



**REMARKS BY**

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**MP & SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**AT THE**

**INDUCTION WORKSHOP FOR THE MEMBERS**

**OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT OF NAMIBIA**

**MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2015**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
WINDHOEK  
KHOMAS REGION**

*Check Against Delivery*

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the National Assembly, I extend my warmest welcome to all of you to this auspicious occasion. As you all know, we have gathered here to formally kick-start discharging our responsibilities as Namibian Parliamentarians, having been newly elected to the 6th Parliament of Namibia.

We shall commence our duties by undergoing an induction process. This exercise is aimed at deepening the insight into parliamentary affairs, including but not limited to the following; liaising with parliamentary staff as a system, our oversight role as parliamentarians, parliamentary discipline and privileges, the parliamentary committee system, parliamentary standing rules and orders, aspects of democracy and good governance, basic documentation of the Namibian Parliament, interaction with government institutions, the public and civil society organizations. We shall also analyze mechanisms through which we liaise with the SADC-PF, the Pan-African Parliament, the AU, other national parliaments as well as the rest of the world individually and through joint forums like EU, CPA and IPU. We shall always learn from each other.

The programme of the induction is structured in such a way that we shall be guided through the exercise by qualified and experienced resource persons. Parliament is an important place for debating on major issues of public interests. These debates range from ideology, culture, religion, gender, generation, social class, internalised experiences and ambition. These debates manifest themselves in an ever changing world of globalisation, industrialisation and political economy. As MPs we must be aware of them, research and read and know more about them, their consequences, good or bad. Thus exposure and training of this nature is always necessary and needed.

As we all know, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia is our Supreme Law in the country and it continues to serve as our main guiding principle in all our dealings inside and outside the House. Besides other salient points, the Constitution provides for Powers of National Assembly and the Representative Character of members of Parliament. The second document that guides this House on a day to day basis is its Standing Rules and Orders. These Rules and Orders serve as

our guiding and aiding manual and regulate our day to day conduct of business in this August House.

We welcome your active participation in this short but very important induction exercise. It is our hope that our presenters will hand in the presentation so that you continue to revisit them at your leisure. We will also be giving you information relating to the amended Code of Conduct of the National Assembly as well as the revised Standing Rules and Orders. The purpose of doing this with respect to these two documents is to enable you to study them so that when we are going to discuss them, you will always be conversant with the necessary background of some of the critical issues. We are certainly looking forward to adopt these two critical documents in the earliest stages of the Sixth Parliament. As a matter of fact they were finalized during the Fifth Parliament but could not be adopted then due to the time constraint. Great concern in this Rules and Orders is that of Members' raising irrelevant points of order. This is for the most part a waste of time and often self-ridicule by Members. Before jumping on their feet on a point of order, MPs should seriously consider why they need to intervene. Points of order are parliamentary devices that are meant to enrich debate and not instincts for disruptions of the business.

Once again, I congratulate you for having successfully made it to this Sixth Parliament and I now declare the commencement of the induction exercise. I take this opportunity to wish you fruitful interactions during the course of this week and look forward to robust debates and discussions in the National Assembly thereafter.