



Republic of Namibia

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Prime Minister undertook a visit to /Kharas and Hardap Regions 7th to 11th November 2022. During such visits, the Prime Minister held fruitful discussions with Government Regional Leadership and other stakeholders. The Prime Minister was, amongst others, updated on the developments and challenges in the regions.

Subsequent to the visit, assertions were made through the media concerning the said visits.

The Office of the Prime Minister wishes to respond as follows:-

1. The Prime Minister has never refused invitations for engagement to discuss the status of capital projects and the employment of Children of the Liberation struggle (CLS) as indicated. The Prime Minister has always availed herself to be engaged on matters affecting our communities.
2. The engagements that the Prime Minister recently had with stakeholders in the regions around the country, including /Kharas Region, are part of an ongoing efforts of government aimed to monitor the implementation of government programs, complimenting the efforts made to this effect through the responsible line Ministries. As is customary, the Prime Minister has noted the issues raised during the visit and would take them up with the responsible OMAs.
3. With regards to the issue of the Children of the Liberation Struggle (CLS), the Office of the Prime Minister was charged by Cabinet to coordinate the implementation of the program. The program was implemented taking note of the need to ensure the equitable distribution of employment opportunities amongst Namibians, and the vacancies that became available were allocated to both the CLS and other Namibian youths. The relevant stakeholders have always been appropriately engaged on this matter.

4. The Prime Minister raised a concern about the fact the Regional Governor was not afforded an opportunity to deliver a State of the Region Address (SoRA) at the seating of Regional Council as provided for under the Law. This concern is a genuine concern, as the said Address is a mandatory requirement of the law, and it is a form of accountability of the government to the public. It is unfortunate that the issue has been misrepresented. This detracts attention from efforts to address the problem. It is important that public officials put their political differences aside and focus on serving the public. It is pleasing that the /Kharas Regional Council has affirmed its commitment to ensure that in the future the Governor is accorded a platform to deliver the SoRA as per the law.
5. On the issue of the use of Pension, Insurance and Private Sector savings, it is important to state that there are existing laws and regulations that set minimum amounts of their income to be invested locally. The Prime Minister made reference to the importance of mobilizing the savings held by pension funds, banks and insurance companies to fund strategic national development projects, through the framework of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Act of 2017. There has been concerns expressed about lack of investment opportunities locally to enable them to comply with the minimum local investments Regulations. The Public Private Partnership Act (PPP Act) provides a framework for public and private entities to co-invest in strategic national initiatives, thereby enhancing public service delivery and accelerating development. It is, however, not a mandatory requirement for such entities to participate in PPP initiatives.
6. With regards to PSEMAS reforms, the Government aims to improve public health facilities. This would lead to increased use of these facilities by the public and the PSEMAS members. This will reduce the cost of PSEMAS towards private hospitals.
7. The allegations of poor performance record are contradicted by official data which shows a strong balance sheet at the time, with three successive surplus years, the highest growth rates, strong investments in social development, including social safety nets and an expanded network of infrastructures that provide a solid basis for future growth, amongst others. Reforms of the public expenditure has seen the growth in operational expenditure decline.
8. Allegations of unethical conduct are, as has been the case in the past, not been substantiated with evidence, and accusations of failure to support community development in certain parts of the Country is unfounded.

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