



REPORT

ON THE DEPUTY SPEAKER'S

OUTREACH

PROGRAMME

TO THE OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

26 JULY – 5 AUGUST 2009

“Enhancing Public Participation in the Legislative Process”

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1. Executive Summary

The Parliament (Legislative Branch of Government of the Republic of Namibia) was established in terms of Article 44 of the Constitution, and has a statutory duty for the formulation of Laws and Rules according to which the Nation is governed. The Legislative Authority is tasked to make and promulgate laws, and has an oversight responsibility on the Executive to ensure service delivery.

This report represents the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Doreen Sioka and her parliamentary delegation's Outreach Program to the Otjozondjupa Region during the Parliamentary recess in July 2009. All seven constituencies were visited with the aim to introduce Parliament and to meet the local, regional, traditional, church and community leaders and also to engage communities on service delivery. These constituencies are:

- Tsumkwe Constituency,
- Grootfontein Constituency,
- Otavi Constituency,
- Otjiwarongo Constituency,
- Okakarara Constituency
- Omatako , and
- Okahandja Constituencies

These visits have brought National Assembly, to the doorsteps of communities for meaningful interaction on issues of national importance. Lawmakers benefited greatly from the open exchanges with the electorate, sharing the pain and burdens of the communities in the quest of improving the quality of life of our citizens.

The Deputy Speaker, in a colourful power-point presentation, outlined five key points on the topic, "Enhancing Public Participation in the Legislative Process." These were:

- Objectives of the Parliamentary Outreach Program,
- What is Parliament?

- Structure and Functions of Parliament,
- The Role of the Electorate, and
- How to get access to Parliament

Learners of the schools in the all constituencies visited were introduced to internet on the Parliament's ITC bus, especially on the Parliament website.

The meetings with both politicians and communities raised a variety of issues, challenges and problems our citizens are faced with. This report has been formatted as such that these issues, challenges and problems raised were grouped and categorised for each settlement, village or town visited, according to the line Ministries. It is important to note that various Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMA's) were represented by staff members who accompanied the delegation and these officials were given the opportunity to respond to some of the issues raised on the spot.

Some of the major issues, challenges and problems faced by the communities are (i) the lack of national documents in especially Gam area, (ii) the sentences for stock theft compared to that of murder or rape, (iii) the bad road conditions in some areas of the region, (iv) the stalled implementation of rural electrification programme as well as the expensive usage charges for electricity in urban areas of the region, (v) lack of ambulances (vi) land resettlement and (vii) rural water supply.

This visit has again highlighted the need for more regular outreach programs to all regions simply because the electorate needs to be educated on the separation of powers between the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary, and also because it creates a national platform for elected representatives amongst themselves to have meaningful dialogue and with the electorate, irrespective of political affiliation.

2. Introduction

The Parliamentary Outreach Program was initiated by the First Speaker of the National Assembly, late Dr. Mosé Tjitendero way back in the 90's with the view of taking Parliament closer to the people in order to:

- 2.1 Create a platform of exchange between the Regional Governors, Regional Councilors, Community and Traditional Leaders as well as Spiritual Leaders and the Legislatures;
- 2.2 Engage community in meaningful exchange with Parliamentarians on legislative and oversight issues;
- 2.3 Improve the communication between citizenry and their elected representatives; and
- 2.4 Consult the citizenry on service delivery by the government Offices/Ministries/Agencies part of its oversight function.

Against this background, Hon. Mrs. Doreen Sioka, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, accompanied by Hon. Royal /Ui/o/oo, Hon. Mrs. Nora Schimming-Chase, Hon. Mrs. Alexia Manombe-Ncube visited all the seven constituencies in the Otjozondjupa Region from the 26 July – 5 August 2009 to interact with the citizenry.

The parliamentary delegation made use of two strategies to interact. Firstly the delegation met with local and regional elected leaders and secondly with the community members in open meetings. The community meetings were divided in four main sections namely:

- 2.5 The welcoming remarks by the Regional Councilor or his representative
- 2.6 The introductory remarks by the Head of the delegation,
- 2.7 The presentation on "*Introduction to Parliament*, and
- 2.8 The interaction between the community members and Parliamentarians.

The parliamentary delegation was accompanied by the representatives from the Ministry's of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and the

Ministry Labour and Social Welfare. The other Ministries did not delegate staff members as per the invitation from the National Assembly.

On the issue of the separation of powers, it was stated clearly at the commencement of each community meeting that the delegation represented the legislature and its Constitutional mandate. Yet, most questions and responses were primarily on service delivery by the Executive and the various Ministerial representatives were of great help to the outreach program. In cases where responses could not be given immediately, the assurance was given that all OMA's will be made aware of concerns and issues through the tabling of the outreach report in the National Assembly. It must be noted that issues and concerns that could be resolved and/or addressed at constituency level are not included in this report. However, some common concerns are captured under the heading of General Issues and Comments in this report.

3. Geopolitical Information on the Otjozondjupa Region

3.1 The Otjozondjupa region is one of Namibia's 13 political regions and is located in the central part of the country and one of the larger regions and covers total land surface area of 105,185 km². The region represents 12.8% of the total land surface area of Namibia. The neighbouring regions are Kavango in the North, Oshikoto in the North West, Kunene and Erongo in the West and Omaheke and Khomas in the South. To the east, Otjozondjupa is joined by the international border between Namibia and Botswana.

3.2 Geographically, Otjozondjupa Region is on the western edge of the huge Kalahari Basin which is filled with sand, clay, silt and calcrete sediments with a thickness of up to 7,000m in places. The region is largely semi-arid with rainfall ranging from 300-600mm, increasing from the south west to the north east. The central town of Otjiwarongo serves as the Regional Capital and seat of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council.

3.3 Otjozondjupa Region is divided in seven constituencies, namely Tsumkwe, Grootfontein, Otavi, Otjiwarongo, Okakarara, Omatako and Okahandja.

3.4 The size of the population of around 135.384 (2001 Population and Housing Census) was reported in Otjozondjupa in 2001. Of these, 69.896 (52.25 per cent) were males, and 65.488 (47.75 per cent) were females (2001 Population and Housing Census).

3.5 The three main languages spoken in Otjozondjupa are Otjiherero, Damara>Nama, Oshiwambo and San languages. However, Afrikaans is also a frequently spoken language in this region.

4. Highlights from Interactions with Political Leadership of the Region

Ministry of Education

The need for the establishment of an institution of higher education in the northern part of the region was emphasized. Central government as well as the other institutions of higher education was requested to consider opening branches or regional centers in the region.

Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration

The political leadership raised the lack of national documents for the residents of Gam area (where mostly citizens repatriated from Botswana are resident). To this end, the citizens are denied social and other related benefits, employment opportunities, voting and social grants and are even unable to proof their citizenship. Previous visits by officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration have indicated that the issue of Gam residents are unique and therefore need to be resolved with the full cooperation between the residents and the Ministry.

Ministry of Lands and Resettlement

There is a greater need for all Namibians to be resettled whenever government acquires farms for resettlement as the leaders felt that the struggle was all about the land. However the regional leadership feels that the current way of resettling people on

productive land be seriously considered and that first and foremost only those who will be able to use the land productively be considered for resettlement.

Ministry of Mines and Energy

The political leadership is concerned about the slow pace at which rural electrification is implemented in the region. Another issue raised was the high pre-paid electricity rates charged by the CENORED and that the units they are receiving does not warrant the amount they pay for. The political leadership also appeals to the Ministry to invest more into renewable energy and solar water heaters.

National Assembly

The issue of the lack of Parliamentary involvement in the budgeting process was raised. It was therefore proposed that the budget be subject to legislative review and that the legislature have power to change or make amendments to the budget wherever necessary rather than to rubber stamp it.

5. Highlights from Interactions with the various Communities

5.1 Tsumkwe Constituency

Ministry of Education

Despite efforts by the government to bring the San speaking community to economic and education mainstreaming this community is still experiencing problems when it comes to education of their children. It is reported that despite government's stance on the school development funds and the request to exempt those who cannot afford to pay school development funds (especially the San Community) their children are still being sent away from school for non payment of these fees. It is also reported that the government build a hostel facility for the use by the San school children but that the most of the learners accommodated at this hostel are from other communities to the expense of the

San children. The community also expressed their dissatisfaction with regard to the lack of cooperation between the school principal of the local school and the community. It is also reported that the poor and unhealthy relationship between the principal and the community led to the resignation of some of the school board members.

Ministry of Health and Social Services

Tsumkwe is one of the areas with resistance TB and patients from the area who are diagnosed with this disease have to be admitted at the Grootfontein hospital for treatment. As some of them don't have relatives at Grootfontein and felt lonely and sometimes needs assistance with food or other needs some of them decide to drop the treatment and return to Tsumkwe. They therefore request the Ministry to consider opening a TB clinic in Tsumkwe with a nurse and a doctor.

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC)

The radio and televisions remains the most important tool for communication in this country and the concern was expressed that radio and television reception and transmission is not available in all other parts of the constituency except in Tsumkwe.

Ministry of Mines and Energy

Although being boosted with few and modern infrastructure like the newly constructed magistrates court building, Tsumkwe still does not have reliable electricity supply and have to depend on a diesel generator for electricity. The populaces therefore appeal to the Ministry to consider providing reliable and constant electricity to Tsumkwe.

Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development

The traditional leaders expressed their gratitude to the Ministry for the assistance it has rendered so far to all the recognized Traditional Authorities in the country. With the full implementation of the Community Courts Act it will be expected of traditional leaders to function effectively and efficiently to ensure that justice is correctly served, therefore the traditional leaders appeal to the ministry for office accommodation.

Ministry of Works and Transport

The populace expresses their appreciation to the government with regard to the development that has taken place so far in Tsumkwe. The people reported that the gravel road between Grootfontein and Tsumkwe is in a very bad state and needs to be rehabilitated and perhaps be tarred because of also the long distance between the two areas. The community proposed that the Ministry should at least consider tarring the main road between Gobabis to Aminius.

5.2 Grootfontein Constituency

Ministry of Education

The inhabitants expressed their dismay at the issue of how the Grade 10 failures are handled. They are of the opinion that the decision of the government to allow Grade 10 failures to repeat is not fully adhered to by some school principals who bluntly refuse to admit Grade 10 failures although some of the learners fall within the categories that are allowable to repeat Grade 10. They also request the ministry to have a data base of all qualified and unemployed teachers that whenever there are vacancies in the teaching profession no time is wasted and that teachers are appointed as a matter of urgency in those vacancies.

Ministry of Health and Social Services

It is reported that there is a communication problem at the local clinic as well as at the hospital. The community is alleging that the doctors and nurses only speak English at the health institutions and that communication between patients and health officials is not clear which sometimes lead to unsatisfactory services being rendered to the community members who visited these institutions.

Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration

As national documents are these days a must and each and every citizen is required to have these documents the inhabitants complained that some of them don't have national identity cards. It is reported that many of them have applied for national identity cards

and that most of their cards are piled up at the regional office in Otjiwarongo and that they don't have a means to travel to Otjiwarongo to collect these cards. They therefore request the Grootfontein based office of the Ministry to consider alternatives how it can assist them to get their ID cards.

Ministry of Mines and Energy

The community expresses concern about the high pre-paid electricity rates charged by the CENORED and that the units they are buying are less than the amount they pay for it. They therefore appeal to the ministry to seriously consider alternatives on how the issues surrounding RED's charges can be addressed as this is a problem in all areas where RED's have been implemented. It also emerged that currently Grootfontein is the most expensive town in terms of electricity tariffs at 0.50 cents per unit.

Otjzondjupa Regional Council/Municipality of Grootfontein

The inhabitants complained about the lack of recreational and leisure activities for the residents. They also charged that the municipality and the constituency councilor's office have done little to bring developmental projects to the town of Grootfontein. It is also reported that the members of the Constituency Development Committee (CDC) are sometimes frustrated to attend these meetings as no development is taking place at all and that their proposals for projects are laying and gathering dust at the Regional Councilors or the Regional Council Offices. The community also raised concern about the lack of interaction between them and their regional councilor and the local authority councilors.

National Assembly

The issue of Parliamentary Access Centers was raised whereby the community wanted to know what have happened to this idea and how they can access Parliament in the absence of these centers and how they can assess Parliamentary documents like, Acts, Bills or Order Paper etc. as most of them don't have access to internet or computers.

5.3 Otavi Constituency

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

It is reported that farm owners still mistreat their workers and that this issue was reported to the Ministry's regional offices in Grootfontein and Otjiwarongo and it has taken long to address the complaints of the farmers. Therefore it was reasoned that there is a greater need for a Labour office to be opened in Otavi as it is surrounded by many commercial farms. The community also wants to know from the ministry whether there are any mechanisms or framework in place to bring unemployed Namibians to the mainstream of employment.

National Assembly

A concern was raised about the quality of debates in the National Assembly and members were requested to consider debating serious issues that affects the nation.

Office of the Prime Minister

Concerns were raised on long and cumbersome process of recruitment in the public service and why the recruitment process cannot be concluded in a possible short period. The need to look at the requirements of experience for entry level positions both in public and private sector must also be looked at as some graduates just came straight from school or universities and does not possess the required experience.

Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development

The community expressed a concern on the void created in the constituency when a regional councilor is elected to the National Council thereby neglecting his/her constituency duties. The line Ministry was therefore requested to look into this matter and how best this can be addressed to fill the vacuum of responsibilities created by the above-stated scenarios.

Concern was also expressed with regard to the shortage of land, to extend the town area of Otavi to accommodate the growing number of residents. It is reported that Otavi is mostly surrounded by private/commercial farms to the extent that there is no way the

town can be extended. The ministry was therefore requested to in consultation with the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement look at possible ways to acquire farms close to the boundary of the village for development and extension purposes of the village.

5.4 Otjiwarongo Constituency

The meeting schedule for Otjiwarongo could not take place due to poor attendance as the information regarding the meeting was not properly communicated.

5.5 Okakarara Constituency

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

The community complained about the historical debts with NAMWATER its communal farmers owned and ask the government and the ministry to write off these debts. They further relay that even the relief of interests of the debts did not yield any positive results. The community also proposed to the government and the ministry to take over the water supply function as NAMWATER is providing water on the business principle which most of the residents and farmers in the area cannot afford any longer.

The need to provide reliable water supply to places likes Otjinaterua, Ozonguti, Ourundi and Ondeatupa was also raised. The community also complained about the poor material use to renovate existing water points by the tenderer.

Ministry of Education

Concerns were raised about Grade 10 drop outs and that the ministry must look at best possible alternatives to accommodate these learners again in formal schools as most of them perform very poor again at institutions like NAMCOL. The community also wanted to know about the money that was put aside by the government to provide for text books and materials for schools that re-admit Grade 10 dropouts who met the requirements for re-admission as the schools in the area did not get any funding or material or books from this provision.

Ministry of Health and Social Services

The community requested the Ministry to allocate a modern equipped ambulance that suits their road condition to the constituency since the vehicle that is currently used to transport patients is not equipped with necessary medical accessories to be used in an ambulance. The community of Okamatapati also requested an ambulance as there is only one ambulance that has to serve the whole Okakarara and this ambulance is based at Okakarara which makes it impossible to respond quickly to emergency calls outside Okakarara.

It is also reported that there is a shortage of medicines at the clinic at Okamatapati and that the doctors only visit this clinic once in two or three months. Concern was also raised about the structures at the Okamatapati clinic and that there is a need to renovate this clinic as it was built during the colonial era and no renovation has taken place since then.

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology/MTC

The community complained about the absence of mobile phone networks in the area. The line Ministry is therefore requested to consider increasing the network coverage in the whole of the Okakarara Constituency.

Ministry of Justice

The community expressed concern that bail is granted easily to persons committing serious crimes and calls on the Government and lawmakers to review relevant laws and statutes. Another concern raised was the increasing number of stock theft cases in the constituency and its surrounding areas. The ministry was also requested to see to it that all court cases are speedily dealt with and removed from court rolls and that petty crimes be resolved the same day provided proper investigation is done and the courts are convinced beyond reasonable doubt.

Ministry of Lands and Resettlement

Concerns were also raised on the resettlement program, which to the opinion of some community members, does not reach the targeted beneficiaries (the landless Namibians). Therefore, it is imperative that the Ministry consider looking at other alternatives to speed up the resettlement process. On the same score, the community also expressed their desire to be resettled as the town lands of Okakarara are overcrowded with animals. Finally, the community expressed disapproval of the fencing off of grazing land in communal areas and wanted to know when the Ministry is going to act against people guilty of this unacceptable practice.

Ministry of Mines and Energy

The Ministry was requested to consider deviation from its original idea on rural electrification to consider also covering communities not covered by the RED's. It was also reported that only one single village in Okamatapati is electrified and that there is a greater need to also provide rural electrification to all the villages in the Okamatapati area as well as in all rural areas in the constituency.

National Assembly

The community expressed its gratitude to the Parliamentary Standing Committees that visit Okakarara to solicit their input on various issues under discussion in the National Assembly. However, the community is of the opinion that these committees as well as the outreach programmes of the National Assembly also visit remote rural areas in the constituency and not be confined to urban areas only. It was also reported that the break between the outreach visit to the areas be narrowed so that community members are consulted regularly. It was also reported that there is a greater need for Parliament to make sure that avenues are established to ensure the full participation of the youth in the legislative process as they are the leaders of tomorrow. Political parties were also urged to ensure that they have maximum youth representation in National Assembly.

National Planning Commission

The community alleged that they experience difficulties with the Namibia-German Special Initiative Program. The community further expressed their concern that they have forwarded their projects for funding by this initiative to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister but have not received any feedback so far and therefore wants to change their original project proposal from assistance with drilling of boreholes and other infrastructure to the acquiring of live stock.

Ministry of Works and Transport

The community complained about the poor road conditions between Okahandja and Okonjatu and requested Government and the two mines Purity Manuaneje and Otjozundu mine operating in that area to put resources together to consider tarring the gravel road as trucks and lorries used by the two mines are operating always on this road. Overall the community requested the ministry to consider upgrading all proclaimed main roads in the constituency.

5.6 Omatako Constituency

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

The community has requested the Ministry to assist them with the construction of marketing stalls next to the auction crawls. A concern was raised about the shortage of water in the whole Omatako area and proposed that water pipes be laid from Von Bach dam to bring water to all areas that needs water. The community also expressed a greater need by the Agricultural Extension Officers to visit the area frequently and give them assistance and advice on how sustainably they can manage their farming and other agricultural projects to make a living out of it rather than waiting for the free handouts from the government.

Ministry of Education

The community requested the Ministry to renovate the hostel building at the J.P. Kapeua hostel that was destroyed by fire as they experience a shortage of hostel accommodation

for especially children from the surrounding villages who need to be accommodated at the school.

Ministry of Health and Social Services

The community requested the Ministry to provide an ambulance to the local clinic as most of the time they have to depend on the ambulance that have to come from Okahandja which sometimes is delayed and some patients succumb of while waiting for the ambulance.

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

It was reported that the mobile telecommunications network reception in the area is very poor. The Ministry and the MTC were requested to look into this matter as a matter of urgency and if possible construct additional network towers in the area for effective mobile communication. It was also reported that there is no NBC Television coverage in the area. The Ministry and NBC were requested to attend to this matter as the community members also want to be kept updated on the news happening in and around the country as well as other parts of the world.

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

The concern was raised that the labour inspectors based in Okahandja and who serve the whole area does not attend to the labour concerns of the community. They are of the opinion that the slow response by labour inspectors to address labour related issues sometimes lead to some of the community members being dismissed unprocedurally or victimized by their employers and later gives up their employment.

Ministry of Lands and Resettlement

The communities expressed their disapproval at the current resettlement process. The communities also stated the current land policies and laws favours the status quo and called for a review of all legislation dealing with land issue. Concern was also raised about the time frame that between the government purchasing a farm for resettlement and the time actual resettlement takes place. The feeling of the community was that the

farms stands long idle before any person is resettled which later lead to the vandalizing of the infrastructure. There was also a general feeling amongst the community members that they don't benefit much from the resettlement programme and rather that people from other regions are being resettled there when ever farm land is available. Another concern raised was with regard to some people who are resettled at government farms but yet leave their animals behind in the communal areas. They therefore proposed that the government must ensure that who ever is resettled must move with his/her cattle from the communal land.

National Assembly

A concern was raised about absenteeism of Members of Parliament during the sittings of especially the National Assembly and that the House has to be adjourned periodically due to the lack of quorum. The Hon. Deputy Speaker, Hon. Mrs. Sioka explained that sometimes it is not absenteeism one can blame on laziness, but many a times Members of Parliament are assigned to other duties outside the capital or the country and that this is not deliberate. Another concern raised was about some overlapping or out dated legislations and that there is a greater need to harmonize these legislations and speed up the amendment of outdated laws.

Office of the President

The community members expressed their desire to be visited by the President of the country.

Ministry of Works and Transport

The communities expressed their concern with regard to the poor road conditions in the area and request the Ministry to consider the upgrading of these roads. Another serious matter the Ministry was requested to consider was the construction of bridges between the two feared and dangerous rivers (Swakop River and the Bobbejaan River) that run through the Ovitoto village. It is reported that several lives have been claimed when the river is flooding and that over five hundred school children are affected every rainy

season. Government is therefore seriously requested to consider building bridges between these two rivers.

5.7 Okahandja Constituency

Ministry of Justice

The community expressed concern that the sentence given to a person who commit stock theft is higher than the person who commit the crime of murder or rape. They therefore arrived to the conclusion that human life is less important than stock theft. They called upon the ministry to reconsider this status quo.

National Assembly

Community members expressed their disappointment on the level of debates taking place in the National Assembly and call upon members of the National Assembly to debate issues in the house in a more mature and responsible manner.

Parliament of Namibia

There was a question amongst some of the community members whether there is a need for a bi-cameral system for a small country like Namibia. The feelings were that the National Council does not have greater impact on legislative process and that the National Assembly can pass any law without considering the recommendations from the National Council. However some community members on the other hand feels that there is a need for the National Council to exist and that they must only be given more powers to concentrate on regional development as they represent the regions. Another concern expressed was that there is a greater need for public consultation in both rural and urban areas on legislative issues.

Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development

A concern was raised with regard to the 5% in terms of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act 22 of 1992) to the Regional Councils in which they are operating. The communities are of the opinion that the Regional councils spend this money on non developmental

issues and are therefore urging for the repeal of the law and that this money is transferred directly to the accounts of the Constituency Development Committees. Another concern raised was the issue of decentralization whereby some community members feel that some of the Regional Councils cannot manage their own finances how are they going to manage finances of line functions of the ministries that will resort under these Regional Councils. It was also proposed that for the decentralization to be effective and efficient it must be directly placed under the Office of the President or that of the Prime Minister.

6. General Concerns

Underneath are concerns which were raised in almost all of the community meetings and these concerns are thus outlined in this section as “general concerns” for the attention of the relevant line OMA’s.

Ministry of Justice

The communities felt that the fast and easy manner in which perpetrators are granted bail is very painful to them, since suspects are back in society whilst the injustice is still fresh in the minds of the people.

Ministry of Lands and Resettlement

The communities expressed their disapproval that politicians and senior government officials, who can afford to purchase farms through commercial and/or agricultural banks, are resettled on government farms at the expense of poor people. The communities also stated the current land policies and laws favours the status quo and called for a review of all legislation dealing with land issue.

National Assembly

A concern was raised about absenteeism of Members of Parliament during the sittings of especially the National Assembly and that the House has to be adjourned periodically due to the lack of quorum. On the issue of some Members sleeping during the sessions and even at important occasions like the State of the Nation Address, the Hon. Deputy Speaker responded that sometimes the media takes pictures when MP’s are meditating or just closing their eyes, and that this has unnecessarily created a bad perception with the people. Another concern raised was about some overlapping legislations and that there is a greater need to harmonize these legislations and speed up the amendment of such laws.

Ministry of Safety and Security

The communities lamented about the slow responses of law enforcement agencies such as the police in the region. The usual apology of not having official transport has become

unacceptable since many police vehicles are parked at shebeens or residences of some members of the Force.

Ministry of Works and Transport

The communities felt most of the roads in the region especially the Grootfontein – Tsumkwe Road, Okakarara Road as well as the Okahandja – Ovototo – Omatako Roads are in a bad condition and suggested that the Ministry considers tarring these, albeit in phases. Because it is reported that even emergency vehicles find it hard to reach destinations especially during the rainy season.

7. Issues cross cutting all the Offices/Ministries/Agencies

Unemployment

Concerns were raised about the high unemployment rate amongst the youth and young adults of the region, and the communities call upon government and the private sector to create job opportunities in the region.

Mushrooming of illegal shebeens

The mushrooming of illegal shebeens in all the constituencies of the region was raised. This shebeens lead to a lot of social ills, contributing to increase in crime, alcohol, drugs and other substance abuse, etc. It was also reported that children spent most of their time at these shebeens, getting involved in negative activities and thus the communities called upon Government to enforce the laws on shebeens to the letter.

8. Recommendations

8.1 All OMA's of the Government of the Republic of Namibia are requested to delegate representatives to accompany Parliamentary Outreach Delegations on these visits, since the communities do benefit tremendously when a representative is at hand to give first hand information.

8.2 Political office-bearers are requested to ensure that their administrative personnel attend to the issues, problems and challenges raised in this report. For instance, it is sad when nationals are unable to access national documents such as ID's, and therefore are excluded from the constitutional rights and privileges enjoyed by all citizens in our country

8.3 Local, regional and national leaders are requested to create more consultative platforms with the electorate in their constituencies, where the latter can raise pressing issues, problems and challenges, and the leaders can inform the communities not only on past

and present programs and projects, but also on future programs and projects envisaged for their constituencies.

8.4 The Parliamentary standing committees are encouraged to take Public Hearings beyond urban centers to also include to rural constituencies and their voices of the people from all strata of the society.

8.5 The National Assembly (Parliament) must develop radio programs to inform the nation at large about parliamentary activities. The overwhelming majority of our people are resident in rural areas, and the radio language services of the Namibian Broadcasting Service are the only source of information since NBC TV is not transmitted to all corners of our country.

9. Acknowledgments

On behalf of the Parliamentary delegation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the political leadership of the Otjozondjupa Region. However it is sad to note that during my entire visit I was only able to meet four out of the seven Regional Councillors in the region. A word of appreciation therefore goes to Hon. Ferdinand Kavetuna, Hon. Theofelus Eiseb, Hon. Vetaruhe Kandoroza and Hon. Kaunakao Kaujeua. We also want to thank the officials of the various Constituency Offices who assisted the delegation with logistical arrangements in the region for the sterling cooperation. We also want to thank all traditional, community and spiritual leaders for their attendance, guidance and participation. A special word of appreciation goes to the Members of Parliament who accompanied me on these travels.

It is needless to say that our Parliamentary delegation is indebted to officials from the Ministries of Health and Social Service (Otjozondjupa Regional Health Directorate), Agriculture, Water and Forestry, (Otjozondjupa Regional Office), Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (Otjozondjupa Regional Office), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (Head Office and the Otjozondjupa Regional Office) and the Ministry Home Affairs and Immigration (Head Office and the Otjozondjupa Regional Office). We thank them for being part of us on the road show, having accompanied us to all community meetings and assisting us in giving instant replies on the spot to some of the issues and concerns raised in these meetings.

Last but not least, I want to thank our parliamentary staff for their dedication and commitment to the Outreach Program and for arranging all logistical and administrative duties related to this outreach activity.

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HONOURABLE DOREEN SIOKA, MP

DEPUTY SPEAKER

18 FEBRUARY 2010

10. Statistical Estimates of Attendance of Community Meetings

Tsumkwe	± 200 people
Grootfontein	± 100 people
Otavi	± 75 people
Otjiwarongo	No meeting
Okakarara	± 90 people
Omatako	± 30 people
Okahandja	± 30 people

11. Delegation List

Parliamentarians

Hon. Mrs. Doreen Sioka, Deputy Speaker and Leader of the Delegation

Hon. Royal /Ui/o/oo

Hon. Mrs. Nora Schimming-Chase

Hon. Mrs. Alexia Ncube-Manombe

Staff Members

Mr. Petrus Husselmann, Legal Officer

Mr. Simon J. /Uirab, Senior Parliamentary Clerk

Ms. Ndahafa S. Kaukungua, Chief Information Officer

Mr. Semi Mubukwanu, Assistant Parliamentary Clerk

Ms. Namasiku Lizazi, Private Secretary to the Deputy Speaker

Mr. Andreas Shivute, Training Officer

Mr. Arthur Platt, System Administrator

Mr. Jan Christiaan, System Administrator

Mr. Johan P. Frederick, System Controller

Mr. Ian van Wyk, System Controller

Ms. Charmaine Groenewald, Private Secretary, General Secretary

Ms. Emily Nghidipo, Senior Typist

Mr. Dudley van Wyk, Transport Clerk

Staff Members from the line Ministries

Ms. Agnes Kafula, Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration

Mr. Godwin Tjinape, Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration

Ms. Nokokure Kariko, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Ms. Joyce Nengenge, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Ms. Mosioline Z. Kasiringua, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare

Mr. Sakaria Taapopi, Ministry of Health and Social Services

Mr. Frans Shaluukeni Hango, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

Mr. Christof Uaisiua, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

Mr. Ludwig Ngutonua, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry