



SPECIAL SITTING, FIFTH NATIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Monday, December 09, 2019

(09:30 - 13:00)

No. 27 – 2019

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

1.0 The Secretary took the Chair.

2.0 The Secretary read the Prayer and Affirmation.

3.0 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

The Secretary informed the Council that Rule 18(1)(c) of the National Council Standing Rules and Orders provides that the Chairperson shall cease to hold office if he or she resigns from the National Council in writing to the Secretary. The Secretary then informed the Council that he has received a letter from Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams, dated 17th October 2019, in which she informed him of her resignation as Chairperson of the National Council. As a result of her resignation, the office of the Chairperson of the National Council became vacant.

The Secretary further informed the Council that Rule 18(2) in turn, requires that whenever the office of the Chairperson becomes vacant, the National Council must elect a Member to fill the vacancy.

Rule 14(1) provides for the Secretary to take the chair whereupon the Council shall proceed with the election of the Chairperson. It was in accordance with this Rule that the Secretary was presiding over the election of the Chairperson. Rule 14(2) provides for a Member to propose a Chairperson; while Rule 14(3) provides that if only one Member is proposed and seconded, he or she shall be declared elected and be conducted to the chair without any question being put.

The Secretary presided over the election of the Chairperson of the National Council.

The Secretary called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the National Council. Honourable Lebbius Tobias, seconded by Honourable Dawid Boois, nominated Honourable Bernard Songa Sibatani, from Zambezi Region to take the chair as Chairperson of the Fifth National Council for the remaining period of the term.

There being no further nomination, the Secretary declared Honourable Sibatani as duly elected Chairperson of the National Council.

The Secretary vested Honourable Sibatani as Chairperson and then he took the chair.

4.0 ELECTION OF THE VICE - CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

The Chairperson informed the Council that Rule 15 of the National Council Standing Rules and Orders provides for the election of the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council. In electing the Vice-Chairperson, the relevant provisions of Rule 14 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

The Chairperson of the National Council presided over the election of the Vice - Chairperson of the National Council.

The Chairperson called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the National Council.

Honourable Sipapela, seconded by Honourable Kaula, nominated Honourable Victoria Kauma, from Kavango East Region to take the chair as Vice - Chairperson of the Fifth National Council for the remaining period of the term.

There being no further nomination, the Chairperson declared Honourable Kauma as duly elected Vice-Chairperson of the National Council.

The Clerk escorted Honourable Kauma to take her chair as Vice-Chairperson.

5.0 STATEMENT BY ELECTED CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Honourable Bernard Songa Sibatani, Chairperson of the National Council made a Statement to the House at the Special Sitting of the 5th National Council on 09 December 2019. The Statement is reproduced hereunder:

“Honourable Vice-Chairperson of the National Council;
Honorable Lebbius Tobias, Chief Whip of the Ruling Party in the National Council;
Honourable Nguzu Muharukua, Party Whip of PDM in the National Council;
Honourable Peter Kazongominja, Party Whip of NUDO in the National Council;
Mr Tousy Namiseb, Secretary to the National Council;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Distinguished Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

It is a great honour and privilege to be in your presence today at this special session of the National Council, which just elected me as new Chairperson of the House of Review. I am truly humbled by the trust bestowed upon me and with you beside me, I am sure that we can continue to take the National Council to greater heights.

Honourable Members,

Allow me to congratulate His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob for his re-election and the electorate for renewing his mandate for another 5 years. I sincerely thank the Namibian people for a peaceful Presidential and National Assembly elections.

Honourable Members,

We are elected by the people, for the people and therefore we should continue to serve our people with determination and robustness. I will need your continuous support to carry out the core mandate of the National Council and urge you to dedicate yourselves to serve the nation diligently and in good faith.

It is no doubt that the position comes with its challenges, but I am confident that with the support that I already have with the National Council Secretariat under the administrative leadership of Mr Tousy Namiseb and Members of the National Council, the Party, the Presidency, I can confidently say that we will collectively strive and ensure that laws referred to this august House are properly scrutinized and passed in the interest of the electorate.

Honourable Members,

I have realized that over the time we might have moved away from our Standing Rules and Orders and during my leadership I want us to make sure that we apply and adhere to our Standing Rules and Orders as passed and adopted by this august House. Honourable Members, during my leadership, with your kind assistance I want us to take serious account of our critical mandate of being a review House. The National Council is distinct from the National Assembly and the functions of reviewing bills that are passed by the National Assembly must come out strong.

Honourable Members,

I will also rely on you to make sure that we do not duplicate the work done by the National Assembly, when it comes to the oversight function. Further to this, Honourable

Members this august House has never experienced a lack of quorum and therefore would like to maintain the culture.

Honourable Members,

I would not do justice if I do not express my appreciation to my predecessor, former Chairperson of the National Council, Hon. Margareth Mensah-Williams for having led this great institution in the right direction through business unusual. It has been an honour for me to serve beside her as Vice-Chairperson of the National Council and I have learned so much from her as a leader. All we can do now is continue from where she have left and execute the oversight duties as required. Together with the National Assembly, we shall join hands to meet the emerging challenges and contribute towards making our laws more dynamic, responsive and sensitive to the needs of the citizens.

That being said, let us hold hands and make the National Council an Institution of great strength.

I THANK YOU”

6.0 Honourable Tobias adjourned the Council at 10:14 until further notice.

Mr Tousy Namiseb
Secretary to the National Council
