



## TWELFTH SESSION, FIFTH NATIONAL COUNCIL



### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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*Monday, 07 May 2018*

(09:30 - 13:00)

No.1 - 2018

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**The Council met pursuant to adjournment.**

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

Hon. Sibalatani on behalf of Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council made a Statement to the House at the opening of the Twelfth Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> National Council on 07 May 2018.

The Statement is reproduced hereunder:

- **“HONOURABLE LEBBIUS TOBIAS, CHIEF WHIP OF THE RULING PARTY IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;**

- **HONOURABLE HILMA NICANOR, DEPUTY MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS & MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;**
- **HONOURABLES CHIEF WHIPS OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;**
- **HONOURABLE MEMBERS;**
- **MRS. EMILIA MKUSA, SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;**
- **MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

Honourable Members, I am honoured to welcome you back to this august House for the first time in the 2018-2019 Financial Year from your respective constituencies.

We have come together for this Session with the aim of fulfilling our constitutional mandate.

In terms of Article 75 of the Constitution, we have before us three bills that the National Assembly has passed and referred to the National Council for review, namely:

- Appropriation Bill (Bill Number two of 2018)
- Microlending Bill (Bill Number nine of 2017)
- Gaming and Entertainment Control Bill (Bill Number 12 of 2017)

Over the past two and a half years we have demonstrated our eye for detail, as well as our commitment towards the needs of elected us in the regions. I, therefore, have full confidence that we will do justice to the three bills that are before us.

**Honourable Members,**

Please allow me at this juncture to briefly update the nation on some of the oversight activities the National Council has planned to undertake this Financial Year.

Over the coming months, the National Council plans to carry out its activities guided by its programme, which is, “Legislative Support Services”.

In this regard, the Honourable Members met in February to finalise their Annual Standing Committees Activities Plans which will guide our oversight activities for the year ahead.

Our oversight activities play an essential role in enhancing transparency and accountability in government, specifically at local authority and regional council levels. As an example, through our Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economy, the National Council this year plans to carry out a series of public hearings with a number of regional councils and local authorities. The ultimate goal is not only to improve service delivery in our towns and rural areas, but also to ensure the use of public resources responsibly. I humbly request members of the public to attend our sittings and public hearings in order to experience for themselves how the Upper House of Parliament conducts its business.

Furthermore, I'm happy to report to the nation that our 2018-2019 Calendar is in place. This document sets out the dates when the National Council will be in session to carry out its constitutional mandate.

In line with the National Council Strategic Plan 2017 to 2022, we have also scheduled a number of initiatives that will go a long way in helping us to realise one of our Strategic Objectives, namely "Enhance public & key stakeholder participation in the legislative process". I invite you to stay tuned over the coming months.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank the different government Offices, Ministries, Agencies, Regional Councils and Local Authorities, the media; and above all the entire Namibian nation for the support during the previous financial year. We look forward to another productive year ahead.

I thank you! "

#### 4.0 ADMINISTRATION OF AN OATH

The Vice-Chairperson of the National Council welcomed the Chief Justice, His Lordship Honourable Peter Shivute to the august House, and called upon him to swear-in, in terms of Article 71 of the Namibian Constitution, Honourable Johannes K Sikondo, who replaced the late Honourable Rosa Kunyanda Kavara from Kavango West Region.

The Vice-Chairperson sincerely thanked the Chief Justice for coming to swear-in the new Honourable Member of the National Council.

Thereafter, the Vice-Chairperson welcomed the new Member, Honourable Sikondo and wished him all the best in his endeavours as a Member of Parliament.

#### 5.0 MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Vice-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:

- 1) *Appropriation Bill* [B. 2 – 2018]
- 2) *Microlending Bill* [B. 9 – 2017]
- 3) *Gaming and Entertainment Control Bill* [B.12 – 2017]

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

The Secretary read the Bills a First Time.

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

#### 6.0 Hon. Boois adjourned the Council at 09:53 until Tuesday, May 08, 2018 at 09:30.

*Emilia Mkusa*  
*Secretary of the National Council*