



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NATIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Monday, December 16, 2013

(09:30 - 13:00)

No.15 – 2013

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

- 1.0 The Chairperson took the Chair.
- 2.0 Hon. Vice-Chairperson recited the Prayer and Affirmation.
- 3.0 STATEMENT BY CHAIRPERSON

Hon. Asser Kuveri Kapere, Chairperson of the National Council made a Statement to the House at the occasion of the commencement of last sitting of the National Council for 2013. The Statement is reproduced verbatim hereunder.

“Honourable Vice-Chairperson of the National Council;
Honourable Chief Whip and Deputy Chief Whip;
Honourable Deputy Ministers;
Honourable Members of the National Council;
Deputy Secretary to the National Council;

I thank you for coming to this session despite the fact that many offices, both from the public and private sectors, have either closed or are preparing to close for the festive season. I find your commitment to your parliamentary obligation encouraging and reassuring, this indeed is a clear testimony that you are loyal representatives of the people of Namibia.

Honourable Members

As we meet here for our last session of this year to consider pertinent bills geared towards addressing pressing matters of national concern we still remember vividly that one of Africa's gallant sons was laid to rest yesterday in his ancestral land of Qunu in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

His befitting mourning period and burial have proven to the world that Comrade Madiba was a true servant of the people, a fearless revolutionary freedom fighter, an international icon, a statesman extraordinaire and indeed an advocate of peace, justice and genuine reconciliation.

Perhaps the greatest lesson we should draw from Comrade Madiba's life is that (and I quote) "resentment is like drinking poison, and waiting for it to kill your enemy" (end of quote). Therefore, those who live with resentment, even 23 years after Namibia's independence, should draw a lesson from Madiba's wisdom and live by his virtues of forgiveness, respect, tolerance, humility and accept that genuine national reconciliation is a two-way path. Honourable Members, as Members of this august House our comradely sympathy and prayers remain with the Mandela family and our South African brothers and sisters.

Honourable Members

In addition we are mourning the passing on of Comrade Ludwig Kanduketu Stanley. The late Stanley was one of the trusted foot soldiers of the famous Chief Hosea Katjikirurume Kutako and the Chiefs' Council during the time Namibians were resisting racial oppression, segregation and colonial rule. As a freedom fighter the late Stanley will be remembered for the catalytic role he played in facilitating the escape of the leader of Namibian Revolution His Excellency Comrade Dr Sam Shafishuuna Nujoma into exile from the then South West Africa. He also assisted other prominent leaders of our liberation struggle. Our sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolences go to the bereaved family, friends, comrades and compatriots of our late Comrade Stanley.

Honourable Members, I would also like to make use of this opportunity to console the governments, families and friends of those who lost their nationals, next of kin and acquaintances in the fatal Mozambican plane crash that took place in the Bwabwata National Park on 29 November 2013. Our condolences go to all the bereaved families, friends and governments that lost their loved ones and nationals in that tragic accident.

In memory of His Excellency Comrade Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, first President of a democratic South Africa, Comrade Ludwig Stanley and the victims of the plane crash, let us now rise for a minute of silence. (May their souls rest in eternal peace).

Honourable Members

It is pleasing to note that just a week ago greater parts of our country received some showers that should be a welcoming relieve to many of our people who are still suffering from the effects of a distressing drought. We thank the Almighty for this type of blessing and since the greater part of our rainy season is still ahead of us we remain fervently prayerful that the Almighty will bless Namibia with more rain so that we may receive the fruits of the earth.

Honourable Members

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, the NBC for the successful digitalisation of its networks. The digitalisation process and the eventual migration of viewers from the analogue to digital terrestrial television is indeed a process that will enhance the social, economic and political advancement of our nation through improved and effective information dissemination.

It is very important to mention that the live parliamentary coverage by the national broadcaster is beneficial to Parliament as it will promote wider and profound coverage of parliamentary affairs that will result in greater participation in the legislative process by our various stakeholders, particularly the electorate, and more so enriching the legislative process.

Therefore, it is imperative that all Namibians buy the NBC Digital Decoder otherwise they might be left behind. I wish the NBC and the Namibian people all the best in our quest to expand information dissemination to all corners of Namibia through advance broadcasting technologies as we march towards Vision 2030.

In conclusion, Honourable Members, I would like to thank the Members and Staff who could make it to the National Council Teambuilding exercise that took place in Swakopmund last month. I once more express my gratitude and appreciation to Ms Panduleni Shimutwikeni, Secretary to the National Council, and her team for the arrangements that lead to a successful teambuilding effort. Let us keep the spirit of unity and teamwork, cultivated during the teambuilding exercise, alive and be the agents of change that will transform the National Council into a legislative centre of excellence.

With those few remarks, I welcome you once more Honourable Members, and I thank you for your attention and wish you successful deliberations ahead.

May God bless you”.

4.0 DEBATE ON REPORT(S)

4.1 FIRST ORDER READ

Resumption of Debate on Report - *The Report of the National Council Standing Committee on Regional Development and Reports on investigative visits on Government Properties (Houses and Other Government Buildings) to Zambezi, Kavango, Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati, Kunene and Khomas Regions from 03 – 15 March 2013.*

The Chairperson put the question: That the Report be adopted.

Agreed to.

The Report was unanimously adopted.

4.2 SECOND ORRDR READ

Resumption of Debate on Report – *The Report of the National Council Standing Committee on Gender, Youth and Information Communications Technology, on its visit to the Parliament of Uganda from 04 – 13 March 2013.*

The Chairperson put the question: That the Report be adopted.

Agreed to.

The Report was unanimously adopted.

5.0 MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairperson announced to the National Council that the National Assembly has passed and referred the following Bills to the National Council for review in accordance with Article 75(1) of the Namibian Constitution:

- a) *Magistrates Amendment Bill* [B.9 – 2013]
- b) *High Court Amendment Bill* [B.11 – 2013]
- c) *Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Amendment Bill* [B.12 – 2013]
- d) *Communal Land Reform Amendment Bill* [B.13 – 2013]

The Chairperson then called upon the Secretary to read the Bills a First Time.

The Secretary then read the Bills for a First Time.

The Bills stood referred to **a Second Reading.**

- 6.0 On the motion of Hon. Sibatani, seconded by Hon. Kankoshi, the Council was adjourned at 10:45 until Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

*P.N. Shmutwiken
Secretary of the National Council*