



**REPORT ON THE  
2<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT**

**held at**

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,  
PARLIAMENT BUILDING  
WINDHOEK**

**6 – 11 MAY 2008**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The First Session of the Children's Parliament took place in Windhoek from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2007. The Children's Parliament was hosted by the National Assembly in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. The theme of the session was **"Parliament – The People's House and Guardian of the Children's Rights and Future"**.

The Second Session of the Children's Parliament of the Republic of Namibia was held from 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008 under the same theme which was used last year. Forty two (42) learners, three (3) from each of the thirteen (13) political regions, former Junior Speaker, Former Deputy Junior Speaker, One (1) former MP and three (3) Junior Councilors from the City of Windhoek participated.

## 2. PARTICIPANTS

REGION	LEARNER	SCHOOL
OSHIKOTO	Ms. Lovisa Ihalwa Mr. Mbago Andreas Mr. Thomas Reinhold	Otjikoto S.S.S. Hans Daniel Namuhuja S.S.S. Kandume CS
OSHANA	Ms. Maria Mbango Mr. Hafeni Muzanima Mr. Stephanus Mutileni	Andimba Toivo ya Toivo Erundu Secondary School Mweshipandeka S.S.
KARAS	Mr. Johnny Basson Ms. Imogene Cloete Ms. Loide Shaparara	Karasburg H.S Karasburg H.S Karasburg H.S
ERONGO	Ms. Aletha Xawes Ms. Jacky Haslund Ms. Fransina Pertrus	Kuisebmond S.S Westside H.S. S.I. !Gobs S.S
KHOMAS	Ms. Victoria Heita Ms. Monica Kandjaba Ms. Sharonice Busch	Ella du Plessis S.S Jan Jonker Afrikaner Cosmos S.S
OHANGWENA	Mr. Ndivayele Otniel Ms. Maria Kangala Ms. Ndahafa Kanyemba	Hambili Haufiku S.S.S Oshela S.S.S Eengendjo S.S.S
OMUSATI	Ms. Collen Ananias Mr. Victor Shilongo Ms. Bernadina Shanyenge	David S.S.S.S Shikongo .S.S Ruacan H. S.
OTJOZONDJUPA	Ms. Kotokeni Amukuyu Mr. Uateza Kasiringua Mr. Zennedt Sali	Paresis S.S. Coblentz C.S J.G. Van der Wath
KUNENE	Mr. Given Tsuseb Ms. Elizabeth	Kamanjab C.S Cornelius Goreseb S.S

	Shihwandu Ms. Linda Tolu	Mureti S.S
KAVANGO	Ms. Magret Mazyopa Ms. Gracious Ausiku Mr. Simon Lucas	Dr. Alpo Junior S.S Elia Neromba S.S Rundu Senior S.S.
CAPRIVI	Mr. Mwala Mainga Ms. Imelda M. Buchane Mr. Antony Chilinda	Kizito College Mufwila S.S.S Simataa S.S.S
OMAHEKE	Mr. Hubert Eiseb Ms. Lorraine Katjitwavi Ms. Ronel Noonga	Johannes Dohren RC S.S. Gustav Kandjii J.S.S Epako J.S.S
HARDAP	Ms. Giola Dunn Mr. Timotheus Angala Mr. Bonafazuis Keramin	Dr. Lemmer Senior S.S. Mariental Senior S.S C. //Oaseb Senior S.S
WINDHOEK MUNICIPALITY JUNIOR COUCILORS	Ms. Elsabe van Vuuren Ms. Secilia Nekwaya Mr. Simeon Nghiwilepo	Junior Mayor Junior Councilor Junior Councilor
FORMER MP'S	Mr. Bronson Tjihukununa Mr. Meryam Nghidipo Ms. Ambambi Alweendo	Former Speakers Former Deputy Speaker Former MP

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The African Children's Parliamentary Union Initiative (ACPUI) established that there is a way for young people to "learn by doing" and that is by taking part in youth and Children's Parliaments. Some practices on the benches of a mock parliament can be useful in deciding how to become a patriotic or nationalist and a more active citizen, either inside or outside formal politics.
- 3.2 The ACPUI Initiatives was launched at Botswana following the first Summit which brought together ninety-two (92) children delegates across the continent. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session also brought together hundred and seventeen (117) children and hundred and eighty-six (186) in the third ACPUI session in 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively.
- 3.3 The Youth Parliament initiative's role in the field of good governance and deepening democracy was organised by African Head of States Summit in the Maputo. The African Children's Parliament is keenly aware of its responsibilities to reach out to the younger generation and to share and enlighten them about the need to spearhead the values of post independence

African Nationalism, especially with regard to the need to support democracy, growth and sustenance of democratic institutions.

- 3.4 Constitutionally, a lot of frantic efforts have been made to give strong legal backing to the welfare of children and young persons. The first significant effort to recognize and protect human rights for all people including children was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in December 1948, which was adopted by the United Nations after the Second World War. Since the adoption of the (UDHR), a significant number of international legal instruments have been put in place to protect and promote fundamental human rights.
- 3.5 All these legal instruments are established to reserve all trends of discrimination, oppression, abuse and social injustice among the society. These are to ensure strict adherence to the rules and regulations in our human society during interactions and other social relationships. A peaceful atmosphere is enjoyed when human rights laws are given much prominence and that the world would be a safer place for all children and the adult population as a whole.

#### **4. MISSION**

- 4.1 The Mission of the Namibian Children's Parliament is to create a developing society with high sense of responsibility, of which children and the youth are part, with adults as partners.

#### **5. PRIMARY GOAL**

- 5.1 The primary goal of the Children's Parliament is to lobby or advise government and its agencies responsible for law-making and their implementing machinery to fast track policies that would improve the rights and welfare of children and young persons in accordance with national legal instruments and the international conventions provisions.
- 5.2 The Children's Parliament is the mouth piece of children, young persons. It should serve as an introduction to the work being done regarding children and young person in Namibia.

#### **6. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHILDRENS PARLIAMENT FOR 2008**

##### **6.1. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

- 6.1.1 As a standard Parliamentary practice, the Members of the Children's Parliament were officially sworn in by the Secretary of the National Assembly, Mr. Nama Goabab on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

6.1.2 Hon. Sharonice Bush from Khomas Region and Hon. Timoteus Angala from Hardap Region were elected as Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively. The election was by means of voting.

## **6.2 SETTING OF THE AGENDA**

6.2.1 The Junior Speaker Bush invited Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, to give the keynote address and officially opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Children's Parliament. Councilor Elsabe van Vuuren, Junior Mayor; for the City of Windhoek, Speaker Clever Mupaura of the University of Namibia; Ms. Rushnan Murtaza, Acting UNICEF Officer in Charge also made statements at the official opening ceremony.

6.2.2 During the plenary session, Members of the Children's Parliament tabled twenty seven (27) motions for discussions.

## **6.3. DISCUSSION**

6.3.1 **Official Opening:** In his keynote speech, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Speaker of the National Assembly, focused on five (5) principal areas.

### *Future Role of present Generation and Participants*

Hon. Dr Gurirab emphasized that each generation of youth and children are called upon, by circumstances of their times, to think, plan and act in ways that will transform their hopes and actions into practical realities. Future is always full of challenges but also of opportunities, the Speaker added. He further said that those who prepare themselves to become winners usually tend to achieve their goals, compared to those who rely on lucky chances without sweat. The Speaker caution the participants that each morning and each day presents a morning for planning, therefore it is not enough to wish for success and tomorrow's better life without preparation, focus and action.

### *Future Statutory Status of Children's Parliament*

Secondly, the Speaker Gurirab stated that a personal commitment and a continuing devotion to this worthy project are of paramount importance. He expressed hoped that in the near future, Parliament as a whole, will find a lasting arrangement for Children's Parliament.

### *Millennium Development Goals*

Thirdly, the Speaker Gurirab highlighted the eight (8) Millennium Development Goals (MDG) adopted by the Millennium Session of the United Nations in 2000, which were aimed at reducing world's poverty and hasten development. Additionally, the MDGs are furthermore aimed to improve conditions of trade, investment and economic cooperation between rich and poor nations of the world. He highlighted that the bottom line is to end the wars, poverty and to create prosperity for all. That was about eight (8) years ago, counting from 2000, he further highlighted. With effective implementation of MDGs, it's expected that come 2015, the eight MDGs, critical as they are, would be met by the world community. The eight goals are:

- 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
- 2) Achieve universal primary education,
- 3) Promote gender equality and empower women,
- 4) Reduce child mortality,
- 5) Improve maternal health
- 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,
- 7) Ensure environmental sustainability, and
- 8) Develop global partnership development

### *The Born-free Generation's role in Society*

Referring to the youth born after Independence, Hon Speaker Gurirab emphasized the appropriateness of concentrating on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades during the selection for the participants to the Children's Parliament. He noted that it is international, because they stand at a point of transition. He furthermore alluded that many of them, participants and those outside will be voting for the first time next year (2009) in Presidential, National Assembly, and Regional elections, therefore known as the born-frees of Namibia. By welcoming them, Hon Speaker informed the members that they will soon enter the next category, that from childhood to adulthood.

## *Gender Equality*

In conclusion, the Speaker Gurirab mentioned to the new members of the Children's Parliament that young women and girls should never wait at the back of the queue to allow young men and boys to go ahead first. He appeal to the females to see to it and demonstrate that they are up to any challenge or any promising opportunity to make their own contributions for change, gender equality and social development wherever they are. The Hon Speaker informed the participants that to be a fine lady, a beautiful girl or a loving mother doesn't mean taking humiliation. The Hon. Speaker than declared the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Children's Parliament officially open.

## **7 STAKEHOLDERS PRESENTATIONS**

### **7.1 Councilor Elsabe van Vuuren, Junior Mayor: City of Windhoek**

In her address to the young legislators, the Junior Major of the City of Windhoek marked the 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2007 as a historical moment when the First Session of the First Children's Parliament was held in Windhoek.

Councilor Van Vuuren, expressed the view that reality repeats itself with the Second Session of Children's Parliament taking place from 6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008. She further informed the members that the First Session adopted seventeen motions which she hoped political leaders would take note and address them seriously. Councillor Van Vuuren also urged her fellow Members to be polite and truthful in their deliberations. She solicited a commitment, passion and responsibility to join hands with the leaders and get practical solutions on issues affecting the country.

Councilor Van Vuuren finally thanked the sponsoring partners and all stakeholders for making the Second Session of Children Parliament possible. She welcomed the new members to the City of Windhoek and pledged support of the Junior Council of City of Windhoek towards all initiatives aimed at furthering the interest and rights of children. She humbly appealed to the young legislators to absorb every opportunity of knowledge given to them and most importantly to plough it back for the future of the children of Namibia.

### **7.2. Mr. Clever Mapaure, Executive Speaker of UNAM Student Parliament**

In his addressed, Mr Mapaure said the Second Session of Children's Parliament begin in an environment of positive developments with a

potential to make a permanent impact on Namibia's socio-economic, political and legal landscape.

Furthermore, Mr. Mapaure informed the Members that the formation of Children's Parliament was a welcomed progress by the Namibian people, especially the youth as it gives realization to the right to assemble and expression in the political processes of a progressive democratic and open society as encouraged by the Namibian Constitution.

He added that Members of the Children's Parliament should be aware that they are the forum for cultivating public participation and promotion of the spirit of inclusiveness on decision and law making in the Republic. In delegating its decision-making powers to children, Mr Mapaure said the government appreciates children as an integral asset to the nation since they are the future leaders hence the need to generate ideas from them. Therefore, the Children's Parliament is expected to channel the concerns of the children through appropriate political structures of the government.

Finally, Mr. Mapaure thanked the legislative arm of the government for advocating a culture of socio-political inclusion and spearheading the Children's Parliament. He reiterated that Children's Parliament is a demonstration of how progressive political and legislative thinkers are in Namibia. The Students' Parliament of the University of Namibia applauded all Members of the Children's Parliament for making it to the platform.

### **7.3 Ms. Rushman Murtaza, Officer in Charge of UNICEF**

In her contribution Ms. Murtaza, thanked Parliament for its seriousness about the importance of children's voices in the decision making process and that the contribution given last year has been valuable. She further thanked the young legislators for having travelled long distances to make their presence felt in the law making process. Ms. Murtaza informed the new Members that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is one of the most critical UN documents enshrining the rights of children particularly that of participation.

Ms. Murtaza emphasized that that Participation of Children in decision making processes is a challenge for adults and they hardly empower children to exercise their rights.

Furthermore, on children empowerment, Ms. Murtaza emphasized strongly that the process of allowing children to be heard should start much earlier within families. Children participation must be incorporated

in our education system so as to equip them with the necessary skills of expressing themselves openly and frankly at an early stage.

She encouraged the government and parents to give the children a chance to practice their citizenship and rights in the community life, by providing them with access to information and by establishing formal mechanisms which shall enable them to express their opinions on issues which affect their life's. In conclusion, she encouraged the young Parliamentarians to grow up as responsible and active citizens who are ready to lead the Nation.

#### **7.4 Ms. Monica Kalondo, Business Women**

During her addressed to the Members of the Children's Parliament on social issues, Ms. Kalondo encouraged the Members to tackle issues which affect their daily life. She emphasized the importance of making the right decisions as their future life depends on how they deal with social issues.

Ms. Kalondo advised the Members of the Children's Parliament to have a dream, be focused, be realistic in their goals and to set a timeframe to achieved goals in life. In conclusion she said the key to success is being responsible, have respect and keep on learning.

#### **7.5 Mr. Daniel Motinga, Senior Manager at First National Bank Namibia Holdings**

Mr. Motinga addressed the members on aspects of the macroeconomic situation and its impact on Namibia. He defined the inflation, its challenges and how it affects the youth with special emphasis on rising basic commodities and oil prices. Mr. Motinga furthermore informed the Members that today's prices at the rate on which basic food stuff are developing has negative implications for how much taxes will be required from current and future worker's.

#### **7.6 Ms. Helena Anjamba, Director in the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare,**

Ms. Andjamba highlighted the significant role the Children's Parliament played in 2007 in giving concrete suggestions on issues affecting the children of Namibia, especially the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). She emphasized that the suggestions of the Children's Parliament in 2007 were incorporated into National Plan of Action for OVC 2006 – 2010 (NPA). Ms. Andjamba presented the Members with the National

Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Namibia. She highlighted that currently only two regions in Namibia, namely, the Okavango and Omaheke has Standing Plan of Actions in place. She further informed the Members that it was an important document which highlights and prioritized the fulfillment of Children's Rights, organized around five strategic areas, namely, Right to Protection, Education, Care and Support, Health and Nutrition and Management and Networking.

#### **7.7 Hon. Nangolo Mbumba, Minister of Education**

The Minister gave a motivational speech to the elected Members of the Children's Parliament. The Minister urged them to work hard and to pass all their grades. He further stressed that success could only be achieved once if they were well organized, disciplined and through choosing the right professions.

### **8. MOTIONS TABLED**

The Second Session of the Children's Parliament tabled twenty six (26) Motions, twenty one (21) motions were adopted, one (1) rejected and four (4) withdrawn.

#### **8.1 MOTIONS ADOPTED**

##### **8.1.1 Motion on the increasing high rate of crime perpetrated by young people.**

Mover, Mr. Bronson Tjihukununa (Former Junior Speaker, Khomas Region), seconded by Mr. Ambambi Alweendo (Former Junior MP).

The Children's Parliament was of the view that young people tend to victimize others who are known to them through violence or threats. The majority of their victims are fellow young people, their age mate's or younger, living in the same neighbourhood, attending the same schools and so forth.

The Members of the Children's Parliament identified the following as the contributing factors towards crime perpetrated by the youth. The Members felt that there is high rate of youth unemployment, peer pressure, alcohol abuse, changes in family patterns, increasing income disparities between wealthy and the poor, the impact of AIDS/HIV, depression and the virtual exclusion of sections of populations living in poor rural areas from the increasing prosperity experienced by others.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion, confirming that this was a serious social problem which needs serious attention, not only from the

Government but from the youth themselves as well. They encouraged their fellow youth not to use unemployment as an excuse to commit crime and to rely on Government in terms of job creation, but to venture into entrepreneurship in order to make them useful. The Members also urged the parents to teach their children integrity and healthy lifestyle in order to reduce crime. It was also proposed that law enforcement officers be invited to educational institutions to explain the importance of respecting the life/lives of others and consequence of disregard of it.

### **8.1.2 Motion on unconstitutional use of corporal punishment in schools.**

Mover, Mr. Otniel Ndivaye (Oshana Region), seconded by Mr. Hafeni Muzanima ( Oshana Region)

The Members of the Children's Parliament expressed their grave disappointment for the fact that even though corporal punishment was unconstitutional, there are still pockets of schools that violate this constitutional prohibition. It was emphasized that corporal punishment constitute a gross violation on human rights.

The Members argued that in most cases teachers are always stressed and thus results in them beating learners for simple reasons. The Members felt that corporal punishment is harmful for the learners.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and urged the Minister of Education to put necessary measures in place to bring this violation to an end. The Members also proposed that, instead of corporal punishment, the teachers should look at alternative ways to motivate or consult parents of the problematic children to find lasting solutions. The Members further appealed to their fellow youth not to violate the rules of the school, knowing that corporal punished is unconstitutional. Learners who are victims of corporal punishment by teacher's were urged to lay criminal charges against such teachers with the Police.

### **8.1.3 Motion on Grade 10 repeaters.**

Mover, Ms. Aleta Xawes (Erongo Region), seconded by Ms. Elsabe Van Vuuren ( Junior Mayor, City of Windhoek, Khomas Region)

During the debate on this motion, the Members of the Children's Parliament was of the view that dozens of children who are below the age of consent are being force to remain at home because of the education system which does not allow them to repeat Grade 10 once they fail. The

general feeling amongst the Members where that most of these learners are future leaders, therefore they need a second chance to repeat Grade 10, especially the under - aged.

The Members however acknowledged that this matter was of national concern and was debated at various platforms before. It was argued that allowing Grade 10 learners to repeat will reduce the prospects of crime on the streets.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and called on the Government to allow under - age Grade 10 drop-outs to repeat, were possible. The Members also urged the Government to investigate the possibility of establishing institutions like Multi Career or Vocational Training Centers in the various regions to accommodate these drop-outs.

#### **8.1.4 Motion on child labour and its challenges.**

Mover, Ms. Loide Shaparara (Karas Region), seconded by Mr. Hafeni Muzanima (Oshana Region)

The Members expressed their concern over the skyrocketing number of under aged children who are being illegally employed, both in urban and rural areas. The debate raised the issue that due to increasing cost of living, vulnerable children are being employed as cheap labourers.

**Decision:** It was resolved that child labour was against the law. The Members reiterated the call that children below the age of sixteen (16) years should not be allowed under any circumstances to do casual work to earn a living. The Members appealed to the Government to employ more social workers in all the thirteen (13) political regions to assist those vulnerable children who might be unlawfully employed due to circumstances.

#### **8.1.5 Motion on poor services at hospitals.**

Mover, Ms. Imelda Buchane (Caprivi Region), seconded by Ms. Secilia Nekwaya (Khomas Region).

The Members confirm during the debate on this motion that some doctors and nurses employed at state hospitals are neglecting their duties. It was further said that nurses are not passionate and professional about their profession. The Members cited long queues observed at State Hospitals and clinics as one example. Considering the

seriousness of this problem which has already caused the death of many patients.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and urged the health inspectors in the Ministry of Health to fully monitor or do regular inspections at state hospitals and clinics nationwide in order to rescue the situation. It was also proposed that training workshops be conducted regularly for the nurses and doctors on how to treat patients with care.

#### **8.1.6 Motion on bullying of learners.**

Mover, Mr. Simeon Nghiwilepo (Junior Councillor, City of Windhoek, Khomas Region).

The Members of the Children's Parliament expressed the view that bullies are not only reducing the performance of their fellow learners, but has a psychological effect. The Members further argued that bullies are also contributing to high rate of school drop outs and increasing failure rate in schools.

**Decision:** In order to mitigate the negative effects of bullies in schools, the Members proposed that an investigation should be launched why bullies bully other children. It was agreed that bullying should be reported to the teachers and Principals. Further, the Assembly appealed to school authorities to call parents of the bullies if necessary and provide social services to bullies and those being bullied.

#### **8.1.7 Motion on the unavailability and access to libraries in rural areas.**

Mover, Mr. Zennedt Sali (Otjozondjupa Region), seconded by Ms. Linda Tolu (Kunene Region)

During their contribution on this motion, the Members were of the view that there is a need for rural school and community libraries. It was further said that the few libraries which are available need to be updated with new books.

The Members debated that in this age of information technology, the learners and the community at large need to be well informed on matters of national and international interest.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and appealed in this connection to all the stakeholders not only to rely on government but to

invest in long term national projects like rural school and community libraries, to alleviate the need and ensure availability of information at all levels of society.

#### **8.1.8 Motion on the recruitment of foreign teachers at the expense of trained Namibian teachers.**

Mover, Ms. Jacky Haslund (Erongo Region), seconded by Mr. Given Tsuseb (Kunene Region).

The Members were of the view that recruiting foreign teachers at the expense of Namibians is not in line with the long term objectives of Vision 2030. It was further felt that there is a need for serious re-consideration on current practices to find a lasting solution.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and urged the Government to hire foreign teachers to train Namibian teachers as an understudy or to teach subjects where local teachers are not available. It was further proposed that consideration be given to send local teachers for further training in subjects where there were shortages in line with Vision 2030. The Ministry of Education was urged to review the salaries of teachers in order to reduce high staff turnover.

#### **8.1.9 Motion on indiscipline amongst learners and teachers.**

Mover, Ms. Giola Dunn (Hardap Region), seconded by Ms. Elizabeth Shiwandu (Kunene Region).

There was general consensus amongst the Members that unbecoming behaviour amongst children is the order of the day at some schools. The Members emphasized that teachers need to be exemplary in their conduct.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and proposed that indiscipline learners be punished by alternative penalties, and be restricted from taking part in their favourite social activities such as sports, etc. In serious cases of undisciplined learners, parents should be called in and spoken to by the Principals. As an incentive, the Members suggested that a system of reward should be put in place for disciplined and well behaved learners.

#### **8.1.10 Motion on increasing number of school drop-outs.**

Mover, Ms. Jacky Hashlund (Erongo Region), seconded by Ms. Lovisa Ihalwa (Oshikoto Region)

The Members confirmed that school dropouts were increasing, and that the situation calls for serious attention from the Government and all the stakeholders in education. Members were of the view that education is the most important tool of nation building and development.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and called upon the Government and stakeholders in education to sensitize the learners on the importance of education through educational talks and interventions through social workers. The Members also appealed to fellow youth to resist peer pressure at all cost and to focus on education. Learners who cannot afford school fees were urged to approach the school Principals for exemptions through established channels.

#### **8.1.11 Motion on the future of the Children's Parliament.**

Mover, Ms. Meryam Nghidipo (Former Junior Deputy Speaker, Khomas Region), seconded by Mr. Uateza Kasiringua, Otjozondjupa Region)

In motivating her motion, Hon Nghidipo informed her fellow Members that the noble idea to create a Children's Parliament was threefold, Firstly, to provide a platform for the youth of Namibia to express their ideals, concerns and expectations, Secondly, to assist young leaders to organize themselves to participate in international forums, and Thirdly, to prepare young people to initiate and organize social upliftment activities and conferences. With that in mind, the Member proposed that the Sessions of the Children's Parliament be broadcast on National Television, and that a website be created on deliberations of the Children's Parliament.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and expressed its wish to be informed well in advance regarding their participation in the Children's Parliament and proposed that a fixed criteria for the selection of participants be established. The Assembly further proposed that such channels be established through youth platforms like the Junior Councils, etc. In motivating the proposal, the Members emphasized that this will allow them to do consultations with their fellow learners in the regions for better representation. The Members also urged the law makers to ensure that the Children's Parliament become a permanent feature on the Parliamentary Calendar.

#### **8.1.12 Motion on teachers not performing.**

Mover, Ms. Kotokeni Amukuyu (Otjozondjupa Region), seconded by Ms. Imelda Buchane (Caprivi Region)

The Members expressed concern about some teachers who attend classes while ill prepared. They felt that this tendency contributes to the high failure rate. To rectify the situation, the Members urged the circuit inspectors in the Ministry of Education to conduct surprised school / class inspections often. They further urged teachers to take their jobs seriously.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion. The Members urged Learners Representative Councils (LRC) and students bodies at various schools to report non-performing teachers to the Principals and School-Inspectors for disciplinary measure against them.

#### **8.1.13 Motion on school girls to return to school after delivery.**

Mover, Mr. Antony Chilinda (Caprivi Region), seconded by Mr. Victor Shilongo (Khomas Region)

Majority of the Members were in favour of this motion. As future leaders of this country the school going girls should be allowed to return to school after delivery. The members argued that the current practice in which girls are required to remain at home after delivery only demoralized some girls to return later on. This in the long run promotes street children, it was added. However, it was the considered view of the Members that such pregnancies be allowed for the first time and that on return to school, measurable parenting and care of the new born child be put in place and monitored frequently by the relevant authorities.

**Decision:** The Assembly decided that school girls be allowed to return to school after delivery. However, it was the considered view of the Assembly that such pregnancies be allowed for the first time and that on return to school, measurable parenting and care of the new born child be put in place.

#### **8.1.14 Motion on favouritism in admitting learners to institutions of higher learning.**

Mover, Ms. Bernadina Shanyenge (Omusati Region), seconded by Mr. Mwala Mainga (Caprivi Region)

The Member expressed concern that favoritism is being practiced when selecting and admitting learners to institutions of higher learning. The Members alleged that the requirements set by the relevant Ministries are bypassed and learners who do not meet the criteria and requirements are admitted while those meeting the criteria are left out.

The Members argued that such practices are tantamount to corruption and it denies prospective learners their right to tertiary education.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and appealed to the relevant Ministries to monitor the malpractices at institutions of higher learning and to bring the culprits to book. Further, the Assembly appealed to the Government to look at a possibility of establishing a central educational body to deal with registration and admissions.

#### **8.1.15 Motion on the need for appointment of social counselors at schools.**

Mover Mr. Bonefazuis Keramin (Hardap Region), seconded by Mr. Thomas Reinhold (Oshikoto Region)

The Members were of the view that learners at schools sometimes face emotional problems attributed by financial problems at homes, death of close relatives, difficulties with some subject etc. It was further argued that teachers are often not qualified to handle emotional traumas of learners.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion, However, while commending the Government's efforts with regard to appointment of social workers in the Ministry of Health, the Assembly proposed that the Ministry of Education should consider appointing social counselors where possible, either at schools or regionally to deal with issues affecting learners.

#### **8.1.16 Motion on destroying of the ozone layer and what projects or what youth can do to prevent the destruction of the ozone layer.**

Mover Mr. Given Tsuseb (Kunene Region), seconded by Mr. Johnny Basson (Karas Region)

The Members expressed concern that the destruction to the ozone layer is currently contributing to natural disasters such as global warming and floods which were experienced in the northern regions. Ministry of Environment and Tourism was also urged to put measures in place to monitor factories polluting the environment. In order to achieve the

objectives of Vision 2030, the Members appeal to the Namibian nation to make use of ozone friendly products.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and proposed that Government and community leaders together with the youth establish Youth Clubs/Community Clubs to create awareness about this matter. The focus should be on preventive measures in combating of destruction to ozone layer by taking it to the regions.

#### **8.1.17 Motion on lack of resources and study material.**

Mover, Ms. Ndahafa Kanyemba (Ohangwena Region) seconded by Ms. Gracious Ausiku (Kavango Region)

The Members expressed disappointment that at some schools learners are still sharing textbooks. Some textbooks, if available, were full of errors, and thus also contribute to the high failure rate, especially in rural schools.

The Members felt that the objectives of Vision 2030 will not be achieved, unless the Ministry of Education redresses the imbalances in terms of resource allocation to schools, especially in previously disadvantage schools.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and urged community leaders, School Principals to intervene and to solicit political representatives and Government to rescue the situation.

#### **8.1.18 Motion on the lack of qualified Namibian Medical Doctors and how the young Namibians can be assisted to study in this field.**

Mover, Ms. Maria Kangala (Ohangwena Region), seconded by Ms. Imogene Cloete (Karas Region)

The basic principles of Vision 2030, was to ensure that Namibia has its own medical doctors. Noting the high number of foreign doctors in Namibia, especially in State Hospitals the Members expressed disappointment with the lack of interest shown by their fellow youth specifically in medical studies. The Members commended the Government's efforts in establishing student's financial assistance scheme under Ministry of Education. However, a lot of efforts are still needed in this regard as a long term solution, the Members said.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and implore the Government and the private sector to established a special fund specifically for those who want to study in this field. They urged the parents to encourage youth to take subjects which will allow them to study and qualify as medical doctors.

#### **8.1.19 Motion on poor infrastructure in rural schools.**

Mover, Ms. Imelda Buchane (Caprivi Region), seconded by Ms. Elizabeth Shihwandu (Kunene Region)

The Members confirmed that the infrastructure of the rural schools are dilapidated. The situation calls for Government and stakeholder interventions. In rainy or winter season, learners at rural schools are worst affected, and it affects their performance and concentration in classes.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and appealed to the Ministry of Education to seriously look into the conditions of rural schools build before independence.

#### **8.1.20 Motion on alcohol abuse amongst learners.**

Mover, Ms. Secilia Nekwaya (Junior Councilor, City of Windhoek, Khomas Region) seconded by Mr. Stephanus Mutileni ( Oshana Region)

The Members were of the view that with the increasing number of illegal shebeens in their neighbourhoods, alcohol abuse amongst young people is also on the increase. It was further said that the laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol to minors are being ignored, just to make profit. The Members called on parents, community leaders and adults to teach the youth the negative effects of alcohol and not to buy for children under the age of eighteen (18).

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion with the following. The Assembly resolved that shebeen/bar owners should not be allowed to sell liquor to children under the age of eighteen (18), and the rules should be applied strictly. An emergency number to call the Police should be availed to the communities to call the Police when liquor is sold to under aged. The Assembly implored their fellow youth to make it their task to educate others about the dangers of using alcohol. In addition, the Assembly also resolved that when children and youth buy alcohol, the

owners should be required to ask proof of age and that by-Laws be promulgated to control opening closing hours.

#### **8.1.21 Motion on introduction of subjects on Arts and Culture in Schools.**

Mover Mr. Hafeni Muzanima (Oshana Region), seconded by Ms. Aletha Xawes ( Erongo Region)

The Members stressed that arts has been part of their traditions. The Members felt that young people with artistic skills would be able to create jobs for others, thereby reducing unemployment in the long run.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and agreed that the Government should implement arts and culture as part of the curriculum in Secondary Schools. Arts and culture as a choice subject and that it be taught by qualified teachers. The Assembly was of the view that subjects like Arts and Culture would create employment for talented young people.

#### **8.1.22 Indigenous languages in Schools.**

Mover, Mr. Ambambi Alweendo (Former Junior MP, Khomas Region), seconded by Ms. Elsabe Van Vuuren (Junior Mayor, City of Windhoek, Khomas Region)

The Members were concern that many learners do not get the opportunity to learn through their mother tongues, and many schools do not offer Namibian languages as subjects for study up to Grade 12 level.

After lengthy discussions, the Members supported the general idea of having indigenous languages in addition to the National Language in schools. They Members emphasized the importance of mother tongue.

**Decision:** The Assembly adopted the motion and resolved that indigenous languages be implemented where the need arise and in consultation with the communities.

### **8.2 MOTIONS REJECTED**

#### **8.2.1 The Motion on the effects of the floods on learners in the North and North Eastern Regions**

Moved by Ms. Fransina Petrus (Erongo Region),and seconded by Mr. Bronson Tjihukununa (Former Junior Speaker, Children's Parliament)

The Assembly rejected the motion with the view that Government has put measures in place and is enjoying sufficient attention.

### **8.3 MOTIONS WITHDRAWN**

The Motion on the unfair treatment of learners in Windhoek and others in the rural areas was withdrawn by the mover, Mr Mbago Andreas.

The Motion on the issue of uninformed electricity cuts and what effects it has on the users was withdrawn by the mover Ms. Kotokeni Amukuyu.

The Motion on how best possible unwanted pregnancies can be prevented among the school going children was withdrawn by the mover, Ms. Maria Kangala.

The Motion on the suspension of learners from the school. was withdrawn by the mover, Ms. Linda Tolu.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Children's Parliament recommends to the National Assembly to continue convening regular Sessions of the Children's Parliament as a platform through which they can assemble and expressed their views and on issues affecting the children.

## **10. APPRECIATION**

The Children's Parliament expressed appreciation to the National Assembly, the Namibian Government and sponsors for making it possible for the convening of the Second Session of Children's Assembly.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

In his closing remarks, the Speaker, Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, suggest to the Assembly of the Children's Parliament that there will be no Session in 2009 but only in 2010. However, the Speaker appreciated the suggestion that appropriate institutional arrangement be found by all stakeholders for regular annual Sessions of the Children's Parliament.

Signed by  
*Hon. Elia Kayamo, MP*  
*Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing*  
*Committee on Human Resources, Social*  
*and Community Development*

11 June 2008  
*Date*