



Media Release

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For immediate release

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE STORY 'KATJAVIVI ACQUIRES MACHINE TO 'MUTE UNRULY' MPS'

A story published on the front page of today (Monday 21 September, 2020) edition of *The Namibian* newspaper under the heading "**'KATJAVIVI ACQUIRES MACHINE TO 'MUTE UNRULY' MPS'**", has reference. The story contained misinformation intended to mislead the readers.

The facts are as follows:

1. The process of acquiring the new microphone system for MPs to use in the Chamber started with the tendering procedure around June 2019, long before the 7th National Assembly was elected. This proves that the system was NOT procured to control the new 'unruly MPs', as your story alleges.
2. The acquisition of the new system was necessitated by the fact that the old Chamber system has become obsolete. It was malfunctioning and overwhelmed by connection problems, where most of the microphones were not working and no replacement parts were available.
3. **As the National Assembly has stated on many occasions, we aspire to the vision an e-parliament, and eventually becoming a paperless House. The purpose of acquiring a new microphone system is in line with this vision. Like any other such system, it facilitates processes within the House in terms of the established Rules to uphold decorum, order and mutual respect among MPs.**
4. It is absolutely misleading and incorrect to apportion the acquisition of the new operating system for the National Assembly chamber to the Hon. Speaker, as the plan to acquire a new system has been in motion for more than seven years.

5. The National Assembly therefore categorically dismisses the accusations by *The Namibian* newspaper in its story of **'KATJAVIVI ACQUIRES MACHINE TO 'MUTE UNRULY' MPS'** , as a fabrication of lies, which should be dismissed with the contempt it deserves.
6. Professor Peter Katjavivi, as Speaker of the Legislative Arm of the State, derives his powers and authority from national statutes such as the Namibian Constitution, the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly and the Code of Conducts for Members of the National Assembly. It is his responsibility to ensure a proper working environment is maintained. Silencing MPs is not a culture of our Parliament.

ENDS

Issued by: David Nahogandja
Public Relations Officer
Cell: 081 242 3118
d.nahogandja@parliament.na