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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

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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 advise 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 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 62 (2024-07-02)

Hon. Van den Heever (PDM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

The recent decision by the Electricity Control Board (ECB) to implement an 8% increase in electricity tariffs has sparked widespread concern among our citizens and businesses. In a time when Namibia is grappling with significant economic challenges, including high unemployment rates, increased cost of living, and financial hardships worsened by the ongoing economic crisis, this tariff hike presents an additional burden. It is imperative that we address the realities faced by our people with transparency and sensitivity.

The residents of Namibia, especially those from vulnerable and low income households, are struggling to make ends meet. Businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, are finding it increasingly difficult to remain operational under rising costs. As representatives of the people, it is our duty to seek clarity and advocate for measures that can alleviate their burdens.

In this context, I seek to understand the logic behind the tariff increase and explore potential solutions to mitigate its impact on our economy and citizens:

- 1 What measures were taken by the ECB to ensure adequate public consultation and stakeholder engagement before deciding on the 8% tariff increase? Can you provide specific details on how the feedback from these consultations was incorporated into the final decision?
- 2 The ECB's tariff increase relies on a study conducted in 2001. Given the significant changes in the economic landscape over the past two decades, what steps are being taken to update the methodology and data used in determining electricity tariffs to reflect current economic realities?
- 3 What specific measures are being implemented to mitigate the adverse effects of the tariff increase on low-income households and vulnerable populations? Are there any subsidy programs or targeted relief initiatives planned to support those most affected?
- 4 There have been concerns about the lack of transparency regarding the documents and guidelines related to tariff costing and methodology. How does the Ministry plan to ensure that all relevant documents are made accessible to the public, and what steps will be taken to improve transparency and accountability in future tariff determinations?
- 5 In light of the economic crisis and the need for sustainable energy solutions, what is the Ministry's long-term strategy for ensuring affordable and reliable electricity supply? Are there any plans to invest in alternative energy sources or infrastructure improvements to reduce the dependency on tariff hikes?
- 6 Is the increase in electricity tariffs related to Zambia's recent decision to cut off power supply to other countries? If so, how is the Ministry addressing this issue to ensure a stable and affordable electricity supply for Namibia?
- 7 Can the Minister tell us whether, whenever electricity prices are increased, the welfare of the people is considered, or if these decisions are primarily driven by revenue generation at the expense of the poor and vulnerable?

Question 63 (2024-07-02)

Hon. Benz (PDM) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Transport:

Government fleet must play an important role in service delivery for the greater good of the Namibian people. Many ministries, police stations and hospitals are unable to deliver important services to the people because they do not have the needed vehicles or the vehicles are not operational due to mechanical problems. This obstructs effective service delivery in Namibia.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Share with us a comparative analysis of the total number of operational and non-operational government fleet and further inform us on the strategy in fixing the non-operational government fleet?

2. What are the yearly cost implications in maintaining government fleet and how can this costs be possibly reduced?
3. Many police stations and hospitals in Namibia do not have enough vehicles to deliver timely services to the people. Are there any plans to procure enough vehicles for these two important ministries or to at least repair the existing broken vehicles ?
4. How effective are government garages in fixing or repairing government fleet?
5. What best practices can be employed to maintain and sustain government fleet?

Question 64 (2024-07-02)

Hon. Mike. Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service:

Recently, Cosafa announced that they have awarded Mozambique the rights to host the boys Under 17 tournament coming up during December 2024, after Namibia failed to provide suitable facilities for the tournament to be played at. Namibia has been without a proper FIFA-approved football stadium for a number of years now, after the world governing football body declared both the Independence Stadium and Sam Nujoma Stadium unfit for the hosting of international tournaments. The constant delay in renovating and upgrading our stadiums is causing panic and frustrations in the sports community.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. What is the progress in renovating and upgrading the Independence and Sam Nujoma Stadiums?
2. What is the delay in starting the renovation process?
3. Recently, the Namibia Breweries Limited stopped their sponsorship of 10 years to our National Football team, the Brave Warriors. This was because of our National Team playing their matches outside Namibia. What is the way forward for our national football team in finding another sponsor?

Question 65 (2024-07-02)

Hon. Tjiramba (LPM) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform :

The Baynes Dam project has raised significant concerns among the OvaHimba communities and other socio-economic stakeholders. Issues of proper consultation, adherence to constitutional rights, and the inclusion of all affected parties in the decision-making process have been brought forward. Recent developments include a newly launched Bio-Cultural Protocol highlighting the spiritual and livelihood significance of the Kunene River for the OvaHimba people.

The experience of the Necktartal Dam and the exclusion of the traditional communities from proper resettlement farms as promised, has raised further suspicion among most of the OvaHimba regarding the actions of the State in construction of Dams in this country.

I now therefore ask the following questions:

1. Given the existence of two factions in the community: those for and those against the project, it is crucial to ensure that both are adequately represented to reflect the diverse perspectives within the community. How are the interests of the faction led by Mutaambanda Kapika being addressed?
 2. A newly launched Bio-Cultural Protocol for the OvaHerero of Kaokoland in Namibia and Angola has come into existence. This protocol emphasizes the spiritual and livelihood connections to the Kunene River and its surrounding ecosystems. How does the project plan to respect and integrate these cultural and spiritual values into its development and operational plans?
 3. The Bio-Cultural Protocol mentions several sacred sites significant to the OvaHimba community. How does the current project plan address the protection and preservation of these sacred sites? Are there any specific measures in place to ensure that these cultural heritage sites are not disturbed or desecrated during the construction and operational phases of the dam?
 4. It has been brought to our attention that there are no adequate sand resources at the Baynes Dam construction site. How does the project plan to procure the necessary sand for construction?
 5. There are concerns regarding the potential use of the Omuhonga River for sand mining. Can you confirm whether this river is being considered as a source for sand? If so, has the project obtained consent from the local communities affected by this decision? What steps are being taken to ensure that the environmental and social impacts of sand mining are mitigated?
 6. Despite the establishment of the Baynes Stakeholder Steering Committee, there are allegations that the broader OvaHimba community has not been adequately informed or consulted about the construction of the dam. Additionally, a petition with 1,000 signatures from affected community members, including those from the faction led by Mutaambanda Kapika, the Orokaue and surrounding villages, Oviyeerere community, and Otjimbombonga community, indicates significant concern. How does the project plan to address these allegations and ensure that Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is genuinely obtained from all affected communities without any prejudices?
 7. Given the significant environmental and social implications of the Baynes Dam, what steps are being taken to ensure that all relevant environmental and social impact assessments (ESHIA) are comprehensive and inclusive of community input? How will the findings from these assessments be transparently communicated to the affected communities, and how will their feedback be incorporated into the project planning and execution, should the project go ahead?
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Question 66 (2024-07-02)

Hon. Tjiramba (LPM) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

The Delimitations Commission on the Determination of Regions and Constituencies that was commissioned on 3 August 1998 resulted in the expansion of the Omusati region encroaching in the Kunene region without adequate consultation with the communities that inhabit that area. The communities claim that their constitutional participatory rights were infringed because proper consultations were not done. The matter was exacerbated by seizing the fundamental socio-economic sides of the Kunene region into the Omusati region that became the:

- (i) Ruacana Hydro Power Plant
 - (ii) Onavivi Aqua Culture project
 - (iii) Etunda Greenscheme project
 - (iv) Omutambomaue Quarantine camp
 - (v) Etosha National Park
 - (vi) Kamanjab Ruacana road
 - (vii) Omakange Okahao road
 - (viii) Part of the Etosha National Park I shall therefore ask the following:
1. Why was the community not properly consulted for them to give informed consent to the delimitation of part of the Kunene Region to the Omusati Region?
 2. The area in question was used as commonage and grazing relieve by the inhabitants during the drought season. However, with the delimitation of the area to Omusati, the traditional leaders of Omusati automatically attained traditional jurisdiction over the land and have regrettably allocated these land parcels for residence robbing the pastoral farmers of Kunene of their grazing land. What necessitated the expansion of the Kunene region to the west, and why were these important factors not taken into consideration before the expansion?

Question 67 (2024-09-03)

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister in the Presedency:

The Vice President H.E Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, has voiced serious concerns about the prolonged delay in the renovation of the stadium despite budget allocations made in the 2022/2023 budget. Further, her claims state that communications were made that by August, 28, 2024 indicating that a contractor had been secured and that progress was made. Yet, her office has notched recover any follow-up communication to arrange a site visit to date. It is with the above statement that I shall proceed to ask the following:

1. Why has there been no transparency or feedback to her office, and what steps are being taken to ensure that communication improves?
2. Given the severity of the situation and failure of the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service to act within the allocated time frame, will you be advising the President to take immediate action, including the possible dismissal of the Minster responsible? If not, what justifies retaining the Minister in her position?

3. With elections on the horizon, there is a growing perception that these actions are a political stunt aimed at swaying the youth vote. Can you assure the public that this is not merely a tactic to influence voters, and will decisive actions be taken before the election period beings?
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Question 68 (2024-09-03)

Hon. Mootu (LPM) asked the Minister of Sport, Youth and National Services:

It had been noted that in the 2022/23 budget, a significant allocation of N\$50 million was earmarked for the renovation of the stadium. Yet, as of today, no substantial renovations have taken place. On February 15 2023, your Executive Director, Mbumbu Erastus Haitengela, assure the public that the government had not abandoned its plans to upgrade the stadium. Furthermore, in June 2024, you attributed the delays to the procurement process. Given these facts, and considering that the Landless People's Movement has consistently raised concerns, to no avail, can you clarify why the Vice President recently accused you of misleading her and the nation about securing a contractor? Currently our national team are playing, their World Cup, and AFCON qualifiers in South Africa is this not an embarrassment to the country? It is with the above that I shall ask the following:

1. Is it not the honourable thing to do, given your stature as an elder and iconic sports figure, to apologize to the nation and resign?
 2. When will you resign, as Minister, given that it appears that this Ministry is beyond your capacity perhaps?
 3. Why have you misled the nation, and the Vice President regarding the status of the renovations? What is the truthful explanation behind these delays?
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Question 69 (2024-09-03)

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

The Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare has entered into another contract with Epupa Investment Technology for the provision of services to facilitate cash payments of basic state grants and allowances to social grant beneficiaries after entering into this contract on three occasions now with the same service provider:

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following questions:

1. Could you explain how Epupa Investment Technology was the successful bidder to this contract after holding it for over a decade?
2. What is the total value of the current 5-year contract?
3. What are the provisions or clauses regarding the establishment of pay stations to ensure dignified payment conditions for the elderly?

4. After holding the contract for more than a decade the current practices of receiving payments under trees are unacceptable. What will the Ministry do to enforce improved service delivery?
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Question 70 (2024-09-03)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) asked the Hon. Prime Minister:

According to recent publications, three children have died and four others are in critical condition due to suspected food poisoning after consuming porridge made with maize meal from a drought relief program. Witvlei Constituency Councillor Sheya Goagoses confirmed that the victims were initially rushed to the Witvlei Clinic, with the deaths occurring shortly after.

I thus wish to ask the Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

1. Could you provide clarity on the official cause of death for the three children in the Omaheke region, and whether it has been confirmed to be food poisoning from government sponsored drought relief program?
 2. Has the government initiated autopsies to confirm the cause of death, and if so, what are the preliminary findings?
 3. What measures will the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) undertake to support the affected families in covering the burial expenses of their loved ones?
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Question 71 (2024-09-03)

Hon. Kodi (LPM) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

The recent developments regarding the proposed electricity tariff increments have sparked widespread discontent among our people. This seeks to address the issue of the increment of electricity tariffs, the government's intervention, and to propose tangible solutions for curbing expensive electricity tariffs in the future.

From the financial year 2016/2017, NamPower applied for an effective bulk tariff increase from N\$1.28 to N\$1.68 per kWh, and the end-user tariffs were approved at an average tariff of N\$2.00/kWh. In the 2022/2023 financial year, a tariff increase of 12.8% was requested, but the Electricity Control Board (ECB) approved a lower average bulk increase of 7.3%

The City of Windhoek had proposed a 10.3% increase in electricity tariffs, which was met with strong opposition from various stakeholders, including the Trade Union Congress of Namibia (TUCNA) and the general public. The Electricity Control Board (ECB) conditionally approved a reduced tariff hike of 7.9% . However, the government has since intervened by availing N\$365 million to subsidize electricity consumers for the 2024/ 025 financial year, effectively canceling the increment for 2024 and 2025.

While the government's intervention provides temporary relief, there are concerns about what will happen beyond 2025, especially after the elections. The ECB has projected

further increases in electricity tariffs for the subsequent years, with significant hikes expected from 2025/2026 onwards. This raises the question of sustainability and the long-term affordability of electricity for Namibian households and businesses.

I therefore ask the following:

1. The constant increment of electricity tariffs in Namibia suggests that the government is prioritizing profit-making, with exorbitant profit margins at the expense of the public. Is the government trying to make a profit from electricity tariffs?
 2. Despite Namibia's vast potential for solar energy, there seems to be a lack of urgency in harnessing this cheaper and more sustainable energy source. Instead, significant funds are exported to Zimbabwe, which further exacerbates the economic strain on local consumers. Why are we exporting billions to Zimbabwe when we could be investing in our own renewable energy infrastructure?
 3. Should we not liberate the capacity of local authorities to implement the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) system, allowing them to generate and manage their own energy?. This could reduce NAMPOWER's role to just supplying businesses, potentially lowering costs for consumers. Where does the revenue generated from these high tariffs go? How much does energy actually cost the government?
 4. Is the ECB's current model viable for the livelihoods of ordinary Namibian people who already struggle with a repo rate of 7.75% and an inflation rate of about 4.90%? The ECB's model appears disconnected from the economic realities faced by Namibians. The combination of high electricity tariffs, a steep repo rate, and inflation is crippling for households and businesses alike.
 5. Are there no other means of sourcing electricity besides relying on imports from South Africa? The government's approach seems more focused on generating revenue than providing affordable energy to its citizens. Why are we not exploring and investing in other local and renewable energy sources?
 6. What is the status quo with NAMPOWER's BioMass project in the Oshikoto region? This project has the potential to provide sustainable energy solutions, yet there seems to be little progress or transparency about its development. Why is there a lack of progress on such promising initiatives?
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