

HONOURABLE DR. ITAH KANDJII - MURANGI, MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

14 March 2025

MOTIVATION OF THE NSFAF AMENDMENT BILL

By Hon Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi

Thank you for the opportunity granted, Hon Speaker. Hon Members, as I motivate the NSFAF Amendment Bill this morning, I feel obliged to give a short historical account about the origin of this Fund, for contextualization purposes.

The seed money that established the National Bursary Scheme in the Ministry of Education, shortly after independence, was the repatriated scholarship funds dedicated then to the development of the Namibian human capital in exile, in preparation for an independent Namibia.

While in the Ministry the bursary scheme was augmented annually through budgetary allocations. The need for diverse education and training was accentuated after independence as different professional knowledge and technical skills for the different sectors became necessary. It is that bursary scheme which over the years evolved to become the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund. In 2000 the NSFAF Act (Act 26 of 2000) was promulgated. However, NSFAF continued to operate within the Ministry for over 10 years. It was only in 2013 that NSFAF was delinked from the Ministry to become a juristic person.

NSFAF's independence came with some achievements, challenges and complications - for example the application process is automated; a bloated and costly executive structure persists as a challenge; problems of financial accountability through formal audits recur; exponential growth of eligible beneficiaries; a limited annual budget allocation; insignificant and stagnant recovery efforts; and others.

In 2021 a Cabinet Decision was issued to re-integrate NSFAF in the Ministry. Consultative meetings to pave the way for the reintegration process were held with the Ministry of Finance, the Office of the Prime Minister, Tertiary Institutions' Student Leaders, Student Associations' Leadership and other stakeholders.

What does the NSFAF Amendment Bill seek to do?

- 1). Implement and authenticate the long overdue NSFAF reintegration as sanctioned by the Cabinet Decision, to increase accountability and control of the Fund:
- 2). Divest NSFAF of its juristic personality;
- 3). Place NSFAF in the Ministry as a Department and ring fence the Fund;
- 4). closely monitor the affairs of the Fund and develop a readily accessible tertiary education student's database;
- 5). Rename NSFAF Board as the NSFAF Selection and Advisory Board to be chaired by the Ministry's Executive Director and align it functions accordingly;
- 6). Create an efficient One Stop Shop for the National Human Capital education, training and financing;

- 7). Improve NSFAF's financial accountability,
- 8). Develop and expand NSFAF into a comprehensive inclusive student Fund with different funding options, etc.

As we deliberate this Amendment Bill let us be futuristic and aim to consolidate a human resources instruments that is inclusive, transparent and accessible by all deserving Namibians.

I so submit Hon Speaker.

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DATE 2025 -03- 05

DIRECTORATE: LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING
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AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC GATHERINGS AND PUBLIC PROCESSIONS BILL

[BILL NO. OF 2025]

THAT:

1. In the arrangement of sections and in the Bill, delete Parts 5, 6 and 8 and renumber the clauses accordingly.

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2. In clause 1, delete the definitions of "authorised officer", "restricted area" and "riot damage".

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3. In clause 3 -

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(a) substitute subclause (1) with the following subclause –

- "(1) The organiser of a public gathering or a public procession must give notice of intention to hold a public gathering or public procession two days before the date of the public gathering or public procession in accordance with this section."
- (b) substitute subclause (4) with the following subclause
 - "(4) Despite the two days' notice requirement referred to in subsection (1), the Inspector-General of Police may accept notice given at least 24 hours before the date of the proposed public gathering or public procession, if the organiser gives reasonable reasons for the shorter period notice."
- (c) substitute subclause (8) with the following subclause -
 - "(8) A person who fails to give notice in terms of subsection (1) read with subsection (2) or makes a false statement in the notice knowing that it is false commits an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine not exceeding N\$ 2 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to both such fine and such imprisonment."

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(a) substitute paragraph (b) of subclause (5) with the following paragraph –

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- "(b) the representatives of public entities, institutions and other persons whom the station commander, regional commander or the Inspector-General of Police consider necessary for purposes of the meeting."
- (b) substitute subclause (12) with the following subclause -
 - "(12) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with amendments made to a notice given in terms of section 3 or conditions imposed in terms of subsection (8) or (10) commits an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine not exceeding N\$ 2 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year."

Substitute clause 6 with the following clause –

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"Obligation to hold consultative meeting

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- 6. (1) On receiving information on oath that any of the following circumstances exist in respect of a proposed public gathering or public procession, the Inspector-General of Police must hold a consultative meeting—
 - (a) national security would be seriously endangered;
 - (b) public order, public safety or public health would be seriously endangered;
 - (c) any property would be destroyed or seriously damaged; or
 - (d) a public gathering or public procession will result in serious disruption of vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- (2) The consultative meeting referred to in subsection (1) must be between the Inspector-General of Police, police officers designated by the Inspector-General of Police, if any, and
 - (a) the organiser; and
 - (b) representatives of public entities, institutions and other persons whom the Inspector-General of Police may consider necessary for purposes of the meeting.
- (3) The parties to the consultative meeting referred to in subsection (2) must act in good faith.
- (4) After the consultative meeting referred to in subsection (2), the Inspector-General of Police may make amendments to the notice given in terms of section 3 or impose conditions to ensure –
 - (i) that vehicular or pedestrian traffic, especially during traffic rush hours, is least impeded;
 - (ii) an appropriate distance between participants in the public gathering or public procession, rival public gatherings or public processions or other public gatherings or public processions;

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- (iii) access to property and workplaces;
- (iv) prevention of injury to persons or damage to property; or
- (v) public order, public safety or public health will not be endangered.
- (5) If the Inspector-General makes a decision in terms of subsection (4) he or she must in writing communicate his or her decision and reasons for the decision and any amendment made or conditions imposed to the organiser and all persons who were part of the consultative meeting.
- (6) If the identity of the organiser is not known or the whereabouts of the organiser are not known the Inspector-General of Police must give notice of the public gathering or public procession
 - (a) by causing it to be made known by means of radio or television;
 - (b) by causing notices to be distributed amongst the public and to be affixed in public or prominent places where the public gathering or public procession is to take place; or
 - (c) by causing it to be announced orally where the public gathering or public procession is to take place or amendments or conditions are to apply.
 - (7) A person commits an offence if the person fails to comply with amendments made or conditions imposed under subsection (4).
 - (8) A person convicted of an offence under subsection (7) is liable to a fine not exceeding N\$2 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year."

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(a) substitute the introductory paragraph with the following introductory paragraph

"The functionary who is given the power or function to make amendments to a notice in terms of sections 5 or 6 or to impose conditions in terms of sections 5 or 6 must have regard to -."

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In clause 10, delete paragraph (e) of subclause (2) and renumber the paragraphs.

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- 8. In clause 11, substitute subclause (3) with the following subclause
 - "(3) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding N\$ 5 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years."

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Delete clauses 12, 13 and 15.

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- 10. In clause 14, substitute subclauses (1) and (2), with the following subclauses -
 - "(1) The police officer assigned by the Inspector-General of Police, regional commander or station commander as the officer in charge of the public gathering or public procession may take any action referred to in subsection (2), if any or all of the following circumstances exist—
 - (a) if the organisers fail to comply with amendments made to the notice given in terms of section 3 and the conditions imposed in respect of the public gathering or public procession;
 - (b) if there is clear or imminent danger of, or breach to peace or public order, but in such case the police officer must have regard to the rights of persons participating in the gathering and public procession;
 - (c) if the organiser or a person participating in the public gathering or public procession kills or injures any person or attempts to do so; or
 - if the organiser or a person participating in the public gathering or public procession destroys or causes damage to property or attempts to do so;
 or
 - (e) if the organiser advises, encourages, incites, orders or in any other manner instigates a person at that public gathering or public procession to cause harm to a person or property or attempts to do so; or

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- (f) if the organiser or a person participating in the public gathering or public procession causes, encourages or furthers an insurrection or forcible resistance to the government, administration or an authority legally established or recognised in or for the territory or attempts to do so; or
- (g) if the organiser or a person participating in the public gathering or public procession uses violence, causes violence or encourages violence against a person or category of persons or persons or attempts to do so; or
- (h) except in accordance with a lawful strike or picketing, if the organiser interferes with trade or business by obstructing, hindering or impeding a person from entering or leaving a place on which a trade or business is conducted.
- (2) If the circumstances referred to in -
- (a) paragraphs (a) of subsection (1) apply, the police officer in charge must inform persons participating in the public gathering or public procession of the prohibition of the restriction and direct the public gathering or public procession to a different place or along a different route; and
- (b) paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (h) of subsection (1) apply, the police officer in charge may direct the organisers to stop the public gathering or public procession and to disperse the public gathering or public procession within the period stated by the police officer."

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11. In clause 16, delete subclause (3) and renumber subclause (4) as subclause (3).

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12. In clause 18, substitute subclauses (2) and (3) with the following subclauses –

- "(2) The Inspector-General of Police must ensure that records of all notices and supporting documents of public gatherings and public processions received under this Act are kept at his or her office for a period of five years or such longer period as may be notified in writing by the Minister.
- (3) A person may make a written request to inspect the records referred to in subsections (1) or (2) and police officers designated by the Inspector-General of Police must make the records available to the person."

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- 13. In clause 19, substitute subclause (2) with the following subclause -
 - "(2) A person convicted of an offence referred to in subsection (1) is liable to a fine not exceeding N\$ 2000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months."

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14. In clause 20, substitute subclause (2) with the following subclause –

"(2) Regulations made under subsection (1) may prescribe penalties in respect of a contravention of or a failure to comply with any provision of those regulations not exceeding a fine of N\$ 2 000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months."

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15. In clause 21, substitute subclause (1) with the following subclause -

"(1) The Public Gathering Proclamation, 1989 (AG Proclamation No. 23 of 1989) is repealed."

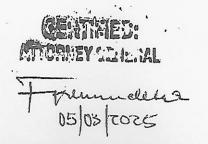
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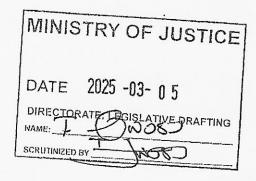
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16. Substitute clause 22 with the following clause -

"Short title and commencement

- 22. (1) This Act is called the Public Gatherings and Public Processions Act, 2025 and comes into operation on a date determined by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*.
- (2) Different dates may be determined under subsection (1) in respect of different provisions of this Act."





17. Substitute Form A with the following Form –

"Form A The Public Gatherings and Public Procession Act, 2025 Notice of intention to hold a public gathering or public procession (Section 3)

(To be completed in duplicate)

NB: This notice should be received by, or on behalf of, the Inspector General of Police at least two (2) days before the date of the public gathering or public procession.

To: The Inspector General of Police

1. Particulars of organiser/s

I/We hereby give notice to the Inspector General of Police of the intention to hold a public gathering or public procession.

Surname:
Full Name/s:
Date of Birth:
Nationality:
National Identification Number
Physical address:
Postal address:
Telephone Numbers:
E-mail Address:
Occupation:

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(if more than one organiser, complete the next page)

[A copy of the organiser's identity document/s or passport must be attached] 2. Particulars of the public gathering or public procession 2.1 Date 2.2 Proposed venue (for a public gathering) 2.3 Has the consent of the owner of the venue obtained? (yes/no/not applicable) if yes, attach consent document . 2.4 In case of a public procession, the planned route: 2.5 Commencement time and ending time 2.6 Estimated number of persons expected: 2.7 Purpose of public gathering or public procession: If the notice is given less than 2 days from the intended date of the public gathering or public procession, the reasons for giving notice in a shorter period: 2.7. Other relevant information:

Signature(s) of organiser

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

3. Pa	rticulars of receiving officer						
3.1							
3.2	Office						
3.3	Signature						
3.4							
4.	Decision of the Inspector-General of Police.						
4.1							
4.2	The public gathering or public procession may take place with the following amendments.						
4.2	The public gathering or public procession may take place, with the following conditions.						
Insp	ector-General of Police	Date					
If mo	ore than one organiser, list all other organ	isers					
1.	Particulars of organiser/s						
Surna	ame;						
Full 1	Name/s:						
	of Birth:						
	onality:						
Natio	onal Identification Number						
Phys	ical address:						
Posta	al address;						
	phone Numbers:						
	nil Address:						
(if m	pation:ore than one organiser, complete the next	page)					
IA co	ppy of the organiser's identity document/s	or passport must be attached?"					

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AMENDMENTS TO THE ROAD BILL

DATE 2025 -02- 17

DIRECTORATE: LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING
NAME 2. Hergaria

[B. 5 OF 2024]

THAT:

- 1. In the Bill, substitute subclause (6) of clause 59 for the following clause -
 - "(6) Three members of the Appeal Board constitute a quorum of the Appeal Board."
- 2. In the Bill, insert after subclause (6) of clause 59 of the following subclauses and renumber the subsequent accordingly -
 - "(7) A decision of three members of the Appeal Board is not binding unless it is ratified by a majority of all members of the Appeal Board."
 - "(8) The chairperson or a member of the Appeal Board presiding at a hearing has in the event of an equality of votes a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberating vote."
- 3. In the Bill, substitute subclause (14) of clause 59 for the following subclause -
 - "(14) If all five members of the Appeal Board sit to hear an appeal, the decision of a majority of all the five members constitutes the decision of the Appeal Board.