

Hon. mBai

## Procurement Bill

I rise to make a brief contribution on the bill under discussions.

That is not the first time this bill is brought to this August House. I believe and have full confidence with the Hon. Minister of Finance in the way he introduced the bill this time around. He did it so <sup>eloquently</sup> excellent with carefulness and being very cautious. Going through the bill one can easily Pick-Up the inclusiveness of those concerns raised when the bill was introduced and referred back to be improved upon.

What really impress me so much is the <sup>N</sup> <sup>NOTION OF</sup> job creation, the empowerment of Namibian registered small and medium enterprises, women and youth in all constituencies, as one of the so many objectives of the act.

I want to <sup>Comment</sup> congratulate the Minister for including a section that deals with preferential procurement policy. It is a well-known fact that our local products have been ignored over the years. It is therefore satisfying to note that this bill makes provision for the protection of local products, previously disadvantaged women and the youth.

While the bill aims to protect our various industries from selfish individuals, it must not be strict and over regulated because this will make it difficult for our people to compete on equal footing with those already advantaged.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members I concur wholeheartedly, with the Hon. Members who spoke before me on this bill it is true we have in place very excellent laws and policies to regulate our affairs, but we fail sometimes to comply with those laws and neglect our shared responsibility to protect and comply with the letter and spirit of our laws.

It is therefore important to have a central procurement Board, but as the time goes by and in Conformity with the spirit of decentralization, I wish to see a situation where more and more functions and procurement services to be delegated to Regional and Local Authorities.

Finally I would like to request the Hon. Minister to consider punitive measure against culprits failing to deliver in good time not to be considered for tenders again.

Lastly is a request to the Hon. Min of Works, to see to it that Works-Inspectors are not approving or authorising payment for a construction phase that is not completed satisfactorily.

I Rest my Case.