

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES
AMENDMENT BILL**

(As read a First Time)

*(Introduced by the Minister of Regional and Local Government,
Housing and Rural Development)*

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

_____ Words underlined with a solid line indicate insertions in existing provisions.

[] Words in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing provisions.

BILL

To **amend the Local Authorities Act, 1992 so as to make further provision for the period within which the next general election and subsequent general elections for members of local authority councils must be held.**

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia, as follows:

Substitution of section 8 of Act No. 23 of 1992 as substituted by section 1 of Act No. 17 of 2003

1. The following section is substituted for section 8 of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992):

“Dates for elections for members of the local authority councils

8. A general election for members of local authority councils shall be held not later than 30 November 2010, on a date determined by the President by proclamation in the *Gazette*, and thereafter at intervals not exceeding five years on a date so determined.”

Short title

2. This Act is called the Local Authorities Amendment Act, 2009.



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**MINISTRY OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**NOTICE OF MOTION
IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

BY

**HONOURABLE JERRY EKANDJO, M.P.
MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

ON

**AMENDMENT OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ACT, 1992 (ACT
NO. 23 OF 1992)**

AS PRESENTED ON

17 MARCH 2009

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members,

The purpose of my addressing this august House is to inform the Honorable members of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development's intention to amend the Local Authority Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992) to provide for the extension of the local authority councilors elections, so as to coincide with those for regional councils. The implication of this extension is that the current local authority councilors will remain in office for another 18 months.

Regional council and local authority council elections have been taking place on different dates ever since the first elections in 1992. Their terms of office are also different being (5) five years for local authority councilors and (6) six years for regional councilors. The local authority councilors elections were last held in May 2004 and are due in May 2009 where as those for regional councilors were last held on November 2004 and are due in November 2010.

It is established that this arrangement is undesirable and not cost effective. It involves a lot of duplications in terms of logistics and resources that could be avoided if they were held at the same period. Additionally, holding of these elections at different times is also considered to be one of the root causes of voter apathy, as voters regard it to be too much to participate in elections one year after the other or, in some instances, twice in the same year.

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development has, therefore, considered it to be prudent to hold both elections for regional and local authority councils over the same period. The next planned dual elections is November 2010. It is expected that this arrangement will be cost-effective on the part of Government. This will, particularly, be so by the use of the same facilities, personnel, equipments and materials for both elections at the same time.

It is also expected that the unification of these elections will make it easier for the voters to participate, especially those that have to vote for both local and regional councilors. They will now be required to vote only once for the two elections at the same time and with the same enthusiasm.

The regional and local authority councillors in Namibia are in support of this alignment.

I, therefore, request the Honourable Members to support these amendments.

I thank you.