

Tuesday, 20 February 2018

No. 2 – 2018

SEVENTH SESSION, SIXTH PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2018

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

1. The Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation.
2. **Announcements by the Speaker in terms of Rule 20(b) of the Standing Rules and Orders:**
 - (i) The Speaker extended warm welcome to the Members and indicated that he was looking forward to a fruitful year.

In his announcement, the Speaker specifically focused on the aspect of the *Bills* to be tabled in the National Assembly during the course of this year. So far, a list of 20 *Bills* has been received and the Speaker requested the House to establish –

- Which ones are ready so that the Legal Division of the National Assembly can commence the exercise of summarizing them for the ease of understanding and deliberation by Members of the august House?
- Which ones are priority *Bills*? This will enable the Assembly to timely front those that are deemed of higher priority than others.

The Speaker dispelled the notion and misunderstanding that Parliament is underperforming with regard to the processing of *Bills*. The Speaker indicated that the factual situation in relation to *Bills* presented to this House last year was that all *Bills* that were presented, were actually dealt with. This was contrary to the list which was provided to the National Assembly and yet the actual *Bills* were never availed to the National Assembly. The Speaker concluded that this time around, he wants all Members of the Assembly to be guided by facts as available on the ground so as to avoid misconception

- (ii) The Speaker further announced that he had been informed by the Chairperson of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Rule 75(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following *Bills* without amendments:

- *Appropriation Bill* [B. 18 – 2017]; and
- *Education Bill* [B. 15 – 2017].

The Speaker, in terms of Article 75(3) of the Constitution, referred these *Bills* to His Excellency the President to deal with them under Articles 56 and 64 of our Constitution.

The Speaker further said that he had also been informed by the Chairperson of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Rule 75(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following *Bills* with amendments:

- *Urban and Regional Planning Bill* [B. 13 – 2017];
- *Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill* [B. 14 – 2017]; and
- *Property Valuers Profession Amendment Bill* [B. 18 – 2016].

These *Bills* will be placed on the Order Paper for reconsideration by this Assembly as soon as possible.

3. The Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation laid upon the Table:

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), for the years 2015 – 2016.

4. NOTICES OF QUESTIONS:

- (i) Mr. Maamberua (SWANU) to ask the Minister of Works and Transport (No. 1).
- (ii) Mr. Mbai (NUDO) to ask the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration (No. 2).
- (iii) Mr. Nauyoma (APP) to ask the Minister of Public Enterprises (No. 3).
- (iv) Mr. Nauyoma (APP) to ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development (No. 4).
- (v) Mr. Nauyoma (APP) to ask the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service (No. 5).
- (vi) Mr. Nauyoma (APP) to ask the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture (No. 6).
- (vii) Mr. Nauyoma (APP) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (No. 7).
- (viii) Ms. Dienda (PDM) to ask the Minister of Defence (No. 8).
- (ix) Mr. Kavekatora (RDP) to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services (No. 9).
- (x) Mr. Kavekatora (RDP) to ask the Minister of Defence (No. 10).
- (xi) Mr. Kavekatora (RDP) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (No. 11).
- (xii) Mr. Kavekatora (RDP) to ask the Prime Minister (No. 12).

(xiii) Mr. Auchab (UDF) to ask the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service (No. 13).

(xiv) Mr. Auchab (UDF) to ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism (No. 14).

(xv) Mr. Auchab (UDF) to ask the Minister of Finance (No. 15).

5. **ORAL QUESTION:**

Mr. Fleermuys (WRP) asked the Minister of Works and Transport (No. 1) – *Replied to.*

6. **Ministerial Statements in terms of Rule 98 of the Standing Rules and Orders:**

(i) The Minister of Defence explained the situation emanating from the recent media and public outcry with regard to the issue of compulsory leave given to members of the Namibian Defence Force on a 30 days rotational basis, with effect from 1 February 2018. The Minister also clarified the purchase of Oropoko Lodge which has been referred to as a purchase of a luxury lodge.

(ii) The Minister of Works and Transport informed the Assembly that Namibia was once again accorded the top position on the quality of its road infrastructure in the Global Competitive Report 2017, which is published annually by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The rating has placed Namibia at the 23rd position in the 2017 Report among the 138 countries and Namibia topped the list of the best 10 in Africa with an impressive score of 5.2 out of 7, above Ecuador, Bahrain, Qatar and Great Britain which all scored a 5.1.

7. The Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 16:35 until Wednesday, 21 February 2018.

MS. L. KANDETU
Secretary of the National Assembly

Compiled by I. Nehoya