraudulent tax return claims were made illegal. As a result NAMRA took drastic actions against those individuals without consultations to map out efficient and effective steps and methods of repayment. The harsh actions taken by NAMRA without assessing its own internal contributions to these malpractices have serious detrimental effects on the livelihood of affected individuals, Namibia's economy at large and on its own integrity and reputation.

It is with greatest dismay that despite numerous efforts of these affected individuals to discuss with NAMRA management amicable solutions, it has been in vain.

I shall therefore ask the following:

1. How did the Provisional Tax Payers manage to defraud NAMRA?
2. What mechanism or risk mitigation systems were in place to prevent fraudulent claims?
3. What was NAMRA's stake and responsibilities in the so called "fraudulent refunds for Provisional Tax Payers"?
4. How do we ensure that the investigation conducted in connection with an alleged fraudulent scam was reliable, valid and credible in terms of impartiality and objectivity? Given the fact NAMRA was part and parcel of the scam?
5. In terms of other available and applicable statutes, such as The Labour Act 2007 (Act no. 11 of 2007) allowable deduction from a salary of an individual employee must not exceed 1/3 or 30% of the net earning or salary, however NAMRA took a unilateral decision and instructed employers of its target apparent defrauders to deduct more than 30% and in some cases even 100% resulting in 0 salary per month to recover its debt. Is such practice legal and does it promote well-being among our citizens? Really how do these fellow Namibians breathe and satisfy their own and families' physiological basic needs? Imagine what might be the consequences of such an act?

6. Having noticed that our Government through the Ministry of Finance, recently has waved tax revenue from some State Own Enterprises (SOEs) such as Unam, Trans-Namib, Air Namibia, NamPower, NamCor, just to mention a few. Why can such relief not be accorded to these struggling subsistent farmers faced with recurrent and persistent drought, poor access to their farming operation sites due to very bad roads conditions, poisonous plants (which can wipe out all livestock in a blink of an eye) above all difficult economic downturn.
7. Considering that Namibia is in a state of emergency declared by the Head of State of the Republic of Namibia, the application of ring-fencing during the tax return review has a gigantic negative impact on Agriculture sustainability, in turn on the GDP. NAMRA seems to use the Capitalist system of giving with the right hand and take it back with the left hand.

Therefore, the appeal to NAMRA is to withhold the application of ring-fencing until such time the country economic situation recovers, otherwise this country will continue manufacturing poverty of its own citizens.

Question 82 (2024-09-19)

Hon. Tjiramba (LPM) ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

My Questions are on the issue of severe bush encroachment in Namibia with particular focus on Communal land situated south of Redline.

Bush encroachment affects 45 million ha of Namibia with significant negative impact on rangeland productivity and biodiversity. Bush encroachment is the thickening of aggressive undesired woody species resulting in an imbalance of the grass versus bush ratio causing decrease in biodiversity as well as in carrying capacity. The beef industry hinges heavily on availability of sustainable rangeland for livestock fostering increased carrying capacity, fodder availability which is a positive mechanism to mitigate impact of recurrent drought challenging food security in our country.

In communal areas its vast farming land have a natural dense cover and have been like that for many decades. This thicket woody plants post negative implications on soil fertility resulting in total disappearance of grass for livestock. The ever shrinking farm land size for the majority Namibians in rural areas and their only means of production for survival have become a factory of poverty, hunger and mere food hand-out dependency syndrome affecting their dignity. Henceforth, bush thinning is the common method to counteract bush encroachment through biomass utilization and value chain addition, however clearing the bush from farm lands might exacerbate the problem.

Therefore I ask the Hon. Minister the following questions:

1. Is the Hon. Minister aware of this disaster and if yes what restoration plan will be put in place to address this life threatening predicament?
 2. What restoration policies and regulations will be put in place to enhance effective and efficient implementation and management strategies?
 3. How will the involvement of targeted population be done especially at grass root level?
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Question 83 (2025-02-05)

Hon. Vries (PDM) ask the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism:

The dangers of climate change include constantly rising temperatures, drought, changes in precipitation, increases in the intensity of some extreme weather events like thunderstorms and floods. Namibia has been experiencing drought almost every year, for the past few years and this has significantly affected our livelihoods and even our economy. It is therefore critical that climate change interventions and policies are crafted and implemented to curb the persistent droughts Namibia has been facing.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What are the government's main policies to address climate change in Namibia and how effective are these policies in addressing climate change?
2. What policies does the government have to address the increasing frequency of droughts due to climate change?
3. What scientific data is the government using to track the effects of climate change in Namibia and what is the current situation regarding the effects of climate change in Namibia?
4. What is being done in practicality to reduce Namibia's carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions?
5. How is Namibia ensuring compliance with international climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)?

Question 84 (2025-02-05)

Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) ask the Minister in the Presidency:

Honourable Speaker, in light of the recent publication by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) of the country's unemployment statistics, which has raised significant concerns among economists, policy analysts, and the general public, I seek to draw attention to the fact that the NSA has announced that Namibia's overall unemployment rate stands at a staggering 37%, which increased from about 34%, while youth unemployment reached an alarming 45%. While this certainly paints a worrying picture of our labour market, the credibility of these statistics has been called into question.

Economists have also slammed the NSA for changing the definition of "unemployed," arguing that the exclusion of discouraged job seekers from the count, results in a misleading figure that downplays the true extent of unemployment in our country. Under the new definition, individuals who are engaged in unpaid work, such as subsistence farmers, fishermen, volunteers, and unpaid trainees, have also been excluded from the unemployment statistics. This revised methodology stands in stark contrast to the definition used in 2018, leading many to believe that the publicised figures fail to reflect the actual unemployment crisis facing Namibia today.

Adding to the concern is the fact that Namibia now has the highest unemployment rate in Southern Africa, surpassing countries like South Africa, Eswatini, Botswana, and

Angola. While the NSA's report indicates a reduction in the workforce from 725,742 in 2018 to 546,805 in 2023, the real implications of this decline, especially in light of the 24,334 job losses due to retrenchments, must not be overlooked.

In this context, I hereby submit the following questions to the Minister for clarification on the NSA's methodology, the impact of these statistics and the steps that the government intends to take in addressing the growing unemployment crisis in Namibia.

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

1. Could you please explain why the NSA has chosen to exclude discouraged jobseekers, and what the Ministry's position is on the accuracy of these figures?
2. How does the Ministry view the exclusion of certain individuals, particularly given their significant contribution to the economy, even if they are not formally employed?
3. Does the Ministry believe this exclusion provides a true reflection of Namibia's labour market?
4. Considering that Namibia now boasts the highest unemployment rate in southern Africa, What measures is the Ministry taking to address the country's unemployment crisis, and how does the government plan to bring this figure down in the near future?
5. Has the Ministry conducted any impact assessments of existing job creation programmes, and if so, what do the findings reveal about their effectiveness in reducing unemployment?
6. In light of the significant delay in the publication of these statistics, can the Ministry address concerns that the delay was politically motivated to avoid the release of such damaging figures during an election year?
7. How does the Ministry intend to involve the private sector, especially in sectors with potential for growth, to help absorb the large number of job seekers?

Question 85 (2025-02-05)

Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) ask the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture:

Heritage museums are important because they act as custodians of a community's cultural history while preserving artifacts and stories from the past. These museums also foster a sense of identity and educates visitors about history and further provides them with a space to connect with different traditions and experiences. Unfortunately, this is not the case with the Owela Exhibition and Educational Centre, which is located next to the National Theatre here in Windhoek. The centre has been shut down for the past four years now and the building remains in a deplorable and filthy condition.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Please explain why the upkeep of this centre has not been a priority for the Ministry?

2. Give us a breakdown of your Arts and Culture expenditure and progress made so far in maintaining and empowering National Heritage and Culture programmes?
 3. The Ministry seems to neglect Arts and Culture programmes and centers in Namibia. Why is this the case?
 4. When can we expect renovations to start at the Owela Exhibition and Educational Centre?
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Question 86 (2025-02-05)

Hon. Benz (PDM) ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Work and Transport:

It is important for the Namibian government to build its own office spaces because it is cheaper, safe for the employees, and is it also important to maintain an overall good working environment. The Ministry of Works and Transport is responsible for buying office spaces and managing rent agreements for government ministries, in consultation with the respective user ministries. The government continues to spend millions of Namibian dollars on a yearly basis to rent office space from private companies and individuals.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Which ministries, offices and government agencies are currently without office space and what are the reasons for this?
 2. Share with us a list of all ministries, offices and agencies that currently rent office space from private companies and the monthly rental payments? Also share with us how much the government has spent in renting office space in the last financial year?
 3. Share with us an existing strategy to minimize the cost in rental fees and any other measure implemented by your Ministry to ensure that the government has its own office space?
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Question 87 (2025-02-05)

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

The Health Professions Council of Namibia (HPCNA) in October of 2024, issued a set of directives aimed at regulating the number of students admitted to nursing and midwifery programs across the country. These directives include limiting student intake to 50 students per campus per year, restricting all institutions to a single intake per year, suspending the opening of new campuses for nursing and midwifery programs, halting the approval of new undergraduate training programs, and requiring all graduates to pass a Nursing Council pre-registration evaluation before being eligible for registration to practice. Moreover, it was underscored that institutions that failed to comply with these directives risk having their approval withdrawn by the HPCNA.

In response to the directives, the Chairperson of the Association of Private Higher Institutions (APHEIN), addressed the regulatory directives on nursing and midwifery training, emphasising the need for a more thorough consultation process involving all stakeholders before the directives by the HPCNA are implemented. Among the key points highlighted in the letter, it concludes with requests for an urgent meeting to discuss the association's feedback, deferral of the directives' implementation pending further consultations, and a commission for a study to evaluate other strategic options. In response thereto, the Registrar of the HPCNA, has seemingly rescinded the directives, explaining this in a letter written to private tertiary institutions, such as Welwitchia University, IUM and others.

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

1. Is the Minister aware of this communication between the Health Professions Council of Namibia and the Association of Private Higher Institutions?
 2. Can the Minister clarify the current status of these directives and explain the rationale behind this apparent change in position by the HPCNA?
 3. How will the HPCNA ensure that it remains responsive to the changing needs of the healthcare system, while also maintaining high standards of training and protecting the interests of prospective nursing students?
 4. Why has the Health Professions Council of Namibia agreed to revoke the directives as it has previously set out?
 5. Is it fair to assume that the HPCNA is being threatened by certain private institutions to cancel the implementation of certain directives? In a similar vein, a reputable private university recently sent an urgent letter requesting that HPCNA raise its new student intake to 200 from 50, as required by the authorized curriculum. It appears that this is an act of manipulation.
 6. What steps will the HPCNA take to ensure that any decisions made moving forward will adequately balance the concerns of training institutions with the need to maintain quality standards in nursing and midwifery education?
 7. Can the Minister commit to the fact that the HPCNA's directives - which have now been revoked - stemmed from comprehensive consultation, that reflect current educational needs, workforce demands, and healthcare outcomes, and were in fact evidence based policies that derived from empirical research?
 8. There are institutions which have admitted more than the 50 students per intake, and have also employed dual intakes, coming into direct conflict with the directives set by the HPCNA. Have these institutions faced any sort of repercussions, and if so, what have been some of these repercussions?
 9. Have any institutions been withdrawn, following the failure to adhere to the HPCNA directives?
 10. Following the revocation of the directives, will the institutions which have been withdrawn - if there are any - be reinstated?
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Question 88 (2025-02-05)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) ask the Minister of Justice:

There have been observed instances in Namibia where courts order the plaintiff to pay security deposits. Rule 59 of the High Court and Rule 62 of the Magistrates Court, pertains to the provision of security for costs. These rules allows a party in a legal proceeding to request that the opposing party provide security to cover potential legal costs. However, this justification can sometimes be used unfairly against financially weaker parties or individuals. Security deposits can prevent people from pursuing or defending a case and ultimately prevents them from seeking justice.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. If a plaintiff, especially an individual or small business is ordered to pay security for costs and cannot afford it, they may be forced to abandon their case, even if they have a strong legal claim. Does requiring security for costs create an unfair financial obstacle that prevents individuals or small businesses from seeking justice?
2. How do the courts in Namibia ensure that security for costs is not being used as a tactic to silence strong legal claims?
3. In what circumstances can security for costs unjustly deny a litigant their constitutional right to a fair trial?
4. Why can't the courts first consider the strength of the plaintiffs case before granting security for costs?
5. Does security for costs disproportionately affect poorer litigants compared to wealthier ones and what impact does this have on the overall justice system?
6. Why can't court cases with public interests like human rights, or election lawsuits be exempted from security for costs?
7. Is it possible for courts to introduce more flexible rules for NGOs, political parties and individuals bringing cases that have strong public interest?

Question 89 (2025-02-05)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) ask the Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs:

In recent developments, the M23 rebel group, reportedly supported by Rwanda, has declared a one-sided ceasefire in the eastern city of Goma for humanitarian reasons. This decision follows intense clashes with the DRC army, which resulted in significant casualties and displacements. The conflict has led to widespread human rights violations, including reports of executions and sexual violence. South Africa, Malawi and Tanzania have deployed soldiers to the DRC to assist the Congolese army in combating the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group and to protect civilians from violence and human rights abuses.

Namibia and Zimbabwe last deployed troops to the DRC in 1998. Namibia being a member state of SADC, automatically makes Namibia a part of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation and Namibia is also a member of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC). This therefore means that Namibia has a role to play in the deployment of troops to the DRC.

However, according to a local daily newspaper, the Namibian Government decided not to send troops to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Furthermore, President Nangolo Mbumba outlined that Namibia is committed to the peaceful resolution of the conflict, and reiterated that position on Friday, 31 January 2025, in his message to the diplomatic community.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What are the main reasons behind Namibia's decision not to send troops to the DRC, especially given the escalating conflict and regional instability?
2. Did Namibia receive any formal request from the DRC government or regional bodies such as SADC for Namibia to contribute troops? If so, what led to the decision to decline?
3. Could Namibia's reluctance to send troops impact its standing within SADC, given that some member states, such as South Africa, have deployed forces?
4. Does Namibia believe that a military intervention is not the best approach to the DRC conflict? If so, what alternative solutions does the Namibian government propose?
5. How does this decision align with Namibia's commitments within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU) regarding regional security?
6. Do you think the decision not to send troops to the DRC will affect Namibia's diplomatic relationship with the DRC? Have there been any discussions with the Congolese leaders regarding this?
7. How does Namibia view the role of external actors, such as the United Nations or neighboring countries, in resolving the crisis? Should the region be relying more on diplomatic efforts rather than military intervention?

Question 90 (2025-02-05)

Hon. Hamata (PDM) ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

I rise today to seek clarity from the Minister of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform regarding the granting of land tax exemptions, particularly in relation to individuals who do not appear to meet the qualifying criteria as outlined in our laws. The Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, 1995 (Act No. 6 of 1995) provides the framework for the collection of land tax and the exemption process. This Act specifies that exemptions should primarily benefit previously disadvantaged individuals or those involved in implementing redress policies aimed at correcting historical inequalities.

Furthermore the Minister is entrusted with the power to grant exemptions. but such powers must be exercised within constitutional and legal parameters to ensure fairness, transparency, and the integrity of our institutions. However. recent revelations indicate that a serving judge, Justice Shafimana Ueitele, was granted a land tax exemption by the Ministry while presiding over a case in which the First Defendant was Minister Calle Schlettwein himself. This raises serious concerns about whether the exemption process is being fairly and lawfully administered or if it is being used to unduly benefit individuals in positions of influence.

Honourable Minister, I therefore ask the following questions:

1. Under what legal provisions or constitutional powers does your Ministry grant land tax exemptions, and what criteria must an applicant meet to qualify?
2. On what basis was Judge Shafimana Ueitele granted an exemption from paying land tax, and does he fall under any of the legal categories outlined in the Act?
3. Did Judge Ueitele apply for the exemption, or was it granted at the Minister's discretion? If so. what justification was provided in his application?
4. How many individuals have been granted land tax exemptions in the last five years, and what percentage of them were formerly disadvantaged persons as defined by law?
5. Does the Ministry have a transparent process in place for granting exemptions. and is there an independent review mechanism to prevent potential abuse of this discretion?
6. What measures will the Ministry put in place to ensure that exemptions are granted fairly and do not raise concerns of undue influence or preferential treatment?
7. Does the Minister acknowledge that granting a tax exemption to a judge presiding over a case involving the government creates a serious perception of bias and undermines public trust in the fairness of judicial and ministerial decisions'?

Honourable Speaker, the integrity of our governance and legal systems depends on the fair and lawful administration of exemptions. If land tax exemptions are being used selectively to benefit those in power, rather than fulfilling their intended purpose of redressing past injustices, then the entire exemption system risks becoming a tool for favoritism rather than fairness. I urge the Minister to provide clear. transparent. and satisfactory answers to these questions.

Question 91 (2025-02-05)

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

A study conducted by Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) researchers raised concerns about unwarranted and unlawful pretrial detentions by the Namibian Police. The report, released on 16 January 2025, mentioned the Wanaheda, Katutura, and Otjomuise police stations for detaining citizens unlawfully The study

indicated a shocking 185 out of every 100 000 members of the general population are in pre-trial detention in Namibia. Exceeding the African average of 33.7 per 100 000 citizens.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. The Namibian Police are mandated to uphold the rule of law. Please explain to this August House how unlawful detentions are so common at Namibian police stations?
2. The report finds that a total of 199 police dockets were sent back by the local prosecutor's office with instructions for the immediate release of the detained individuals here in Windhoek. Have the detainees been released? If not, share with us the reasons why they are still detained?
3. Unlawful detention is a gross human rights violation and could give rise to civil liability of the state, with high financial costs bleeding government coffers. Share with us how many civil liability cases against the Namibian police are currently in courts?
4. Also share with us how many civil liability cases against the Namibian Police have been finalised and what were the cost implications for the Namibian Police?
5. Would you agree with me that the Namibian Police lack serious investigation skills? If yes, what immediate remedies will your office implement?

Question 92 (2025-02-06)

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

It has been reported that there is an increase of lumpy skin disease cases among cattle in Otjinene, Epukiro, Otjombinde, Otjituuo and Okakarara. Cattle movements from the affected areas are allowed on the condition that they are not showing signs of the disease. We are informed that the vaccination process has not yet started as the State Veterinary Services are still waiting for lumpy skin doses from the line Ministry.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Why is there a delay in providing vaccines to the veterinary offices?
 2. Will the government provide free or subsidized vaccines to all the affected farmers?
 3. All auctions in the areas have been cancelled as a result of this outbreak. Will the government introduce any emergency relief programs for all affected livestock farmers in the area?
 4. What long-term strategies are being developed to prevent future outbreaks of Lumpy Skin Disease?
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