



SIXTH SESSION, FIFTH NATIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 21 November 2016

(09:30 - 13:00)

No.29 - 2016

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

- 1.0 The Chairperson took the Chair.
- 2.0 The Chairperson recited the Prayer and Affirmation.
- 3.0 MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairperson announced to the National Council that the National Assembly has passed and referred the following Bills to the National Council for review in accordance with Article 75(1) of the Namibian Constitution:

- 1) *Appropriation Amendment Bill* [B.21 – 2016];
- 2) *Customs and Excise Amendment Bill* [B.17–2016];
- 3) *Namibian Special Risks Insurance Association Bill* [B. 9 – 2016]; and
- 4) *Namibia Industrial Development Agency Bill* [B. 16 – 2016].

The Chairperson then called upon the Secretary to read the Bills a First Time.

The Secretary read the Bills a First Time.

The Bills stood referred to a **Second Reading**.

4.0 OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Honourable Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council made a Statement to the House at the closing of the Sixth Session of the 5th National Council on 21 November 2016. The Statement is reproduced verbatim hereunder:

**“HONOURABLE BERNARD SIBALATANI, VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL,
HONOURABLE HILMA NICANOR, DEPUTY MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
HONOURABLE LEBBIUS TOBIAS, CHIEF WHIP OF THE RULING SWAPO PARTY IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL,
MS EMILIA MKUSA, SECRETARY TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL,
HONOURABLE MEMBERS,
MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

Welcome back to Parliament once again. I welcome you all back to the National Council from your respective constituencies and from your ministerial duties for those of you who happen to be Deputy Ministers.

Honourable Members

We are once more called upon to fulfill our constitutional duty.

As Members of Parliament and Members of our respective 14 regional councils, we have to constantly remind ourselves of the different hats we put on at the same time which demand from us to take a balanced and responsible approach in our work in order to ensure that the work we do in this House reflects the will of our constituents and the nation at large.

Honourable Members,

For this session, the National Assembly has referred bills to the National Council as follows:

- Appropriation Amendment Bill
- Customs and Excise Amendment Bill
- Namibian Special Risks Insurance Association Bill

- Namibia Industrial Development Agency Bill

The following Bills might still be referred to us before 24 November:

- Land Bill
- Public Private Partnership Bill

Honourable Members,

I would like to direct your special attention to the 2016/2017 Appropriation Amendment Bill and the Honourable Minister of Finance's Policy statement tabled in the National Assembly on 27 October 2016. From his statement, it is clear that our domestic economy is currently faced with many challenges as a result of a global and regional economic slow.

As a result, the citizenry and other stakeholders have placed high expectations on us in terms of the speed at which we should debate and then pass the above mentioned amendment bill. That being said, we must at the same time not be negligent in our legislative duty.

To conclude, I kindly request you to join me in observing a moment of silence in remembrance of the 10 victims of the gas explosion at Farm Luhl /Garib who got buried recently.

May their souls rest in eternal peace.

I THANK YOU!"

- 5.0 Hon. Tobias seconded by Hon. Nicanor adjourned the Council at 09:56 until Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 09:30.