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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

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Question 16 (2024-02-27)

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) asked the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation:

Honorable Members, education has never been described as being for the rich or poor, therefore no one should be limited to access education on the basis of their social strata.

Since the introduction of Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NASFAF), the country has seen a mass of students who were declined financial assistance on the basis of the salary brackets of their parents. Some of these students have to drop out of the institutions of high learning due to heavy financial obligations in terms of tuition fees, accommodation, transport, meals and general keep up. This is so because these parents even with a combined or single salary around N\$500 000.00 are paying even for 3 students or more at a tertiary institution.

The assumption that these parents can afford is farfetched as they have many children to look after especially at the tertiary level. There might be other factors, for example these parents are not staying together and the other party might not really take full responsibility. As a result, this arrangement can lead to uncontrollable debts that can be emotionally draining for both parents and students.

Honorable Minister of Higher Education is there no way that this clause in the NASFAF policy can be re-visited so that at least these parents can get a relief when child number two, three and so on are joining the tertiary institutions?

Question 17 (2024-02-27)

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Minister Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare:

Hon. Minister, your Ministry is one of those critical ones in the fight against poverty eradication in our country. Namibians were shaken to the core late last year in June 2023 when we received the news that over 16 members of the same family have died because of food poisoning in the Kavango East Region.

Today various media outlets are reporting that two more kids have died in the same region again, while 8 others are admitted in the Rundu State hospital because of food poisoning, God forbids that we don't hear that the remaining 8 will die at all.

Let us not forget that last year when I questioned the level of poverty in the two Kavango Regions some Ministers and Deputy Ministers who are born and bred in those two regions were trying to literally kill me, when I stated as a matter of fact that "Poverty is rampant in the two Kavango Regions" Which to me remains the up solute, unfiltered, impure and native truth till this day.

Hon. Minister it is worth noting that there are two schools of thoughts when it comes to the issue of food poisoning. One is that this can occur when someone eat leftover food and fungi/where bacteria grows in the food. If left over food is taken it causes diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, which lead to dehydration and electrolyte imbalance and can result in death.

The other school of thought is that the food or maize meal is expired and not fit for human consumption, however hunger drove them to eat it anyway because they are starving, as a result germs or other harmful things are found in those maize meals.

My question then will be.

1. Hon Minister what has happened to the laboratory test carried out since last year to determine the cause of death of those 16 family members who died of food poisoning? When will this report be made public for us to know what has happened and why this 16 family members died?

The deafening silence from your Ministry to release that report is sickening, it is an act of concealment, but the immediate families of the deceased and by extension Namibia at large needs to know which of the two schools of thoughts is real. It is high time that this report be made public for the sake of the departed souls to eventually rest in peace.

2. In terms of your Mandate as a Minister, have you undertaken familiarization visits to the said two Kavango Regions to ascertain, what the underlining reasons are of why some residents there eat expired food?
3. Subsequent to the death of the 16 family members last year, what mitigating measures have your Ministry put in place to prevent another catastrophic event like that one in the future?
4. Are you aware of the recent death of two children in the Kavango East Region who equally died of food poisoning? And will you wait until others equally die of the same before intervening?
5. Are you using the money allocated to you Ministry effectively in as far as addressing the root causes of poverty in the two regions are concerned, food distributed to those most vulnerable people in the two regions, if yes where and can you provide statistics of how this food is distributed?
6. Will you agree with me that the level of proverty in the two Kavango regions is out of proportions, compare to other parts of the country and need drastic intervention from your Ministry?

7. Finally, how do you sleep at night Hon Minister knowing that there are Namibians dying every year because of hunger, while there is no excuse whatsoever on this rich prone Namibia for such to happen, if only this Government priorities were right coupled with humility and duty of care towards its citizens, irrespective of tribe, social status or political affiliations?

Question 24 (2024-03-12)

Hon. Murorua (UDF) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

It has been reported in the news recently that the Municipality of the City of Windhoek is financially in serious dire straits.

However the very same City Council is contracting a company KeyPlot Investment to manage the parking in the CBD of Windhoek and is paying them N\$1 022 500-00 per month as per the contract between them.

1. How much does the City Council of Windhoek really receive from the parking payments that it justifies a monthly payment of N\$1 022 500-00 to KeyPlot Investments and what is the profit that the City Council of Windhoek is making on a monthly basis from the parking payments done by KeyPlot Investment?
2. What is the duration of the contract between the City Council of Windhoek and KeyPlot Investment?
3. There are people who are employed by the City Council and were tasked to collect money from the parking meters which has now been removed, would the Minister appraise us as to what productive use those people has been deployed to or whether they have been laid-off and how many they are.
4. Normally there were also gentlemen on the streets in the CBD who were assisting the public with parking and car-watching, is there a clause in the contract with KPI to employ those people seeing that they were already taking the initiative to assist vehicle owners with parking in the CBD and thus create employment for themselves to support their families, but now those old/ previous car watchers are having no income at all.

Question 39 (2024-06-04)

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Right Hon. Prime Minister:

We are all aware that there is a Constitutional provision that gives power to the President of Namibia to appoint the Delimitation Commission.

The Commission is tasked with evaluating the existing boundaries of regions and constituencies in Namibia, with the aim of determining whether any adjustments are necessary or beneficial.

It is an important body that must be given able time and resources to carry out this enormous mandate every 10 years.

I thus ask:

1. We are aware that the current three members' Commission was appointed on 4 April 2024 by President Nangolo Mbumba and given a time frame of only 3 months to complete this task. Was this time in your opinion sufficient time for the Commission considering the length of Namibia and the complexity of the task at hand? Equally, why was there a delay in appointing this Commission?
2. The Commission have sent out invitations to the various stakeholders in the various Regions for consultations, however nor did they list or invite political parties to bring their inputs as well, why is this the case, considering that the Commission itself is appointed along political lines with the aim of influencing the demarcations of this boundaries to the benefit of the Swapo party anyway?

Because judging from the previous Delimitation Commission report, there were Regions and Constituencies demarcated in such a way that it really did not make any administrative or logical sense, safe to say it was done for political reasons that have no basis for common sense.

Question 40 (2024-06-04)

Hon. Iipumbu (NEFF) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation:

1. We have become aware that Cabinet has endorsed a National Minimum Wage of N\$18/hour for the lowest paid workers in Namibia. Can you explain to this House why this National Minimum Wage must come into effect only next year and not now?
2. How effective will this National Minimum Wage be next year seeing that our people are struggling with a general rise in the price of basic commodities like food and fuel? How will this National Minimum Wage help them when clearly by next year prices of goods and services would have sky rocketed already?
3. Can you explain to this House why domestic and farm workers have been made to only enjoy a National Minimum Wage of N\$18/hour only in 2027 and not this year?
4. Can you explain yourself on the timing of this Cabinet decision given that it is coming at a time when our people are supposed to go for an election in November. Can you explain yourself where we strongly feel that this is a politically motivated decision meant to canvass votes for the ruling party?
5. How sincere is the Cabinet in which you save when decisions of this nature have been delayed for so many years, only to be endorsed in an election year?

Question 41 (2024-06-04)

Hon. Iipumbu (NEFF) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Rerform:

1. We understand that a few weeks ago, President Nangolo Mbumba declared a state of emergency over the drought affecting this great nation. What does this

state of emergency imply for the farmers in both commercial and communal areas?

2. What are the key measurements of the success of government that will advise that the state of emergency has attained its desired impact and effects?
3. Honourable Minister, you yourself have advised our people against cooking with firewood. Do you realize that this is the sole dependable source of fuel for the majority of our people in rural areas and if they should stop using firewood, which other cheaper option do you think is available for them?
4. How do you address concerns that your views are coming from a position of privilege since you come from a community of predominantly successful and economically empowered people?
5. Finally Honourable Minister, can you advise this House on what kind of research you have carried out, based on what premise, that has made you to conclude that firewood cooking is causing negative health impacts in 170 million households when a majority of our people who are currently healthy are using firewood? We all come from rural areas, we all used firewood, yet here we are, as healthy as you who grew up using an electric stove.
6. Honourable Minister, how do you respond to the majority of our people that your statements were ill-informed, reckless and of little use to Namibia's pressing realities?

Question 43 (2024-06-04)

Hon. Mike Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

The conditions of many roads in Namibian towns is a major concern for many road users. Roads with potholes and gravel roads continue to damage vehicles and even cause car accidents, which results in injuries and fatalities. The provision of services such as the maintenance and upgrading of road infrastructure by municipalities and town councils should be a priority. However, many towns in Namibia suffer the effects of poor road conditions.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. How satisfied is your Ministry regarding the service delivery at various town councils and municipalities in Namibia?
 2. What are the conversations and plans with local authorities regarding the maintenance and upgrading of road infrastructure in different towns in Namibia?
 3. What is the funding formula in ensuring that local authorities have the necessary financial power in maintaining and upgrading road infrastructure?
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Question 45 (2024-06-05)

Hon. Hengari (PDM) asked the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation:

The Pro-Vice Chancellor for Finance, Administration and Resource Mobilization at the University of Namibia addressed a Memo dated 22nd of April 2024 to campus Directors, Executive Deans and Associate Deans in which a number of directives were given, to deal with the “encroachment of political activities” on campus and within UNAM Faculties. The PVC further directs that “proactive measures be taken to ensure that facilities and venues are not utilized for political campaigns, recruitments. or activities.”

As an elected member of this House, I am not only familiar with, but also duty-bound to uphold Article 21 of the Namibian Constitution, which holds the following as Fundamental Freedoms;

That

(1) All persons shall have the right to: (a) freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media; (b) freedom of thought, conscience and belief, which shall include academic freedom in institutions of higher learning; (c) freedom to practise any religion and to manifest such practice; (d) assemble peaceably and without arms; (e) freedom of association, which shall include freedom to form and join associations or unions, including trade unions and political parties;

As a former student and Vice President of the Student Representative Council at the University, I am aware of the University of Namibia Act 18 of 1992, wherein the Aims of the University are as follows: To provide higher education, to undertake research, to advance and disseminate knowledge, to provide extension services, to encourage the growth and nurturing of cultural expression within the context of the Namibian society, to further training and continuing education, to contribute to the social and economic development of Namibia and to foster relationships with any person or institution, both nationally and internationally.

Additionally, I am of the full conviction that because the University of Namibia is established by an Act of Parliament, it not only owes this House answers but surety that in its functions and operations, it is fully abiding by its Statutes and Regulations and the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

I thus ask:

1. Does the directive issued by the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Finance, Administration and Resource Mobilization at the University of Namibia align with the provisions outlined in the University of Namibia Act 18 of 1992?
2. How does the University of Namibia reconcile the directives restricting political activities on campus with the Constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, expression, assembly, and association as enshrined in Article 21 of the Namibian Constitution?
3. Please furnish this House with the legal justification for prohibiting political campaigns, recruitments, or activities within the facilities and venues of the University, considering the constitutional freedoms afforded to all citizens?

4. What mechanisms are in place within the University of Namibia to ensure that its policies and directives comply with both its own statutes and regulations, as well as the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia?
5. How does the University of Namibia balance its responsibility to provide an environment conducive to exercise academic freedom and critical discourse with the need to maintain neutrality in political matters, and without restricting or limiting political activities on Campus?
6. What consultations were undertaken by the University of Namibia prior to issuing directives regarding the restriction of political activities on campus?
7. Upon reflecting on these illegal and unconstitutional directives, when will the management withdraw them?

Ironically, the University of Namibia is listed as Registration Point F06046103 for the ongoing voter registration process. Does this mean that students and staff are deemed important solely during elections, while being stripped of the very rights preached in lecture halls? Is the University's mission truly to educate and encourage the youth to assert their fundamental rights, or is the institution cynically molding them into complacent voting pawns?

Question 46 (2024-06-05)

Hon. Mukwilongo (NEFF) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

1. Honourable Minister, given the abundance of cattle in the Northern Communal Areas (NCA), why do shops in this region predominantly stock meat sourced from commercial farmers? What steps is the government taking to ensure that locally produced meat is made available to meet the consumption demands of the NCA populace?
 2. Could you explain on any existing regulatory frameworks or policies that may hinder the distribution and sale of locally sourced meat from the Northern Communal Areas in shops within the region? How does the government plan to address these obstacles to promote local economic development and self sufficiency?
 3. Honourable Minister, there have been reports of disparities in the pricing of meat sourced from commercial farms compared to locally produced meat within the Northern Communal Areas. How does the government plan to regulate pricing structures to ensure fair competition and equitable access to locally sourced meat for residents of the NCA?
 4. What collaborative efforts are being made between the Ministry of Agriculture and regional authorities in the Northern Communal Areas to enhance local meat production, processing, and distribution networks? How can these initiatives be further supported and strengthened to bolster food security and economic prosperity within the region?
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Question 48 (2024-06-11)

Hon. Katjimune (PDM) asked the Minister of Justice:

In the last five academic years, the School of Law at the University of Namibia (UNAM) has graduated roughly 200 Bachelor of Laws (LLB) graduates each year. This means that around 1000 students have graduated with LLB degrees from UNAM alone during the past five years. This number excludes those graduating from other institutions inside and outside Namibia.

I therefore ask the Honourable Minister:

1. Can the market sustain the number of graduates that enter the legal profession every year?
2. If not, what interventions is the Ministry going to undertake, in collaboration with higher education institutions, the regulator and the private sector to ensure that LLB graduates are able to be absorbed by the market?

Question 50 (2024-06-11)

Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

Cabinet in July 2021 approved the abolishment of AGRIBUSDEV and the transfer of the current staff members of the Agronomic and Engineering Divisions under AGRIBUSDEV to the Divisions of the Directorate of Agriculture Production, Extension and Engineering Services. It is almost 4 years and there has been no proper communication to the staff members.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. The 30 staff members of the AGRIBUSDEV are in complete dark about their job descriptions and the way forward. Please share with this August House at what stage the integration process is and what are the shortcomings?
 2. Was the intention to create a permanent structure communicated with the 30 AGRIBUSDEV staff members?
 3. At present staff members do not provide support to Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services. Is the Minister aware that AGRIBUSDEV is still operating, despite not having Board of Directors?
 4. Can you share the Attorney General's findings on the issue of AGRIBUSDEV with this August House?
 5. As announced by His Excellency, President Nangolo Mbumba, Namibia currently experience severe drought and a critical food shortage. What is the current status of the Green Scheme Projects in terms of food production?
 6. What is the status of outsourcing green scheme projects to private entities?
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Question 52 (2024-06-11)

Hon. Mike Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare:

The development of marginalised communities in Namibia is moving at a very slow pace. Marginalised communities such as the San, Ovaherero and Ovambo continue to face many challenges such as extreme poverty, no housing, unemployment and the abuse of their basic human rights. According to the Deputy Minister of Marginalised Communities, 68% of marginalised communities in Namibia live in poverty and 77% face unemployment.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What development and empowerment programmes does your Ministry currently have in place and how have these programmes practically changed the lives of the marginalised communities?
2. What monitoring and evaluation tools are in place to ensure that these programmes are effective in reality?
3. Marginalised communities experience problems like child marriages, child labour, sexual abuse, and illegal adoption. Share with this August House the number of such incidents reported to your Ministry and also inform us what the Ministry is doing to prevent such incidents?
4. Many of the marginalised communities do not have national documents. What is being done to address this?
5. What are the challenges the Ministry experiences in addressing the needs of the marginalised communities?

Question 53 (2024-06-13)

Hon. Vries (PDM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform embarked on a journey of bringing Veterinary Services to Tses and its surrounding villages and settlements in the //Karas Region. This intervention was started about ten (10) years ago where the Directorate of Veterinary Services started constructing the infrastructure in Tses. The construction was close to completion, but however came to an abrupt standstill and the infrastructure continues to be vandalized.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Why could the construction not be completed?
2. Who was the contractor?
3. What were the financial implications on the current incomplete infrastructure and share with us how much in funding remains to be utilised?

4. When is the construction of the infrastructure expected to resume?
5. Why can't the Ministry deploy security guards to protect the infrastructure from vandalism?

Question 54 (2024-06-13)

Hon. Mike Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources:

In the year 2020, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation, launched the Government Employment Redress Programme aimed at addressing unemployment among fishermen at Walvis Bay. However, the programme continues to fail in achieving its objective, with the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources recently saying that the challenges experienced by the programme is influenced by personal agendas and politics.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Why is it so difficult for the Government Employment Redress Programme to meet the demands and plight of the fishermen?
2. Honourable Minister, you recently outlined that the programme is not sustainable. Therefore, inform this August House on the way forward of this programme and also share with us the existing challenges and how these are being addressed?
3. As a monitoring and evaluation tool, both Ministries carried out joint employment verifications. What were the outcomes of this exercise and how are they being addressed?
4. What obstructs the allocation of sufficient quotas to sustain the fishing operations of the companies that employ the fishermen?

Question 55 (2024-06-19)

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister of Justice:

I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, Hon. Yvonne Dausab, on the reinstatement of retired Attorneys as additional to the establishment at the Office of the Government Attorney. Hon. Dausab, a certain Mr. Matti Asino turned 60 years and retired last month. However, as he left the Office, we are told, he asked some junior staff to "take care of his plants in his office as he would be returning soon. He was indeed re-instated as an additional to the establishment at the Office of the Government Attorney. Hon. Dausab, we understand that the public service permits the employment of persons beyond their prescribed retirement age, due to their unique skills and abilities, which are indispensable in the administration of a public institution.

I therefore ask the following:

1. What are the unique and special skills and expertise that Mr. Matti Asino has, that cannot be performed by other 28 lawyers at the Government Attorney?
2. Is this a tradition in the Government Attorney, where a retiring person is being brought back to the service?
3. Is his re-appointment a political favor being done for him and, perhaps in furtherance of political interests being had at that office by various politicians of the ruling regime, who need an insider to push certain matters of law and contract for them?
4. If so, does this not compromise the integrity and ethics of this office of lawyers, who are keen to uphold these values and virtues as part of their professional training?

Question 56 (2024-06-19)

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister of Justice:

I would like ask the Minister of Justice, Hon. Yvonne Dausab, on the recruitment process in the Office of the Government Attorney. Hon. Dausab, we have observed strategic appointments in the Office of the Government Attorney where the Attorney General is alleged to be appointing his nieces and close friends, as lawyers. As you are fully aware, the Office of the Attorney General is a strategic State position, tasked to advice the State on matters of law.

Further, inexperienced and novice lawyers are appointed to key State projects for legal advice and input, at the expense and exclusion of experienced lawyers at the Office. For instance a certain Ms. Heita with only two years experience has been appointed to serve on the Green Hydrogen Council, a new project of the State of technical and legal requirements.

I therefore ask the following:

1. Is this a tradition in the Government Attorney, where competent lawyers are overlooked on the expenses of those closer to the Attorney General?
2. Has the integrity and the professional reputation of the Attorney General's Office not being compromised already?

Question 57 (2024-06-19)

Hon. Iipumbu (NEFF) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

Honourable Minister, you will be aware that a number of Local Authorities are presently struggling with the burden of what to do with the external debt collectors with whom they have entered into business with, among them being Redforce. Others like the City of Windhoek have persistently refused to terminate their contracts even though the masses of our people have come under tremendous pressure with water cuts in an economy that is already unforgiving. With this in light therefore Honourable Minister, allow me to ask the following:

1. Why should Local Authorities be allowed to make use of outside debt collectors who are after making huge profits when they do have internal debt collectors employed to carry out this work?
 2. Redforce Debt Management has won dozens of contracts with a number of Local Authorities. Why has the Ministry allowed for this monopoly to play itself out to an extent that one single company is collecting debts for nearly all the Local Authorities in the country?
 3. What is your Ministry doing to protect our most vulnerable people, the widows and elderly, against having to be cut off from basic municipal services like water by the likes of Redforce?
 4. Are there any investigations that are been carried out by your office or a report submitted to your Ministry to determine whether all contracts awarded to Redforce were legal?
 5. You have advised Local Authorities lately against having to make use of external debt collectors, is there sufficient internal capacity for Local Authorities to collect debt and where there is none, what is being done to rectify that?
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Question 58 (2024-06-19)

Hon. Iipumbu (NEFF) asked the Right Honourable Prime Minister:

Honourable Prime Minister, I must first and foremost highlight that it is with dishonour and so much embarrassment that we hear from the governor of the Omaheke region, Hon. Pijoo Nganate, that 26 children have died of starvation. This tragic development comes right at a time when the Vice President of this country in her election campaign rhetoric, recently said that her government will not allow a single Namibian dying from hunger. She said this beginning of this month at the third edition of the Ehao Cultural Expo Fundraising Gala dinner at Okahao. Your office, Right Hon. Prime Minister, is tasked with drought relief as well as disaster and risk management. I must say that even the death of a child due to a lack of food, is one child too many. With this in light therefore Honourable Prime Minister, allow me to ask the following:

1. Now that we know that 26 children have died due to malnutrition, can you admit that your drought relief and disaster management efforts have failed our people?
2. Last year the Omaheke governor said that the region needed approximately N\$40 million to address malnutrition and starvation. Did your office provide this money and if not why and whatever amount it was, was it adequate?
3. What will your office do now urgently to ensure that Namibia does not need to bear the pain of yet another child dying due to starvation?
4. Can you lay out a clear picture of how adequate and nutritional is this food aid that you have been delivering to our people, especially for mothers and their children?

5. Lastly, Right Hon. Prime Minister, why should a nation rich with natural resources have to deal with children dying of hunger when your government is there, and these natural resources are being exploited?

Question 59 (2024-06-19)

Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology:

As we step into the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI), I am deeply concerned about its impact on our media industry, especially regarding transparency in AI-generated content, fighting misinformation, and maintaining journalism ethics. This makes one wonder if setting guidelines to protect information integrity and prevent job displacement is premature. However, as we embrace fast-moving technology, it is crucial to ask and seek clarity. We, as a Parliament consisting of youth including yourself, must always think ahead and act responsibly.

I, therefore, seek clarification on the following matter(s):

1. What plans do you have to address these pressing issues in our media landscape?
2. In light of the rapidly evolving landscape of AI technology, how extensively has your Ministry considered its implications on media integrity and journalism ethics?
3. Can you provide insights into the government's strategy and timeline for addressing the utilization of AI in Namibian media, including plans for regulatory frameworks and industry guidelines?
4. Is there any ongoing legislative effort or proposed Bill within your Ministry aimed at regulating the use of AI in Namibia, particularly concerning its impact on media transparency, misinformation, and job displacement?
5. Given the potential consequences of unregulated Artificial Intelligence use in media, what steps is your Ministry taking to engage stakeholders, including journalists, media organizations, and technology experts, in crafting comprehensive AI regulations that align with Namibia's societal values and needs?

Question 60 (2024-06-26)

Hon. Kauandenge (NUDO) asked the Right Honourable Prime Minister:

For the past years or so we have read in the various newspapers of children dying of malnutrition in an independent and rich Namibia. It is disheartening to note that this situation continues unabated every year and we are losing our young ones to malnutrition and pure hunger, year in and year out.

Recently it was reported in the various media outlets that 45 children under five years died in the Omaheke Region in the last six months as a result of malnutrition crisis in that region.

To the best of my knowledge such death are not only confined to Omaheke Region alone but it is widespread in other parts of the country, including the Kavango Regions where people continue to die of poisoned food as well.

Would you agree with me that this scenario or situation demonstrates the depth of the socio-economic inequality in the country?

Right Hon. Prime Minister, I'm sure that you are aware that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to which Namibia is a signatory member, states that "every child has the right to decent standards of living", more pointedly this is stated equally in our supreme law the Constitution in Article 8.

Is it factual perhaps to state that this situation must be put squarely on the shoulders of the Swapo led Government failures to ensure basic human rights and to protect the most vulnerable in society?

Is it perhaps not high time that your Government revisit its opposition to the Universal Basic Income Grant proposal, in helping to fight poverty in the country as a whole?

Will you agree with me that should Government agree and introduce BIG that it will guarantee households with the financial security to make objectives choices as the current drought relief programs seems not to be adequate to address the core issues of hunger amongst our people?

What programs does your Government has in place currently to address this issue across all regions of our country as it seems to repeat itself every year?

Can you provide us with figures of how many households has been assisted all this years and what impact did those programs have (if they exist) on the livelihood of the children across the country?

Finally what is your Government doing in order to address this issue once and for all?

Question 61 (2024-06-26)

Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

According to Article 95 of the Namibian Constitution, the State is mandated to adopt policies ensuring economic development and safeguarding natural resources for future generations. This directive underscores the establishment and management of the sovereign wealth fund, known as the Welwitschia Fund. The Bank of Namibia Act, 2020 (Act No. 1 of 2020) grants the Bank authority over managing the country's foreign exchange reserves and, by extension, the sovereign wealth fund.

Recent concerns surrounding Governor Johannes !Gawaxab's governance of the Bank of Namibia have raised questions about transparency and accountability within the Welwitschia Fund. As such, I present the following inquiries to ensure parliamentary scrutiny aligns with constitutional imperatives and upholds public trust in our financial institutions:

1. Can the Minister elaborate on how governance framework of the Welwitschia Fund ensures transparency and accountability, given that the Bank of Namibia serves both as the supervisory authority and the manager of the fund?

2. Does the Minister perceive a conflict of interest in the dual role of Governor Johannes !Gawaxab as both Governor of the Bank of Namibia and chairman of the Welwitschia Fund? If not, can the Minister provide a detailed explanation as to why there is no conflict of interest?
 3. What measures are currently in place to mitigate any perceived or actual conflicts of interest in the management of the Welwitschia Fund?
 4. Is the Minister aware of allegations that Governor Johannes !Gawaxab sold his businesses and shares to family and friends while declaring these were sold to unrelated parties?
 5. What is the Minister's stance on the potential legal and ethical implications of these transactions, especially considering the N\$1 million fine imposed by the Namibian Competition Commission for not seeking approval for these sales?
 6. Will the Minister support or initiate an investigation by the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) into the Governor's business dealings to ensure all actions were in compliance with Namibian laws and regulations?
 7. Can the Minister provide a comprehensive report on the expenses and performance of the Welwitschia Fund since its inception?
 8. How does the Ministry ensure that the investments made by the Welwitschia Fund align with the objectives of achieving fiscal stability and intergenerational wealth transfer as outlined in Article 95 of the Namibian Constitution?
 9. What are the criteria and decision-making processes for selecting investments for the Welwitschia Fund, and how is the performance of these investments monitored and reported?
 10. Will the Minister commit to regular and detailed reporting to Parliament on the activities and performance of the Welwitschia Fund to enhance oversight and public trust?
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