



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NATIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Monday, April 22, 2013

(09:30 - 13:00)

No.1 – 2013

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

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

Hon. Asser Kuveri Kapere, Chairperson of the National Council made a Statement to the House at the occasion of the commencement of first 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 welcome you once again to this august House.

2013, although still in its infancy has been an eventful year with many challenges having come our way as a nation. Amongst these have been the devastating passing on of our compatriots and comrades, Dr Abraham Iyambo, who was Minister of Education at the time of his passing on, as well as those of the Honourable Maurus Nekaro and Rapama Kamehozu, the Late Governors of the Kavango and Omaheke regions respectively, as well as the Grootfontein Regional Councillor Bromeus Bollo Matheus and the former Mayor of Ondangwa Town, Otto Mwangi Kapia. Each one of them has left an indelible mark in the struggle for the independence and socio-economic transformation in Namibia.

I wish that all of us in paying tribute to them will be reminded of our own call to dutifully serve the Namibian people in our national quest for economic prosperity and social progress.

At this moment in remembrance of these sons of the soil I wish to invite you all to rise for a moment of silence.

Further, Honourable Members, we are convening at a time when the country is facing a drought that continues to pose a threat to both human and animal lives, causing misery and distress among many people whose livelihoods are directly dependent on crop and animal production. As we stare nature's onslaught on our communities particularly those in rural areas, we cannot but be driven to action as lawmakers, because it is in times of distress that we are required as leaders, to provide lasting solutions to the conditions of our citizenry. It is also in times like these that we are required to work hand in hand with the Executive arm of the State to ensure that we pass and implement laws that will help ease the plight of our people.

In welcoming you back to this August house, allow me to express my desire that Parliament will remain an important point of convergence between the citizenry and the Constitution of our young Republic, to this end I urge us as lawmakers to continue consulting with our citizens and to always seek broad perspective from non-governmental organizations, workers, youth, faith based organizations, the community at large, particularly marginalised communities on the periphery of the development process, when engaging in the lawmaking process. Indeed, we are duty bound to ensure the speedy passing of laws that will ensure economic growth, social equity and the creation of more employment opportunities, especially in the light of the continuing challenges of joblessness and lack of opportunities for our people. Research has shown that our people continue to have high levels of trust in our Parliament, it is therefore important that if we are to maintain this high level of trust in our two Houses of Parliament that we must remain a conduit through which the hopes and aspirations of our people will find expression.

In conclusion, Honourable Members, this year in February we had the privilege to attend a budget briefing and training in Otjiwarongo. As you may recall the objective of that workshop was to equip us with skills that will enable us to effectively further our understanding of the national planning processes, the national budget cycle and how it relates to the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). The workshop was also intended to further sharpen us in performing our core functions by enlightening us more on the execution of the National Budget as a tool that enables the implementation of our National Developmental Goals. What we learned at that workshop should certainly serve us well, as we are about to deliberate on the Appropriation Bill. This year's Appropriation Bill is coming before us at a time when it has been confirmed that unemployment amongst our people is at 27%, while it remains relative on the high side amongst our young people.

In view of this Honourable Members, I am urging this august House to work with a sense of urgency albeit diligently to ensure that the 2013/2014 appropriation bill is passed speedily, so that government institutions are capacitated as soon as possible to address the challenges facing our nation.

Honourable Members, Namibia continues to be haunted by the scourge of Gender Based Violence, it has become evident that no part of our country is immune to these acts of deplorable violence. Again we are required in this respect to act decisively and in unity to ensure that our woman can live in peace without hindrance. Allow me also to use this occasion to appeal to our men in the country with particular emphasis on the young ones to find constructive ways in which to resolve relationship issues and conflicts which they may experience in life. I urge the youth to talk and dialogue about their emotions rather than to resort to violence against each other.

Honourable Members, I thank you for your attention and wish you all successful deliberations during this august gathering.

May God bless you.”

4.0 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) *Appropriation Bill* [B.1 – 2013]
- b) *Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Amendment Bill* [B.9 – 2012]

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

The Secretary then read the Bills a First Time.

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

- 5.0 On the motion of Hon. Sibalatani, seconded by Hon. Namwandi the Council was adjourned at 09:50 until Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 09:30.

P.N. Shimutwiken
Secretary of the National Council
