



Thursday, 6 February 2025

No. 16 - 2025

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MINISTER:	QUESTION NO.
1. Prime Minister	60
2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Work and Transport	63, 76
3. Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security	
4. Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs	
5. Minister of International Relations and Cooperation	
6. Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises	81
7. Minister of Education, Arts and Culture	
8. Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare	
9. Minister of Health and Social Services	
10. Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation	
11. Minister of Mines and Energy	62, 71, 78
12. Minister of Justice	
13. Minister of Urban and Rural Development	74
14. Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism	73
15. Minister of Industrialisation and Trade	

16.	Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform	65, 80, 82
17.	Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources	
18.	Minister in the Presidency	67, 75, 79
19.	Minister of Sport, Youth and National Service	
20.	Minister of Information and Communication Technology	
21.	Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation	

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 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 Orokau 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?

Question 67 (2024-09-03)

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

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 Minister 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 begins?

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?

Question 72 (2024-09-10)

Hon. Dienda (PDM) to ask the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

In light of the Bank of Namibia's recent announcement that electronic fund transfers (EFT) between Namibia, South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini will no longer be possible at the end of this month.

In light of this, I ask:

1. How does the Ministry plan to ensure seamless trade between Namibia and South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini following this change in the payment system?
2. What alternative financial mechanisms will be implemented to facilitate cross-border transactions?
3. In urgent situations where money needs to be transferred fast what provisions will be put in place to ensure that such transactions can be conducted efficiently?
4. Lastly, as per the announcement from the Bank of Namibia, when did the Bank formally inform the public about the cessation of EFT services between Namibia and these countries, and through which channels was this information communicated to ensure public awareness?

Question 73 (2024-09-10)

Hon. Hamata (PDM) asked the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism:

The recent cutting down of a tree in Oshikango constituency, Helao Nafidi Town, is not only unacceptable but also deeply shameful. This tree was a lifeline for many unemployed youths who relied on it to sell products like Eembe, Odjove, and Eendunga, allowing them to make a living. Destroying a vital natural and economic resource under the pretext of addressing fuel smuggling is a poor excuse when law enforcement could have dealt with the smuggling issue without harming the environment or people's livelihoods.

I, therefore, put to you, Hon. Minister, the following questions:

1. Has the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism granted an environmental clearance for the cutting of this tree in Oshikango, given its importance to the local community?
2. Does the Ministry intend to issue clearance for cutting down trees each time illegal activities like fuel smuggling occur?
3. How many more trees will be cut down in Namibia due to smuggling, and what is the Ministry's stance on balancing environmental protection with law enforcement?
4. Is cutting down trees as a preventive measure constitutionally and environmentally sound when alternative law enforcement strategies could manage illegal activities without harming natural resources?
5. What steps is the Ministry taking to prevent further environmental damage in similar situations, while addressing the root causes of such illegal activities?

Question 74 (2024-09-10)

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

Honorable Minister, the recent ruling by the High Court of Namibia (in the matter of Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF), Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) has raised serious concerns about the competence and preparedness of the Commission. The court found that the Commission acted unlawfully by deregistering a political party without affording it the right to be heard, a violation of Article 18 of the Namibian Constitution. This premature action by the Commission not only shows a failure to follow due process but also threatens the integrity of our democratic systems, particularly as we approach the upcoming elections. One wonders whether we can trust the Commission to conduct free, fair and transparent elections given this early constitutional breach.

I therefore, put to you, Hon. Minister, the following questions:

1. Hon. Minister, with the High Court finding the Commission to have acted unlawfully in the recent deregistration of a political party, can you confidently state whether the Commission is fully prepared to conduct this year's elections in a free and fair manner? What measures are in place to ensure the electoral body is ready and capable?
2. Considering the Commission's early violation of constitutional principles, do you believe the Namibian public can trust the Commission to carry out this year's elections impartially and transparently? What steps is your Ministry taking to restore public confidence in the electoral body?
3. In light of the court's ruling, will you, as the Minister responsible for Urban and Rural Development, be advocating for the resignation of the Commissioners involved? Do you believe there should be consequences for this breach of public trust, and what actions will be taken to hold the Commission accountable?
4. Given this serious misstep by the electoral body, what assurances can you provide that the upcoming elections will be fair and transparent? Can we expect tighter oversight or reforms to ensure that the Commission adheres strictly to legal and constitutional requirements during the election process?
5. Hon. Minister, what is your take on the Commission's handling of this matter and what guarantees can you give the Namibian people that the elections will not be compromised? What concrete measures will be implemented to ensure that the elections remain a true reflection of the people's will, free from any form of manipulation or misconduct?

Question 75 (2024-09-11)

Hon. McHenry Venaani (PDM) asked the Minister in the Presidency:

The Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) has consistently raised concerns since 2017 regarding the failure of August 26 Holdings (Pty) Ltd to deliver audited financial records to the National Assembly since its inception in 1998. On 24 April 2024, I had dispatched a written communication addressed to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Director-General, Mr. Paulus Noa. The subject matter of the letter was to procure insights into and demand an investigation concerning the unseen audited report of August 26's books, held confidential by the Auditor-General's Office. During a meeting in July of this year with President Nangolo Mbumba, he disclosed to myself and my delegation that although he has received the reports, his office had not yet had the opportunity to thoroughly review the financial documents assigned to the Auditor-General by the late President Geingob in 2021. It was further revealed that upon completion of the above-mentioned assignment, the Auditor-General's Office reportedly received no further directives regarding the report from the Presidency.

I thus ask the Minister:

1. What are the specific reasons for August 26 Holdings (Pty) Ltd's persistent failure to provide these audited financial reports, despite repeated requests and the involvement of the Ombudsman?

2. Why has the President delayed in completing this review, and what immediate actions are being taken to address this delay?
 3. What immediate and concrete steps is the Presidency undertaking to ensure that the audited financial reports and ACC findings are released without further delay? What is the expected timeline for this release, and how will the Presidency ensure that such delays are prevented in the future?
 4. Can the Minister provide a detailed explanation as to why August 26 Holdings (Pty) Ltd has not complied with the legal requirement to submit audited financial records to the National Assembly, despite multiple requests?
 5. What specific measures has the Presidency taken to address this non-compliance and ensure that August 26 Holdings (Pty) Ltd meets its statutory obligations?
 6. What directives or actions have been taken by the Presidency following the receipt of the ACC findings, and why has there been a lack of follow-through on the part of the Presidency regarding these findings?
 7. How does the Presidency plan to address and rectify the consequences of the delayed publication of these financial reports and the subsequent lack of parliamentary oversight?
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Question 76 (2024-09-11)

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

The Namibian Traffic Identification System (NATIS) testing centers and offices in various parts of Namibia continue to experience serious practices of widespread corruption where learners' and drivers' licences as well as roadworthy certificates are sold to the public. Natis testing office are accused of deliberately failing people during their driving license tests if no backdoor payment is made to them. This practice has been normalised at many Natis centers in Namibia. When incapable people buy drivers licenses, they pose major risk to pedestrians and other motorists.

I therefore wish to ask the Honourable Minister the following:

1. Is the Ministry aware of the corrupt and maladministration at Natis centers and offices in Namibia? If yes, what interventions have been made so far? And how effective are these interventions ?
2. How many Natis officers in Namib have been implicated in corruption and maladministration and what were the implications?
3. What corruption prevention strategies has your Ministry implemented so far?

4. Is it not advisable to establish a functional task team to specifically investigate corruption and maladministration at all Natis centers country wide?
5. There also seems to be a lack of service delivery at many Natis offices. How will your Ministry ensure that service delivery at Natis offices is improved?

Question 78 (2024-09-12)

Hon. Shekupakela (RDP) to ask the Minister of Mines and Energy:

It has come to our attention that Recon Africa, in Kavango West and East is currently under maintenance. What the house wants is the line Ministry to inform us, the following:

- 1) Since the commencement of work at Recon Africa, after exploration was concluded, the next step was to be production, however, there is nothing reported on the oil that was extracted by Recon Africa henceforth, the current position that is maintenance.
- 2) The people of Kavango West and East keep note that there resides amongst Namibia's poorest citizens were promised employment, and land was appropriated by government for the activities of Recon Africa, the fact that employment and betterment of the living conditions of these people in that part of the country needs to be clarified.
- 3) What is the current position in terms of production, and have those that had availed land reasonably been compensated?

Question 79 (2024-09-17)

Hon. Ekandjo (SWAPO) to ask the Minister in Presidency:

Honorable Minister, Article 30 of the Namibian Constitution deals with the Oath or Affirmation the President takes before assuming office. Of critical importance for the purpose of my question, the oath in part read as follow:

“That I will strive to the best of my ability to uphold, protect and defend as the Supreme Law the constitution of the Republic of Namibia...”

Keeping the above in mind, in July 2023, a Private members' bill that I moved in this August House was passed by more than two thirds majority, and I must add, without a single objection neither a single abstain.

Comrade Minister, our constitution under article 56(2) is the applicable in the case of the bill concerned. The article 56(2) read as follows:

Where a bill is passed by a majority of two-thirds of all members of the National Assembly and has been confirmed by the National Council, the President shall be obliged to give his or her assent thereto.

I therefore now ask:

1. Has the President complied with article 56(2) of our constitution?
2. Has the President defied the oath of office as outlined in article 30 of the Namibian constitution in as so far as the bill is concerned?
3. Why has the President not complied with article 56(2) of the Namibian constitution, which is an obligatory clause?

Question 80 (2024-09-17)

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

The Question is regarding the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) in Garn settlement in Otjozondupa Region, classified under the Yellow Line as outlined in International Veterinary rules.

This fence dates back to the German colonial period in 1896 with its original purpose was to stop the spread of infectious diseases like foot-and-mouth disease. The Veterinary Cordon Fence stretched approximately 1,250 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean to Botswana, thus separates Northern Namibia from its Central and the South.

Since Garn is a Foot-and-Mouth (FMD) protected area in terms of cattle movement, classified as operating under a Yellow line. This category was necessitated by the fact that their cattle came from Botswana, where FMD outbreaks were found in some areas of Botswana.

Contrary to a Red Line zone, where cattle may never be exported, a Yellow Line allows for the exportation of cattle, provided that they are quarantined for a specific period and found to be disease free.

The settlement remains under a surveillance zone keeping animals quarantined for 21 days in accordance with International Veterinary Rules and Regulations to ensure cattle where not infected with Foot-and-Mouth Disease before being sold. In 2020, FMD was detected in the Kavango East region, and spread subsequently to Kavango West, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati, Kunene, including the Tsukwe Constituency in the Otjozondupa Region which covers Garn settlement.

However, Garn settlement adjacent and bordering Tsukwe Constituency never in its history reported and recorded to have FMD ever since its 31 years existence. According to available information, the Yellow Line was supposed to last for only 10 years and be lifted provided no FMD cases were found, which as a matter of fact Garn Yellow Line classification should have been lifted 21 years ago. It is also found that the Veterinary Cordon Fence between Garn and Tsukwe is not properly and regularly maintained to prevent free movement of cattle between the two areas, causing farmers in Garn to lose their livestock as per Veterinary rules and regulations they cannot take them back.

Same applied to the Veterinary Cordon Fence between Garn and Botswana, not in a condition to avoid movement of livestock. Additionally, the VCF is also challenged by movements of Elephants stepping down the fence.

Despite other burning challenges such as prolonged auction opportunities as well as hurdles associated with the quarantine process, caused their life to be a nightmare with no dignity. For example, the last auction this year in Garn was March. Imagine how does this farmers feed themselves, pay their dependents school fees, vaccinate and

supplement their livestock without any money, to mention but a few. It is proven futile that at an auction in Garn farmers sell between 1200-1800 cattle, amounting to 7-8 million Nam Dollars. In turn, a huge contribution to the Namibian economy and GDP at large.

I hereby ask the following:

1. Why is Yellow Line classification not yet lifted despite lack of FMD cases ever reported in Garn?
2. If there has not been any FMD case reported, does the Ministry have plans to lift the ban, if yes when will it be lifted? And how long will such a process take?
3. Who is responsible for maintenance of VCF?
4. Which other criteria's must be met for the Yellow Line to be lifted?
5. What are the repercussions of this unlawful classification to the affected individuals and Namibia Economy at large?

Question 81 (2024-09-17)

Hon. Tjiramba (LPM) to ask the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises:

On the issue of NAMRA (Namibia Revenue Agency) and some Provisional Tax payers with particular focus on farmers who claimed tax return on goods they bought for agricultural operations between the period of January 2020 and December 2021. NAMRA established that fraudulent tax return claims were made illegal. As a result NAMRA took drastic actions against those individuals without consultations to map out efficient and effective steps and methods of repayment. The harsh actions taken by NAMRA without assessing its own internal contributions to these malpractices have serious detrimental effects on the livelihood of affected individuals, Namibia's economy at large and on its own integrity and reputation.

It is with greatest dismay that despite numerous efforts of these affected individuals to discuss with NAMRA management amicable solutions, it has been in vain.

I shall therefore ask the following:

1. How did the Provisional Tax Payers manage to defraud NAMRA?
2. What mechanism or risk mitigation systems were in place to prevent fraudulent claims?
3. What was NAMRA's stake and responsibilities in the so called "fraudulent refunds for Provisional Tax Payers"?
4. How do we ensure that the investigation conducted in connection with an alleged fraudulent scam was reliable, valid and credible in terms of impartiality and objectivity? Given the fact NAMRA was part and parcel of the scam?
5. In terms of other available and applicable statutes, such as The Labour Act 2007 (Act no. 11 of 2007) allowable deduction from a salary of an individual employee

must not exceed 1/3 or 30% of the net earning or salary, however NAMRA took a unilateral decision and instructed employers of its target apparent defrauders to deduct more than 30% and in some cases even 100% resulting in 0 salary per month to recover its debt. Is such practice legal and does it promote well-being among our citizens? Really how do these fellow Namibians breathe and satisfy their own and families' physiological basic needs? Imagine what might be the consequences of such an act?

6. Having noticed that our Government through the Ministry of Finance, recently has waved tax revenue from some State Own Enterprises (SOEs) such as Unam, Trans-Namib, Air Namibia, NamPower, NamCor, just to mention a few. Why can such relief not be accorded to these struggling subsistent farmers faced with recurrent and persistent drought, poor access to their farming operation sites due to very bad roads conditions, poisonous plants (which can wipe out all livestock in a blink of an eye) above all difficult economic downturn.
7. Considering that Namibia is in a state of emergency declared by the Head of State of the Republic of Namibia, the application of ring-fencing during the tax return review has a gigantic negative impact on Agriculture sustainability, in turn on the GDP. NAMRA seems to use the Capitalist system of giving with the right hand and take it back with the left hand.

Therefore, the appeal to NAMRA is to withhold the application of ring-fencing until such time the country economic situation recovers, otherwise this country will continue manufacturing poverty of its own citizens.

Question 82 (2024-09-19)

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

My Questions are on the issue of severe bush encroachment in Namibia with particular focus on Communal land situated south of Redline.

Bush encroachment affects 45 million ha of Namibia with significant negative impact on rangeland productivity and biodiversity. Bush encroachment is the thickening of aggressive undesired woody species resulting in an imbalance of the grass versus bush ratio causing decrease in biodiversity as well as in carrying capacity. The beef industry hinges heavily on availability of sustainable rangeland for livestock fostering increased carrying capacity, fodder availability which is a positive mechanism to mitigate impact of recurrent drought challenging food security in our country.

In communal areas its vast farming land have a natural dense cover and have been like that for many decades. This thick woody plants post negative implications on soil fertility resulting in total disappearance of grass for livestock. The ever shrinking farm land size for the majority Namibians in rural areas and their only means of production for survival have become a factory of poverty, hunger and mere food hand-out dependency syndrome affecting their dignity. Henceforth, bush thinning is the common method to counteract bush encroachment through biomass utilization and value chain addition, however clearing the bush from farm lands might exacerbate the problem.

Therefore I ask the Hon. Minister the following questions:

1. Is the Hon. Minister aware of this disaster and if yes what restoration plan will be put in place to address this life threatening predicament?
 2. What restoration policies and regulations will be put in place to enhance effective and efficient implementation and management strategies?
 3. How will the involvement of targeted population be done especially at grass root level?
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