

THE ALTERNATIVE

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The PDM made its position clear: consultation must translate into action

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah recently received a delegation of the Popular Democratic Movement (PDM), led by its President, McHenry Venaani, at State House.

The engagement comes at a critical time, as the President consults political parties ahead of her upcoming State of the Nation Address – a moment that must reflect the real concerns of Namibians, not just government priorities.

The PDM used the platform to raise urgent na-

tional issues that continue to affect citizens daily.

These included youth unemployment, agricultural development, land reform, road infrastructure, and housing – areas where progress remains slow and the need for decisive action is clear.

Hon. Venaani also acknowledged recent steps taken to recognise traditional leadership structures, while emphasising that meaningful development must reach communities on the

ground.

The PDM made its position clear: consultation must translate into action.

Namibia's challenges are known – what is required now is implementation, accountability, and results that improve people's lives.

The party reaffirmed its readiness to engage, but also to hold government accountable in ensuring that national priorities reflect the realities faced by ordinary Namibians. *





President Venaani - Open Press Conference recap on 22 January 2026

At his open press conference on 22 January 2026, Hon. M c H e n r y Venaani delivered a wide-ranging and firm position on both regional and domestic issues, calling for stronger leadership, accountability, and action.

On regional matters, Venaani criticized the African Union's stance on Uganda's elections, rejecting claims that they were free and fair.

He described Uganda as a "military democracy" where opposition leaders are targeted, warning that Namibia cannot remain silent in the face of such developments.

He stressed that democracy must be defended across the continent, and that elections must be both free and dignified, even for those who lose.

On Namibia's foreign policy, Venaani called for a more strategic and interest-driven approach to diplomacy. He argued that Namibia must position itself where economic opportunities exist, particularly in regions

such as the Maghreb, where interest in Namibia's oil sector is growing.

Domestically, accountability took center stage. Venaani once again demanded the release of the August 26 financial statements, stating that continued secrecy is unacceptable.

He challenged the President, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, to demonstrate real commitment to fighting corruption by ensuring full transparency.

He also addressed tensions involving SWAPO veterans, calling for urgent dialogue and long-term solutions. Among his proposals was the creation of a sustainable investment vehicle to support war veterans, while also acknowledging the ongoing concerns of returnees from exile.

On economic development, Venaani highlighted the untapped potential of desert farming, stressing that irrigation and innovation could transform arid land into productive agricultural zones, strengthening both food security and economic independence.

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Among his proposals was the creation of a sustainable investment vehicle to support war veterans, while also acknowledging the ongoing concerns of returnees from exile.

On economic development, Venaani highlighted the untapped potential of desert farming, stressing that irrigation and innovation could transform arid land into productive agricultural zones, strengthening both food security and economic independence.

However, his strongest message was directed at service delivery failures. He pointed to communities without running water, proper sanitation, or access to land, questioning how such conditions can persist.

For Venaani, these are not abstract issues- they reflect a failure to meet basic human needs.

Finally, he called for a shift toward data-driven governance, questioning why key institutions lack strong research capacity.

He emphasized that Namibia's future must be planned through evidence, investment in research, and clear strategic direction.

***The message was clear: Namibia knows its challenges, and what is needed now is decisive action.**

Venaani demands answers on missing millions at **GIPF** and **DBN**

Hon. McHenry Venaani has put government on the spot over hundreds of millions in public funds tied to the Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) and the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN).

Rising in Parliament, the PDM President demanded that the Minister of Finance come clean on what he described as nearly N\$800 million lost in GIPF investments, alongside reports that the DBN has written off around N\$570 million.

This is not a technical issue. This is public money.

Venaani made it clear: Parliament cannot be kept in the dark while billions belonging to pensioners and taxpayers are mismanaged or quietly written off.



Hon. McHenry Venaani

"When will the Minister appraise this House on the status of these losses and the writing off of these debts, so that we know where to take the matter going forward?"

The question cuts to the core of accountability. Institutions like GIPF and DBN are not abstract entities – they hold the financial future of workers and the economic ambitions of the country.

The PDM's position is direct: Namibians deserve full transparency. Pension funds must be protected. Development finance must deliver.

Anything less is a failure of governance.

Venaani's intervention signals that this matter will not be left to fade. The opposition is demanding answers – and the country is watching. *



Hon. Winnie Moongo

Moongo: Government must **stop** talking and start delivering

Windhoek – National Assembly

Government cannot continue spending millions on workshops while Namibians struggle with real, everyday challenges.

Hon. Winnie Moongo has put Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare on the spot over the continued cycle of conferences, workshops and training sessions that consume

public resources but fail to translate into visible change.

At a time when Namibia faces fiscal constraints and urgent development priorities, this pattern is not just inefficient – it reflects a deeper problem in how government operates.

Moongo is demanding clear answers:

How much has been spent? What measurable outcomes can be directly

linked to that spending?

And who is held accountable when there are no results?

The reality is that government has normalised a culture of meetings instead of delivery.

Committees are formed, discussions are repeated, and the same issues resurface year after year.

Namibians do not need more talk. They need execution. *

Windhoek – National Assembly

The integrity of the Namibian Police is under growing scrutiny, and Hon. Ricky Vries is demanding that government confront the issue directly.

Following a series of drug-related arrests and investigations across the country, Vries has questioned Minister Lucia lipumbu on the involvement of police officers in drug abuse and trafficking.

This is not a minor concern. It strikes at the foundation of law enforcement.

Communities already battling the effects of drug abuse cannot afford a situation where those responsible for enforcing the law are themselves implicated in criminal networks. The consequences go

Vries puts police integrity under spotlight over **drug** allegations



Hon. Ricky Vries

beyond individual cases – they erode trust in the entire system.

Vries is asking government to provide a full account: how many officers have been investigat-

ed, arrested, suspended or dismissed, and how many cases have led to successful prosecutions.

He is also pressing for clarity on internal controls, including lifestyle

audits, vetting systems and cooperation between law enforcement and anti-corruption agencies.

Restoring public trust requires action.*

Hon. Tjeundo demands answers on use of Police **firearms** in domestic killings



Hon. Rosa Tjeundo

Windhoek – National Assembly

Police-issued firearms are meant to protect lives. Increasingly, they are being used to take them.

Hon. Rosa Tjeundo has raised urgent concerns over the use of service weapons in incidents of gender-based violence, challenging Minister Lucia lipumbu to account

for what appears to be a growing pattern.

These cases are not isolated. They point to serious gaps in control, oversight and accountability within the police.

Tjeundo is demanding clarity on whether regulations are being enforced, particularly those requiring officers to book in firearms when off duty. She is also questioning how many officers

are authorised to retain weapons outside working hours and whether proper risk assessments are conducted.

At the centre of the issue is accountability. When service weapons are misused and lives are lost, responsibility cannot be avoided.

A police service that cannot control its own firearms cannot guarantee public safety.*



Minister Lucia lipumbu



Moongo questions **data expiry** practices affecting prepaid users

Windhoek – National Assembly

Namibians are paying for data- and then losing it.

Hon. Winnie Moongo has challenged government and regulators over mobile data policies that allow prepaid data to expire, even after it has been fully paid for.

In today's economy, data is not a luxury. It is

essential for accessing education, applying for jobs, managing finances and participating in public life.

Yet current practices continue to disadvantage those who rely most on prepaid services.

Moongo argues that the system disproportionately affects low-income and rural users, raising serious concerns about fairness and digital inclusion.

PDM IN PARLIAMENT

tal inclusion.

She is demanding answers from government and the Communications Regulatory Authority of

Namibia on how these practices are justified and whether they align with consumer protection standards.

Namibia is serious about inclusion, then access must be protected and not restricted. *



In today's economy, data is not a luxury"



Hon. Inna Hengari

Hengari presses minister over **delays** at Katutura Youth Centre

Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture, Hon. Sanet Steenkamp, over the continued deterioration of the Katutura Multipurpose Youth Centre.

The facility, once intended to provide space for sport, recreation and skills development, remains in disrepair despite a 2025 commitment by government to revitalise it.

Hon. Hengari says the situation has become a dual crisis. More than 299 people who were temporarily accommodated there during the Covid-19 period continue to live in harsh conditions, with limited access to basic services. At the same time, young people in Katutura are deprived of a safe and functional environment meant to support their development.

Hon. Hengari is demanding to know when the Ministry will move from promises to concrete action and what immediate steps are being taken to prevent further decay.

She is also asking how much funding has been allocated in current and upcoming budgets, whether a detailed breakdown can be provided, and what timeline

exists for renovations, including clear milestones and monitoring mechanisms. Another key concern is when the residents currently living at the centre will be resettled into permanent housing with proper sanitation and water, and what interim assistance is available while they remain there.

The matter brings renewed attention to youth infrastructure, urban vulnerability and the pace of government implementation. *



Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Arts and Culture, Hon. Sanet Steenkamp



Tjeundo seeks **assurance** on readiness of new national pension and medical funds

Windhoek –

National Assembly Popular Democratic Movement Member of Parliament Rosa Tjeundo has questioned the Minister of Finance, Hon. Ericah Shafudah, regarding government's plan to introduce a National Pension Fund and a National Medical Benefit Fund by 1 April 2026.

While acknowledging the reform as one of the most ambitious expansions of social protection since independence, Tjeundo says Parliament must examine whether the country is institutionally and financially prepared for such a rollout.

She is seeking clarity on whether the Social Security Commission has the



*Minister of Finance,
Hon. Ericah Shafudah*

operational capacity to launch two major funds within the announced timeframe without weakening governance or service delivery.

The MP also wants firm guarantees that con-

tributors' money will be managed professionally and protected from political interference.

Another focus of her inquiry is affordability. Tjeundo is asking whether government will com-

mit to a phased introduction of contributions and what principles will guide any future increases.

In addition, she is requesting details on the extent of public consultation undertaken so that workers, employers and other stakeholders fully understand the costs, benefits and risks involved.

Finally, she wants to know whether the Ministry would consider postponing implementation should systems prove unready, rather than proceeding in a manner that could undermine confidence.

The questions place sustainability, transparency and public trust at the centre of the debate around the new funds. *



Moongo raises concerns over **data** transparency and research capacity

Windhoek – National Assembly

Popular Democratic Movement Member of Parliament Winnie Moon-go has questioned Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare over what she describes as a growing crisis in data credibility and research transparency in Namibia.

Moongo argues that weak data sharing across government departments and limited public access to detailed datasets are undermining ev-

idence-based policy-making and long-term development planning.

She says the situation affects the monitoring of national development goals and risks weakening public and investor confidence in official statistics.

Among the issues she wants addressed is whether government has allocated sufficient financial resources to empower research and data collection institutions to properly fulfill their mandates. She is also seeking clarity on measures to

improve the quality, verification and accessibility of key statistics, particularly on unemployment, poverty and economic growth.

Further questions focus on strengthening research capacity in public institutions, developing skilled researchers and ensuring ministries do not rely on outdated data when making policy decisions. The notice places transparency, accountability and institutional capacity at the center of national development planning. *



Prime Minister, Elijah Ngurare



Tjeundo seeks treasury clarity on **PSEMAS** financial pressures



Windhoek – National Assembly

Popular Democratic Movement Member of Parliament Rosa Tjeundo has questioned the Minister of Finance, Erich Shafudah, regarding growing fiscal and operational concerns within the Public Service Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS).

This follows concerns raised by healthcare stakeholders about expenditure overruns, delayed payments to service providers and governance challenges affecting the scheme. Tjeundo is seeking clarity on when outdated reimbursement rates will be reviewed and what interim protections exist for both members and healthcare providers.

The MP also wants Treasury to explain how it intends to address funding gaps, including

hundreds of millions in delayed claims reported for late 2025 and early 2026, while balancing broader national budget priorities.

Further, she is asking whether Treasury has independently assessed claims of over-utilisation and evaluated the long-term sustainability of PSEMAS spending.

Tjeundo is also pressing for details on Treasury's oversight role in the implementation of the new PSEMAS Board and revised provider agreements, as well as safeguards to ensure that any benefit adjustments do not compromise healthcare access for government employees.

The notice brings renewed focus to financial discipline, transparency and sustainability within one of the country's largest public medical schemes.*



Moongo: Namibia's **healthcare** system is under pressure

Windhoek – National Assembly

Namibia's healthcare system is under strain and government can no longer ignore it.

Hon. Winnie Moongo has put the Minister of Health and Social Services, Esperance Luvindao, on the spot over the country's growing shortage of doctors and specialists.

With only around 832 medical doctors nationwide with most concentrated in urban centres, rural communities are being left behind. Access to healthcare is becoming a privilege of location, not a guaranteed service.

But the crisis runs deeper.

Specialist coverage in critical areas such as anesthesiology, neurosurgery, infectious diseases, oncology and critical care remains dangerously low. At the same time, high vacancy rates, poor retention and limited training capacity continue to weaken the system.

Moongo is demanding answers.

How many doctors are actually employed in the public sector? How many are sitting unemployed? And why is government failing to absorb them where they are needed most?

She is also pressing the Ministry to explain what concrete plans exist to train and recruit specialists in fields where the gaps are most severe.

The question is simple:

How can a healthcare system function when the people needed to run it are either too few or not being utilised?

Retention is another major concern. Public hospitals, particularly in rural areas, continue to lose professionals due to poor conditions and lack of incentives. Moongo is demanding to know what is being done to keep doctors in the system, not push them out.

This is a national priority. A healthcare system without sufficient doctors is a system that cannot deliver. And for thousands of Namibians, especially in underserved areas, that reality is already being felt.

Government must act urgently.*

“

But the crisis runs deeper”



Vries: Namibia is failing to tackle **drug** impaired driving



Windhoek – National Assembly

Namibia's road safety framework is falling behind and it is costing lives.

Hon. Diederik Vries has challenged the Minister of Works and Transport, Veikko Nekundi, over the country's failure to effectively detect and prevent drug-impaired driving.

While the law clearly prohibits driving under the influence of drugs, enforcement remains weak. The problem is simple: Namibia does not have a clear, operational system for on-the-spot roadside drug testing.

Without tools such as saliva swabs, law enforcement is left reacting after the fact – often only confirming impairment once accidents have already occurred or laboratory results are processed.

This gap is dangerous.

Vries is demanding clarity on whether government intends to

amend the law to allow immediate roadside testing and strengthen enforcement.

He is also questioning how police currently identify and prosecute drug-impaired drivers, and whether the absence of proper testing tools is limiting their ability to act.

Globally, countries are moving ahead with practical solutions. Roadside drug testing using saliva swabs is already standard in countries like South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The question is: why is Namibia lagging behind?

Vries is further pressing government to outline what it would take to implement such a system locally –including costs, training and a clear operational plan.

Road safety cannot rely on outdated systems.

If government is serious about reducing accidents and saving lives, then enforcement must evolve.*



Minister of Health and Social Services, Esperance Luvindao

Tjeundo: Namibia must **prepare** for global health shifts

Windhoek – National Assembly

Global decisions are being made and Namibia cannot afford to be unprepared. Hon. Rosa Tjeundo has challenged the Minister of Health and Social Services, Esperance Luvindao, to account for the impact of the United States' withdrawal from the World Health Organization on Namibia's health system.

She says that this is not a distant geopolitical issue, it is one that has real consequences for Namibians.

Namibia's disease surveillance systems, emergency response capacity and technical support are closely linked to global health structures coordinated through the WHO. Any weakening of that system raises se-

rious risks for countries that depend on it.

Tjeundo is demanding answers: Has government assessed the impact of this decision? What programmes are now at risk? And what is being done to protect Namibia's health security?

At the center of the concern is preparedness. If global surveillance networks weaken, Namibia must be ready to stand on its own or risk delayed responses to outbreaks and public health emergencies.

She is also pressing government on its regional strategy. Strengthening partnerships with African institutions and SADC must be considered urgent and should be properly resourced.

Beyond that, Namibia must position itself strategically in a changing global health order.

Funding, technical support and international cooperation cannot be taken for granted.

When global systems shift, countries that fail to plan are the ones that suffer the most.*



What programmes are now at risk?



Moongo: Students must not be penalised for improving their results

Windhoek – National Assembly

Namibian students are working to improve their results – but the system is not keeping up.

Hon. Winnie Moongo has challenged the Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture, Sanet Steenkamp, over a certification system that fails to properly recognise improved academic performance.

Currently, learners who re-sit subjects receive separate results for each sitting, with no automatically issued consolidated certificate reflecting their best marks. While the system allows the accumulation of passes toward a Group Certificate, it does not provide a clear, updated record of a learner's strongest performance.

For students applying for university, scholarships or jobs, fragmented results can create confusion, delays and, in some cases, disadvantage, despite the fact that they have improved their performance.

Moongo is demanding answers.

Why is there no system to combine improved results into a single certificate? What is the justification for maintaining a system that does not reflect a learner's best academic outcome?

She is also questioning whether Namibia has benchmarked its approach against other SADC and Commonwealth countries, and whether any legal or regulatory barriers are preventing reform.

At its core, this is about fairness. Students who put in the effort to improve their results should not be penalized by outdated administrative systems. If the goal of education is to open doors, then the system must support progress and not complicate it. *

Moongo questions N\$55.8 million spent on health uniforms

Windhoek – National Assembly

At a time when hospitals are under pressure, government has spent millions on uniforms.

Hon. Winnie Moongo has challenged the Minister of Health and Social Services, Esperance Luvin-dao, over the decision to spend approximately N\$55.8 million on uniforms for health workers.

The numbers raise serious questions. With an estimated N\$3,550 per uniform, Moongo is demanding a full breakdown of how this cost was calculated and whether proper value-for-money assessments were conducted.

Moongo says that this was poor prioritization. Across the country, public health facilities continue to face shortages of essential medicines, limited equipment and staff constraints. In that context, spending tens of millions on uniforms cannot go unquestioned.

Moongo is asking the key question: Why is this where government chose to spend?

She is also demanding transparency around the procurement process – whether the tender was publicly advertised, how many bids were received and which companies were awarded the contract.

Public funds must be justified. Every dollar spent in healthcare should strengthen the system, not raise more questions. *



Hengari questions N\$1.26 million legal spending by Katima Mulilo council

Windhoek – National Assembly

While residents wait for land and housing, over N\$1.26 million has already been spent on legal fees.

Hon. Inna Hengari has put the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, James Sankwasa Sankwasa, on the spot over excessive legal spending by the Katima Mulilo Town Council.

According to information before Parliament, the council has already paid out more than N\$1.26 million to law firms in relation to the suspension of its Chief Executive Officer and this before the full disciplinary hearing has even begun.

Five expedited payments, made between late December 2025 and early February 2026, have already exceeded the council's annual legal budget.

This is a clear governance failure.

Hengari is raising a fundamental question: how can a council move so quickly to spend over a million dollars on legal processes, yet consistently fail to deliver basic services such as affordable land and housing?

For residents, the consequences are real. Money that could have gone toward development is being consumed by prolonged internal disputes, leaving communities stuck in a cycle of delay and neglect.

Hengari is demanding full accountability – from which budget these funds were drawn, and what impact this spending will have on infrastructure projects and service delivery.

She is also pressing the Ministry to act decisively. Years of Auditor General findings have already exposed patterns of mismanagement, weak procurement practices and poor financial discipline across local authorities. The question now is whether government will act or allow the cycle to continue.

Hengari has made it clear: local authorities cannot be allowed to drain public resources through endless legal battles while citizens are left waiting for basic services. *

Hengari: NamRA is choking small business growth

Windhoek – National Assembly

Young Namibians are trying to build businesses but the system is working against them.

Hon. Inna Hengari has taken aim at rising customs charges and inconsistent practices by the Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA), which are crippling small-scale importers operating through Order With Me businesses.

These entrepreneurs – many of them young people hustling to survive, rely on cross-border trade to generate income. But instead of support, they are facing unpredictable fees that often match or even exceed the value of their goods, and this is a major barrier to growth.

Hengari is demanding answers from Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah on what government is actually doing to support these entrepreneurs, who increasingly feel that the system is stacked against them.

At the centre of the problem is a broken process. Many operators are forced to rely on unregistered clearing agents, leading to delays, inflated costs and inconsistent treatment at the border.

The result? Small businesses lose money before they even make a sale.

Hengari is pressing government to move beyond talk. Draft regulations have already been submitted, but when will they be tabled? When will the promised dedicated unit be established to address these issues? More importantly, when will real protections be put in place to stop the exploitation and financial strain these entrepreneurs face daily?

If Namibia is serious about youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, then small businesses cannot continue to be suffocated by unpredictable systems and rising costs. Government must choose: support small businesses, or continue to stifle them. *





Fix health-care before forcing shift

Windhoek – National Assembly

Government cannot push more people into a system that is already struggling.

Hon. Rosa Tjeundo has challenged the Minister of Health and Social Services, Esperance Luvindao, over the directive requiring senior government officials under PSEMAS to move into public healthcare facilities from 1 April 2026.

The concern is clear: public hospitals are already under pressure. Across the country, facilities face overcrowding, staff shortages and ongoing challenges with medicine supply. Adding more patients into the system without addressing these realities, risks worsening an already fragile situation.

Tjeundo is demanding to know whether government has conducted a real readiness assessment, not just on paper, but in practice. Can public hospitals absorb this shift without compromising care?

She is also pressing for immediate interventions.

If shortages of staff and medicine are already being reported, what is being done now, before implementation, to protect service quality and patient dignity?

Beyond capacity, the issue extends to transparency and fairness. Tjeundo is questioning how PSEMAS contributions will be managed during this transition and whether public servants will still have access to private healthcare where necessary, especially for specialized treatment.

If waiting times increase, if service quality declines, and if patient dignity is compromised, who takes responsibility?

Tjeundo is making it clear: reform cannot come at the cost of the people. *

Tjeundo: Government must honour pension increase promise

Windhoek – National Assembly

Government made a promise and now it must deliver.

Hon. Rosa Tjeundo has challenged the Minister of Finance to confirm whether the Old Age-Pension Grant will be increased in the new financial year starting 1 April 2026, as previously indicated.

In her State of the Nation Address, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah made it clear that any increase would be implemented within the 2025/26 Medium Term Expenditure Framework. That timeline has now arrived.

The question is simple: Will pensioners receive the increase – or not?

For thousands of elderly Namibians, this is not a policy debate. It is about survival. The rising cost of food, transport and basic necessities continues to put pressure on those who rely solely on pension grant.

Tjeundo is demanding clarity. Will the grant be increased? By how much? And when will it take effect?

A promise made at the highest level of government cannot be quietly delayed or ignored.

Namibia's elderly have waited. Now government must answer. *



Venaani questions idle tomato factory in Omusati

Windhoek – National Assembly
A factory was built. Millions were spent. Yet nothing is being produced.

Hon. McHenry Venaani has challenged the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Ingenesia Inge Zaamwani, over the continued idleness of the tomato paste factory in the Omusati Region.

Completed in 2022, the facility has yet to produce a single product. This raises serious questions about planning, accountability and the use of public funds. At a time when Namibia is pushing for agricultural development and value addition, a fully built factory standing idle is not just a missed opportunity, it is a failure.

Venaani is demanding answers. Why is the factory not operational? What is its actual production capacity? And how much more will it cost to make it functional? More importantly, who is being held accountable?

For local crop farmers, the impact is real. A functioning tomato processing plant could create a stable market, support production and drive rural economic activity. Instead, the infrastructure is sitting unused while farmers continue to struggle. This is exactly the kind of inefficiency

Namibia cannot afford.

Development is not about building infrastructure for the sake of it. It is about ensuring that projects deliver real value. Until this factory is operational, it stands as a symbol of poor implementation, not progress. *

Venaani: Namibia must take food security seriously

Windhoek – National Assembly

Namibia cannot continue relying on imports while its own agricultural potential remains underutilized.

Hon. McHenry Venaani has challenged the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Ingenesia Inge Zaamwani, to outline a clear and practical plan to strengthen the country's dairy and poultry sectors.

While recent figures show some growth in milk production, the reality is that Namibia is still far from self-sufficiency. The poultry sector remains small, fragmented and under-supported, with limited veterinary services and inconsistent biosecurity measures. This is not sustainable.

Venaani is demanding answers on what it will take to build a truly self-sufficient agricultural sector. How many dairy cows are needed to meet national demand? How will they be sourced?

And what financing mechanisms will be put in place to support farmers?

The same applies to poultry. Namibia must know how far it is from meeting its own demand for eggs and meat, and what concrete steps are being taken to close that gap.

At the heart of the issue is support for rural farmers. Without targeted investment, training and infrastructure, small-scale producers will remain locked out of meaningful participation in the agricultural economy.

Food security cannot be achieved through statements alone. If Namibia is serious about reducing imports, creating jobs and strengthening its economy, then agriculture must be treated as a priority, and not an afterthought. *





Why I believe PDM is Namibia's true voice in Parliament- **Hidipo Hamata**

When I watch Parliament in session, I see that the number of seats a party holds does not define its influence - the quality of its contributions, the relevance of its questions, and its willingness to hold the government accountable are what truly matter. That is why, in my view, the Popular Democratic Movement deserves serious attention from every Namibian.

Even without being the official opposition, PDM continues to demonstrate that it can lead debates, shape policy discussions, and fight for citizens' interests in ways that far outweigh the numbers on the benches.

This is not about noise for the sake of attention; it is about substance, courage, and accountability. Like a lion in the forest, it doesn't matter how many animals surround it - when the lion roars, everyone listens.

And when PDM roars in Parliament, the message is always clear: the people of Namibia matter, and their voices cannot be ignored.

Looking at the last parliamentary year, PDM tabled 17 motions, nearly 90% of which were adopted or successfully forwarded for further consideration. These are not symbolic gestures, they tackle real issues that affect livelihoods, social equity, and economic fairness. In previous years, the party tabled 19 motions in a session and ten in another, covering topics such as youth unemployment, rural poverty, public transport, and the state of sports in Namibia. These are not abstract concerns; they reflect the everyday challenges and aspirations of ordinary Namibians.

One example that stands out to me is the motion by PDM MP Inna Hengari addressing the growing problem of personal debt. Rising indebtedness, particularly among civil servants, is not just a personal issue, it affects the entire financial system, deepens inequality, and weakens economic stability. This is the kind of issue that demands urgent parliamentary attention

because it directly impacts families and the country's long-term wellbeing.

I am equally impressed by the motions currently before the House under the leadership of PDM President McHenry Venaani. Even though these motions are yet to be formally motivated and debated, their very presence on the Order Paper signals seriousness of intent. They are not reactive politics; they are proactive interventions. They anticipate problems before they spiral. They invite structured debate on

matters that shape the country's long-term stability and unity.

Take, for instance, his motion addressing tribalism. That is not an easy subject. It is sensitive, complex,

and often avoided. Yet avoiding it does not make it disappear. By bringing it to Parliament, Venaani demonstrates courage and national consciousness. Tribal divisions continue to influence access to opportunity, traditional authority disputes, and perceptions of fairness in governance. By calling for detailed investigations and informed approach hes, PDM shows that it is willing to confront uncomfortable truths in order to strengthen national unity. 29 Similarly, his focus on resettlement schemes goes to the heart of Namibia's unresolved economic imbalances. The skewed ownership of commercial agricultural land, persistent corruption allegations, and low productivity on resettled farms are not new concerns, but they remain inadequately addressed. By placing this issue before Parliament, Venaani signals that land reform must move beyond rhetoric. It must become transparent, accountable, and inclusive, especially for youth and previously disadvantaged communities. These motions, even before debate, reflect vision. They show preparation. They show that PDM is thinking structurally, not superficially.

What impresses me most is that these motions are not about scoring political points. They are about di-

recting government attention toward foundational issues - unity, land, fairness, and long-term sustainability. That is leadership in opposition. It is about shaping the national agenda, not waiting for crises to dictate it.

PDM's impact is not limited to motions. Honourable Winnie Moongo has consistently used questions to hold Cabinet accountable. She has highlighted the surge of crimes involving fake vehicle number plates, showing how administrative inefficiencies and law enforcement gaps put the public at risk. She also criticized the Public Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill, 2025, pointing out that centralizing authority under the Prime Minister risks eroding ministerial independence and undermining parliamentary oversight. These interventions are timely, evidence-based, and designed to protect citizens from systemic mismanagement.

Yet, despite these contributions, I cannot help but notice how uncomfortable the SWAPO-led government appears to be with scrutiny. Ministers are often absent, responses to questions are delayed, and debates on urgent issues are postponed. Even MPs from the ruling party rarely push with visible energy for what is contained in their own manifesto or development blueprint. Parliament sometimes appears to function as a procedural space rather than a serious arena for contesting ideas. Bills are brought at the last minute, creating the impression that deliberation is secondary to approval.

This is why the repeated calls by PDM's leadership for Parliament to sit earlier in the year matter. For

PDM, Parliament is not a seasonal activity. It is work. It is oversight. It is service to the people. What strikes me most is that Namibia benefits immensely when parliamentary oversight is focused, timely, and grounded in reality. PDM demonstrates that a small, determined group of MPs can have more impact than a crowded floor

of indifference. Tribalism, resettlement, debt, public enterprise governance, and crime are

all pressing issues that PDM has addressed with clarity and urgency. That is what true opposition looks like: consistent, constructive, vigilant, and committed to ensuring that governance works for citizens rather than for political convenience.

The consequences of PDM's work are tangible. It exposes corruption, advocates equitable resource distribution, defends civil liberties, and strengthens social protections. It ensures that the Constitution is not merely words on paper, but a living instrument of accountability. That is why I believe some within

the ruling establishment grow uneasy. PDM is not loud for the sake of being loud; it is effective. It forces the government to confront issues it might otherwise delay.

In my perspective, a strong opposition does not exist to oppose for opposition's sake. It exists to correct, refine, and safeguard. It roars when silence becomes dangerous. It insists that governance must serve people, not power. Namibia's future depends on Parliament being more than a theatre of majority dominance. It must be a chamber of ideas, scrutiny, and solutions. In today's political landscape, where ideological clarity often feels diluted, I see PDM standing as the most consistent alternative - principled, prepared, and unafraid to engage difficult national questions.

Even without the title of Official Opposition, PDM continues to act like one. And from where I stand, that is not just admirable - it is necessary. That is why, in my view, PDM must be taken seriously by all

Namibians. Its work is not about party branding; it is about national direction. It is about safeguarding unity, defending fairness, and demanding performance from those in power.

And that is why, when PDM roars I believe the nation should listen.*

PDM YOUTH LEAGUE RAISES CONCERNS OVER **NSSCO** RESULTS AND TERTIARY REFORMS



Windhoek –

The Popular Democratic Movement Youth League (PDMYL) has expressed concern over the 2025 NSSCO and AS Level results, warning that recent education reforms may be restricting access to higher education rather than expanding it.

In a statement issued by PDMYL Spokesperson Ina Katjepunda, the Youth League noted that while learners who performed well deserve recognition, preliminary data shows that only about 36% of Grade 11 learners met the minimum requirements to progress to AS Level.

This, they argue, leaves many young Namibians un-

certain about their academic future. The Youth League also criticised changes to tertiary education funding under the so-called free tertiary education framework, stating that stricter admission criteria and funding conditions are placing students and families under financial strain.

According to the PDMYL, education reforms must prioritise access, fairness and long-term human capital development rather than political messaging.

The League called for transparent implementation, meaningful consultation and policies that genuinely expand opportunity for Namibia's youth. *

PDM CHALLENGES GOVERNMENT OVER “**FREE EDUCATION**” CLAIMS

Windhoek –

The Popular Democratic Movement has raised concern over continued reports that parents are still being required to purchase stationery and learning materials despite government's claim that education is fully funded.

In a statement issued on 15 January 2026, the PDM argues that many schools are issuing stationery lists that place a heavy financial burden on families, particularly those already struggling with unemployment and poverty.

The party maintains that while official circulars may declare education free, the reality on the ground tells a different story. According to the PDM, learners from low-income households continue to face disadvantage, embarrassment, or exclusion when parents cannot meet school-imposed requirements.

The PDM has called on government to publicly account for how stationery funds are allocated and distributed, enforce compliance with its own guidelines at school level, and ensure that no learner is discriminated against due to inability to pay.

The party insists that education is a constitutional right and that free education must exist in practice, not only in policy documents and press statements. *



PDM CONDEMNS TREATMENT OF JOURNALIST AT STATE HOUSE

Windhoek –

The Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) has strongly condemned the treatment of a journalist at State House, stating that the incident represents a serious breach of democratic principles and media freedom.

In a statement issued on 2 February 2026, the party emphasized that freedom of the press, access to information and the right of journalists to work without intimidation are fundamental rights protected under the Namibian Constitution.

The PDM said State House, as the seat of the Executive, carries a constitutional duty to uphold democratic values and protect institutional integrity. Respect for the media, the party stressed, is not optional in a constitutional democracy.

The party further warned against any actions that undermine media independence, noting



that Namibia must not follow regional trends where press freedoms are restricted or weakened.

The PDM has called on State House to clarify the events in question and to issue a public apology to the journalist and the Namibian public.

The statement was issued by Secretary General Manuel Ngarinombe.*

PDM RAISES CONCERN OVER CENTRALIZATION OF POWER

Windhoek –

The Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) has sounded the alarm on a growing and dangerous shift of power away from elected Regional Councils to appointed Regional Governors.

Recent developments, including the construction of sports facilities across constituencies, make one thing clear: government is bypassing elected representatives and handing their responsibilities to unelected officials. These are projects that fall directly within the mandate of Regional Councils – yet they are being driven through Governors.

This is not a technical adjustment. It is a deliberate weakening of democratic accountability.

Regional Councils exist to represent the people and ensure development reflects their needs. When their role is ignored, communities are silenced, and

decision-making is removed from those who are directly accountable to voters.

The PDM is clear: Governors were never meant to act as implementing authorities. Expanding their role in this way distorts Namibia's governance framework and concentrates power where it does not belong.

This is part of a broader pattern. The steady centralization of power within the Executive is raising serious concerns, particularly as similar tendencies begin to emerge in critical sectors like oil and gas.

Namibia's democracy is built on decentralization, accountability and the authority of the people. These principles cannot be eroded.

The PDM is calling on government to stop sidelining elected councils, halt this power shift, and return development to where it belongs – in the hands of the people's representatives.*

Employment Equity Commission Review Panel Hearings (21–22 January 2026)

PDM representatives attended the Employment Equity Commission Review Panel Hearings, where non-compliance employers were summoned for hearings.

Katutura Central Constituency Initiatives (22 January 2026)

Community outreach in Katutura Central included school uniform donations, food parcel distributions for elderly residents, support for small and medium enterprises, and a Career Guidance Day for learners.

These initiatives aimed to provide immediate relief to vulnerable groups while empowering young people with information and opportunities to shape their futures.

Grootfontein – Ongongoro Kindergarten Donations (28 January 2026)

Regional Coordinator Paul Wimmerth and Nadia Wimmerth supported Ongongoro Kindergarten through donation initiatives aimed at improving early childhood learning conditions.

The engagement reflects PDM's recognition that long-term national development begins with investment in early education and community-based institutions.

Omaruru Local Authority – Development Workshop

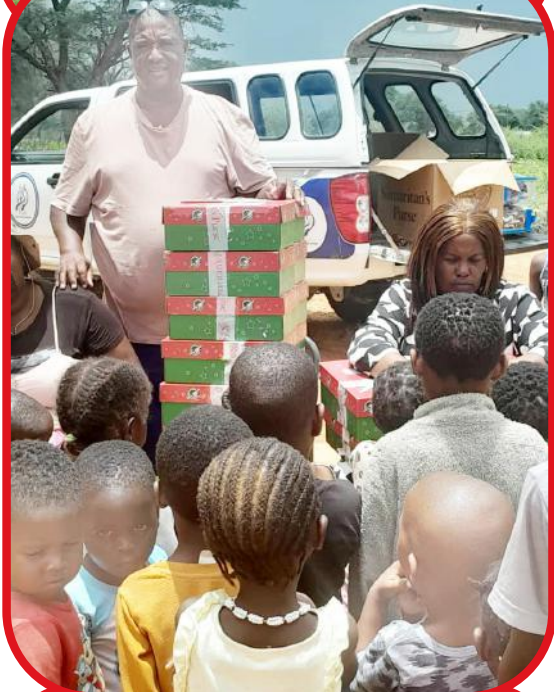
PDM representatives participated in a development workshop in collaboration with project partners and the Omaruru Municipality, including Bessel De Klerk.

The workshop focused on strengthening local governance capacity, infrastructure planning, and sustainable urban development initiatives within the town.

Gibeon Village Council Engagements

Engagements were held with the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DFRN), the Office of the Vice President, church leaders, and local administration regarding the development of Gibeon fountains and underground water resources.

Discussions centered on sustainable water management, long-term infrastructure planning, and human capacity development to support future growth in the region.



Felicia Motinga: A Voice for Berseba



Berseba -

Councillor Felicia Motinga's leadership begins with where she comes from.

A daughter of Berseba, she carries with her the lived experiences of the community she now serves. Her approach to leadership is shaped by real challenges, real people, and a deep understanding of what life looks like on the ground.

Her decision to step into local leadership was not by chance. It was driven by a growing frustration with slow development and the reality that many voices, especially the most vulnerable, were not being heard where decisions are made. For Motinga, local government is where leadership matters most, because it is closest to the people and their daily struggles.

In Berseba, those struggles are visible. Economic opportunities remain

limited, leaving many households dependent and vulnerable.

At the same time, alcohol and drug abuse continue to affect young people, with consequences that stretch into education, safety and the future of the community. These challenges are made even harder by limited resources at council level.

Despite this, Motinga is focused on what can be done.

Her priorities are clear: improving service delivery, creating opportunities for economic growth, and leading with honesty and accountability.

She measures success not by position, but by impact - a community that is stronger, systems that function better, and progress that can be seen and felt by the people.

Her message is simple: leadership is not about titles or elections. It is about responsibility, and serving the community as a whole. *

"Motinga is focused on what can be done"





Members of the Popular Democratic Movement had the honour of engaging with a delegation from Zimbabwe who are in Namibia to learn from our country's experience in advancing gender equality and women's leadership. The discussion created an important platform to exchange views on how political par-

ties can strengthen the participation of women at grassroots, regional and national levels, and how representation must translate into real empowerment in communities.

We value regional solidarity and the opportunity to build partnerships that uplift women across Africa.





Tjaverua: Youth Agriculture Is the Path to Self-Reliance

Okakarara -

Youth empowerment must be built and not only promised.

Councillor Uzeraije Tjaverua has welcomed the establishment of the Okakarara Youth Agriculture Cooperative as a practical step toward economic independence, job creation and food security.

The cooperative marks a shift from dependence to self-reliance, placing young people at the centre of production and local economic growth. Tjaverua emphasised that agriculture must be seen for what it is -not just a tradition, but a viable and sustainable business opportunity.

He noted that the initiative reflects a growing willingness among young people to take responsibility for their future,



Okakarara councillor Uzeraije Tjaverua

create employment for themselves, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

But success, he stressed, will depend on discipline.

The cooperative must be built on unity, accountability and transparency. Without these, no initiative can succeed. With them, it can become a model for others to follow.

Tjaverua reaffirmed the commitment of leadership to support the initiative through partnerships, guidance and access to opportunities, making it clear that youth-led development must be backed by real support structures.

The message is clear: Agriculture is not just an option -it is a pathway to empowerment, dignity and economic transformation. *



PDM Top 9 Leadership Structure

2024 - 2029

MCHENRY VENAANI
PDM PRESIDENT



**JENNIFER VAN
DER HEEVER**
Vice President



RICKY VRIES
Chairperson



ROSA TJEUNDO
Deputy Chairperson



**MANUEL
NGARINGOMBE**
Secretary General



LINUS TOBIAS
Deputy Secretary General



NICO SMIT
Treasurer General



SYDNEY NDUMBAH
Deputy Treasurer General



GEOFFREY MWILIMA
National Spokesperson



PDM Members of Parliament

2024 - 2029



McHenry Venaani



Winnie Moongo



Ricky Vries



Rosa Tjeundo



Inna Hengari

National Council



Ueutjerevi Ngunaihe



Tjimutambo Daniel Kuoko



PDM Regional Councillors

2025-2030**Tjimutambo Daniel Kuoko**

EPUPA CONSTITUENCY

**Western M. Muharukua**

OPUWO RURAL CONSTITUENCY

**Ueutjerevi Ngunaihe**

OPUWO RURAL CONSTITUENCY

**Uzeraije Bethold Tjaverua**

OKAKARARA CONSTITUENCY

**Vezemba Rodman Katjaimo**

KATUTURA CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY



PDM Local Authority Councilors

2025-2030

BESSEL P. DE KLERK
OMARURU MUNICIPALITY



PAUL E. KISTING
GIBEON VILLAGE COUNCIL



NIKLAAS J. DAWSON
GIBEON VILLAGE COUNCIL



JACOBA B. VILJOEN (MAYOR)
ARANDS TOWN COUNCIL



JOHANNES DAWID KEISTER
REHOBOTH TOWN COUNCIL



GIDEON KONDJENI
KALENGA (DEPUTY MAYOR)
LUDERITZ TOWN COUNCIL



KONRAD BEUKES
BETHANIE VILLAGE COUNCIL



MARIA F. ISAAKS
BERSEBA VILLAGE COUNCIL



FELICIA MOTINGA
BERSEBA VILLAGE COUNCIL



DIANA S. MATHEYS
TSES VILLAGE COUNCIL



GETZINA AWASIMAN
TSES VILLAGE COUNCIL



BARTHOLOMEUS ROOI
AROAB VILLAGE COUNCIL



DAVE R. NDJAVERA
OTJINENE VILLAGE COUNCIL



THOMAS GARISEB
WITVLEI VILLAGE COUNCIL



IGNATIUS SEMBA
WINDHOEK CITY COUNCIL



GIFT TJIJANDJEU
KAHORONGO
OKAKAKARA TOWN COUNCIL



CECIL MBITUMBOVANDU
KAANGUNDUE
OKAKAKARA TOWN COUNCIL



ELTON B. GAMGAEB
OTAVI TOWN COUNCIL



MASUKA N. SITAMBI
BUKALO VILLAGE COUNCIL



KASIPO KAKONDO (MAYOR)
OPUWO TOWN COUNCIL



EDWARD ZATJINDA
(DEPUTY MAYOR)
OPUWO TOWN COUNCIL



KUZATJIKE KAZOMBARURU
(CHAIRPERSON)
OPUWO TOWN COUNCIL



MURUMBUA UERISERI
(MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER)
OPUWO TOWN COUNCIL