Basic laws impeding nation's progress

Pendapala Hangala

The Ministry of Justice and Labour lichations recently called on members of the public to subred how which, in their view, were or are impeding socio-nearnoraic development or progress of the country and set last week-feiday, 13 June 2025, the deadline for subrelief and a set last week-

submissions.

This unurual request was indeed unpeccedented and should, with all due respect, be accorded accordingly. I should simil that I indeed grabbed this grand opportunity to critically identify and eventually submit just in time, the relevant laws which in my opinion are a hinderance to our progress as an matering democracy or nation. So, Minister of Justice and Labour. kindly receive my suggestions on laws that, in my opinion, need to be reviewed and subsequently amended, which I strongly annequently assended, which I strongly believe are impeding our secto-economic development and progress as a matern that one day wards to be industrialized.

I however sincerely hope this was a sincere and inous inequation mit a clean and that they will do the right thing and consider the lapart from the public and amend the two accordingly for the progression of the public and amend the public and the

public and amend the love accordingly for the true benefit and progress of our country. My submitmation in this regard are therefore as follows:

1. That the Vice President of the country be elected directly by members of the public who are eligible to do as per our nations. so as per our nation's Constitution instead of

Constitution issued or being appointed by the President as is currently the case, As any national Taxocuries' powers that are bestowed upon any catauria hands should come directly say change mans about content interior from the public as an appointed individual does not represent the true wishes of the writing masses in a democratic setting.

That he or she was not given that democratic right by the people and should hence have no such powers to support by the property of the p

hence have no such powers to supportedly govern them is any way pessible.

And that fathers to amend such a law, the National Assembly should vote as per our Cornelinian that was a position in its current shape or form be abolished as it could pose hoge constitutional challenges risks in the forecasted father as the nation could one say find itself with an unclease the desired welfing too much undescrived power, who could take the country is the strong direction with no legal constitutional consequences or win being

country in the serong direction with no legal constitutional consequences or even being held accountable due to the fact that he side was navur electric directly by the people.

2. That all neglous governoes be elected directly by the spepte or alternatively by the regional councillors through an internal democratic process, and that the elected governors about a have budgetest powers to country at effectly or the country at effectly or their broader regional scales economic development programmes. This is to ensure that electric regional governors are accountable alternative to the

governors are accountable directly to the people of their regions and not to be problem as a currently the case. That they are directly responsible for the development and oversight programmanifest raspective regions which is any view, could fast track succe-consumic development or progress thereof under their pursuitations.

3. That the Municipality and Town Council chief executive officers (CROs) be appointed directly by the constitutes and not by the Minimum of Urban and Ronal Development. This is to ensure that nongovernors are accompable directly to the

performing CED safter due observation and processes are easier removed or fired from their postition as they exceld be the strambling blocks impeding efficient implementation of council resolutions for the core delivery of essential services for the development and peopess of their respective renders.

4. That the excession of national election days of voting be at the discretion of the National Assembly, which if a peroved, should be signed off by a sitting election flexible and their and should not be for more than one extra day of voting and should be as per the original fixed general pelling stations. This is to ensure that consensus is bence achieved through a collective democratic process rather than this power be in the hands of a single individual.

5. That for melizant elections, digible voters should also you in the constitution of elections are conducted in a predicted and corrain manner softiaction. Tais is to ensure the entire manner elections are conducted in a pendicted and corrain manner softia treating materials and personnel are allocated and continuous of the entire state of permitting and continuous of the entire state of permitting and continuous of the entire state of permitting and continuous of the entire state of the entire state of the entire of the entire state of the entire of the entire state of

respected periodic voter registration

outcome.
6. That all public local procurement of more than N\$20 million should have Namibian. have Namibian partner(s), that joint wenere bank accounts should have a Namibian as a co-eignatory and should receive no less than 30% profit sharing and those local procurement

sharing and those below NS20 milities should have NS20 milities should have Namibhan with a minimum of SSS absolutelying.

7. That all medium to large stand companies operating in Namibhan bool dilayer atmost deep Companies for a local Responsibility or Social Investment programme of not less 1,5% of their armsologes afting turn over, that it should be part of their income/expenditure statement.

This is to ensure that all businesses operating in Numbris have corporate social responsibility programmes to that effect social progress in the communities they

operate in.

8. That all Chinese or foceign owened companies, regardless of their size operating in Numbra, should be officially registered for tat purposes and should always instantantic teceigns to train stoppus and stoppus operating in Numitha should shelve at least a minimum of 20% of what can, as per acceptable international standards, be produced and menufactured in Namitha failure of which a set import turtils, or turn maginar incertive be imposed on them.

failure of which a set import suriffs, or tax mighant incentive be imposed on them. This is to signt inclustrationation in key product areas Nambians can vicinize into and distribute through already well-established-morini planformain the country. 10. That with the above lows in place that Namiles completely Gelinko itself from the South African rand within a set agreed period of 10 years and so a critical foundation believes more in the strength of the people and its natural resources as a solid back-up to maintain and sustain all the above suggestions.

*Pandapula Hangale believes in the potential of Mandhour to achieve great things for themselves if given the chance. He writes in his personnel capacity.





PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Windhoek Municipal Council hereby give notice to all potentially inte and Affected Parties (\$AP) that an Application for the linvolvmental Ciscionals Certificatewillo be made to the Environmental Commissional aspirithe Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Sovernment Natice No. 30 of 2012) for the tollowing Activities

hoject Name: 1A process for Subdivision, Zaning and Development of Municipal Services for the Okuryangaya Extension 3 infit.

Project location: Open 3,000e (Okuryongovo Ed 3, Inflit, erven, 1714 and Rey1714, 2508, 2509, 2518, 2519, 1718 and 1719 studied within the boundaries of Etatowa Street and Omungwindi Street buffered by a public School (Hage Galgab Secondary School) and a functional business node (22°30'29.04°5. 17°02'32.30°E).

The Proponent: Winchoek Municipal Council Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Health and Environment Services Division (Winchoek Municipal Council)

REGISTRATION OF ISSAN AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS. In line with Namibia's Environmental Monagement Act (No. 7 of 2007) and EA Regulations (SN 30 of 6 February 2012), all ISANs are hereby limited to register and submit their comments, concerns or questions to the contact datals below, by 2 July 2025.

Public Meeting: A Public meeting will be held on 28 June 2025 at 10h00, of Ombill Community Centre, Omungwind Street.

Confloat: Ms. Grazy Tshipo Email: Gran/Tehlooth Tet: +264 612902373 on.gro.pox/secritorian

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confisticated

... Shikongo calls for united front against drug abuse



Lahje Nashusate

The Namibian Police Force has confiscated illicit drugs valued at more than N\$49.3 million during nationwide operations conducted between January and December 2023.

Police chief Joseph Shikonge confirmed the figures in a statement issued as part of the commemoration of the International Day Against Drag Abuse and Illicit Trufficking on 26 June. He said a total of 1 164 suspects were arrested in connection with drug-related offences during the period under teview

The arrests stemmed from continued efforts by law enforcement to disrupt drug trafficking networks operating in Namibia. "We remain committed to

dismentling the syndicates and local networks that continue to amuggle and distribute illicit substances in our communities."

Shikningo stated. The confiscated deugs include 4 031.56kg connaion valued at NS40315568,70,11.238 mandrox tablets valued at NS1 347 369, cocaine powder (14.90 kg) valued at N\$7 451 415, crack co-458.17 units) worth N\$165.827, methcathinone (215g) valued at N\$107.500, crystal meth ("Tik"): 25g valued at N\$12 500, ecstasy (26 tablets) valued at N\$3 120 and MDMA 2.5 capoules valued

Shikongo suid foreign nationals were arrested during the drug

rations. The arrests included 32 Zambians, 23 Angolans, 14 Congolese, six Tanzanians, four Zimbabweams, four Soath Africans, three Burundians, two Nigerians, two Battwana, one Morambican and one Sudanese national. Shikongo expressed serious concern over the growing valuerability of Nambian youth to drug trafficking syndicanes.

to drug trafficking syndicates. He said many are being recroited either as users or cooriers. These substances are distroying lives, training apart families and fuelling a cycle of crime and hopelessatess across our society, he remarked.

"Once trapped in the web at addiction, many of our youth struggle to escape," Shikengo added. He stressed that while rolleing it resemblad, the fight

policing is essential, the fight against drug abuse must also involve-prevention, education and rehabilitation.

"We are working with schools, parents, youth organisations and religious institutions to build resilience among our young people, he said Hechodongoingcollaborations with the health and education

ministries as well as international partners such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and

"Enforcement alone is not enough Prevention, treatment and rehabilitation are just as

critical," Shikongo udded.
"Let us support those who new struggling with addiction - not with judgment but companion. Let today be a cenewal of our collective purpose to build a Namibia free from the grip of drugs and addiction," he remarked.

Inushustedwenc.com.ne

Drugs worth N\$49m Sankwasa's modus operandi divides opinion

Labia Nashumta

egal experts have raised egal experts have rated as extrous questions about the extent of the Minister of Orban and Rural Development James Sankwaya's authority overlocal

and regional councils.
They warned that recent interventions may be overstepping legal limits and threatening local democracy.

Legal commentator Natio Legal commentator National Tileran said the Namibian Constitution and relevant laws peteritise the right to a fair hearing and protect elected officials from arbitrary

"Arbitrary disminsule have no place in Namibian low. Any decision that negatively affects decision that negatively aneco-semeour must be preceded by a fair process, including a chance to be beard. The minister having legal aithority to unilsterally fire elected local authority.

members," he stated.

"Ilirera referred to Section 13(2) of the Local Authorities

Act.
It sets clear conditions for removings council member the council most first recommend the removal, and the affected member must be given a proper

hearing.
"It is not up to the minister alone. Even with a recommendation, the law insists on fair treatment," he

"This clause exists to safeguard against tentral poversment abusing power over local councils," he added. While the minister does

have the power to dissolve a council under Section 92, this too is only allowed to specific circumstances, such as when a council fails to perform its duties or manage its finances, and only after giving the council a chance to respond. Tirera believes recent actions by the minister appear



Minister of Orban and Rural Development James Saukreaca

to be politically driven

to be politically driven.

"Even if well-intentioned, acting outside the law ultra virus can erode public trust and disrupt democratic governance, he stated.

Governance expert Nikumba Kamearnesh offered a more

Kamwanyah offered a more

cautious view.

He said the law does give the minister powers to guide and oversee councils under both the Local Authorities Act and the Regional Councils Act.

This includes approving budgets and policies as well as intervening in cases of non-

"From a legal standpoint, the minister does have oversight powers. But the challenge comes when those powers are exercised without proper process." Kamsunyah stated.

"If the minister appears to everside or micromanage elected council, without logal justification, i raises serious concerns abou undermining local democracy,

he added. He said any such action must follow the procedures se out in law, such as investigation or formal recommondations.

In addition, the action

must not violate constitutions protections for elected leaders Dianne Hubbard coordinator of the Gende Research and Advocacy Project at the Legal Assistance Centre pointed to Article 111(2)-of the

Constitution.
It states that matters related to local gowernance must be handled by Acts of Parliament

The key piece of legislation is the Local Authorities Ac nd 1992

The Act gives councils the power to appoint or discharge chief executive officers – be even then, it requires the minister's written approval. For elected councillars, the minister can only act bases on a recommendation by the council, and only ofter a fat hearing," Hobbard said. She noted that the Act does

not grant the minister any special powers over members

of management committees. The live allows the minister to suspend or remove councillun under certain conditions, such as if a councillor is under investigation for an offence or breach of the code of conduct However, this too mus

follow a strict process.
"Unless those steps are followed, any ministeria interference may be legally challenged," Hubbard clarified - Intributa@nepc.com.na











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Nambia

5. Contact Person for Sender inculries and clarifications:

The Principal Officer Attention: Ms. Debrud Balsako P.O. Bux 297 Windhoek

Nanible

+264-61-201 2079

City of Windhoek

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Windhoel Municipal Council hereby give natice to all potentially interested and Affected Parket (MAP) that an Application for the Briefonmoreus Classonice Coefficials will be made to the Selectorine for Continidation on per the Environmental Managament Act, (No. 7 of 2007), and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012) for the following Activities.

Project Maryer
EA, process for Subdivision, Zoning and Development of Municipal Services for the
Claryangena Detroion 3 link.

Project location: Open Space (Okunyangasa Sd 3, Intil), even, 1714 and 5x1714, 2504, 2504, 2515, 2519, 1719 and 1719 display within the boundates. of Floringe Street Street By a public School (Blage Galgatis Securadary School) and a functional business node (22°30'29.04'). 1702'32.30'15.

This Proportiest: Whichoek Municipal Council Environmental Assessment Propolitioner: Health and Invitonment Services Children (Mindook Municipal Council)

REGISTRATION OF MARE AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS:

and a favorable in the Analysian space of the Control Microgenian Act (No. 7 of 2007) and SA. Regulations (SA) 20 of a Risbussy 2012, all BAPs are heavy insteed to register and submit their comments, concerns or questions to the control shelps below.

Public Meeting: A Public meeting will be held on 25 June 2005 of 10h00, of Ombili Community Centre, Ornungwind Steet

Conflact: Mr. Grossy Tahlpo Errork: Grossy Tahlpo-grafind-hoolooo.org.no Tet: +264 812902373





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Health and Safety: What Employers Should Kno

· PIETER COLYN

NAMIBIA IS ON the compofusignifiown constronmation in its approach to occupational safety and health (OSH)

The draft occupational safety and health bill of 70024 proposes sweeping changes to the current regime estab-lished under the Labour Act of 2007.

This article highlights the key what will remain unchanged. charges, what will remain unchanged, and the practical implications for employers, human resources professionals, and compliance officers.

OSH COMMISSIONS

The OSSI druft bill creates a new occupational safety and feedth com-mission, responsible for national coordination policy development, and

oversight of OSEL matters.

New roles are introduced, including the occupational safety and health commissioner, chief inspector, chief inspector for mines, and objet medical officer of occupational health, each with defined mandates.

Technical committees and ap-proved taspection authorities will provide sector-specific expenses and oversight.

EXPANDED SCOPE

The OSH draft bill applies to all workers and employers, including those in the informal economy, self-employed persons, contractors, and

esed, examing protection for non-traditional employment relationships and valuesable groups.

The OSH deaft bill does not ap-

pear to repeal laws which may be in conflict with the provisions contained in the OSH dealt bill. However, Section 2 provides: "In case of conflict herween a provision of this act and a provision of any other laws listed in fine achedule, in consection with the safety and bealth of workers, trained the provision of other law is more favourable to the worker, the provision of this Act shall prevail to the extent of the conflict."

ENHANCED EMPLOYER

Section 21 of the OSH druft hill socks to impose general duties to employers and persons in charge of premises, without reference to the criterion of "reasonably pea-nicable". For instance, this accision provides "Every amployer or person provides "Every omplayer or person in charge of promises shall, without charge or the workers, provide and maintain a working environment that is age and without risk to the health of workers."

In also provides: "An employer or person in charge of premises who has entered into an agreement with

a connector to perform certain tailes shall easure that each a contractor complies with this act."

Although "reasonably practicable" is defined in Chapter Lof the druft CSH

till, and included on provisions deal-tation from workers and employers. ing with, among others, employer's duties to conduct risk assesses they to provide protective equipment and clothing; and the obligation of persons who exect or lestall articles for use at work or in any premises, the exclusion thereof under the general daties concemplated in Section 21, may be suggestive of an absolute obligation to employers and persons in charge of premises.

The effect theroof is that an abso-

late obligation rusts upon employers and persons to charge of premises to "provide and maintain a working envisonment that is safe and withour risk to the health of workers"

Employers will be exquired to con-duct regular risk assessments, provide personal protective equipment, and implement comprehensive OSH poli-

cies and wellness programmes.

There are new ordinations to register workplaces, policy authorities of construction and huranitous activities.

and appoint safety and health officers.

Fsychosocial risks and employed wellness are now explicitly included in employer responsibilities.

BETTER WORKER

All workers will have the right to nominate and elect safety and health representatives, with clear rules for elections and terms

Safety and health connuitness will be annulatory in workplaces with 20 or more workers, with equal supresso-

Worker representatives will have expended rights, including participa-tion in modes and policy development.

POBLIST ENFORCEMENT

Inspectors will have enhanced powers, including the ability to impose fines directly, prohibit dangerous ac-tivities, and requim police assistance.

A clear appeals process in intro-duced, allowing decisions to be chal-lenged up to the Labour Coset. Offences and penalties are more detailed, with higher maximum, free top to NS200 000) and explicit criminal liability for a water range of communities. contraventions.

RIGOROUS REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING

Employers must comply with detelled requirements for notification and investigation of accidents, donggrous occurrences, and occupational

Record-keeping periods are ex-tended (up to 45 years for accidents, 30) years for exposures and discores). Medical serveillance and occu-stional bygione records are now

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYERS

Review and update policies: Emplayers should begin reviewing their current OSH policies and procedures

to exaute alignment with the quireness, particularly regu-assessments, psychosocial and wellness programma. Prepare for enhanced o

Expect more frequent and inspections, with the poss-direct lines and stricter enfi-

Strongthen worker eng Propers for more formalise participation in OSH matter ing the election of represent establishment of committee

Record-knoping: Becare are in place for long-term of OSH records, including surveillance and accident t

Training and communicate training for management on the new requirements in pended rights and duties u.s.

CONCLUSION

The OSH draft bill remuve overhaul of cupational safety and

Employers should take steps to understand the ner compliance.

The changes are designed to the CSH government, worker protections, and published of prevention and to the workplace.

Pieter Coips is the h safety department at IDVS

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

11 June 2025

the Wedness Nursicol Council hereby give in the whomes Number Council reveny give notice to dil potentiali Helinated and Allested Poster SIAM) that an Application for the involutionated Colorino Certificate vill be involde to the Environmental Colorino Certificate vill be involde to the Environmental Certificate villa be involde to the Environmental Strangement Act (No. 7 of 2001), and the Environmental Strangement Act (No. 7 of 2001) and the Environmental Strange (Assertment Redice the Co. of 2012) for the following Activities:

imports Retriev
(Sh. process for Subdivision, Zoning and Development of Municipal Services for the
Osturyangewo Extension 3 Infl.)

Project Isocition: Open Space (Okuryangava Sci S. 1988), erver. 1714 and Swi1744, 2508. 2509. 2519. 2519. 1715 and 1719 studied within the boundaries of Stetows Steel and Omungwind Steel bulliand by a public School Project Odigate Secondary School and a functional bissinness nade (22°37'27.04'3, 17*02'52.34'8).

The Proponent: Windhook Municipal Council Environmental Assessment Recritaris: Health and Environment Services Division Windhook Municipal Council

REGISTRATION OF SAIN AND SIGNESSOR OF COMMITTEE.
In the With Namebook Shaftanniantal Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and EA.
Regulations (SN 30 of 6 Retrustry 2012), of SNMs are healthy findled to register
and submit feels operated, company or questions to the combact default below.

huivito Meeting. A Public meeting vili be held on 28 Juny 2025 at 10h00, all Orebil Community Centre, Omungwind Street.

al: Grazy, Trhipo@windhooleoo.org.trs +264 612900373

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BENISTRY OF EDUCATION, INNOVATION, YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS & CULTURE

2025 CALENDAR FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

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