

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

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Question 1: (2015-03-30)

Mr. Venaani (DTA) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry:

In view of the fact that many regions are lagging behind in their poverty index and many citizens are suffering from unemployment and under development. One of these regions is the alarming Ohangwena Region.

1. May the Minister appraise this August Assembly as to the current underground water reservoir capacity and if utilised, how much irrigation project capacity will be created?
 2. In view of this wealth of aquatic resources, how many jobs and food capacity could be created?
 3. How many regions can benefit from this water reservoir and what is the actual cost to access this reservoir?
 4. Has the Ministry engaged the Angolan authorities on the use of these waters and if the answer is in the affirmative, may the Minister share the agreements?
 5. May the Minister further share information on other underground water reservoirs that exist in the country that can enhance modernisation of the agriculture industry through irrigation projects and in particular the Eiseb Block Water Reservoirs?
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Question 2: (2015-03-30)

Mr. Venaani (DTA) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry:

Due to the overuse of our South African neighbours of the Orange River waters stretching from Lesotho and its feeding tributaries.

1. What is the agreement reached between our two nations' Water Commissions and how long will this situation be allowed to continue?

2. What is the maximum water wage capacity that we are allowed to use - are we currently over or under capacity?
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Question 3: (2015-03-30)

Ms. Dienda (DTA) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

1. How much money did the Municipality of Okahandja receive from Government for the Build Together Programme during the 2011/2012 financial year?
 2. Furthermore, what portion of this money has been spent, and how many houses were built? May the Minister kindly provide the House with a detailed financial and progress report pertaining to this project?
 3. Can the Minister explain the amount of N\$3,656,674.00 (three million six hundred and fifty six thousand six hundred and seventy four Namibian dollars), which was allocated as interest from internal loans during the 2011/2012 financial year?
 4. How many erven were sold during the 2011/2012 financial year and to whom and for what amount?
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Question 4: (2015-03-31)

Mr. Venaani (DTA) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

In view of the fact that we import high volumes of electricity from our neighbouring Republic of South Africa, having notice that there is a current power crisis with their power utility Eskom, and the current periodic load shedding in many of their cities, may the Minister answer the following:

1. What capacity of electricity do we import from South Africa and how are we influenced by their current power crisis?
 2. May the Minister further appraise this House to the current general picture of our electricity generation capacity and the demand we have to keep up to keep economic demand?
 3. A few years ago our power utility Nampower loaned their Zimbabwe counterparts millions of dollars to help our sister Republic to jump start one of their power plants. How much of these funds were loan and how much was paid back? If no repayment was made when do we expect payment from them?
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Question 5: (2015-03-31)

Mr. Venaani (DTA) asked the Minister of Mines and Energy:

1. What downstream benefits could be accrued from Namibia setting up a refinery in the northern regions from Angolan oil?

2. Will there be any down prize effect that could stimulate the northern regions' economy and if the answer is in the affirmative, may the Minister appraise this August Chamber.
3. Has there been any conclusive agreement between Namibia and Angola to date on the matter of oil refinery or access of Angolan oil products.
4. Will the Minister agree with the assertion that our Namibian negotiating team has no broader understanding on the business values and strategic approach on how our counterparts conduct business and this negatively influences the process in the negotiations. If this assertion is correct how does the Minister intend to mitigate the situation and to put the talks on course?
5. May the Minister appraise this August House to the current diesel and petrol prices in our neighboring Republic Angola and how a refinery may influence our future oil prices in general?

Question 6: (2015-04-08)

Mr. Maamberua (SWANU) asked the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture:

I acknowledge with thanks the removal of the Reiter Denkmal which was replaced with Genocide Statue last year.

1. Is the Minister aware that in Windhoek, in front of the Municipal Offices the statue of Curt von Francois was erected under the dubious distortion of history purporting him to be the founder of Windhoek? Could it be possible that the man who arrived in Windhoek mid-October 1890, could be regarded as the founder of Windhoek while Jonker Afrikaner had settled in Windhoek decades before that?
2. Is the Minister aware that the statue of Von Francois faces Berlin, indicating paying allegiance to the Kaizer and his military decoration called the iron cross is visible on his uniform?
3. Is the Minister and Government not aware that colonial statues of this nature represent celebrations of atrocities committed during colonial times and the upholding of white supremacy, even after independence?
4. Could the Minister inform this House as to what programmes are in place to remove all colonial statues from open public places?
5. Is the government not aware that Von Francois being one of the Governors of German South West Africa was responsible for, what I regard as the phase 1 of genocide in Namibia, which is:
 - He ordered an attack on 13 April 1893 on the Nama under the leadership of Hendrik Witbooi at Hoornkranz, with the following words “.. *The object of this mission is to destroy the tribe of the, Witboois ..*”
 - The order was to exterminate the people (±1000 people that included women and children).

- The attack was an ambush in the early hours of the morning.
 - Von Francois's men also seized eighty women. They were brought to the new German fortress in Windhoek and distributed among the troops as house slaves. Though it is reported that there is no record of their ultimate fate or how they suffered, von Francois is said to have argued that their capture and abuse was 'an appropriate form of punishment.
6. Would the Minister therefore agree that the statue of Curt von Francois is an abomination?
7. Is it not time that this statue and others, representing colonial personalities of brutal and inhumane characters be removed before the end of this year?

Question 7: (2015-04-08)

Mr. Maamberua (SWANU) asked the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation:

The congratulatory advert by UNAM in the local newspapers of Thursday, 02 April 2015 caught my attention because this publicly funded institution has used these funds to place adverts to congratulate members of the ruling party who have made it to the Legislature and to Cabinet. My questions to the Minister need to be contextualised in my relationship with UNAM, because I am not an obscure, non-entity insignificant persona who could easily have been forgotten.

Despite the facts that an UNAM official came to interview Parliamentarians, including me at Parliament to confirm who had worked or studied at UNAM. I, a SWANU member was nevertheless excluded from the advert.

1. I was a staff member of UNAM at NISER from 1992 - 1993 March
 - Recruited from there to join African Development Bank (ADB), as an Advisor to the Executive Director of Southern Africa
 - I published a book together with Yaron, Gil and Gertie Jansen - *Rural Development in the Okavango Region of Namibia: An Assessment of Needs, Opportunities and Constraints* in 1992 under the auspices of UNAM
 - Helped to secure funding for the Information Resource Centre at UNAM from African Development Bank
2. Rejoined UNAM from 2003 - 2010
 - Was the Head of Department (HOD) of Accounting, Auditing and Taxation for 3 years
 - Was member of the Senate and Council
 - Completed a Master of Law degree (LLM) - Economic Law with UNAM
 - Introduced the Post Graduate Diploma Internal Auditing at UNAM
 - Introduced the Certificate / Diploma in Accounting at UNAM
3. Still part of UNAM in 2008
 - Charged with violating UNAM Council's Resolution C/07/387/27 of 27 November 2007. Which says that UNAM staff members shall not hold office in political parties

- Was never dismissed
- Was elected to Parliament whilst still a staff member of UNAM in 2009.

Questions -

1. Is the Ministry in a position to explain why UNAM is pursuing me through exclusion?
2. What is the Ministry's policy regarding this UNAM policy of barring staff members from holding positions in political parties?
3. Is there such a policy in the education sector? Are teachers/lecturers in other institutions (eg. Polytechnic, Colleges, etc) prohibited from holding positions in political parties?
4. Why did UNAM choose to congratulate only SWAPO MPs, yet in their advert they have the following caption:
*"Congratulations UNAM Ambassadors
The University of Namibia heartily congratulates members of the Executive and the Legislative Branches of the Republic of Namibia, with special recognition to our Alumni and former staff members."*
5. It is public knowledge that there are staff members of UNAM holding political positions in several other political parties, in my view why has UNAM not charged them with their regulations? - Would you agree with me that this is selective morality?
6. Does the Ministry condone this UNAM policy?
7. Would the Minister tolerate that a publicly funded institutions promote one political party at the expense of others.
8. Don't you think that this act of UNAM gives a perception that it is being used by members of a certain political as a spring board for the advancement of their political careers?
9. In your view does a public institution that behaves in this manner deserve public funding?

Question 8: (2015-04-08)

Ms. Dienda (DTA) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

1. How many tenders have been awarded so far in all 14 Regions, to whom were they awarded and what is the monetary value of each?
2. What is the amount of houses that have been awarded per tender?
3. How many houses have already been completed and already been handed over to the owners?

4. How many houses remain outstanding and by when will these houses be completed?
 5. What criteria is used to determine and choose the potential owners from this scheme?
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Question 9: (2015-04-08)

Mr. Jahanika (NUDO) asked the Minister of Urban and Rural Development:

1. What is the timeframe Minister is authorised in accordance with Local Authority Act of 1992 as amended to suspend councillors?
 2. Why did the Minister failed to implement the former President instruction in June 2014 at the State House that the Minister should finalised his investigation within 30 days which will enable him to take appropriate actions against the Councillors, whether to dismiss them if found guilty or re-instate them if they're not guilty and pay them backdated December 2013?
 3. Why was the Minister not happy with forensic audited report which was contacted by a professional audit firm PriceWater Cooper?
 4. What was it which the Minister wanted to see in the report which was not there when he sends back the report?
 5. Minister, don't you think delaying the finalisation of the case is denying the Omaruru residents their democratic rights to be governed by the councillors of their choice as it is happening elsewhere in all towns?
 6. Minister, don't you think the suspension of Omaruru Councillors was politically motivated in order to prevent the opposition coalition not to continue running the Town Council as they performed better than those who were running the Council before them?
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Question 10: (2015-04-09)

Mr. Venaani (DTA) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

Since the passing of the former Libyan President, Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, the country has been in political turmoil and various factions or groups fighting for control of Libya. Most political commentators refer to this as the "Second Libyan Civil War."

During 2014 two groups who enjoy support from the majority of the populace began to come to the fore and it can now generally be said that the country is led by these two groups, each being in control of specific areas and parts of the country.

In the past, Namibia has expressed support for the erstwhile Gaddafi-led Libyan Government, and the time has now once again come for us to clearly state our position and indicate which of the two factions or groups we officially recognise as the legitimate and sovereign government of the State of Libya.

Having noted with concern that former President of Namibia, H.E Hifikepunye Pohamba publicly refused to recognise the Transitional National Council and only recognised the Gadaffi regime, it is imperative that we now publicly state our stance and have an unambiguous and concise foreign policy. Thus I ask-

1. Do we recognise the Council of Deputies (also sometimes referred to as the “House of Representatives”) based in Tobruk and led by Abdullah al-Thani, and which seems to enjoy the most international support and recognition?
2. Or do we instead recognise the New General National Congress (NGNC) based in Tripoli and led by Nouri Abusahmain?
3. Who occupies the Libyan Embassy in Namibia and does that occupant have legitimacy? Which group does that occupant represent?

Question 11: (2015-04-09)

Ms. Gowases (RP) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation:

The plight of our women who walk on foot for kilometers in the rain and sun from different constituencies of Windhoek, particularly informal settlement and townships to receive services at Khomasdal main offices of Social Security Commission irks me. Women are the ones who fall pregnant and give birth and experience 90% of problems relating to sustaining their newborns and families in this regard as well as domestic workers related scenarios.

Can the Minister look into the possibility of establishing sub-offices in the highly densely populated areas of Tobias Hainyeko Consituency, Moses Garoeb Consituency and Samora Machel Consituency in order to make lives easier for our people and women folk, especially in accessing these services. I sincerely believe that in modern technology and cyber age, offices are linked to computerised databases and the decentralisation of services to sub-offices will be an added value to current service delivery.
