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APRIL 2026



PDM Leadership Indaba Sets Tone for Renewal and Strategic Direction





PDM Leadership Indaba Sets Tone for Renewal and Strategic Direction

Otjiwarongo –

The Popular Democratic Movement recently convened a Leadership Indaba in Otjiwarongo, bringing together the party's Top 9 leadership, Members of Parliament, Regional and Local Authority Councilors, and strategic Head Office staff to reflect, recalibrate, and set a clear path forward for the Movement.

The Indaba formed part of the PDM's broader effort to strengthen internal cohesion, sharpen its policy direction, and reposition itself as a credible and responsive alternative to the current government.

At the centre of discussions was the Movement's **Rebuild, Redirect and Ex-**

pand (RRE) Strategy, a framework designed to restore unity within party structures, strengthen grassroots presence, and expand the PDM's national footprint ahead of upcoming political milestones.

Leaders engaged in frank and necessary conversations about the state of the Movement, acknowledging both progress made and areas that require urgent attention.

Emphasis was placed on rebuilding trust with communities, improving communication structures, and ensuring that party leadership remains accessible and accountable to the people it serves.

Beyond internal matters, the Indaba also focused on pressing national issues

affecting ordinary Namibians. These included youth unemployment, service delivery failures, land and housing challenges, and the urgent need for economic opportunities, particularly in rural areas.

Participants stressed that the PDM must not only critique government shortcomings but also present clear, practical solutions that respond to the lived realities of citizens.

A key outcome of the Indaba was a renewed commitment to people-centred leadership – leadership that listens, engages, and delivers.

The Movement reaffirmed that political relevance is not built through rhetoric, but through con-

sistent presence, credible policies, and tangible impact in communities.

The Indaba further underscored the importance of unity within the party, with leaders calling for discipline, collective responsibility, and a shared vision as the PDM works to strengthen its position nationally.

As Namibia continues to face socio-economic challenges, the PDM made it clear that it is preparing itself not just as an opposition voice, but as a government-in-waiting – one ready to offer direction, accountability, and real solutions.

The Otjiwarongo Leadership Indaba marks a significant step in that journey.



Venaani Challenges Government on Foreign Policy, Youth Unemployment, Reparations and Land Reform

Windhoek – National Assembly

Popular Democratic Movement President, Hon. McHenry Venaani, used debate following President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's State of the Nation Address to raise concerns over Namibia's foreign policy posture, youth unemployment, genocide reparations, and the country's worsening housing crisis.

Addressing the President directly, Venaani acknowledged her experience as a former Foreign Affairs Minister and diplomat, but questioned what he described as Namibia's increasingly quiet approach on key regional and international matters.

Referring to growing tensions between South Africa and the United States, Venaani argued that Namibia and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) cannot remain silent when neighbouring countries face pressure from global powers.

"I do not hear the sound of SADC, the sound of our country, protecting a fellow country being bullied by a superpower," Venaani stated, calling for a more assertive and principled regional foreign policy.

Turning to the economy, Venaani warned that youth unemployment remains one of the greatest threats facing Namibia, saying unemployment levels among young people continue to give him sleepless nights.

He argued that agriculture must become the



› **Hon. McHenry Venaani**

country's primary engine for job creation and economic growth, stressing that Namibia is underutilising its perennial rivers and lacks an ambitious national irrigation strategy.

"The only industry that can salvage young people and give them access to jobs is agriculture," he said, while calling for stronger investment in irrigation, agro-processing, and international partnerships capable of modernising the sector.

Venaani also sharply criticised the proposed genocide reparations agreement between Namibia and Germany, arguing that the current framework does not reflect fairness or justice for descendants of the Herero and Nama communities.

He questioned why Germany has paid substan-

tially larger reparations over decades in relation to the Holocaust while offering Namibia a comparatively limited package for the 1904–1908 genocide.

According to Venaani, Namibia must negotiate from a position of dignity and strength to ensure a settlement that fully recognises the scale of historical suffering and long-term consequences faced by affected communities.

On the issue of housing and land, Venaani called for what he described as a "land revolution" to address Namibia's growing housing crisis.

He argued that the country's problem is not a lack of land, but rather failures in land delivery and access. Pointing to Namibia's vast size and relatively small population, Venaani questioned why millions still struggle to access affordable residential land and decent housing.

"This country is over 845,000 square kilometres with a population of only about three million people," he stated.

Venaani stressed that access to land is directly tied to dignity, economic empowerment, and long-term stability, calling for bold reforms to accelerate land servicing and affordable housing development.

His contribution to the State of the Nation debate reflected PDM's broader message that Namibia requires stronger leadership, more decisive economic reforms, and a government willing to confront national challenges with urgency and boldness.

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The only industry that can salvage young people and give them access to jobs is agriculture”

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Press Conference - PDM Leadership Indaba - 21 April 2026

At a Press Conference at the PDM Head Office in Windhoek, the Secretary General of the Movement, Mr. Manuel Ngarinjombe, outlined key outcomes from the Leadership Indaba held in Otjiwarongo from 15–17 April 2026, describing it as a moment of reflection, honesty, and strategic repositioning for the Movement.

The Indaba brought together party leadership from across the country under the Rebuild, Redirect and Expand (RRE) Strategy, which aims to strengthen internal structures, refocus policy direction, and grow the party's national presence.

On rebuilding, PDM acknowledged internal challenges, including communication gaps and structural inefficiencies, and committed to improving coordination, accountability, and unity within the party.

In redirecting its focus, the Movement reaffirmed its centre-right position, emphasizing practical, solution-driven policies. Key discussions focused on agriculture, education, and healthcare, with calls for stronger public-private partnerships, improved education outcomes, and a more effective and accessible healthcare system.

On expansion, PDM recognised the challenges faced by opposition politics, including limited resources and structural disadvantages, but committed to strengthening grassroots mobilisation, improving communication, and investing in policy-driven engagement to grow its support base.

The Secretary General placed very strong emphasis on the growing over-centralisation of power in Namibia's governance system, warning that it continues to undermine effective service delivery at regional and local levels. Mr. Ngarinjombe raised concern that decision-making and resources remain concentrated at the centre, leaving regional and local authorities constrained, under-resourced, and unable to respond adequately



**PDM Secretary General
Mr. Manuel Ngarinjombe**

to the needs of their communities. He stressed that this imbalance weakens accountability and delays development where it is needed most. As such, PDM is calling for genuine decentralisation, including the transfer of authority, resources, and decision-making power to local structures, so that development is driven closer to the people and reflects the realities on the ground.

He also emphasized strengthening local leadership through capacity-building, accountability, and closer community engagement.

Overall, he concluded that the Indaba marks a decisive step in reorganising and repositioning the Movement as a credible alternative, with a renewed focus on unity, policy clarity, and delivering solutions for Namibians.

The Secretary General stressed that the resolutions taken are not symbolic, but must be implemented with urgency, discipline, and commitment as it works toward offering leadership and restoring hope for the country.



Rebuild. Redirect. Expand.

- What the RRE Strategy Means -

The Rebuild, Redirect and Expand (RRE) Strategy is our commitment as the Popular Democratic Movement to strengthen our movement, refocus our purpose, and grow into a credible alternative ready to lead Namibia.

Rebuilding Our Foundation

We recognise that before we can lead the country, we must first strengthen ourselves. Rebuilding means restoring unity, improving communication across all structures, and ensuring discipline and accountability within the movement.

We are putting in place clearer organisational systems, investing in leadership development, and strengthening our grassroots structures.

A strong, united, and organised movement is the foundation of effective leadership.

Redirecting Our Focus

We are shifting from simply pointing out problems to offering real solutions.

Redirecting means grounding our politics in practical, policy-driven alternatives that respond to the everyday challenges facing Namibians- from unemployment and economic stagnation to service delivery and inequality.

It also means improving how we communicate, engaging communities directly, and ensuring that our message is clear, consistent, and rooted in the realities of the people.

Expanding Our Reach

Growth will not happen by chance - it must be intentional.

We are expanding by strengthening our presence at grassroots level, increasing membership, and building a visible and active political footprint across the country.

This includes continuous community engagement and ensuring that PDM is present where the people are.

We are also investing in research, communication, and partnerships to ensure that our growth is strategic and sustainable.

A Movement Preparing to Lead

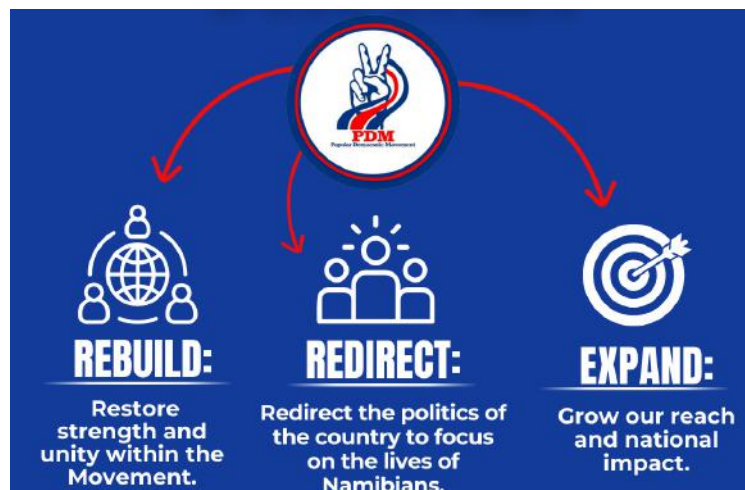
The RRE Strategy is about repositioning PDM for the future.

It is about unity within our ranks, clarity in our policies, and connection with the people of Namibia.

It is about building a disciplined, organised, and solutions-driven movement that is ready not just to oppose, but to govern.

Every member, every leader, and every structure of the PDM has a role to play in ensuring that this strategy translates into real impact, for the movement and for the country.

Because ultimately, the RRE Strategy is about one thing: building a stronger PDM to deliver a better Namibia.





Moongo Raises Alarm Over Underfunded Maintenance of Government Properties

Windhoek – National Assembly

Popular Democratic Movement Member of Parliament, Hon. Winnie

Moongo, has raised serious concerns over the state of government infrastructure, warning that underfunding is leading to the gradual deterioration of public assets.

Contributing during the committee stage on Vote 23, Moongo focused on Programme 03: Maintenance of Government Properties, which has been allocated N\$288.1 million for the 2026/2027 financial



Government Properties, which has been allocated N\$288.1 million for the 2026/2027 financial year"

year.

She pointed out that the allocation has already been acknowledged by the Ministry itself as "below the required level," raising red flags about the government's ability to maintain its growing portfolio of buildings and facilities.

Moongo cautioned that continued underfunding of maintenance does not only lead to the physical

deterioration of infrastructure, but also undermines the value of government assets recorded in the national asset register. She further warned that this creates risks related to poor accountability and potential asset mismanagement.

In her intervention, she questioned the Minister on the total maintenance backlog facing

government properties and sought clarity on how many facilities are likely to continue deteriorating under the current funding constraints.

Her remarks highlight growing concern from the opposition that insufficient investment in maintenance could lead to higher long-term costs and reduced service delivery, as public facilities become increasingly unfit for use.

Moongo's intervention reinforces PDM's call for better planning, adequate resourcing, and responsible management of national infrastructure assets.



Vries Raises Concern Over Legal Capacity Crisis in Government

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM MP, Hon. Dierik Vries, has raised alarm over the shortage of legal professionals within government, warning that it poses serious risks to effective governance and public accountability.

During the committee stage on Vote 35, Vries

highlighted that the government currently operates with only 28 legal advisors and 32 civil litigators, a situation he described as unsustainable for a system that relies heavily on timely legal guidance and representation.

He cautioned that the shortage is likely to result in delayed legal advice, weak court representation,

and an increased dependence on expensive external counsel – ultimately placing further strain on public finances and service delivery.

Vries questioned what concrete measures are being put in place to address the structural gap and prevent the continued loss of skilled legal professionals to the private sec-

tor. He further raised concerns over the efficiency of government litigation, noting that the Directorate of Civil Litigation reportedly spent over N\$57 million, while recovering only N\$81,000.

Describing the imbalance as deeply concerning, Vries called for urgent reforms to improve cost recovery mechanisms and reduce reliance on out-sourced legal services.

His intervention underscores broader concerns around capacity, efficiency, and financial accountability within government legal institutions, reinforcing PDM's call for structural reforms to strengthen the public sector.



“Civil Litigation reportedly spent over N\$57 million, while recovering only N\$81,000”





Tjeundo Calls for Inclusive Recognition in Veteran Affairs Budget



“... a budget that speaks to veterans cannot ignore those still seeking dignity and support”

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM Member of Parliament, Hon. Rosa Tjeundo, has called for a more inclusive approach to veteran recognition, warning that the current budget risks leaving many Namibians behind.

Speaking during the committee stage on Vote 31, Tjeundo welcomed the government's continued support for liberation struggle veterans, particularly those who served under SWAPO and PLAN. However, she stressed that the budget must go further to reflect the full and complex history of Namibia.

She raised concern over the continued exclusion of certain veterans, pointing

to ongoing protests by former comrades who have yet to receive recognition or benefits.

According to Tjeundo, a budget that speaks to veterans cannot ignore those still seeking dignity and support.

The PDM MP also highlighted the plight of descendants of the Herero and Nama genocide, many of whom continue to face poverty, landlessness, and marginalisation.

She argued that the absence of structured support for these communities reflects a gap that must be urgently addressed.

In addition, she called for a broader approach to national reconciliation, urging consideration for former members of the South West African Territo-

rial Force, noting that they too are part of Namibia's history and should not be excluded from processes of recognition and reintegration.

She cautioned that the current budget risks prioritising one group over others, instead of promoting fairness and unity.

Tjeundo therefore called for a review of the Vote to include all affected groups, the allocation of resources to address outstanding grievances, and the introduction of support programmes that advance justice and inclusion.

Her intervention reinforces PDM's position that national unity must be built on recognition, fairness, and the inclusion of all those shaped by Namibia's historical struggles.



Tjeundo Questions Billions to SOEs and Raises Alarm on “Ghost Beneficiaries”



Windhoek – National Assembly

Hon. Rosa Tjeundo has raised serious concerns over government spending priorities, questioning both the continued funding of underperforming State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and weaknesses in the administration of social grants.

During the committee stage on Vote 09, Tjeun-

do drew attention to the N\$2.26 billion allocated to SOEs, describing it as a significant use of public funds that must be justified through clear and measurable outcomes.

She argued that year after year, government continues to allocate large sums to entities that fail to perform, deliver, or account effectively, raising both financial and moral

concerns. She questioned how such spending can be justified in a context where many Namibians, particularly young people, remain unemployed and struggling.

Tjeundo called on the Minister to provide concrete evidence of the impact of these allocations, and to explain why continued funding is maintained in the absence of visible

results.

She also raised alarm over the issue of “ghost beneficiaries” within the social grants system, describing it as a serious injustice that undermines support intended for the most vulnerable.

According to Tjeundo, fraudulent claims within the system not only result in financial losses, but also deprive deserving citizens – including the elderly and low-income households – of much-needed assistance.

She questioned how many ghost beneficiaries have been identified and what urgent measures are being implemented to eliminate the problem and safeguard public resources.

In her conclusion, Tjeundo stressed that the national budget must reflect responsibility and integrity, urging government to prioritise accountability and ensure that public funds are used to improve the lives of ordinary Namibians.

Her intervention reinforces PDM’s broader call for transparency, efficiency, and people-centred governance in the management of public finances.





Vries Presses Government on Protecting Namibia's Interests in Global Diplomacy

Windhoek – National Assembly

Hon. Diederik Vries has called for greater clarity on how Namibia is safeguarding its national interests in an increasingly complex global environment.

During the committee stage on Vote 07, Vries referenced the Ministry's commitment to prioritising national interests in both bilateral and multi-lateral engagements, and challenged the Minister to provide concrete examples where Namibia has successfully defended its position – particularly in negotiations involving stronger economies.

He stressed that such examples are critical in demonstrating whether

Namibia is effectively asserting itself on the global stage or merely participating without tangible outcomes.

Vries further raised concerns about the country's diplomatic positioning amid rising geopolitical tensions, noting the growing influence of global powers such as the United States, China, and the European Union on trade, investment, and technology.

He questioned what clear strategy Namibia has in place to maintain diplomatic neutrality while still securing beneficial trade relationships with these competing powers.

His intervention highlights the need for a more strategic and deliberate foreign policy approach, ensuring that Namibia

avoids dependency while maximising economic opportunities.

Vries' questions reinforce PDM's position that international relations must be firmly grounded in protecting Namibia's interests and delivering measurable benefits for the country.



...critical in demonstrating whether Namibia is effectively asserting itself on the global stage or merely participating without tangible outcomes"



"She urged the Ministry to prioritise the construction of housing for teachers"

Tjeundo Calls for Urgent Investment in Rural Education

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM MP Hon. Rosa Tjeundo, has called for urgent and targeted investment in rural education, warning that current budget allocations fail to address deep structural inequalities between urban and rural schools.

Contributing to the debate on Vote 10, Tjeundo highlighted that while education receives a significant portion of the national budget, rural schools continue to face poor infrastructure, limited access to qualified teachers, and inadequate digital connectivity.

She argued that it is misleading to compare academic performance between urban and rural

schools, as learners in rural areas operate under vastly unequal conditions, often without access to basic learning resources.

Tjeundo further raised concern over the lack of teacher accommodation in rural and remote areas, describing it as a major barrier to attracting and retaining qualified educators.

She urged the Ministry to prioritise the construction of housing for teachers, noting that the current development budget does not adequately address this need.

Turning to the Kunene Region, she highlighted the continued reliance on approximately 37 to 38 mobile schools, particularly in Epupa and Opuwo

Rural constituencies. She described this as a reflection of ongoing inequality, where learners are still forced to study without stable infrastructure.

She called for the urgent construction of permanent schools in the region and questioned the Ministry on the budget allocated to replace mobile schools, the timeline for phasing them out, and whether new schools will include hostel facilities to support learners from remote communities.

Tjeundo's intervention underscores PDM's position that education reform must prioritise equity, ensuring that all Namibian learners, regardless of location, have access to quality education.

Moongo Calls for Skills Training Reform and Fair Sports Funding

Windhoek – National Assembly

Popular Democratic Movement Member of Parliament, Hon. Winnie Moongo, has called for urgent reforms in youth skills development programmes, warning that current approaches are failing to translate into real employment opportunities.

Contributing during the committee stage on Vote 27, Moongo noted that while the Ministry has implemented several training programmes, it has also acknowledged a key weakness – the lack of alignment between skills development and labour market demands. She cautioned that this mismatch results in young people completing training programmes but remaining unemployed, creating a cycle of "qualified but jobless" youth. Moongo questioned when the Ministry will review these programmes to better align them with actual economic needs. She further proposed the introduction of tracer studies to track the outcomes

of trainees, arguing that stronger monitoring and evaluation systems are necessary to improve programme effectiveness and ensure meaningful impact.

Turning to sports development, Moongo raised concerns over the funding of registered sports federations, noting that not all of the 61 federations receive government support. She questioned the criteria used to determine funding allocation and called for greater transparency and fairness in the process.

Moongo also asked whether there is a long-term plan to sustainably support all federations, ensuring broader development of sport across the country. In her conclusion, she emphasised that while the Vote reflects activity, the real issue is impact – warning that government risks focusing on participation rather than transformation. Her intervention reinforces PDM's position that youth development initiatives must be outcome-driven, sustainable, and directly linked to reducing unemployment and poverty.



"...young people completing training programmes but remaining unemployed"



Venaani Presses Government on Namibian Ownership in Rossing Equity Opportunity

Windhoek – National Assembly

Popular Democratic Movement President, Hon. McHenry Venaani, has called on government to ensure that Namibians benefit meaningfully from emerging ownership opportunities in the country's resource sector.

Posing a question to Prime Minister Dr. Elijah Ngurare, Venaani raised concerns around reports that a 10% equity stake linked to Rossing Mine could potentially be made available to Namibians, arguing that government must treat the matter as a national priority for economic empowerment.

Venaani, who has consistently advocated for equitable economic participation, questioned whether government is serious about ensuring that ordinary Namibians— including young professionals, entrepreneurs, and emerging businesses—are given access to ownership opportunities in strategic national resources.

He stressed that Namibia cannot continue to extract wealth from its natural re-

sources while ownership remains concentrated elsewhere.

He further argued that such opportunities should not be limited to mining alone, but must stimulate broader sectors of the economy, including housing, construction, and business development.

Venaani highlighted the potential scale of the equity opportunity, estimated at between N\$1.5 billion and N\$2 billion, and questioned what concrete framework government is putting in place to ensure broad-based Namibian participation.

He also pressed government on how it is monitoring the process and whether it is actively facilitating collaboration among Namibian businesses to secure greater local ownership and long-term economic empowerment.

His intervention reflects growing calls for stronger local participation in Namibia's resource economy and reinforces PDM's position that the country's natural wealth must translate into meaningful ownership and economic opportunities for Namibians.



"... the potential scale of the equity opportunity, estimated at between N\$1.5 billion and N\$2 billion"

Venaani Raises Alarm Over Plundering of Namibia's Marine Resources

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM President McHenry Venaani has called for stronger protection of Namibia's offshore resources, warning that the country's diamonds and marine wealth are being heavily exploited while Namibia fails to adequately defend its economic interests.

Speaking during debate on maritime and offshore defence matters in the National Assembly, Venaani

argued that Namibia's marine resources continue to be plundered under weak oversight and insufficient protection mechanisms.

He specifically raised concerns over offshore diamond mining operations in southern Namibia, claiming that vast wealth generated from Namibia's natural resources has benefited foreign interests while ordinary Namibians see little return.

"The diamonds in the

south that are being mined there have created luxurious towns in South Africa," Venaani stated, warning that Namibia cannot continue losing strategic national wealth through exploitation and weak enforcement.

He further revealed that he had raised these concerns directly with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, stating that the President acknowledged the seriousness of the issue.



"Namibia cannot continue losing strategic national wealth through exploitation and weak enforcement"

Venaani Warns Against Corruption in the Military



Windhoek – National Assembly

Hon. McHenry Venaani has raised strong concerns over alleged corruption and escalating costs within the country's defence sector, warning that the integrity of the military must never be compromised.

Speaking during debate in the National Assembly, Venaani questioned the prolonged delays and rising costs surrounding the construction of the Defence Headquarters, demanding greater transparency and accountability in

military expenditure.

He criticised what he described as a recurring pattern of projects remaining incomplete while additional funding continues to be requested year after year.

"This is where the money is being siphoned," Venaani warned, arguing that unchecked spending and procurement irregularities threaten public trust and national accountability.

He called on the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to intensify oversight within the defence sector, suggesting that the institution should closely monitor procurement pro-

cesses and expenditure linked to the military.

Venaani also raised concern over reports of inflated procurement costs, warning against greed, corruption, and maladministration taking root within one of the country's most important institutions.

While reaffirming his support for a strong and capable defence force, he stressed that public support for the military cannot come at the expense of accountability.

"We want the army to protect us, but don't play with our money," he said.

Venaani cautioned that a corrupt military poses a

danger not only to public finances, but also to national stability and institutional integrity.

At the same time, he acknowledged areas where progress has been made, stating that PDM will continue to support the defence force where support is deserved, while remaining firm in holding government accountable where shortcomings exist.

His intervention reflects growing concern around transparency, procurement oversight, and responsible use of public funds within strategic state institutions.

Venaani Calls for Modernisation of Namibia's Defence Strategy



Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM President McHenry Venaani has called for Namibia to modernise its defence strategy and invest in future-focused military technology, warning that warfare is rapidly changing and that Namibia must not be left behind.

Speaking during debate on defence-related programmes in the National Assembly, Venaani stressed that modern conflicts are no longer fought only through traditional armies, but increasingly through advanced technologies such as drones, radar

systems, and digital warfare capabilities.

He revealed that he had privately engaged President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on the matter, urging government to rethink Namibia's military strategy and prepare the country for the realities of modern warfare.

"We need to do things differently than the old ways," Venaani stated, arguing that Namibia's defence planning must evolve beyond conventional military thinking.

While acknowledging the need to equip the army with modern technology, Venaani emphasized that the country should not merely become a

consumer of foreign military products. Instead, he called for Namibia to invest in developing its own technological and manufacturing capabilities.

He advocated for the training of Namibians in advanced fields such as drone technology, engineering, radar systems, and related defence industries, arguing that universities and research institutions must become central to this effort.

"I am not only interested in buying drones. I am interested in equipping Namibians to create our own drones in this country," he said. Venaani further argued that investments in defence innovation

could simultaneously strengthen national security, industrialisation, skills development, and technological advancement. He called on the Ministry of Defence to present a clear strategic roadmap on modern military technology and future defence capabilities, particularly during the upcoming mid-term budget discussions.

The intervention reflects growing calls within PDM for Namibia to pursue long-term strategic planning, technological self-reliance, and innovation-driven development across key sectors of the economy and state institutions.

Venaani Questions Cost of Diplomatic Missions and Calls for Strategic Foreign Policy Shift



Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM President McHenry Venaani has raised serious concerns over government spending within Namibia's diplomatic missions, questioning what he described as excessive benefits, duplication of resources, and a lack of measurable returns from foreign missions.

Speaking during debate in the National Assembly, Venaani criticised what he referred to as "double dipping" among diplomats, arguing that some ambassadors and officials continue receiving benefits in Namibia while already fully supported abroad.

He questioned the sustainability of diplomats receiving vehicle allowances

and other local benefits while also having access to government-funded vehicles and accommodation in foreign countries.

"If you already have a government vehicle and residence abroad, why should taxpayers continue funding duplicate benefits back home?" Venaani asked.

The PDM leader also raised concerns over the cost of Namibia's missions in New York, questioning why government maintains multiple high-cost residences and diplomatic properties while the country faces economic pressure and competing national priorities.

He further called for stronger accountability and performance measurement within the diplomatic service, arguing that

Parliament and the public deserve to know what tangible economic and strategic outcomes are being achieved by Namibia's foreign missions.

"When ambassadors are sent abroad, we must know what they are bringing back to the country," he stated.

Venaani proposed that future budget presentations should clearly outline the achievements, trade gains, investment opportunities, and diplomatic outcomes secured by each mission.

In addition, he criticised what he described as an outdated foreign policy posture, arguing that Namibia remains overly concentrated on historical ideological relationships while failing to establish a stronger presence in

emerging strategic regions of the world.

He questioned why Namibia has not yet opened missions in countries and regions such as Australia, the Gulf States, and the broader Maghreb region, particularly as global economic influence continues shifting toward new markets and investment hubs.

According to Venaani, Namibia's diplomacy must increasingly focus on trade, investment, and economic opportunities rather than relying solely on historical political alliances.

His intervention reflects PDM's broader call for a more strategic, cost-effective, and economically driven foreign policy approach aligned with Namibia's long-term development interests.

Venaani Calls for Greater Judicial Accountability and Faster Justice System



Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM President McHenry Venaani has called for stronger transparency and accountability within Namibia's judiciary, arguing that public confidence in the justice system depends on openness, efficiency, and equal treatment before the law.

Venaani proposed that judges should publicly declare their assets in the same way politicians are required to do.

He argued that while public officials are expected to openly disclose their financial interests, judicial officers currently declare assets internally without public scrutiny, raising concerns about transparency and potential influence by wealthy individuals involved in court cases.

"For us to know whether powerful people are influencing judges or not, we need open declaration of assets," Venaani stated.

He further stressed that while judicial independence must be protected, the judiciary cannot operate without accountability to the public it serves.

He expressed concern over what he described as growing frustrations with delays and inefficiencies within the High Court system, arguing that ordinary Namibians – particularly those without financial resources – are struggling to access timely justice.

According to Venaani, lengthy postponements, delayed judgments, and expensive legal processes have created a justice system that increasingly disadvantages weaker and less wealthy cit-

izens.

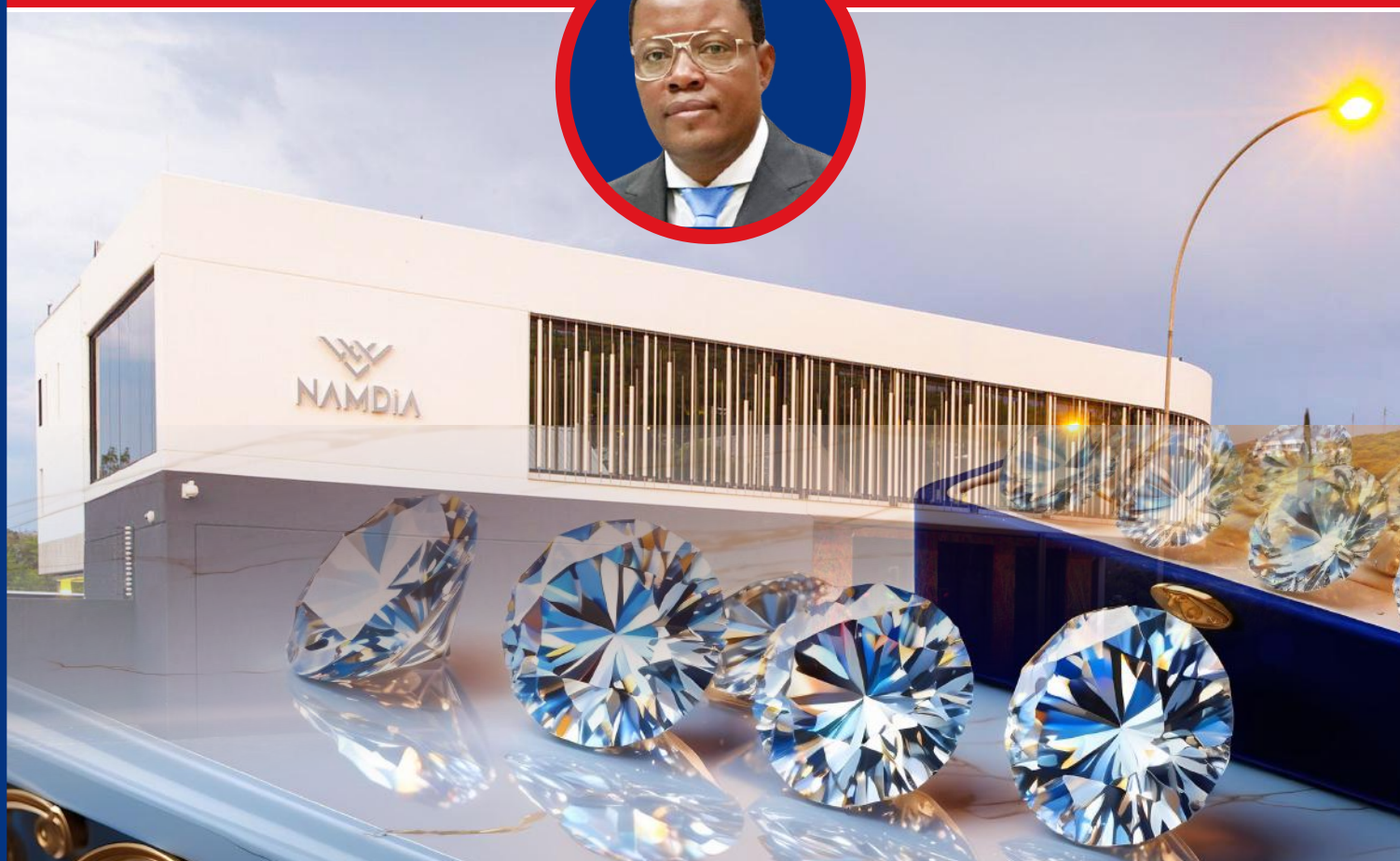
He noted that some High Court cases take years to conclude, with repeated postponements significantly increasing legal costs for litigants.

Venaani cited instances where judgments were delayed multiple times because judges had not completed their rulings, arguing that such practices undermine public trust and place unfair burdens on citizens seeking justice.

"The biggest problem we have is that we do not have a justice system that functions for the weak," he warned.

His remarks reflect broader concerns around judicial efficiency, access to justice, and institutional accountability, while reinforcing PDM's call for reforms aimed at strengthening public confidence in Namibia's legal system.

Venaani Demands Answers on NAMDIA Diamond Heist



Windhoek – National Assembly

Popular Democratic Movement President, Hon. McHenry Venaani, has questioned government silence surrounding the multi-million-dollar NAMDIA diamond heist, describing the matter as one of the biggest scandals in Namibia's history.

During proceedings in the National Assembly, Venaani expressed concern that despite reports of damages estimated at over N\$300 million, government has yet to provide a comprehensive minis-

terial statement on the status of investigations and recovery efforts.

He noted that the nation was informed that approximately N\$40 million worth of diamonds had been recovered, but questioned why there has been little public communication since then.

Venaani further raised concerns over allegations made by NAMDIA implicating security company G4S in the disappearance of diamonds reportedly worth around N\$250 million, allegations which G4S has publicly denied.

He warned that continued silence and lack of transpar-

ency risk deepening public suspicion around corruption and accountability in the handling of the case.

"The biggest diamond heist in the country cannot simply go quiet," Venaani stressed, calling on government to clarify the current status of the investigation, the recovery of missing diamonds, and accountability measures being pursued.

His intervention reflects PDM's growing pressure on government to provide transparency and decisive action in cases involving public resources, corruption, and national economic interests.



Venaani Intensifies Pressure Over August 26 Financial Reports

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM President McHenry Venaani has renewed pressure on government over the continued withholding of financial reports related to August 26 Holdings, warning that he is prepared to escalate the matter through legal and constitutional channels.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Venaani stated that the issue “is not leaving my radar,” emphasizing that he has remained consistent in demanding transpar-

ency and accountability regarding the company’s financial affairs.

He accused government of failing to release reports that are of significant public interest, arguing that Namibians have a right to know how public resources connected to August 26 are being managed.

“You can’t hide the reports from me,” Venaani declared, warning that if government continues to withhold the information, he is prepared to approach the Ombudsman and ultimately pursue the matter through the courts.

The PDM leader has re-



peatedly called for the auditing and public release of August 26 financial statements, maintaining that transparency is essential in the fight against corruption and misuse of public resources.

His latest remarks signal a further escalation in PDM’s campaign for accountability and reinforce growing calls for greater scrutiny of State-linked entities and public finances.

Venaani Commends Professionalism of Namibia’s Defence Force

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM President McHenry Venaani has commended the Namibian Defence Force for maintaining professionalism and remaining non-partisan in the country’s democratic process.

Speaking during debate in the National Assembly, Venaani praised the military for conducting itself with discipline and restraint, particularly at a time when several countries in West Africa have experienced military coups and political instability.



“...military’s commitment to constitutional order and democratic principles is an important pillar of national stability and must be protected”

“We are seeing what is happening in West Africa. Governments are falling through military coups,” Venaani noted.

He stated that Namibia’s defence force has played its constitutional role responsibly by protecting the country while refraining from interfering in po-

litical affairs.

According to Venaani, the military’s commitment to constitutional order and democratic principles is an important pillar of national stability and must be protected.

He further emphasized that the professionalism displayed by the armed

forces deserves recognition, especially in a region where political interference by militaries has increasingly become a concern.

The remarks formed part of broader discussions on defence, accountability, and national security in the National Assembly.



Venaani Calls for Greater Inclusivity in Military Leadership

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM President McHenry Venaani has called for greater inclusivity and balance within the upper leadership structures of the Namibian Defence Force, warning that the issue of tribalism must be approached with seriousness and sensitivity.

Speaking during debate in the National Assembly, Venaani acknowledged positive progress within the military, particularly in

the promotion of a broader range of Namibians into middle and senior-ranking positions, including women rising to the rank of brigadier.

“One thing the army has done very well is broaden representation,” Venaani stated, commending the defence force for efforts toward wider inclusion.

However, he argued that more work still needs to be done at the highest levels of military leadership, where he believes representation remains uneven.

Venaani noted that since entering Parliament, he has consistently raised concerns around tribalism and national unity, adding that the composition of leadership within state institutions must reflect the diversity of Namibia.

While acknowledging that transformation cannot happen overnight, he stressed that the long-term objective should be to ensure broader ethnic representation within the top echelon of the military.

“I want to see one day,

out of ten generals, six or four generals also coming from other ethnic groups,” he said.

The PDM leader further emphasized that the military must remain conscious of national cohesion and continue building an institution that reflects all Namibians fairly and inclusively.

His remarks formed part of broader discussions around professionalism, representation, and institutional development within the defence sector.

Venaani Calls for Stronger Focus on Namibia’s Niche Export Markets

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM President McHenry Venaani has called on government to adopt a more strategic and country-specific approach to international trade, arguing that Namibia is failing to fully exploit its niche markets in the global economy.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Venaani questioned what government identifies as Namibia’s unique niche markets and how the country is positioning itself internationally to benefit from them.

He argued that Namibia should not rely solely on broader continental trade frameworks such as the African Union and SADC, but must aggres-

“We need to create trade agreements that sell what Namibia sells”

sively pursue trade agreements and partnerships that specifically advance Namibia’s own economic strengths and export potential.

“We need to create trade agreements that sell what Namibia sells – not only what Africa sells,” Venaani stressed.

He further expressed concern that Namibia is not doing enough to strengthen regional and



international trade partnerships that directly support local industries and national economic interests.

He pointed specifically to Namibia’s premium beef exports to the European market, describing it as a valuable niche market that remains underutilised. Venaani questioned why Namibia has consistently failed to fully utilise its export quotas over the past

two decades.

He asked what concrete strategies the Ministries of Trade and Agriculture are implementing to increase production volumes and ensure Namibia maximises the economic opportunities available within international markets.

Venaani also questioned how many bilateral trade agreements Namibia has independently concluded to specifically promote the country’s niche industries and competitive advantages.

His intervention reflects PDM’s growing emphasis on economic diplomacy, export-driven growth, and a more strategic foreign trade policy focused on expanding Namibia’s participation and competitiveness in global markets.



Hengari Calls for Foreign Policy That Speaks to Ordinary Namibians

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM Member of Parliament Inna Hengari has called for Namibia's foreign policy to become more accessible, relevant, and connected to the everyday realities of ordinary citizens.

Speaking during debate on international relations and trade, Hengari praised Namibia's growing role in global diplomacy, particularly the country's participation in international discussions on technology and the future, including Namibia's co-chairing role alongside Germany at a recent United Nations platform.

She described this as a significant milestone for Namibia, demonstrating that even a small country can play an influential role in shaping global conversations.

However, Hengari argued that Namibia's international achievements and foreign policy engagements remain largely disconnected from the local population.

"One of the biggest issues I have is that our foreign policy is not domesticated," she stated, explaining that many Namibians do not understand how international diplomacy directly impacts their lives and national development.

Drawing from her academic background in International Political Economy (IPE), Hengari criticised the gap between theoretical international relations discussions and the rapidly changing realities of the modern world. She questioned whether Namibia's approach to international relations education and public engagement is keeping pace with current global developments.

The PDM parliamentarian further noted that while multilateralism and international cooperation are frequently discussed in diplomatic circles and United Nations forums, these conversations are rarely brought home to ordinary Namibians in a meaningful way.

Hengari also questioned whether the current Parliament would have an opportunity to review Namibia's 2017 Policy on International Relations and Cooperation, arguing that the policy must evolve to reflect emerging global realities and new economic opportunities.

She expressed concern that Namibia continues to market itself internationally through a narrow set of products and historical narratives, while failing to strategically promote a broader range of Namibian industries, innovations, and economic opportunities.

According to Hengari, Namibia's foreign policy should increasingly focus on economic diplomacy, technological advancement, and ensuring that international engagement delivers visible benefits to citizens at home.



Vries Questions Namibia's Strategy Amid Global Power Competition



Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM Member of Parliament Hon. Diederik Vries has called on government to clarify how Namibia intends to navigate growing geopolitical tensions while protecting its national interests and economic independence.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Vries noted that major global powers such as the United States, China, and the European Union continue to exert increasing influence over international trade, investment, and technology.

He warned that in a rapidly shifting global environment, Namibia must approach its diplomatic and economic relationships carefully to avoid dependency, external pressure, or strategic conflict.

Vries questioned what concrete strategy government has in place to maintain diplomatic neutrality while still securing strong and beneficial trade partnerships with competing global powers.

According to Vries, Namibia's foreign policy must be strategic, balanced, and firmly rooted in advancing national interests rather than allowing the country to become overly reliant on any single global actor.

His intervention reflects broader concerns around economic sovereignty, global competition, and the need for Namibia to strengthen its position within an increasingly complex international landscape.



Hengari Presses Government on Delayed Ombudsman Bill



Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM Member of Parliament Inna Hengari has questioned the continued delay in introducing the long-awaited Ombudsman Bill, arguing that the Office of the Ombudsman remains limited without stronger legal powers and enforcement mechanisms.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Hengari said Parliament has repeatedly called for legislation that clearly strengthens and defines the powers, functions, and responsibilities of the Ombudsman.

She stressed that while the Ombudsman's Office has produced important reports on critical national issues, including overcrowded holding cells, detention conditions, and the treatment of underage detainees, many of these concerns continue unresolved due to weak enforcement capacity.

Hengari noted that some of these matters have even resulted in legal action against government, highlighting the seriousness of the issues repeatedly raised by the Ombudsman.

According to Hengari, the institution requires "teeth" to ensure that its findings and recommendations carry meaningful weight and lead to action.

She further expressed frustration over government's repeated assurances that the legislation is "in the pipeline," arguing that Parliament has waited too long without concrete progress.

"We want to find this pipeline ourselves and bring those things to this House," Hengari remarked.

Her intervention reflects growing calls within PDM for stronger oversight institutions, improved accountability mechanisms, and greater protection of constitutional and human rights in Namibia.



Moongo Calls for Greater Support for Neurodivergent and Special Needs Learners

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM Member of Parliament Winnie Moongo has called on government to provide deliberate and properly funded support for neurodivergent and special needs learners, warning that the education budget continues to overlook some of the country's most vulnerable children.

Speaking during debate on the Education Vote in the National Assembly, Moongo said that while government continues to focus on access, infrastructure, and teacher development, the needs of children with autism and other learning disabilities remain largely absent from national education priorities. Referencing Autism Acceptance Month, observed in April, Moongo stressed that inclusion cannot remain a principle discussed only in policy documents, but must be reflected in funding and implementation.

"These children are not just statistics," she stated. "They are our sons, daughters, neighbours, and future leaders. They deserve more than good intentions. They deserve deliberate and tangible support."

Moongo argued that neurodivergent learners are too often treated as an afterthought within the education system, despite requiring specialised support structures to succeed academically and socially.

She highlighted the need for proper diagnostic services, trained teachers, assistive technologies, and smaller, well-resourced learning environments tailored to special needs learners.

According to Moongo, failing to invest in these learners is not a cost-saving measure, but a sacrifice of human potential that Namibia cannot afford. She further pointed to international research showing that strong instructional leadership and adequately supported special needs education significantly improve outcomes for children with disabilities.

The PDM parliamentarian urged government to move beyond symbolic commitments toward practical investment in inclusive education, arguing that true educational equality cannot exist while neurodivergent children remain underserved and underfunded.



Hengari Raises Concerns Over Government Housing Alienation Process



Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM Member of Parliament Inna Hengari has raised concerns regarding the ongoing alienation process involving government-assigned houses, particularly around the management and utilisation of state housing stock.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Hengari referred to the process through which government properties were evaluated following property valuations conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to Hengari, directives were subsequently issued requiring occupants who were unable to utilise assigned government houses effectively to release them so they could be reallocated to other staff members in need of accommodation.

She highlighted the importance of ensuring that government housing is managed transparently, fairly, and efficiently, especially at a time when access to housing remains a challenge for many public servants.

Her remarks reflect broader concerns around the utilisation of state assets, accountability in government property allocation, and the need to ensure that public resources benefit those actively serving within the public sector.

Hengari's intervention further underscores ongoing debates around housing management and equitable access to accommodation within government institutions.



Venaani Raises Alarm Over Poor Road Conditions in Northern Rural Areas

Windhoek – National Assembly

PDM President McHenry Venaani has called on government to urgently address the deteriorating condition of rural roads in northern Namibia, warning that many communities remain effectively isolated due to severely damaged feeder roads.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Venaani highlighted the poor state of roads in areas such as Okongo, Eenhana, and surrounding rural settlements, describing them as “nightmarish” for residents and motorists.

According to Venaani, some roads have become nearly impassable due to deep sand, poor maintenance, and the absence of regular grading. He stressed that even where government lacks resources for full gravel upgrades, authorities should at minimum deploy graders to clear sand and improve accessibility for communities.

“We understand government may not always have money for full gravel roads,” Venaani said. “But at least grade the roads and remove the sand so people can travel safely and reasonably.”

The PDM leader noted that residents are forced to spend hours travelling relatively short distances because of poor road conditions, while vehicles deteriorate rapidly from constant use on damaged rural roads.

He further argued that poor infrastructure continues to undermine economic activity, farming operations, access to services, and mobility in rural communities.

Venaani's remarks form part of growing calls for increased investment in rural infrastructure and maintenance programmes aimed at improving connectivity and living conditions outside major urban centres.





Moongo Questions Lack of Recognition for Specialised Nurses

Windhoek – National Assembly

Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) Member of Parliament, Hon. Winnie Moongo, has raised concern over what she describes as a major policy gap affecting specialised nurses in Namibia's public healthcare system.

In questions directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Moongo acknowledged government investment in advanced nursing training programmes, including critical care, emergency care, mental health, theatre nursing, advanced midwifery, and neonatal care.

However, she argued that despite these specialised qualifications, many nurses continue to be treated and compensated as general practitioners, with their advanced skills remaining formally unrecognised within the public service framework.

According to Moongo, the Health Professions Council currently classifies these qualifications merely as "additional qualifications," without linking them to defined scopes of practice, professional designations, or improved remuneration structures.

She warned that this situation undermines fairness, accountability, and staff retention, particularly as specialised practitioners continue managing high-risk patients without corresponding recognition or compensation.

Moongo further highlighted the growing gap between the public and private healthcare sectors, noting that specialised skills are increasingly recognised and rewarded in private institutions while remaining largely unregulated in the public sector.

In her questions, she pressed the Ministry on when postgraduate nursing qualifications will be formally linked to professional scopes of practice, what steps are being taken to review grading and remuneration systems, and why specialised training continues without a proper framework for integration into public service structures.

She also requested clarity on government's long-term strategy to align training programmes, professional recognition, and workforce planning within the healthcare sector.

Her intervention reflects broader concerns around healthcare workforce management and the need to strengthen conditions for specialised professionals within Namibia's public health system.



Vries Questions Delayed Salaries for Newly Appointed Teachers

Windhoek – National Assembly

Member of Parliament, Hon. Diederik Vries, has raised concern over the growing delays in salary payments affecting newly appointed teachers across Namibia, particularly in the Hardap Region.

In questions directed to the Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture, Vries described the situation as a serious administrative failure within the education sector.

According to Vries, many newly recruited teachers report for duty, enter classrooms, and begin teaching, yet wait between two and four months before receiving their first salaries.

He argued that at a time when government continues to speak about improving education outcomes, addressing teacher shortages, and creating youth employment opportunities, it is unacceptable for qualified young professionals to work for months without pay.

Vries warned that these delays place teachers under severe financial pressure, forcing many to struggle with rent, transport, and daily living expenses while carrying out their duties without income.

He further noted that delayed salary payments negatively affect morale and could ultimately impact the quality of education delivered to learners.

Among the questions posed to the Minister, Vries requested clarity on the average waiting period before teachers receive their first salaries, the principal causes of the delays, and the total amount currently owed in salary arrears nationwide.

He also questioned what support systems exist for affected teachers and what accountability measures are in place for officials whose negligence contributes to avoidable payment delays.

Vries further called on the Ministry to commit to ensuring that no newly appointed teacher waits longer than 30 days after assumption of duty to receive their first salary.



Moongo Presses Government on Exploitation of Low-Income Workers

Windhoek – National Assembly

Hon. Winnie Moongo has raised concern over the continued exploitation and underpayment of domestic workers, farm workers, and security guards despite the existence of minimum wage protections under Namibian law.

In questions directed to the Minister of Justice and Labour Relations, Moongo noted that although the Labour Act and the National Minimum Wage Order of 2024 guarantee minimum hourly wages for vulnerable workers, reports of abuse, unlawful deductions, unpaid overtime, and lack of employment contracts continue across the country.

She questioned how effectively government is enforcing the law, particularly in sectors where workers are often isolated and vulnerable to exploitation.

Moongo requested information on how many inspections have been conducted since the implementation of Government Notice 218 of 2024 to verify compliance with minimum wage regulations for domestic workers, farm workers, and security guards.

She further highlighted the unique vulnerability of domestic and farm workers, many of whom work in private homes and farms where labour violations often remain hidden from public scrutiny.

Moongo also questioned whether Namibia currently has enough labour inspectors to effectively enforce labour laws nationwide and protect workers from abuse.

In a pointed question to the Minister, Moongo asked whether government genuinely believes workers earning the current minimum wage can realistically afford basic necessities such as rent, food, transport, and school expenses under Namibia's current economic conditions.

She further called on government to clarify when Namibia will move beyond a basic minimum wage framework toward the constitutional goal of a "living wage" as outlined under Article 95(i) of the Constitution. Moongo's intervention reflects PDM's broader position that economic dignity, fair wages, and stronger labour protections are essential to reducing poverty and inequality in Namibia.



Hengari Questions Delays and Evictions in Sale of Government Houses

Windhoek – National Assembly

Hon. Inna Hengari has raised serious concerns over the handling of government-owned residential properties, particularly the prolonged delays in offering houses for purchase to long-term occupants.

In questions directed to the Minister of Works and Transport, Hengari noted that valuations on many government houses were conducted as far back as 2017, yet numerous tenants have still not received formal purchase offers.

She warned that the delays have created uncertainty for occupants, with some reportedly receiving eviction notices without first being given the opportunity to buy the homes they have lived in for years.

Hengari further questioned the lack of transparency surrounding the valuation process, arguing that affected residents are often denied access to information relating to property valuations and disposal procedures.

She also raised concerns about what appears to be inconsistent application of government disposal policies, noting that some areas and villages, including Gibeon, seem to be treated differently from larger towns when it comes to allowing occupants to purchase properties.

Hengari called on the Ministry to explain the reasons behind the delays and outline what measures will be implemented to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability in the disposal of government-owned houses.

She further pressed the Minister on what urgent interventions will be taken to review eviction processes and ensure that long-term occupants are granted a right of first refusal before eviction measures are considered.

In conclusion, Hengari requested clarity on government's broader strategy and timeline for the equitable disposal of residential properties, including how outstanding valuation issues, delayed purchase offers, and concerns around arbitrary evictions will be resolved.

Her intervention reflects growing public concern over housing security, property rights, and fairness in the management of state-owned residential assets.

Venaani's Advocacy Yields Results as Baster Authority Finally Recognised

Rehoboth – April 2026

The formal recognition of the Rehoboth Baster Traditional Authority marks a significant political and cultural milestone – and one that follows consistent advocacy by PDM President, Hon. McHenry Venaani.

For a prolonged period, the issue of the Baster community's recognition remained unresolved, despite its importance to questions of identity, dignity, and equal treatment under the law. During this time, Venaani repeatedly raised the matter in Parliament, pressing government to formally recognise the authority and address what he described as an injustice.

His position was clear: no community in Namibia should be excluded from recognition, and traditional authorities must be

treated fairly and consistently.

Following the eventual legal clarity and subsequent formal recognition, Venaani was present at the inauguration of Kaptein Jacky Britz in April 2026 – a moment that symbolised not only leadership affirmation, but the outcome of sustained political pressure and principled engagement.

For PDM, this development is more than a ceremonial milestone. It reflects the impact of persistent advocacy and the role of opposition leadership in ensuring that overlooked issues are brought to the forefront of national attention.

Venaani's long-standing position on the matter has been rooted in the belief that recognition is not a privilege, but a right tied to dignity, inclusion, and nation-building.



The recognition of the Baster Traditional Authority therefore stands as a clear example of how consistent pressure in Parliament can translate into

real outcomes for communities, reinforcing PDM's commitment to standing up for fairness and equal recognition across Namibia.



“His position was clear: no community in Namibia should be excluded from recognition, and traditional authorities must be treated fairly and consistently”





► Inajovandu Katjepunda

STRENGTHENING THE BACKBONE: WHY THE MOTHER BODY MUST INVEST IN THE YOUTH LEAGUE



Namibia is a youthful nation. With approximately 71% of the population under the age of 35, young people are not just a segment of society they are the majority, the present, and the future. Any political movement that seeks relevance, growth, and electoral success must therefore take youth development, mobilization, and empowerment seriously.

Within the Popular Democratic Movement (PDM), the Youth League exists not as a ceremonial structure, but as a strategic engine for political growth. Across constituencies, campuses, and communities, it is young people who carry the message, energize campaigns, and connect the party to the realities on the ground. The Youth League is, without exaggeration, the spinal cord of the movement without it, coordination weakens and momentum slows.

However, for this engine to function effectively, it requires more than recognition in speeches. It requires consistent, visible, and practical support from the mother body. If PDM is truly committed to mobilization and recruitment, then it must actively invest in the Youth League's agenda and initiatives. This includes amplifying youth-led programs, supporting

grassroots campaigns, and ensuring that youth structures are equipped, motivated, and taken seriously within the broader party framework.

It is increasingly clear that enthusiasm alone cannot sustain political work. Young leaders can-

venient. The credibility of the party's commitment to youth is measured not in statements, but in action.

The PDM Youth League refuses to be held back by limitations that can be addressed through leadership will. Young people within the movement are

that is a cost no serious political organization can afford.

There must be a deliberate shift from passive acknowledgment to active partnership.

The party leadership must drive, guide, and stand with the Youth League in tangible ways. Motivation is not created in isolation it is built through recognition, collaboration, and shared purpose.

Without this, even the most committed young members risk becoming disillusioned.

This is not a call for special treatment; it is a call for strategic alignment. If the majority of Namibia is youth, then the strength of the party must reflect that reality. Investing in the Youth League is not optional it is essential. The time for symbolic support has passed. What is needed now is intentional action, because the future of the movement depends on the energy, commitment, and empowerment of its young people.

PDM Youth League refuses to be held back by limitations that can be addressed through leadership will"



not be expected to carry the burden of mobilization while operating without adequate backing or encouragement. Support cannot remain selective, nor can it appear only when it is politically con-

venient. The credibility of the party's commitment to youth is measured not in statements, but in action. The PDM Youth League refuses to be held back by limitations that can be addressed through leadership will. Young people within the movement are

Press Statement on Floods in the Zambezi Region – 8 April 2026



The National Spokesperson of the Popular Democratic Movement, Mr. Geoffrey Mwilima, has raised serious concern over the devastating floods affecting communities in the Zambezi Region, which have displaced families, destroyed homes, and severely disrupted livelihoods. The flooding has particularly impacted low-lying areas, with livestock losses reported as communities attempted to move animals to safety, while crop fields have been submerged, posing a significant threat to food security.

During visits to affected areas and relocation camps, PDM observed the extent of the damage, as well as the difficult conditions many families are currently facing. Access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation remains a major concern, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases.

While acknowledging government efforts to evacuate and relocate communities, PDM highlighted several urgent challenges at relocation sites. These include limited access to healthcare, education, and other essential services, ongoing food insecurity, inadequate shelter, and the growing risk of human-wildlife conflict as animals are displaced into human settlements.

The party has called on government and relevant stakeholders to intensify relief efforts, including the provision of food, clean water, shelter, and medical supplies. It also stressed the need for psychosocial support, improved sanitation facilities, mobile healthcare services, and temporary learning spaces for children.

PDM further emphasized the importance of a clear and structured post-disaster recovery plan to support affected communities in rebuilding their lives. The Movement reaffirmed its solidarity with the people of Zambezi and called for coordinated action to ensure both immediate relief and long-term recovery.

PDM Rejects Walvis Bay Relocation Plan to Farm 37– 23 April 2026



The Popular Democratic Movement (PDM), through the Secretary General, Mr. Manuel Ngaringombe, has raised serious concern over plans by the Walvis Bay Municipality to relocate residents from informal settlements to Farm 37, warning that the move risks deepening, rather than solving, the housing crisis.

According to PDM, Farm 37 was originally intended to be developed into a formal, green township aimed at decongesting the Kuisebmund area and improving living conditions – not as a relocation site for informal settlements.

The party cautioned that moving residents to the area without proper planning, infrastructure, and permanent housing solutions could result in the creation of yet another informal settlement, exposing communities to poor sanitation, lack of services, and long-term so-

cio-economic hardship.

PDM argued that the approach reflects a broader failure by local authorities to implement sustainable housing solutions, instead shifting vulnerable communities from one inadequate situation to another.

The Movement has called on the Walvis Bay municipality to reverse the decision and recommit to the original vision for Farm 37, while pursuing structured and dignified housing solutions through partnerships with institutions such as the National Housing Enterprise and other stakeholders.

PDM further stressed that relocation processes must prioritise dignity, proper infrastructure, and long-term stability for residents, rather than temporary or informal arrangements.

The party also urged the people of Walvis Bay to demand accountable leadership and quality service delivery, emphasizing that access to decent housing is a fundamental right.

Namibia cannot continue expanding informal settlements as a substitute for proper urban development.

**Cllr. Niklaas Jacobus Dawson**

Grounded in Community: Councillor Dawson's Vision for Gibeon

- Gibeon

Niklaas Jacobus Dawson is not a politician in the traditional sense - he describes himself first and foremost as a leader shaped by community.

From the age of 16, Councilor Dawson has been involved in serving others and advocating for the rights of his people. Coming from a background rooted in community activism, his journey into leadership has always been driven by a deep sense of responsibility rather than personal ambition.

"I am a people's person," he says, emphasising that his leadership is grounded in lived experience and a lifelong commitment to service.

His decision to step into local leadership was shaped by what he witnessed growing up - communities struggling with unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and crime. For the councilor, these are not abstract policy issues, but daily realities affecting the people of Gibeon.

Today, he identifies the challenges facing the village as broad and urgent.

These include unemployment, housing shortages, land ownership issues, poverty, crime, and limited access to basic services such as water, electricity, and healthcare.

He also points to a lack of investment and industrial development, which continues to limit economic opportunities in the area.

In office, Councilor Dawson's priorities are clear and focused: job creation, housing, and land ownership.

He has already begun taking steps toward this vision, initiating development-focused discussions and exploring opportunities that could stimulate local economic growth in Gibeon.

While still in the early stages, these efforts reflect his commitment to attracting investment and creating sustainable opportunities for the community.

"I will be the driver of development and investment in Gibeon," he says.

For him, success is not defined by position, but by progress. His goal is to see tangible improvements in the lives of residents. That means more opportunities, stronger infrastructure, and a community that is no longer left behind.

His message to the people of Gibeon is simple: their trust matters.

He has committed to continuing to support them, stand with them, and work to ensure that their voices are not only heard, but acted upon.



"I will be the driver of development and investment in Gibeon"



The PDM congratulates **Councilor Bessel de Klerk** on his appointment as a Board Member of Erongo Red. We expect him to serve with vigor, integrity and excellence.



The Movement congratulates **Hon. Tjimutambo Kuuoko** on being sworn in as a member of the Namibian delegation to the Pan-African Parliament. We look forward to witnessing your contributions.





› A PDM delegation delivered a wreath at Hon. James Uerikua's family home.



› Hon. Venaani made an emotional tribute at Hon. James Uerikua's memorial service in Windhoek, and at his funeral service in Gam.



› Hon. Venaani at the 20th Anniversary of the late Dr. Moses Tjitendero, former Speaker of the National Assembly.



› Democrats Agatus Antanga, Rodman Katjaimo, Charles Pieter and Gideon Kalenga enjoy the Namibian Newspaper tournament in Keetmanshoop.



› PDM Councilor in Otavi Elton Gamgaebab addressed a community in Kap en Bou Location.



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