



Parliament

Journal





Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi the new Speaker of the National Assembly receives a Gavel, one of the symbols of Authority from the former Speaker Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab

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From the Editor Desk

- Vincent Sinalumbu

The 2015 State of the Nation Address coincided with the official opening of Parliament. The official opening of Parliament that is prominent on the Parliamentary calendar takes place every year during the second week of February, however this event was delayed because the Fifth Parliament ended during November 2014 and the Sixth Parliament was to be convened and Members sworn in on 20 March 2015.

Delivering his maiden State of the Nation Address, President Hage Geingob congratulated the newly elected members of Parliament, especially first time parliamentarians.

The President reminded the nation about good governance that must be seen as another foundation of our Namibian House. He said, the Anti-corruption Commission and the courts are only able to successfully prosecute cases of corruption if they have sufficient evidence. The President therefore urged service providers to the Government to ensure that if he or she is asked for a bribe by a civil servant, not to oblige but to inform the Anti-corruption Commission and provide them with evidence.

President Geingob informed the House that, though the law does not require the President to disclose his personal assets, he stressed that managing conflict of interest is a matter which requires political will, and therefore he assured the nation that he feel obliged to publicly declare his assets by engaging the service of a reputable company to assess his assets . He urged fellow lawmakers to emulate his example by disclosing their assets too, and the Prime Minister must ensure that civil servants are not spared of this exercise either.

President Geingob must be commended by making it clear in the House that culture of service delivery must be the order of the day and he stressed that, the business as usual syndrome will be a thing of the past as all Ministers and their deputies will be required to issue Ministerial Declarations of Intent that will constitute a contract with the public on delivery to which they will be held accountable.

Hon. Professor Peter Katjavivi, the new Speaker of the National Assembly, during his first interview with the Parliament Journal also emphasised the issue of service delivery; he said the staff at the National Assembly will be re-examined so that people are employed in right positions for them to deliver to the best of their abilities. The Parliamentary Service Commission Bill will soon be tabled in the National Assembly. Once Parliament has its own Commission, the Third Organ of the State will be strengthened and build the appropriate capacity according to the needs of both Houses of Parliament so that we don't fail the electorates out there.

PRESIDENT GEINGOB'S MAIDEN STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

• Michael Muuondjo

Article 32 (2) of the Namibian Constitution enjoins the President of the Republic to attend Parliament each year during the consideration of the official budget. During such session the President shall address Parliament on the state of the nation and on the future policies of the government and shall report on the policies of the previous years and shall be available to respond to questions.

H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob delivered his first State of the Nation Address on 21 April 2015 in the National Assembly. In his address the President first congratulated Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi for his election as Speaker of the sixth Parliament and at the same time thanked the foremost diplomat and former Speaker, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab who has acquitted himself exceptionally well in all the roles assigned to him during his tenure.

He said he is pleased to note that his first State of the Nation Address coincided with the 1st session of the sixth Parliament. He extended a warm word of congratulations to the newly elected members of Parliament, especially first time Parliamentarians. He further said it is gratifying to note that sixth Parliament is the most diverse since Independence. The number of first time MPs is 49%. We look forward to fresh perspectives and robust debate.

Due to the 50/50 policy spearheaded by the SWAPO party, women now represent, 48 percent of the National Assembly. Gender equality is an enabler which allows all people to reach their full potential to contribute to and benefit from economic, social, cultural and political participation. It is pertinent that women have greater



His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob delivers the State of the Nation Address

access to high level decision-making to firm up and mature," Geingob said. roles, he noted.

The State of the Nation Address is a constitutional act that reinforces the very essence of our democracy as a Government by the people and for the people. Nation building is similar to building a house, and in our case, building the Namibian House. Firstly, you clear an area on which you build a solid foundation. You then lay the bricks and use cement to ensure that the bricks are kept in place. Allow the house to dry and firm up. Finally, you plaster the wall and it is important to let it dry before you paint the house.

"The same is true for building the Namibian house. We cleared the area with United Nations supervised elections. After which we drafted the constitution as our foundation. The bricks of our house are the different ethnic groups and the mortar is the various laws passed in Parliament to hold us together. Allow the democracy

The President said our intent of building and maintaining a high quality house in which all its residents have a sense of shared identity. We are determined to build a house that will be a place of peace and refuge for all its children and a house in which no Namibian will be left out.

He further said the other aspects of the strong foundation of the Namibian House includes peace and stability, respect for the rule of law, and good governance. Without peace and stability in the House, development becomes impossible. We should, therefore, not take our peace and stability for granted. We not only treasure our own peace, we also treasure the peace of others. To this extent, we contribute, within our means, to peace keeping in the world and in particular on our own continent, Africa. I am particularly proud of the

peace-keeping role we have played, and continue to play, on the Continent for we are, first and foremost, Africans. Africa stood by us during our long and bitter struggle and in turn we stand by Africa, he stressed.

“We have deepened and strengthened the democratic governance and culture in our Namibian House. Free and fair elections at national and local level have become part of our democratic experience. We are a country where freedom of the media and freedom of speech flourish. In fact, Reporters without Borders has consistently rated Namibia as the country with the freest press on the African continent.” Geingob emphasised.

The President further stated that another strong foundation of our Namibian House is good Governance. It was therefore no surprise that our former President, Hifikepunye Pohamba, received the Mo Ibrahim Award for African leadership. Congratulations once again Comrade President.

Geingob went on to say that “According to Transparency International, Namibia has remained one of the least corrupt countries in the world. It is important for public officials, to take note that corruption, in any form, whether it is a kickback, commission or any other benefit in the regular execution of duty is unacceptable. Private sector should also take note that by paying a bribe, it perpetuates and entrenches the very corruption it laments.”

He urged all Namibians to capacitate and allow institutions such as the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Namibian Police and our Courts to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption without fear or favour. The Anti-Corruption Commission and the courts are only able to successfully prosecute cases of corruption if they have sufficient evidence. In that regard, he urge service providers to the Government, or any user of Government service to ensure that

if he or she is asked for a bribe by a civil servant, not to oblige. Instead, to please inform the Anti-Corruption Commission and provide them with the necessary evidence. Corruption requires a corrupter and a corruptee. Businesspeople that pay bribes and the civil servants who solicit or receive bribes are engaged in an evil which undermines development and weakens the fibre of the society.

“A key requirement in preventing undue benefits accruing to Public Officials is preventing conflicts of interest and the disclosure of assets. The law does not require the President to disclose his personal assets. However, managing conflict of interest is a matter which requires political will. Therefore, I feel obliged to publicly declare my personal assets,” Geingob said during his address.

He said to this extent, he have engaged PriceWaterHouseCoopers Tax and Advisory Services (PWC) to assist him with an independent assessment of his assets. PWC will also assist him to prepare a financial disclosure report which he will disclose to the public in the second week of May 2015. For the sake of consistency, the First Lady will also disclose her personal assets, despite there being no legal requirement for her to do so. In the same vein of transparency, he will also release his medical health reports for public scrutiny. These disclosures will be made in line with the belief that transparency starts at the top. He said he is deeply convinced that accountability, transparency and inclusive leadership are “*conditio sine quo non*” for sustained socio-economic development and the improvement of the lives of all the people.

The President said he trust Parliamentarians will ensure the timely and adequate disclosure of their assets. He assured the Namibian nation that the Prime Minister will ensure that civil servants equally disclose all outside interests and sources of income.

All Ministers and their Deputies

will be required to issue Ministerial Declarations of Intent that will constitute a contract with the public on delivery to which they will be held accountable, Geingob said.

Research carried out by our National Statistics Agency shows that the old age pension has played a major role in the prevention of childhood poverty. In the absence of an old age pension, the childhood poverty rate would have been ten percent higher than the current figure. That is why one of the first priorities was to increase the old age pension by 66.7 percent from N\$600 per month, to N\$1,000 per month, starting this Financial Year. Further increases will be effected so that old age pension grants reach N\$1,200 by 2017. This has already been factored into the national budget, he noted.

He further said in the Namibian House, no child should go hungry. He is committed to the introduction of a Food Bank. The willingness of several farmers to get involved in this initiative on a voluntary basis is indicative of how Namibians recognize that we will only eradicate poverty if we work together.

“The Ministry of Poverty Eradication is tasked to co-ordinate all aspects hereto and harness the political will of government and the goodwill of Namibians as a tool in the eradication of poverty,” he said.

There is a saying that says, “Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away to others.” Let us adopt the virtues of sharing in our Namibian House. Let us allow the spirit of Harambee to manifest itself for the good of all Namibians. We must succeed as One Namibia, one Nation, urged Geingob.

“Education remains the greatest equalizer. Nationally, our literacy rate has increased from less than 75 percent at independence to approximately 90 percent, according to the latest Census count of 2011. In some Regions such as Khomas and Erongo, the literacy rate is virtually 100 percent. We removed school fees in 2012 which

made education free at primary school level. This led to a significant increase in enrolment rates at pre-primary and primary school levels," he said.

He further said this year, we are going to introduce free secondary school education, which will enable thousands of young Namibians to have a better shot at a brighter future. This will immediately arrest the high youth unemployment rate. At the moment, large subsidies to our local tertiary education institutions translate into the State covering up to 80% of university costs. Therefore, the fees payable by Namibian university students are significantly reduced by Government subsidies and make it tantamount to free tertiary education. This, as well as increased funding of scholarships through the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund has significantly expanded access to affordable tertiary education.

Geingob encouraged the private sector to also contribute more towards building the skills set of our Nation, by providing more scholarships and training to young adults. He said when he was on an official visit to China last year, he met with 30 Namibian medical students who were provided full bursaries by a Chinese philanthropist. "This is commendable and the contributions of Namibian companies and individuals who provide bursaries are also commended".

The Namibian House has made solid progress in essential services such as housing and sanitation, and expansion of critical enablers such as electricity, including rural electrification, telecommunications, and the expansion and upgrading of roads, rail lines, ports, dams and airports. This is critical infrastructure needed to keep us competitive in an increasingly globalized world. We must take care of these critical enablers, and this starts with their procurement.

The President reaffirmed his personal commitment to addressing land reform and provision of affordable housing to all Namibians. Land reform,

therefore, remains one of the areas of transformation that is critical towards social justice, inclusion and poverty alleviation in Namibia.

"To fast track the delivery of affordable and quality houses for all, local authorities, especially those with required capacity, we will have to play a constructive role in the provision of serviced land. To this extent, the Minister of Urban and Rural Development must be commended for investigating errant local authority councilors who are suspected to be abusing their positions of authority for their own benefit as opposed to the common good of the people," he stressed.

He reminded the Nation that the Constitution does provide for the expropriation of land, and if and where necessary, we shall invoke the expropriation clause as part of our Government's policy to address a burning national issue such as this one. In addition, to the extent that National Laws are prohibiting development, they will be reviewed and amended to facilitate development.

He stressed that we must aim to create an economy that is inclusive, sensitive and responsive to national developmental objectives and imperatives. Our duty is to ensure that these complicated technical terms we use translate into measurable improvements in living standards for ordinary Namibians. Although low inflation is important for growth, people need sustainable jobs that pay them a living wage so that they can feed their families. It is our obligation to distill everything we do into bread and butter issues which affect our brothers and sisters living in rural communities and townships.

Nobody in this house must be left out. Let us remain committed to this house. Let us remain committed to the spirit of One Namibian Nation. Let us remain united. As Kwame Nkrumah said, "The forces that unite us are intrinsic and greater than the superimposed influences that keep us

apart." The key to our victory in the war against poverty is unity, pride in our country and our house. Let us exude the spirit of the New Namibia, a spirit of peace, integrity, sacrifice, strength, passion, patriotism, love, togetherness and bravery.

These are the characteristics that helped us win the struggle for our independence and they will surely help us win the second phase of the struggle, he noted.

He called upon all Namibians, to hold hands to ensure that the House does not disintegrate. As he have said before, there will be problems from time to time, but every time this happens, we should have the resilience to overcome and emerge stronger as a united Nation. He urged all to embrace diversity and steer away from tribalism and other isms that can only detract us from achieving our common mission of developing our country.

Let us respect our women and children. Women are the bearers of life. They are an integral component of humanity and its future and to violate the rights of women is to violate this whole nation's conscience. We all came into being through a woman so let us in our collective Namibian voice say - no - to Gender Based Violence. Namibia is big enough for all of us and no one should feel as if they don't belong here, he emphasised.

President Geingob finally said we have the power to pursue a path towards equitable wealth distribution. We have the power to pursue the path towards peace, development and prosperity. We have the power to determine our own destinies, as Africans and as Namibians, standing together as One Namibia, One Nation.

MEMBERS OF 6TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SWORN-IN

- Ndahafa Kaukungua

Members of the 6th National Assembly were officially sworn-in on 20 March 2015 by the Chief Justice Peter Shivute in front of a full to capacity public gallery. The House also on that day unanimously elected Hon. Prof Peter H. Katjavivi, the former Government Chief Whip as Speaker and re-elected Hon. Loide Kasingo as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. Hon. McHenry Venaani is the leader of the Official Opposition in the National Assembly for the next five years.

The 6th National Assembly at a Glance

Speaker: Hon. Peter H. Katjavivi

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Loide Kasingo

Leader of Government Business: RT. Hon. Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

Leader of the Official Opposition: Hon. McHenry Venaani; President of the DTA of Namibia

Statistics of the Sixth Parliament and on the number of six and gender of representation.

POLITICAL PARTY	NUMBER OF SEATS	WOMEN MPs	MALE MPs
1. All People's Party (APP)	02	00	02
2. DTA of Namibia	05	02	03
3. National Unity Democratic Organisation of Namibia (NUDO)	02	00	02
4. Rally For Democracy and Progress (RDP)	03	01	02
5. Republican Party of Namibia (RP)	01	01	00
6. SWANU	01	00	01
7. SWAPO of Namibia	77	40	37
8. United Democratic Front (UDF)	02	01	01
9. United People's Movement of Namibia (UPM)	01	00	01
Appointments by the President	08	03	05

Total Members of Parliament: 104

Gender Representation in Parliament:

Male MPs - 56

Women MPs - 48

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS KATJAVIVI AS ITS NEW SPEAKER

- Vincent Sinalumbu

Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi has been elected as new Speaker of the 6th Parliament on 20 March 2015. Parliament Journal interviewed the Speaker to share his vision to the nation in his new portfolio.

PJ: You have been elected as Speaker of the National Assembly, what does this mean to you?

PK: First of all, what I am going to tell you is not just a question of describing how I view myself in my new position as a Speaker position but a question of looking at the role of Parliament as a whole.

We have a Parliamentary Journal that has been running for quite a while. I am asking myself a question, for me this is an important vehicle in transmitting the work of Parliament. A vehicle that also helps us to inform the public at large about what Parliament is all about. However, the question that might be asked is, is this vehicle sufficient to do what we would like to be done? Can we revisit the role of the Parliamentary Journal, and in what area do we need to improve so that it becomes an effective tool of conveying the messages and the activities of Parliament?

With regard to my own position as the new Speaker, I am extremely honoured to occupy the seat as a Speaker of the Namibian National Assembly. I suppose, you could say this is the biggest honour that anybody can hope for and I can only say that I am looking forward to living up to the expectations of those who have elected me into this position.

It is a challenge that I am conscious of and I cannot do what I am required to do single-handedly. I need, and I require a team that would be working with me to make sure that we perform the responsibilities that have been assigned to us. Therefore, I have to look within the institution to make sure that we are well served with the men and women who can do the job that is required of them. I also have

to play a role of a person who has to inspire others, motivate others so that we can actually create a winning team within the National Assembly.

There is a great deal that I want to see happening. We have to re-examine our own staff. Do we have all people that are employed at the National Assembly in the right places where they are expected to add value to the work that they do daily? Have we done justice to them to ensure that they are employed in places where they can deliver to the best of their abilities? These are things that have to be revisited. We need to re-examine ourselves and identify people who may need further upgrading of skills and competence so that they can perform better.

As an incoming Head of an important national institution, these are some of the challenges that I have to face up to, to make sure that we strengthen our capacity, we build capacity where it is required and at the end of the day we have to do this in the interest of the country as a whole.

PJ: Honourable Speaker, on the issue of the Journal, you mentioned that it can be used as a vehicle to transmit the functions and workings of Parliament to the public out there. The Journal is published in April, August and December. Do you perhaps want to see it published on weekly or monthly basis?

PK: This all depends on the capacity. What makes the Journal to come out according to the timetable that we are currently using, must have something to do with the capacity in terms of personnel that we have or it must have something to do with resources. These are the things that I would like us to revisit with a view to find out precisely, if we can do more. Can we maybe have this Journal come out monthly or bi-monthly? These are all the questions that we need to re-examine. I am not going to simply say it got to be this way or that way. I would like to take stock by revisiting this important issue together with the personnel, the people who are directly involved so that I can get the



Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, Speaker of The National Assembly

best advice from them.

I also want to revisit the question of resources. Do we put enough resources into having a Journal of this nature? Thirdly, I also want to have comparative experience of other Parliaments. How often do they bring out these particular publications, the Journals? Can we learn some lessons from some of those institutions? All I am trying to say is that, these are all issues that we need to address as we strive for improvement, with respect to not only the Journal, but also, I think we need to look overall, within the institution as a whole. We live in a changing world. Things are changing and obviously, we must also change with time.

PJ: Your predecessors undertook outreach programmes during their respective tenures in office, how are you planning to carry out these programmes forward?

PK: This is a challenge that is at the heart of the Parliament. If we say we are committed to fulfilling our obligations to the Namibian citizens, it basically implies that we must take Parliament to the people. The people who have elected us to serve them and to promote their interest. The concept of taking Parliament to the people is something that appeals to me.

We have to look at it and devise appropriate plans that would enable us to visit the people in our various Regions of Namibia to make sure that we are accessible and from time to time we should undertake visits that

will take us to the people in different parts of the country and actually engage them and be accessible and provide answers to them on the spot on some of the critical issues that are confronting them.

PJ: The Namibian Constitution was amended last year for the third time. Amongst others; some of the Amendments were the establishment of the Parliamentary Service Commission, as the new Speaker and someone who was part of the Committee that spearheaded this noble undertaking, what role will you play to ensure the fulfilment of the constitutional requirement?

PK: I think this is an urgent matter, as far as the National Assembly is concerned, I would like us to move as quickly as possible with the Bill that should be brought to the National Assembly as soon as it is practically possible for enacting this particular Bill. It is a matter that I actually recently had an opportunity to discuss with the Chairman of the National Council because it is a joint venture between the two Houses of Parliament. Both of us do feel that it is very important and it is urgent that we act on this matter as quickly as possible. I also think that this initiative is designed to strengthen the Third Organ of the State and that is the Legislature to make sure that we build the appropriate capacity according to the needs of both Houses of Parliament. We have also already requested our officials to deal with the composition of the Parliamentary Service Commission to make sure that we identify the people who should constitute the membership of the Board or the Commission of the Parliamentary Service Commission. These are issues that are currently enjoying my particular attention.

PJ: Who are likely to become members of the Parliamentary Service Commission?

PK: I think what we should do is, we should live up to the prescription as provided for in the Draft Bill. The composition would be drawn as close as possible to what is actually prescribed in the Draft Bill. There are likely to be former Members

of Parliament as well as perhaps the current serving Members of Parliament. All that, I think is actually provided for in the particular Draft Bill.

PJ: Finally, is there anything else you would like to say?

PK: There is so much I can say but I think it is too early, this is not the only interview you are going to have with me, and I would like us to meet from time to time. Once the Bill has gone through, I would like us to seriously build up and strengthen the parliamentary structures; particularly, I do not want to see unfilled vacancies within our National Assembly. I have taken note of the fact that there are a number of outstanding appointments that still need to be made. I do not see the reason why we should delay on this sort of thing. I am going to inform myself to make sure that we appoint people where they should be appointed and that's the reason why we budget for these positions and there is no reason why we should delay.

I would like to examine some of the challenges that are confronting our staff in terms of Conditions of Service. I would like to examine all the challenges that we might be experiencing in order to make sure that we address them accordingly. We cannot do the work that has been assigned to us if we are limping here and there. As the Head of the institution, I would like to make it my duty to ensure that if there are issues that need to be addressed, we should deal with them as quickly as possible. The public out there are expecting a great deal from us and I think we should not fail them.

Below is the full acceptance speech that was delivered by Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, MP during his Swearing in as Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia On 20 March 2015

I wish to express and register my profound thanks and appreciation for the honour that Members of this House have bestowed upon me as the new Speaker of this August House.

I wish to place on record my thanks to the incoming President for the confidence he has in me. I am equally thankful to the outgoing Head of State for the support and cooperation I have enjoyed while in the Office of the Government Chief Whip.

My colleagues in the House, Members of my Party and those in the Opposition, the words 'thank you' are not enough. I am cautious as I stand here that it is you collectively together with the leadership of my Party, headed by the President of our Republic that saw it fit that I take over as the new Speaker of this House.

I acknowledge with appreciation, the handing over that we witnessed a minute ago whereby the outgoing Speaker, the Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, MP, handed over the Gavel and the Ceremonial Rob, which are some of the major Symbols of Authority of the Office of the Speaker of Parliament, in addition to the Ceremonial Mace. This handover act symbolised the handover of the jurisdiction over the Office of the Speaker and the authority to ensure the continuation of the responsibility which we are expected to discharge on behalf of the people of this country.

I am cautious of the fact that I am stepping into the shoes of a giant, who has made immense contribution to our country and a well-known personality at home and abroad. He too succeeded another equally well-versed giant in parliamentary affairs; that being the Late Hon. Dr. Mosé Tjitendero. Both Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab and the Late Dr. Mosé Tjitendero have been close friends and colleagues of mine, with whom we shared a very close history of association as young men growing up together and facing many years with a spirit of determination and perseverance.

I look forward to working with all of you in this House and I count on your support in discharging our common goals of undertaking our responsibilities fairly and in the best interests of our nation and the people we are here to serve.

THE GREEN VERSUS THE BLUE ECONOMY

- Immanuel Kooper

The concept of the Blue Economy came to Namibia with Professor Gunter Pauli, a renowned entrepreneur and scholar whom have begun new ways of designing business, using available resources in creating ideas and systems where the waste of one product became the input to create a new one with tangible benefits.

The young and emerging economies like in the case of Namibia, having numerous challenges on various sectors such as poverty, unemployment, skilled human and social capital, can certainly learn some turnaround strategies from intellectuals such as Professor Gunter Pauli. Innovative thinking is needed of current and future generation of business professionals to create a sustainable economic environment for Namibia, adopting the best practices and models from concepts such as that of the Blue Economy.

The Parliament of the Republic of Namibia, in partnership with the Parliamentary Support Programme (PSP) and the Namibia Business Innovation Institute through the Parliamentary Standing Committees of Habitat and Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration, held a two day conference from 27 to 28 April 2015 under the themes *“Sustainability for Poverty Reduction, water, energy and food security”* as well as *“Designing and Developing cities that are economically viable and socially inclusive”*.

In his welcoming remarks, Professor Peter Katjavivi noted that Namibians should engage in sustainable livelihoods so that the earth should remain healthy for generations to come. *“A healthy earth can support healthy livelihoods, whereas unhealthy earth undermines the very survival of mankind”* said Prof Katjavivi.

The objectives of the conference according to Professor Katjavivi

was that the participants acquaint themselves with the practice and concept of the Blue Economy, for policy makers to familiarise with the most practically, feasible, cost effective and efficient methodologies in addressing the country’s key challenges, commensurate with the growth at home strategy and to try and establish a platform for meaningful networking towards achieving a Blue Economy. *“Unplanned and poorly planned development initiatives undermine environmental safeguards and restrictive environmental protection undermines sustainable development, which is the core of the Blue Economy paradigm,”* said Professor Katjavivi.

Elaborating on the Blue Economy concept, Prof Gunter Pauli brought into perspective the Green Economy of which he committed himself for 30 years for its implementation and thus believed in its benefits. However the way the Green Economy have turned out according to Prof Pauli, is not what everybody have wished for. *“In the Green Economy, whatever is as good for a person and for his/her health and good for the environment is expensive. How can the Green Economy be kept in line with poverty alleviation when it is indeed expensive. Governments does not have the budgets to pass subsidies for everything all the time. Collective thinking is therefore needed to decide what market to embrace.*

The globalised economy of this day is not capable of reaching, neither involving poor people. It is as if the globalised economy today requires poverty in order to justify the market which is unacceptable. Generation of jobs should be the obsession for every developing country and then the generation of value. With the latter obsession, the focus should be on the locally available resources of which Namibia has in abundance. The key is to transform the resources into a cascading of more value addition. The Blue Economy is therefore proposing

to think about, assess and discover the opportunities with what is available. Economists should be able to do competitive analysis and learn to have a multiplier effect for the economy to grow. Poverty alleviation starts with the little cash that the poor people have at their disposal. Namibians should therefore look collectively at its key challenges amidst the rise of the dollar and costs of imports which is exorbitantly increasing day by day to come up with turnaround strategies. For the Blue Economy is to look at various market forces and existing resources to grow the economy.”

Of the examples given by Prof Pauli, is that of a tender issued to supply bread to millions of poor people in a certain community. Only individual companies might qualify and benefit whilst the majority of locals is not empowered. Money will then circulate outside the community with them not benefiting unless perhaps many local bakeries could have been established to create hundreds of jobs. Calling for tenders in this case would not have been needed because the bread was to be supplied by the local bakeries to local schools, clinics and social centres allowing for the money to circulate in the community and thus to empower them at the end.

A mushroom farming project was initiated based on the concepts of the Blue Economy in collaboration with the University of Namibia according to Professor Pauli who visited the country at several occasions in the past. The project was kick started at on one of the University of Namibia campuses about 30 kilometres south of the capital, the then Neudamm Agricultural College. Whether the project is still in existence remains the question but Prof Pauli believe such a project should continue to feed the many poor people in the country. Mushrooms are full of protein, easier to farm with and the waist of the mushrooms can be used as chicken feed, which allows for better fertilisation to the chickens. There is a prospect of having lots of eggs from

the chickens for the community to consume and make enough profits from the sale of egg, and this being a cascading process on which the Blue Economy is based.

According to Prof Gunter Pauli, the government needs to create policy frameworks with various portfolios to grow the economy which is possible with the resources the country has that can generate major industries. He said globalisation have caused some interesting principles of management, which is core business and core competence. If for example you focus on one thing, you do best hence it's better to have vertically integrated companies he argued. "China is doing vertically integrating business because they have understood that the value chain depends not on global trading on every level but on integrating vertically the value chain, and then to compete globally. That means you generate much more value locally and that you are going

to have the additional value to take people out of poverty. Namibia has an exceptional opportunity to pool all forces together and have an action plan for the next five years. That is to show that you can deliver with what Namibia has, and it's an awful lot, so let's discover it together," he mused.

In his address, the Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Honourable Bishop Zephania Kameeta noted that the fight against poverty will not be sustainable and make any sense, if it is not based on the principles of economic, social and climate justice. "The fight against poverty must set clear limits to greed. We need to work together (Public and Private) to develop a plan of action towards constructing just, caring and sustainable financial and economic structures," he said.

Concluding the two day conference, the Deputy Chairperson of the

National Council Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, in her closing remarks noted that it is for the members of Parliament to create a legal framework that will unlock multiple, endless opportunities for the people in their quest for social and economic independence and prosperity. "I think we all agree that the most important step we can take is to empower all our people with skills and knowledge to improve their situation and pull themselves out of poverty. We are challenged to abandon our own way of thinking. We are challenged to abandon the old way of doing business and many other activities in order to progress and create wealth for all," said Mensah-Williams. She thanked all participants for attending the conference and in particular Professor Gunter Pauli for excellently and expertly sharing his ideas on how Namibia could overcome poverty towards the path to sustainable development.

SCHLETTWEIN TABLES HIS FIRST NATIONAL BUDGET



Hon. Calle Schlettwein tables the National Budget in the National Assembly

• Michael Muuondjo

The Minister of Finance Hon. Calle Schlettwein tabled N\$67-comma-eight billion dollars national budget in the National Assembly for the 2015/2016 financial year on 31 March 2015. The Minister of Finance is required by Article 126 (1) of the Namibian Constitution to at least once every year and thereafter at such interim stages as may be necessary, present estimates of revenue, expenditure and income for the prospective financial year.

Hon. Schlettwein first thanked the incumbent President for having trust and confidence he bestowed upon him to serve as the custodian of the Public Finance Management and the financial sector. He further thanked his predecessor, former Minister of Finance and now the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for her great contribution to building a robust public finance management system and for her effective stewardship of the financial sector." Indeed, I thank her for her sound guidance during the memorable months and years we worked together (as her Permanent Secretary and Deputy Minister) as well as for her support during the last few days of finalising the budget preparation," he said.

The Minister tabled the Appropriation Bill 2015/2016, the Estimates of Revenue, Expenditure and Income for the Financial Year 2015/16 and the corresponding Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the financial years 2015/16 to 2017/18 for the consideration of the National Assembly. He also presented to the august House the Fiscal Strategy policy framework, the Development Budget and the Accountability Report as important policy and information documents.

According to the Finance Minister, Twenty-five years down the line, Namibians look back with firm confidence, because we have made great strides. The country has been

able to make notable progress and register key achievements, which include:

- The expansion of the economy by a factor of 15 since 1990, from N\$8.3 billion to N\$126.6 billion by 2013, with the corresponding income per capita having increased more than 10 times, from N\$5,500 to N\$58,300, thus propelling Namibia into the league of upper middle-income economies by global comparison;

- improved access to education, health facilities and basic amenities;

- reduction in relative poverty from 38 percent in 1993/94 to 20 percent by 2009/10 and pushing back extreme poverty from 9 percent to 2.0 percent over the same period;

- an impeccable record of democratic governance, peace and stability epitomized by our outgoing President, the indefatigable His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, having been bestowed the 2015 Mo Ibrahim Award for excellence in African Leadership;

- upholding of macroeconomic stability and fiscal prudence, which enhanced the competitiveness of our economy and the capacity of the State to expand the provision of public services to all our people; and

- in spite of the difficult adjustment period stemming from the effects of the global financial crisis, Namibia was able to have its investment grade sovereign credit ratings by Moody's and Fitch reaffirmed as stable.

The Minister stated that we made this notable progress amidst daunting challenges and difficult circumstances, borne out of our historical past of glaring inequalities and exclusion. We have not yet fully prevailed over these challenges.

Making a significant dent in the development challenges requires prompt implementation of targeted intervention measures and increased service delivery, alongside a robust tracking mechanism to assess the remit of the interventions.

In his inaugural address to the nation, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob stated, and I quote: "We plan to

expand and spread the opportunities for growth and prosperity to be enjoyed by all Namibians in all parts of the country, with a specific focus on the disadvantaged sections of our population. We will do so by pursuing policies and strategies to safeguard macroeconomic stability, promote economic diversification and transformation of the Namibian economy to be more inclusive and resilient to internal and external shocks".

Schlettwein further said the Budget and the Medium-term Expenditure Framework he tabled today are aimed at tackling the structural challenges that affect the development potential of our economy, unlocking opportunities for jobs and wealth creation and improving the welfare of Namibians in an inclusive and sustainable manner. It is a pro-poor, pro-growth budget, with deliberate scaled-up resource allocations to the targeted programmes for broad-based economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication over time.

He stressed that bring about better results in these focal areas of social and economic transformation, we need to depart from a business as usual mindset by making measurable efforts to hold Offices, Ministries and Agencies entrusted with programme execution accountable for their action or inaction. We have to move in top gear in our journey to Vision 2030.

"In particular, we need to make bold decisions and commence with targeted policies to transform and diversify the economy, alongside a package of strategic interventions to amplify the policy impacts in the targeted areas," he emphasised.

Therefore, he said, the **first priority** in the budget and MTEF is to bring about an inclusive growth agenda for the country by: diversifying and industrializing the economy, through targeted budgetary allocations to the priority economic sectors with high economic growth and job creation potential, continuous development of functional and technical skills through

increased access to tertiary education and vocational training, and developing and supporting domestic and regional value chains in the areas of comparative and competitive advantage.

The **second priority** for the budget and MTEF is to reduce poverty and improve social welfare. A sustainable and long-term strategy to address poverty is the provision of opportunities for income generation as well as promoting the creation of decent jobs. This will be achieved through: strengthening social safety nets in coverage and quantum as the first line of defence against poverty for the vulnerable members of our society, supporting the creation of decent jobs and self-employment opportunities in the private sector, and implementing policies that promote local access to, and ownership of the resources, and nurturing the capacity to exploit the resources profitably.

The **third priority** is the achievement of prosperity and wealth creation through: empowering Namibians in a manner that creates sustainable and broad-based wealth creation, promoting affordable and sustainable access to finance and means of production, while maintaining responsible lending, and developing facilities to support SME access to finance and mentorship programmes.

Lastly, the Minister said, a performance-oriented and results-based work culture needs to be strengthened in the realm of public service delivery to ensure accelerated service delivery, accountability and value for money. Hence, the fourth priority is to: improve service delivery by strengthening internal efficiency of the public service sector through performance measures and accountability; continuous skills development, and reform of public enterprises to ensure affordable, competitive, reliable and sustainable service delivery.

He reiterated that the extent to which we can address these priorities depends on the multiplicity of internal

and external factors impacting on our growth potential, the revenue generation capacity of our economy and the measures that we can deploy to address these constraints. Highlights of the economic context and constraints under which this budget and MTEF will be executed.

The Financial Year 2015/16 Budget and Expenditure Outlook for the MTEF

- The budget tabled before this house, proposes an expenditure outlay of N\$67.08 billion for the 2015/16 financial year, equating to 40.8 percent of GDP. This represents 7.0 percent nominal increase over the past year, a much moderate expansion rate, compared to 27.7 percent over the previous year. For the MTEF, total expenditure is forecast to moderately increase to N\$72.06 billion by 2017/18 and average 39.0 percent of GDP.

- Total non-interest expenditure for 2015/16 will increase to N\$63.23 billion, from N\$57.69 billion in 2014/15, and average around N\$65.56 billion over the MTEF.

- Interest payments, which represents Government obligations to debt servicing is estimated at N\$3.87 billion in FY2015/16 or some 6.6 percent of revenue, seen against the limit of 10 percent of revenue.

- Non-interest operational expenditure for the budget year is set at N\$52.12 billion or 31.7 percent of GDP, representing a 3.0 percent nominal increase over the previous financial year, due to expenditure commitments arising from public sector remuneration corrections as well as adjustments to the Government structure.

- The development budget, which is key to infrastructure development and fiscal countercyclicality is proposed to increase at a much higher rate of 15.9 percent to N\$11.10 billion in the budget year and average around N\$12.05 billion over the MTEF. As

a portion of GDP, the development budget allocation increases from 6.4 percent in 2014/15 to 6.7 percent in 2015/16 and averages around this level over the MTEF.

- In addition to the development budget allocation, budgetary allocations are made under the operational budget for targeted transfers to State-owned Enterprises for investment in strategic infrastructure projects such as the Kudu Gas-to-Power project, railway and road network rehabilitation, Walvis Bay Port expansion and the Mass Housing flagship projects.

- Going forward, Government must seek a better alignment of the development budget to economic priorities, industrialisation policy and Growth at Home Strategy. This alignment would further be optimized through leveraging local sourcing requirements, PPPs, improved Namibian ownership and the development of value chains across the development initiatives.

Targeted resource allocation proposals have been made. What matters is effective implementation and results-based management. And we need to act decisively and in the shortest time possible. I thus seek for your support and insights going forward, Schlettwein concluded.

BUDGET ALLOCATION PER MINISTRY/OFFICE/AGENCY

VOTE	TITLE	AMOUNTS in N\$'000
01	President	715 068
02	Prime Minister	616 675
03	National Assembly	209 501
04	Auditor General	84 725
05	Home Affairs and Immigration	518 858
06	Police	4 772 679
07	International Relations and Cooperation	936 159
08	Defence	7 229 351
09	Finance	3 891 261
10	Education, Arts and Culture	11 321 689
11	National Council	146 272
12	Gender Equality and Child Welfare	821 270
13	Health and Social Services	6 489 082
14	Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation	351 264
15	Mines and Energy	295 172
16	Justice	736 631
17	Urban and Rural Development	3 121 810
18	Environment and Tourism	642 521
19	Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development	990 070
20	Agriculture, Water and Forestry	2 415 159
21	Namibian Correctional Service	850 559
22	Fisheries and Marine Resources	352 803
23	Works	726 668
24	Transport	4 468 823
25	Land Reform	1 077 933
26	National Planning Commission	247 959
27	Sport, Youth and National Service	507 570
28	Electoral Commission	278 960
29	Information and Communication Technology	603 974
30	Anti-Corruption Commission	53 248
31	Veterans Affairs	833 616
32	Higher Education, Training and Innovation	4 032 279
33	Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare	2 714 173
34	Public Enterprises	26 343
35	Attorney General	135 152
	TOTAL	63 215 277

SECRETARY BIDS FAREWELL TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

- Immanuel Kooper

The Secretary to the National Council Ms Panduleni Shimutwikeni have retired after 16 years of service at the helm of the institution, the Upper House of Parliament also known as the House of Review. In her farewell address to the staff and National Council members at a staff gathering on 29 April 2015 in the G4 Conference Room, she thanked everyone for making a definite impact on her life and was indeed glad to now join the responsible club of senior citizens after a long bitter struggle for independence. "I am happy and proud to retire in a free, stable, peaceful, independent Namibia," she said.

Ms Shimutwikeni urged the Members to always uphold the mandate, powers and functions of the National Council and continue passing laws that is in the best interest of all Namibians. She took pride in the fact that during her tenure, she did not experience any aggression that was portrait between the ruling and opposition party members and that they should continue in that spirit of unity. "Dear members, I trust that you will continue being in touch with your constituencies and continue working tirelessly as leaders in your communities".

"Dear management and staff, this is a difficult time for me as I have been working with most of you for so many years, some of you were very young and unmarried but today having different surnames, having many kids and are mature adults. I can remember the Utoni now Mtambanengwe, Visser who became Tsamareb, Shinana now Lamek just to name but a few, which shows that I am the grandmother of this institution," she mused.

Ms Shimutwikeni said that she maintained an open door policy and have treated everybody equal. She urged the staff to treat others with respect, honesty, love, compassion and



Ms. Panduleni Shimutwikeni bids farewell to the Members of the Wellness Committee of the National Council



Ms. Panduleni Shimutwikeni bids farewell to Hon. Asser Kapere the Chair Person of the National Council.

exercising tolerance without expecting the same from them. Staff members at Parliament should exercise special skills and be apolitical because they serve different political parties. They

should be professional and serve their stakeholders, which is the members of Parliament to the best of their ability.

"As a secretariat we have tried our utmost to serve you despite some challenges both financially and human capital. On the financial end I can proudly say that I have never appeared on the Public Accounts Committee and for that I wish to thank my team of managers and particularly my financial advisor. As I leave today, honourable members and colleagues, I have just received an unqualified Audit opinion of 2014 that have just ended in 2015 which made me step down with much pride. On the human capital end, I hope that the Parliamentary Service Commission will be established soon to address some of these challenges such as retaining highly experienced and qualified parliament staff. To the office of the Chairman, thank you for your unwavering staff to the administration and words of wisdom and most of all, thank you for having the interest of all the staff members at the National Council at heart."

In his message to the Secretary, the Chairman of the National Council, Hon. Asser Kapere was appreciative of Ms Shimutwikeni's leadership for especially taking the Parliament to the people. Admitting how challenging it could be to have organised a regional parliamentary sessions amidst all the challenges, this was however accomplished through the guidance of the Secretary with her administrative team. He was also thankful and in agreement with the Secretary to have received an unqualified audit for the past financial years and described it as a milestone, hence worthy for the Secretary to have commended herself on that score.

EXPLORING THE BLUE ECONOMY CONCEPT AMONGST LOCALS, WITH PROF GUNTER PAULI

- Immanuel Kooper

On an early Sunday morning 26 April 2015 as a prelude to the Blue Economy conference, slated for 27 to 28 April 2015, the members of parliament and parliamentary staff with the relevant stakeholders accompanied Professor Gunter Pauli, the Author of the Blue Economy and Founder of ZERI (Zero Emissions Research Initiative) on a field trip to Okahandja and surrounding areas as well as the informal settlements in the outskirts of the capital, Windhoek.

The aim of the tour was for Professor Pauli to acquaint himself with some of the challenges, yet successful innovative strides the country's entrepreneurs have made in their various fields of expertise. Being a renowned entrepreneur, Professor Pauli started some work in Tokyo, Japan, with the assistance of the Japanese government and the United Nations University, having done targeted redesigning production and consumption into clusters of industries inspired by natural systems. Professor Pauli was invited by the Namibian Parliament, specifically the Standing Committees on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration as well as the Committee on Habitat to share his knowledge and experience as an entrepreneur. Prof Pauli aims to stimulate entrepreneurship and sets new and higher standards towards sustainability.

The tour started with a visit to the charcoal factory, 3km west of Okahandja on the B2 highway called the Jumbo Charcoal (PTY) LTD, run by Ian and Chantelle Galloway. This factory was established in 1989 and has become the largest exporter of barbecue charcoal in Namibia. They are



Ian Galloway, owner of Jumbo Charcoal, Cllr Lebbius Tobias, Ms Frieda Muteka, Cllr Sipapela Sipapela, Prof Gunter Pauli, Hon Johan De Waal and Mr A Shuvute



Jumbo Charcoal's water recycling plant - water from kitchen and shower-baths recycled for use to watering garden.

exporting to Mediterranean, United Kingdom and European markets as well as markets in the neighboring South Africa. Jumbo Charcoal (PTY) LTD is mainly a packaging plant, buying the charcoal from local farmers whom normally experience the "bush problem" which negatively impact on productive farmland. The farmers get rid of excessive forest by burning it down for charcoal and then sells

to the factory. The charcoal is being cleaned through various processes and packaged for export to the aforementioned markets.

Jumbo Charcoal (PTY) LTD is a contributor to the Namibian economy in terms of job creation and its foreign exchange earnings and have also tackled various social responsibility programs and activities. One such project is the "Bicycle Project" of

which each employee bought a bicycle at a very low and affordable price for transport purposes to and from work which in turn keeps them fit and healthy. Water from the bathrooms and kitchens at the workplace is being recycled at a small self-made recycling plant and used for watering the garden the employees themselves have started, which feeds the entire workforce of about 174 employees and their families. Jumbo Charcoal (PTY) LTD have got a branch in Walvis Bay with approximately 61 employees.

The two almost similar projects visited during the field trip was the "Hope Initiatives Namibia" and "Ileni Tulikwafeni – House of Hope and Trust" in the Havana informal settlement area in the outskirts of Katutura and Five Rand Camp almost

5km before Okahandja respectively. The projects being run by women, are depending on various sponsorships and support and apart from running pre-school programmes, it is mainly looking after orphans and vulnerable children by providing them with healthy meals three times a day in some instances, depending on the availability of financial resources and also help learners with after school support activities such as homework tasks an many other school projects. The two organisations are maintaining small gardens in their backyards, this being one of the many principles on which the Blue Economy is based, by making use of necessary skills and knowledge for self-reliance.

It is worth mentioning that the team before concluding the field

trip, dined traditional cuisine at the famous Xwama Restaurant in the Wanaheda suburb that is serving all sorts of traditional food from smiley's (goat head) to oshifima or pap (maize meal) and omatangara (intestines of animals) to mentioned but a few. One can draw comparisons with the concept of the Blue Economy with that of Xwama Restaurant, since its innovative business idea to serve only traditional cuisine, became successful because they too is following the route of using available resources, knowledge and skill not only to create the necessary cash flow but also create job opportunities for many unemployed members of society.

PAC INVESTIGATE THE GOVERNMENT HOUSES IN SIX REGIONS

- David Nahogandja and Ndahafa Kaukungua

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) embarked on site visits to Government Houses in the regions of Otjozondjupa, Oshikoto, Zambezi, Kavango, Omusati and Oshana.

The site visits was undertaken following the outcomes contained in the Auditor-General's follow-up report of 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 on the utilization of Government Houses in the regions. The AG report uncovered serious misuse of Government Houses countrywide that prompted the Committee to embark on fact finding mission to ascertain the outcomes and consequently table a comprehensive report in Parliament with recommendations to address the issues raised.

The misuse range from illegal leasing of government houses, usage for business purposes like bars and tuck shops as well as illegal claims to own government houses. In addition, administrative issues on the part of Government such as the maintenance of government houses, functions of the Housing Committees, rules on the occupation of official quarters were also investigated. The mission was preceded by similar mission last year to the regions of Hardap and !Karas.

The Committee started its mission in the town of Otjiwarongo where the MPs paid a courtesy call to the Hon Governor of Otjozondjupa Region Mr. Samuel Nuuyoma. The Governor welcomed the Committee and encourages the MPs to find a lasting solution to problems facing the administration and upkeep of

government houses. He said the conditions in which government houses or living quarters some are not fit for habitation. He assured the committee of his support in this regard.

In the town of Okakarara, the Committee first paid a courtesy call at the Hon Vetaruhe Kandorozi who welcomed the MPs to his constituency and briefed the committee on the development activities taking place in his constituency. Welcoming the Committee, Councillor for the Grootfontein Constituency Hon, Amagulu encouraged the Committee in its endeavours to find a lasting solution to issues related to the administration of government houses.

In the Zambezi Region, the Committee was welcomed by the Regional Governor, Hon Lawrence

Sampofu and his Special Adviser Hon Ignatius Kunga. Like others, Governor Sampofu registered his displeasure about the conditions of most government houses in the town of Katima Mulilo. He encouraged the Committee in its work and expressed hope that a lasting solution be found to address the dilapidating conditions of government properties.

In Omusati Region, the Committee paid a courtesy call to the Regional Governor Mrs Sophia Shaningwa who welcomed and commended the Committee

some government properties in his region, such as, the government house in Ongwediva that burned down more than 10 years ago and nothing have been done so far. He also mentioned the former ministry of education office building in Ondangwa which burned down more than 10 years ago, and no action taken. The Governor pointed out that government housing administration was made difficult by the process of decentralisation where some of the functions were devolve to the regions while central government retain authority.

the visit there were renovations underway at both Luna Court and Nesperhuis for certain apartments. The other concerns noted by the Committee were unlawful occupation, overcrowding, vandalism, lack of electricity and unhygienic living conditions.

The Committee was informed that there are 540 apartment units and 100 Government Houses in Windhoek that need revamping. The Committee has an opportunity to visit a guest house under the custody of the Ministry of Defence



Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts inspect Government - owned apartments in Windhoek

for the mission. The Governor emphasised the proper recording of government assets.

Oshana Region was the last call where, Governor Clemens Kashiupulwa welcomed the Committee and briefed them about the prevailing conditions of houses in the region. He applauds the committee on the mission undertaken. "It is good that you came to see the conditions of the government houses, as they are not looking good at all", the Governor said. Adding that, when government continues to build new infrastructures, maintenance of the old ones is important.

The Governor briefed the committee on the conditions of

The Khomas region was the last leg of the fact finding site visits; the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee; Hon. Usuatuaije Maamberua, accompanied by members of the Committee; Hon. Agnes Tjongarero, Hon. Ady Riruako and Hon. Sophia Swartz visited Government-owned apartments in Windhoek on 26 February 2015. The Committee accessed the following apartments: Rocky Hill, Florence Court, Luna Court and Nesperhuis.

The apartments were mostly in a deplorable state, despite renovations having completed three years ago at both Rocky Hill and Florence Court apartments; one could deduce below standard workmanship. At the time of

and it was delighted to see that the property was well maintained and operational.

General meetings

The Committee held general meetings in each town visited. These meetings were attended by amongst others, town and regional housing clerks/administrators; heads of governments institutions in specific towns; some tenants; housing committee members; chief regional officers and some regional councillors and officials from town councils.

During these meetings the Committee wanted to ascertain the following: a) the total number of government houses/living quarters

in each town; b) the total number of assigned houses and of pool houses; c) how many houses are assigned to which ministries; d) the physical conditions of these houses; e) the housing committee; f) whether tenants occupying government houses possess lease agreements and whether they do pay monthly rental fees; h) all tenants occupying government houses are civil servants; g) ownership disputes about government houses; j) sub-letting of government houses, and any other information that could help the committee with its finding.

Total number of houses per town

In the town of Otjiwarongo, the committee was informed that there are one 160 government houses, of these number, 137 are stand alone houses and the rest are flats. It transpired through this meeting that some 23 houses in the town were turned into offices as more government institutions where decentralised to the regions. Okakarara town has 56 government houses in Okakarara of which 25 are pool houses and 21 were assigned to different Ministries. The total number of houses in the town of Otavi could not be ascertained at the time of the visit.

Moreover, Tsumeb has 70 government houses of which 16 are pool houses. There were 312 government houses in the town of Grootfontein. This number was made up of 240 pool houses; 54 assigned houses and 18 flats. Although committee could not establish the exact number of government houses in the town of Katima Mulilo, the housing administrator in the region informed the Committee that, there were 45 assigned houses, 16 pool houses and an unspecified number of flats in the town.

The town of Rundu, Kavango East, at the time of the visit has 198 government houses of which 41 were assigned houses and 157 were pool houses, the Committee was informed. Furthermore, in the town of Ruacana in Omusati Region, the committee was informed that there are 26 government houses and 33 open plots. Three towns where visited in Oshana Region, however, the committee could not establish the exact total number of government houses/living quarters in the region. The committee could not establish the total number of government houses in Oshana region, as the housing administrators could not provide such information at the time of the visit.

Assigned houses vs pool houses

Assigned houses are government houses managed by the Ministry of Works and Transport, but on official request are assigned to and under care and administration of various Ministries/Offices and Agencies of the State to allocate to and accommodate civil servants at essential level or positions at their ministries regional offices. Officially, these houses are supposed to be assigned to a particular essential position, which is scarce and regarded as very critical. These could be police Regional Commanders, Stations Commanders, Veterinary Officers, Doctors, Magistrates, and others. Assigned houses are handed over to requesting Ministries who assume full administrative and maintenance duties over these houses and shall cater for budgetary needs.

Pool houses on the other hand fall under the full administration and control of the Ministry of Works and Transport. The Ministry on the recommendation of the Housing Committees allocate

these houses to qualified (those that met criteria) civil servants who applied for official accommodation. The upkeep of these houses fall on the occupying tenants while renovations are the responsibilities of the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Conditions of government houses in the visited regions

Government houses conditions were described to range from good, fair, bad to dilapidating. The general conditions of assigned houses were found to be good, with some in excellent conditions. This is because these houses were renovated regularly and were assigned to essential posts. Houses such as those that are assigned to the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence and some houses of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry were in excellent conditions.

The conditions of pool houses however is not encouraging. Most of these houses were in bad conditions and some are dilapidating. It was revealed in the meetings that tenants are not allowed to renovate these houses because of the government alienation scheme. Some of the pool houses in the towns of Grootfontein, Rundu, Ruacana, were found not fit for habitation. In all towns visited, the pool houses have become an eyesore, that even town councils complained that bad conditioned and dilapidating pool houses gives their town a bad image.

Housing Committees

The Committee was informed that there has not been a Housing Committee in the town of Otjiwarongo in the past ten years. Like Otjiwarongo, all towns visited have no functional housing

committees, apart from Otavi where the housing committee was in place but ill constituted and made up of mainly teachers. Due to the absence of the Housing Committee, the Education Directorate in Oshana region was left with no option but to constitute its directorate housing committee that allocate and administer houses assigned to it.

The absence of the Housing Committees left the administration and control of government houses in the towns entirely in the hands of one or two people and the process open to abuse and corruption.

The absence of housing committees also result in lack of consultations in these towns, as there were no regular meetings with tenants or assigned institutions. Administrators were mainly performing reactive duties and this led to the deteriorating conditions of houses.

Lease Agreements and Payments of monthly rental fees

The committee found that there were no lease agreements signed between tenants and the government in visited towns. Some of the tenants' possess allocation forms while others have no proof that the houses they occupy were truly allocated to them.

In all towns visited, there were people occupying government houses but do not pay monthly rental fees, with some staying up to more than ten years without paying monthly rental fees. Government continue to lose much needed

revenue by paying monthly rates and taxes on these properties.

Ownership disputes and subletting

Although most government houses are clearly owned by government, there are still properties which ownerships still in limbo as subletting incidences were observed one town.

The committee found that there were four government houses in Ruacana Town, which were occupied by private citizens. On these properties, private citizens renovated and altered the structures of these properties.

The Auditor General's report identified many houses in the town of Oshakati and Ondangwa which ownership was not clear. In Oshakati, the ownership was cleared during the meeting. However, some government properties in Ondangwa, ownership was not yet cleared. In the same town, a government property is turned into a shebeen and another into a laundry. While in Ongwediva, a private citizen resides in the burned down government house without permission.

Lack of accountability

Throughout the six regions visited, the Journal observed that, it seemed the rules governing the administration of government houses were not fully known and applied by the administrators. The reporting structures of the housing administrators also made things difficult to hold people accountable. The chief regional officers are

not informed as to how many government houses are in their regions and the administration procedures thereto.

There seemed to be not proper communication procedures between the Asset Management Directorate of the Ministry of Works and Transport and the regions, as the laid down procedures for the administration of these properties though in existence were not applied in the regions. There was no regular communication either between the Ministry of Works and Transport and assigned Institutions or tenants.

The records are not kept updated and very few administrators knew the exact number of houses in their towns.

Lack of accountability become a worrying factor in the whole process of administering government properties, this, the Journal wonder whether the administration procedures were weak, or, the people in the regions were willingly ignoring them? It also begs clarification as to whether previous reports by the Auditor General and the Public Accounts Committee have been ignored?

The parliamentary 'Theme' for this year (2014) is "Promoting Oversight Effectiveness Towards Ensuring Transparent National Budget Administration". It is through Oversight and Accountability functions of parliament that issues such as the maladministration of government houses/quarters is solved for the last time.

POHAMBBA OPENS THE CAPACITY BUILDING SEMINAR FOR FEMALE MPs

• Michael Muuondjo

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare organised a capacity building seminar for Incoming Women Members of the National Assembly from 09-14 March 2015 at Cross Barmen in Okahandja. The seminar organised under the theme **“Enhancing the effective participation of Women Parliamentarians in Namibian Politics”** was aimed

and conventions that regulates parliamentary conduct and etiquette of MPs.

This includes information on the roles and responsibilities of Members of Parliament, the functioning of Parliament and its Committees and participation of Members in the Parliamentary debates. “I commend the organisers of the seminar for a timely initiative that will empower the participants to contribute meaningfully

in the decision making process and contribute to the social and economic development of our society at all levels. I believe that the seminar will lay the groundwork for systematic and holistic approach to empower women Parliamentarians in political leadership and decision-making,” Pohamba noted.

The President stressed that there is so much that Namibian women, and women in general have to offer and contribute to the political, economic



President Pohamba opens the Capacity Building Seminar

at preparing the incoming members for their new roles as members of Parliament.

Opening the seminar, the President of the Republic of Namibia H.E. Hifikepunje Pohamba said the seminar is the first of its kind, since the attainment of independence 25 years ago and it is aimed at equipping newly elected female Members of Parliament with skills that will enable them to confidently and effectively contribute to the discussions and debates in Parliament. It will also provide information about the traditions

and substantially to the law-making process in the country,” he said.

Pohamba further said that the National Assembly Elections held in November last year produced the highest members of female MPs in the country's history. “This is a noteworthy development for our democracy in general and specifically with regard to the empowerment of women, guided by the principle of inclusivity. It is a strong demonstration of the country's commitment to ensuring that Namibian women have the opportunity to participate

and social advancement of the world. Their views, opinion and contributions must be acknowledged and welcomed as we grapple to find solutions to the multitude of challenges facing our country and the world at large. He added that he holds the view that time is overdue for Namibian women to take up their rightful place in leadership and decision-making at all levels and in all spheres. This is in line with the principle adopted by the SWAPO Party, when they amended the Party Constitution to provide for 50/50 gender representation.

Pohamba said that the Constitution of the Republic implores us to build a society premised on the promotion of equality and non-discrimination. Moreover, Namibian women contributed not only to the national liberation struggle but also to the socio-economic development of our country in many ways after independence. They continue to do so today, alongside their male counterparts.

“In order to facilitate their participation and harness their energy and skills for policy-making purposes, a Desk for Women Affairs was established in the Office of the President after independence. That section was eventually transformed into the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare with the goal to ensure gender equality and equitable socio-economic development of women and men, and the wellbeing of our children,” he stressed.

The President further said that the fact the seminar is being attended by incoming women Parliamentarians from different political parties is a

positive development that should not be overlooked. It speaks to political tolerance, mutual respect and the maturity of our democracy. It demonstrates that we are all Namibians who are determined to work hard in the best interest of our country. It shows that while we may hold different political views and perspectives on issues, we are not enemies. We are the children of one house, the children of one Mother, the children of one Namibia.

“By conceptualising, organising and hosting of this historic seminar, Namibian women have led the way for others to follow. He encourages all participants to participate energetically in the proceedings, to contribute frankly and openly and to ask questions that will help crystallizing the issues under discussion. Through frank exchange of views and open discussions, effective learning can be generated for the benefit of all our people,” he concluded.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, Ms. Itah Kandjii-Murangi thanked the SWAPO party top four for their

commitment to champion the course of equal representation of women in all decision making levels, starting with the 50/50 zebra style party list for the 2014 elections. This has enabled Namibia to be ranked amongst Africa, as having a high representation and participation of women in politics.

“This historic induction course has empowered and changed us to think beyond numbers and work towards ensuring that each and every woman elected to the National Parliament would put her hands to the wheel to make Namibia a winning nation,” she said.

She further thanked Hon. Nandi-Ndaitwah and Hon. Nghidinwa for conceiving and realising this noble initiative. In the same vein, she thanked the Finnish Ambassador Her Excellency Anne Saloranta for her continued support towards the empowerment of women. She finally thanked all sitting and incoming Women Parliamentarians for their willingness to share and engage one another meaningfully throughout the five days of the seminar.

A. SHIPENA SCHOOL HOSTS 25TH CELEBRATION OF THE CONSTITUTION DAY

- Michael Muuondjo

The Office of the Ombudsman organised the Celebration of the 25th Constitution Day at A.Shipena Senior Secondary School in Windhoek on Monday, 09 February 2015. The event was organised under the theme: “Our Constitution-25 years on: How can the youth ensure that the Constitution remains a living document”. The celebration was largely attended by learners from schools around Windhoek.

Welcoming the audience, the

Ombudsman Adv. John Walters encouraged the learners to read the constitution thoroughly and learn it by heart. He acknowledged that all social problems cannot be solved by a good Constitution. However, learners get to know what is expected of them in the in the constitution it will minimise some the problems experienced daily. Walters encourage the youth read and internalised Chapter 3 that deals with Basic Human Right and Freedoms. It is important if you understand what this chapter stipulates so that you will be able to know where your rights freedom starts and ends. He further

asked them to show respect and dignity if they are to be good leaders in future.

The vibrant Deputy Speaker of the Children’s Parliament, Hon. Shaandre Finnies also addressed the gathering. He urged young people to find interest in the Constitution and not only their rights and responsibilities but to understand its relevance. “The Supreme law of this country provides us with more than just rights. It also outlines your responsibilities as a citizen,” he says. Finnies calls on government to make sure that the



Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab

rights of children as stipulated in the Constitution under article 15 are strictly protected. He reminded the gathering about the terrible incident that happened last year a four-year old Tenete was murdered in police holding cell while article 15 (5) reads as follows; 'No law shall permit children under the age of sixteen to be detained.'

We are disheartened by the fact that that this constitutional provision has been overstepped. The investigation has been done and reports have been released and no one was held accountable for violating the young boy's constitutional rights. He further

stated that as Children's Parliament, they government and relevant bodies to ensure that something of this nature never happen again. He suggested that youth participation be legitimised and protected within the national policy framework. We would like to see in future that all junior town councils and the Youth Parliament is protected guarded by the institutional backing that provided for youth participation in decision making, he concluded.

Delivering the keynote speech, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab said, "Today, exactly 25 years ago, the Namibian Constitution was adopted by the

Constituent Assembly as the Supreme Law of the Republic of Namibia and it is thus with great pride as one of the Founders that I stand before you today to commemorate this particular day, on which we adopted the Namibian Constitution. Today we celebrate 25 years of the existence of our Republic's Constitution, which can also rightly be described as a brilliant Manual for our democracy."

The Speaker further said those that were part of the Constituent Assembly, responsible for the drafting of the Namibian Constitution, among others the President-Elect Dr Hage Geingob, who was in fact our Chairman had such high hopes that this Constitution would pave the way for a truly free, democratic and independent Namibia where all our people would enjoy freedom, liberty, social justice and human dignity as citizens. I am filled with joy and pride when I see how far we have come as a nation and the realisation that the Namibian Constitution remains the strong foundation of our democracy, the rule of law, political tolerance and indeed gender equality. This very Constitution has legitimised Hage Geingob as the next President of the Republic of Namibia. Let's wait and hear him speak on that!

Namibia is a young democracy compared to older democracies of the world, but we have made such great strides and set sterling example, providing access to areas which many people were excluded from during the apartheid rule, such as access to basic education, primary health care, equal access to justice etc. We have also made huge improvements in the field of socio-economic development. Many, yes not all of our people, now have access to potable water and improved sanitation as the Government reaches out far and wide. However, we still face challenges for access to land, high unemployment rate, especially amongst the youth and unequal wealth distribution, he noted.

Hon. Gurirab noted that today is of great importance as we rethink our Constitution. Not only do we celebrate 25 years of its existence and ideals of fair play, but we are also celebrating

a milestone in accommodating those fellow Namibians who previously were not able to either read or clearly understand the provisions of the Constitution.

The Speaker informed the gathering that the Office of the Ombudsman has spearheaded a process to simplify the Constitution, meaning that everybody in Namibia, even young children from a certain age, will now be able to speak of the Supreme Law of the land. In the new simplified version of the Constitution, the language is toned down so that primary school learners and, no doubt, others as well can will be able to grasp its meaning. Yet, the letter and spirit of the Constitution has been preserved.

I witness that and can see that the task has been completed and five thousand (5,000) pocket book size copies of the simplified version of the Constitution were printed. They will be distributed to schools

country wide. The dream and hope, I can see, is for each and every child to eventually possess a copy of this small size "handbook of democracy", so that everybody can speak of our democracy from the heart. We are all together in this bold undertaking, he said.

The Ombudsman went one step further, by accommodating those who are visually impaired, since they too must be able to hear and understand the Constitution. Thinking of ways to make that happen, the idea is to have an audio version as well. This is another first for the Namibian Constitution and a great contribution! One Hundred and Fifty (150) copies of the audio version of the Constitution are available for immediate distribution. The visually impaired members of the society can now listen to the contents of the Namibian Constitution word for word.

I am also informed that the simplified version of the Constitution will eventually be translated and reproduced in all the main Namibian languages and I look forward to the day where no citizen of Namibia will claim ignorance of their fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Namibian Constitution, Hon.Gurirab noted.

I trust that those set to benefit from the two new versions of the Constitution will appreciate it and put the newly acquired knowledge to good use in their own lives and for the benefit of the Republic. I trust that with each year that passes, we will reinforce the importance of the Namibian Constitution, not just on the 9th of February, but on every single day of the year, and always carry it in our hearts. Having said that the Speaker declared the simplified printed pocket book Constitution, as well as the audio version of the Constitution itself, officially launched.

FES LAUNCHES A BOOK ON DEMOCRACY

- Michael Muuondjo

The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) launched a book on 17 February 2015 at NamPower Convention Centre in Windhoek. The book titled **"Working for Social Democracy in Namibia"** provides an overview of the developments in the main areas of work of the FES in Namibia over the last 25 years. This publication is a collection from Namibians of different backgrounds who have enjoyed a working relationship with the FES in their respective areas of interest. Opening the event, the German Ambassador, His Excellency Onno Hückmann said, 2015 is a year of great anniversaries in Namibia. It has been 25 years since Namibia gained its independence, 25 years since Germany and Namibia saw

the commencement of diplomatic relations between the two countries and 25 years since the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation opened its first office in Namibia. The Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation had already worked together closely with SWAPO during the struggle for independence since the mid-70s.

The book that is being launched this evening - titled "Working for Social Democracy in Namibia" - provides a great overview of the development that has taken place in Namibia over the last 25 years and the way that the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation was able to support and analyse these developments. Topics included in the book are, among others, the state of Namibia's constitutional democratic and multiparty politics, economic development and the labour movement, social protection in

Namibia, the state of the media, as well as women and youth empowerment. With these topics, the book provides an important contribution to factual literature about Namibia and an important resource for students, politicians and the general public alike."

Hückmann further informed the audience that there are currently six German political foundations that are active in countries all over the world. The Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation is the oldest of the six political foundations. The Foundation was founded in 1925, the year that the first German President Friedrich Ebert died. The foundation was created by the funds which it had been bequeathed by the social-democratic politician. The Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation was forbidden in 1933, during the reign of the National Socialists in Germany.

After the end of the Second World War, the foundation was revived in 1945 and has been doing excellent work all over the world since then.

In the following decades other political foundations with a different ideological slant were created, as the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation and the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation, both of which are also active in Namibia. The foundations play an important role in helping Germany meet its global commitments and challenges. The political foundations with their international network of offices play a special role among German non-governmental organisations in flanking official foreign policy. Through their international socio-political work, they provide an important and valuable contribution to the realisation of German foreign policy goals and interests.

Addressing the audience, the Swapo Party Chief Whip in the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi expressed his honour and pleasure to be part of the launching of the important publication.

He said 21st March 2015 will mark Namibia's 25th Independence Anniversary as well as 25 years of FES' existence in Namibia. "I am happy to recall with appreciation, the long and constructive, collective relationship that exists between SWAPO Party and FES. As we mark our 25th Anniversary of Independence, we are also marking 25 years of FES work in independent Namibia. This joint anniversary celebration and the launch of this publication reinforce the good relationship that the FES enjoys in Namibia to-date. We welcome this publication and appreciate the fact that FES has continued to invest in matters relating to social democracy and good governance," he said.

As can be seen from the publication, the authors of the various chapters in the book have provided us with an insightful analysis of some of the social issues as well as challenges that we need to address as we look to the future. The information in this publication is useful contribution towards citizen empowerment as well

as the empowerment of policymakers in the country in line with our National Constitution's requirements, Katjavivi observed.

"As most of us may recall, the 9th February 2015, marked the 25th Anniversary of Namibia's Constitution day. The celebration of this year's Constitution Day had a very significant meaning. This is because the Chairman, who presided over the Constituent Assembly that wrote Namibia's Constitution, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, MP, is the incoming President of the country. Indeed, this is a history in the making," he said.

Hon. Katjavivi congratulated Mr. Heiner Naumann, the FES Resident Representative in Namibia, for his personal dedication towards reinforcing the good relationship between FES and Namibia and finally declared the book officially launched.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INDUCTS NEW MPs

• Ndahafa Kaukungua

The National Assembly has held Induction courses to familiarise newly elected Members of the 6th Parliament with parliamentary structures and procedures. The induction course; conducted with the assistance of the EU Parliamentary Support Programme, spanned over a period of 23-27 March 2015 and was attended by both newly elected Members and returning Members of Parliament.

Information-sharing presentations and question-and-answer sessions were included in the programme,

which dealt with the following topics presented by technocrats, academics and experienced Members of Parliament: Separation of Powers: The Three Pillars of the State, the role of the National Assembly Members and Administration, the Law making Procedures and Bill Analysis Skills, the National Development Plan (NDP-4) and the National Budget Cycle, Parliamentary Committee Best Practices, Role and Importance of Parliaments Oversight Function, the role of Parliament to ensure Service Delivery, Human Rights and the Namibian Constitution, Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures in

Southern Africa, the role and Importance of Parliaments Oversight Function, understanding Poverty and its Dimensions and Development Tools to Address Poverty and National Security, Protocol, Personal Wellness and Lifestyle Choices.

The newly elected Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Peter Katjavivi, emphasized the importance of Parliament and the role of Members of Parliament and also reiterated the expectations that the induction process will deepen the insight of new Members into parliamentary affairs.

From The Chambers



Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, Speaker of The National Assembly

Hon. Professor Peter Hitjitevi Katjavivi was born on 12 May 1941 in Okahandja, Namibia. He dedicated his life to the cause of social justice. He played a pivotal role in the liberation struggle of Namibia, building international support through diplomatic activity. He used the opportunity of academic research to investigate and write about Namibia's history. He was a member of the country's Constituent Assembly and signatory to the Independence Constitution. He has been involved in nation building, and has been in the forefront of higher education in Namibia, transforming a previously segregated academic institution into a national university with relevant programmes that are increasingly accessible to all Namibians.

In 2003, he was appointed as the Namibian Ambassador to Belgium and subsequently Germany. In 2008, he was appointed Director General of the National Planning Commission in Namibia in the Office of the President. In 2010, he was appointed as a Member of Parliament and elected as Government Chief Whip. He was the leader of the Namibian parliamentarians at the pan African Parliament. Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi as the Chairperson of the Germany-Namibia Parliamentary Group since 2012 and was appointed by the President of the Republic of Namibia as the Eminent Person to serve as Namibia's focal point for the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Trust 2012. He was appointed Speaker of the National Assembly on 20 March 2015.

Speaker Peter Katjavivi is author of many publications and contributed papers at numerous academic and development conferences in Namibia, Africa, Europe, North America and Asia and also received many Awards and Honours from Finland, France and India.

Hon. Professor Loide Kasingo has been re-elected on 20 March 2015 as the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. She became Member of the National Assembly for the first time in 1996 when she served as Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development before moving to the Ministry of Home Affairs in the same portfolio. In 2005, she served as Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs. In 2011, Loide Kasingo was conferred with an Honorary Professorship certificate by the Jilin University of China (JLU) for her contribution to the Namibian legislature and other fields of humanity. From 2012 to 2015 she served as the Third Vice President at the Pan African Parliament.



Hon. Professor Loide Kasingo, Re-elected Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly,

From The Chambers



*Hon. MacHenry Kanjonokere Venaani
Leader of the Official Opposition-DTA*

McHenry Venaani was born on 08 September 1977 in Windhoek the capital of Namibia. He is a Namibian politician and the president of the DTA. He first served in the National Assembly between 2002 and 2010. At the time of his appointment in 2002, he was Namibia's youngest ever Member of Parliament.

From 2002 to 2013 McHenry Venaani served in various political portfolios such as Vice President World Bank Parliamentary Network, member of International Democratic Union, Vice Chairman: Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Namibia, Acting Secretary General Democrat Union of Africa, Deputy Head of Mission for Parliamentary Association to Angola.

Hon. McHenry Venaani also served as the Branch Leader of the Election Observer Delegation to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chief Campaigner for International Parliamentary Union Presidency for Namibia. He was also awarded as an honorary Citizen of the City of Louisville Kentucky, USA during 2010. From 2005 to 2007 he served as Secretary General of DTA of Namibia. On 08 September 2013 McHenry Venaani whose legislative interest is in Foreign Affairs, Economics and Agriculture became the President of the DTA of Namibia, and since 21 March 2015 he is the Leader of the Official Opposition in the National Assembly.

Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele has been elected on 20 March 2015 as SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the National Assembly. She served as the SWAPO Party Youth League and as Regional Secretary in the Omaheke region. !Nawases-Taeyele is a member of the SWAPO Party Central Committee. From 2007 to date, she served as a Member of the Pan African Parliament serving on the Committee on Gender, Youth, Family Planning and People Living with Disabilities. She is also a member of the Security Commission and served as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs. In 2004, she served as Assistant Whip of the SWAPO Party in the National Assembly.



*Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, SWAPO
Party Chief Whip in the National
Assembly,*

Obituaries



OBITUARIES: Hon. Germina Ndapua Shitaleni

The National Council, on 1st March this year mourn the passing of one of its Members, Hon. Germina Ndapua Shitaleni.

Hon. Germina Shitaleni was a Member of the Fourth National Council for Erongo Region 2010 - 2015, a Swapo Party Regional Councillor from the Swakopmund Constituency since 2010 until her death on 01 March 2015. Some of her compatriots in the National Council described her as a young, vibrant phenomenal woman with great leadership attributes whom was always helpful and ready to serve the nation.

Hon Shitaleni served as the Chairperson for the Standing Committee on Gender, Youth, Information and Communication Technology 2011 – 2015; National Council Women Caucus 2011 – 2015; Standing Committee on Habitat 2011 – 2015. She also served as a Swakopmund Local Authority Councillor and as Chairperson of the Local Authority Management Committee from 2004 – 2006. She was Deputy Mayor for Swakopmund from 2006 – 2008 and then Mayor of Swakopmund from 2008 – 2010.

Hon Shitaleni was a qualified Medical Technologist, also having a qualification in Human Resource Practice. She had a keen interest in regional development, health policies, education, environmental issues and youth empowerment. May we all find solace in the fact that Hon. Germina Shitaleni, by God's will, has completed the purpose of her life with excellence, dignity and statesmanship.

National Assembly, on the 10th March this year mourn the passing on of one of its veteran Members, Hon. Phillemon Moongo.

Hon. Phillemon Moongo was a Member of the National Assembly since 1990 until his death on the 10 March 2015. The National Assembly remembers Hon. Moongo as a staunch debater who contributed greatly to the drafting of new laws for independent Namibia.

Further highlights of his parliamentary life are that, over the years Hon. Moongo consistently used 'Thursdays Question Time' to query the Executive on service delivery and to bring issues close to the grassroots onto the floor of the House.

He persistently raised issues concerning the welfare of traditional leaders and tabled a number of motions seeking increments in pensioners' social grants.

Hon Phillemon Moongo was a distinguished Member of the House, who actively participated in the deliberations both on the floor of the House and through his Committee activities.

May we all find solace in the fact that Hon. Phillemon Moongo, by God's will, has completed the purpose of his life with excellence, dignity and statesmanship.



OBITUARIES: Hon. Phillemon Moongo

Obituaries



The National Assembly on the 19th March mourn the untimely passing on of one of its colleague, Mr George Lututu. Mr. George Lututu joined the National Assembly on 01 April 2002 and served in the Directorate: Committees Services of the National Assembly. He served various Standing Committees such as Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security; Information and Communication Technology; Public Accounts as well as Constitutional and Legal Affairs, until his death on 19 March 2015.

Secretariat of the National Assembly lost one of its outstanding staff members and convey our heartfelt grief and condolences to the bereaved family, relatives, colleagues and friends of Mr George Lututu and wish them all the strength to go through these hard times in solidarity and mutual support.

May we all find solace in the fact that Mr. George Lututu, by God's will, has completed the purpose of his life with excellence and dignity.

Staff on the Move



Mr Immanuel Kooper has been transferred on promotion from the Ministry Information and Communication Technology to the post of Chief Information Officer at the National Council under the Directorate; General Research and Information Services with effect from 01 April 2015.



Ms. Panduleni Shimutwikeni bids farewell to Hon. Asser Kapere the Chairperson of the National Council.

