



## FIFTEENTH SESSION, FIFTH NATIONAL COUNCIL



### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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*Monday, May 13, 2019*

(09:30 - 13:00)

No. 1 – 2019

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#### **The Council met pursuant to adjournment.**

- 1.0 The Chairperson took the Chair.
- 2.0 The Chairperson recited the Prayer and Affirmation.
- 3.0 **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AUDIT BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER**

The Chairperson of the National Council announced in accordance with Rule 168 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Council, that Hon. Johannes Kahonzo Sikondo as a new Member would replace the late Hon. Rosa Kunyanda Kavara, and thus shall serve on the National Council Standing Committee on Audit with immediate effect as appointed on Monday, 13 May 2019 by the Steering Committee in terms of Rule 166 of the Standing Rules and Orders.

#### 4.0 OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson delivered a Statement to the House at the opening of the Fifteenth Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> National Council on 13 May 2019.

The Statement is reproduced hereunder:

***“HONOURABLE BERNARD SONGA SIBALATANI, VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;***

- **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 WHIPS OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;**
- **HONOURABLE MEMBERS;**
- **Mr. TOUSY NAMISEB, SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL;**
- **MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**Honourable Members,**

I'm honoured to welcome you back to this august House for the first time in the 2019-2020 Financial Year from your respective constituencies.

**Honourable Members,**

Before I continue my remarks, please allow me of this juncture to introduce to the nation Mr. Tousy Namiseb who has been appointed as the new Secretary of the National Council effective 02 May 2019.

Mr. Namiseb is an admitted legal practitioner of the High Court; he holds a bachelor of law degree from the University of Cape Town and a Master of Laws from the University of Pretoria.

Mr. Namiseb's career has seen him serve in all the three branches of the State. He joins the National Council from The Judiciary where he was Deputy Executive Director for Judicial Services.

Before that, he served as Chief of Law Reform at the Law Reform and Development Commission in the Ministry of Justice.

He has also lectured at the University of Namibia and worked as an attorney at the Legal Assistance Centre.

**Honourable Members**, please join me in showing our new Secretary the warmest of welcomes to the House of Review.

Thank you!

**Honourable Members,  
Ladies and gentlemen**

As a representative of the people, the National Council has a vital role to play by articulating the needs of the constituents both here in the Chamber and through its committee activities.

In the 2018-2019 Financial Year, the National Council continued to implement its mandate guided by the principles of continuous improvement of good public governance, poverty eradication, contributing towards an enabling environment for socioeconomic development and employment creation, among others.

In this regard, the National Council reviewed 20 bills that were referred to it by the National Assembly.

Out of those 20 bills, a total of 35 amendments were proposed to several bills, including the Seed and Seed Varieties Bill [Bill Number 1 of 2018]; the Public Enterprises Governance Bill [Bill Number 5 of 2018] and the Basic Education Bill [Bill Number 4 of 2018]. It is worth noting that out of the 35 proposed amendments, 17 were substantive amendments.

Guided by its 2018-2019 Annual Committees Activity Plan, the National Council, through its standing committees carried out several oversight activities.

These ranged from site visits to government capital projects, inspection of MTEF projects, engagement with various ministries and offices involved in socioeconomic development and provision of public services in rural areas, among others.

Although constrained by a limited budget, the National Council standing committees achieved an implementation rate of 76% of the planned activities from which nine reports were tabled and adopted in this House.

By December 2018 a total of 46 recommendations which emanated from National Council standing committee reports were forwarded to 17 OMAs and three regional councils for consideration and/or implementation.

In order to monitor and evaluate the rate of implementation of its recommendations to OMAs, the National Council last year wrote to several OMAs requesting each one to designate a “parliamentary desk officer” to serve as liaison between the National Council and the OMA with regards to implementation of recommendations from oversight activities undertaken by Committees.

So far, 16 OMAs have appointed “parliamentary desk officers” for this purpose.

**Honourable Members,  
Ladies and gentlemen**

During the period under review, the National Council continued to contribute towards improving good public governance by conducting public hearings with regional and local authorities as part of its oversight role.

Indeed, oversight plays an essential role in enhancing transparency and accountability which are central in improving corporate governance and service delivery within regional and local authorities.

During the 2018-2019 Financial Year, 74 reports were forwarded to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Economy for scrutiny.

As a result, 22 public hearings were held with regional and local authorities who received disclaimer and adverse audit opinions from the Office of the Auditor General.

Furthermore, the Public Accounts and Economy Committee held a stakeholders' consultative meeting from 25 to 29 June 2018 to re-engineer and streamline the process of reviewing Audit General's reports in order to increase efficiency.

The resultant committee report was tabled and adopted in the House during the December 2018 Session.

On another note, the Honourable Members who enrolled for the Certificate in Parliamentary Conduct and Practice with the University of Namibia's Faculty of Law in 2018 have successfully completed the course and attended their graduation ceremony on 12 April 2019.

Congratulations Honourable Members!

For the year ahead, the National Council will continue implementing its Mission and make strides towards realising its Vision, which is "A House of Review that truly represents the interest of the people of Namibia".

We look forward to further engagements with OMAs, the general public, civils society and our international partners as we continue to collaborate and consult in order to implement our constitutional mandate.

With these few words, I thank you for your kind attention!"

## 5.0 MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairperson announced to the National Council that the National Assembly has passed and referred the *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 - 2019] to the National Council for review in accordance with Article 75(1) of the Namibian Constitution:

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

The Secretary read the Bill a First Time.

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

Furthermore, the National Assembly has in terms of Article 74(1)(b) of the Namibian Constitution, referred the following thirty-eight (38) Audited Financial Report(s) on Regional Councils, Town Councils, Municipalities, Villages, Special Report on the non-submission of financial statements by some Local Authorities, Regional Councils and Statutory Bodies, and Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provisions for the financial years ended 30 June 2016, 2017 and 2018 and Special Report on the non-Submission of financial statements by some Local Authorities, Regional Councils and Statutory Bodies upon to the financial years ended 30 June 2016, 2017 and 2018, to the National Council for review and scrutiny, in terms of the said Article.

1. Regional Council of the Oshana Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2017;
2. Regional Council of the Oshana Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2018;
3. Regional Council of the Kunene Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2016;
4. Regional Council of the Omaheke Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2017;
5. Regional Council of the Otjozondjupa Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2016;
6. Regional Council of the Oshikoto Region for the financial years ended 31 March 2015 and 2016;

7. Regional Council of the Oshikoto Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2017;
8. Regional Council of the Hardap Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2018;
9. Regional Council of the Khomas Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2017;
10. Regional Council of the Kavango West Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2016;
11. Regional Council of the Omusati Region for the financial year ended 31 March 2018;
12. Municipality of Gobabis for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
13. Municipality of Omaruru for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
14. Municipality of Windhoek for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
15. Town Council of Luderitz for the financial year ended 30 June 2016;
16. Town Council of Luderitz for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
17. Town Council of Ondangwa for the financial year ended 30 June 2018;
18. Town Council of Nkurenkuru for the financial year ended 30 June 2018;
19. Town Council of Otavi for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
20. Town Council of Oshakati for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
21. Town Council of Outapi for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;

22. Town Council of Opuwo for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
23. Town Council of Okahao for the financial year ended 30 June 2016;
24. Town Council of Eenhana for the financial years ended 30 June 2016 and 2017;
25. Town Council of Ruacana for the financial year ended 30 June 2016;
26. Town Council of Helao Nafidi for the financial year ended 30 June 2018;
27. Village Council of Tses for the financial year ended 30 June 2016;
28. Village Council of Kalkland for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
29. Village Council of Berseba for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
30. Village Council of Tsandi for the financial years ended 30 June 2016 and 2017;
31. Village Council of Witvlei for the financial year ended 30 June 2017;
32. Village Council of Okongo for the financial years ended 30 June 2016 and 2017;
33. Village Council of Otjinene for the financial years ended 30 June 2015 and 2016;
34. Village Council of Divundu for the financial years ended 30 June 2016 and 2017;
35. Village Council of Kamanjab for the financial year ended 30 June 2018;
36. Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provisions for the financial years ended 31 March 2016;
37. Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provisions for the financial years ended 31 March 2017; and



38. Special Report on the non-submission of financial statements by some Local Authorities, Regional Councils and Statutory Bodies up to the financial years ended 30 June 2016, 2017 and 2018.

These Reports stood referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economy to deal with the said Reports in terms of Rule 113(a) and to report to the House its recommendations.

6.0 Hon. Boois, seconded by Hon. Nicanor, adjourned the Council at 10:00 until Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 09:30.

*Mr Tousy Namiseb*  
*Secretary to the National Council*

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