



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

AMENDMENT BILL

The current model is characterized by a number of “owners”, as it were, in that several different role players/functionaries have been directly responsible or held accountable for looking after the affairs of state-owned enterprises through governance, supervision and oversight by way of guidelines and policy directives.

Comrade Speaker,

When speaking of a multiplicity of functionaries in the state-owned enterprise sector, I am here referring to such entities as:

- The Cabinet;
- The State-owned Enterprises Governance Council (which is in itself a Cabinet Committee);
- Various portfolio/line Ministers;
- Boards of Directors and the Management/Executives of State-owned enterprises.

This multiplicity of functionaries has not at all augured well for the effective and efficient oversight, supervision, control and governance of state-owned enterprises in Namibia primarily because it represents major challenges by way of too many layers of authority and communication clouding accountability.

Comrade Speaker,

The dual governance model consisting essentially of the State-owned Enterprises Governance Council, on the one hand, and, the various line/portfolio Ministers, on the other hand, has made it impossible to precisely allocate responsibility and accountability to the different role players.

This has led to lines of responsibility and accountability having become blurred with the result that crucial decisions needed to address pressing challenges could not timeously be taken and implemented.

The primary aim of this Bill is essentially to operationalize the new Ministry of Public Enterprises by means of creating a statutory framework within which it can legitimately operate.

Comrade Speaker,

You will recall that I explained during my budget motivation statement that the MPE has committed to a 12 month period of research and analysis to enable us to prepare comprehensive recommendations to the Cabinet. A critical part of the research will focus on the identification and conceptualisation of the most appropriate Governance and Ownership policy as well as the associated legal and supervisory framework. I mention this to share with this august house that chances are good that this particular Act will eventually be replaced by completely new legislation based on the final recommendations from the MPE. You will also notice that most of the main body of the Bill ^{principle of the} remains intact; we are simply replacing the State Owned Enterprises Governance Council with the Minister responsible for Public Enterprises and provide for incidental matters.

Comrade Speaker

I mention the above to motivate my humble but urgent request for the expedited conclusion of promulgating this amendment without undue delay. The MPE is severely compromised without this legislation and I know that all members of this house will agree that speedy implementation is absolutely imperative.

Finally, I would like to thank the Minister of Justice as well as the Attorney General and their staff members for their hard work, commitment and dedication to finalize this important Bill in record time.