

CONTRIBUTION BY HONOURABLE SEBASTIAN KARUPU TO THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL, TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2015

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

I stand in this august House to support the Public Procurement Bill, which is a very important Bill to achieve the stated Government policies of poverty eradication and inclusivity of all Namibians in the affairs of the State. It is my sincere hope that the Bill when enacted will achieve its intended objects of regulating the procurement of goods, works and services by promoting integrity, accountability, transparency, legality, fairness and effectiveness.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

I concur with the observation of the Honourable Attorney-General “that no law is perfect.” This is the main reason why laws are periodically subjected to reviews and amendments. I also support the proposed structures of the Bill namely, the Procurement Policy Unit and the Central Procurement Board of Namibia, including the composition of the Board.

What is critical, however, regarding the Central Procurement Board of Namibia, is to ensure that the appointed members of the Procurement Board are persons with demonstrated high moral and ethical values. They

should have previously and practically demonstrated the principles of integrity and fair-dealing in both their personal and professional lives.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

People who do not possess the values that the Bill intends to inculcate cannot be expected to adhere to these values that are foreign to their conduct and behaviour when appointed as members of the Procurement Board.

The perception exist among citizens of our country^{is} that members of the current Tender Board lack fairness and transparency. The citizens are of the view that tenders are not being awarded on merit, but on political connections and in some instances bribery or the so-called 10%. Public trust in the leadership and public servants of any country is critical in democratic societies, hence the critical importance for the Honourable Minister of Finance when appointing Members of the Procurement Board to ensure that he appoints members with personalities of integrity and who Namibians can trust.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

We cannot continue to take citizens of this country for granted by appointing public servants who use public offices to advance personal and

family interests. As Parliamentarians, we must lead by example and serve as role-models and thereby restore the trust of our people in public institutions. The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and the citizens of this country expect us to always act in the public interests.

His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and the First Lady, Madam Geingos, are leading by example, and therefore, inspiring our people to at all-time act ethically and morally. The public declaration of their assets, although not required by law, are demonstrations of ethical and moral leadership. We expect all Public Office bearers and public servants, especially members of the Procurement Board to demonstrate integrity, accountability and ethical and moral conduct.

In conclusion, let us use the Public Procurement Bill as a strategic instrument to address poverty and unemployment in our country. Let us use the Procurement Bill to promote equal opportunities for all, inclusivity and sustainable developments of all the Regions of our country. Let us undertake to adhere to the principles of ethical and moral leadership in our personal and public conduct. Let us restore the trust of all our people in public institutions, and the appointment of members of the Public Procurement Board be based on their ethical and moral standing in society and their knowledge and expertise should usher in a new era of public service.

With these remarks, I support the Bill and the amendments to it.

I thank you.

