

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**RESPONSE TO HONOURABLE DR. IIYAMBO OF SWANU OF
NAMIBIA**

BY

**HON. FRANS KAPOFI, MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

02 December 2021

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members,

I am once again honoured to provide clarity sought by a member of this house on the issue of the assistance the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle are receiving from government.

I should however note my disappointment with the way Honourable Dr. Iiyambo of SWANU mixed up matters of the veterans and those of the genocide. It would have helped enrich the genocide discourse had the Honourable Dr. separated this issue and made a comprehensive contribution in writing like some of our colleagues did, following my tabling of the matter a few weeks ago.

The Honourable Member seeks clarity on four issues, the first being on “when the veterans of the liberation struggle began to get paid”, while the other three are on the issue of genocide.

Yesterday, I presented our statement on the issue of the genocide, and I believe the Honourable Member’s concerns were satisfactorily dealt with. Therefore, I shall only respond to the ONE question on the veterans. However, prior to doing so, allow me to clear some of the misconceptions raised in the Honourable Member’s introductory remarks.

In his introductory statement, Dr. Iiyambo refers to amounts of “40 Billion Namibia Dollars spent by the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs and 19 Billion Namibia Dollars on the veterans of the liberation struggle over 30 years and 11 years respectively. The Honourable Member states that he got these figures from the media, which wrongly published figures and had to make the correction upon realising it had erred.

I presented a statement with correct figures here in Parliament during my response to Honourable Kavekorota's questions. It is disappointingly unfortunate that the Honourable Member chose to disregard my statement and went to quote wrong figures from the media. I believe a copy of my responses is available, and I would like to urge the member to retrieve it.

The Honourable Member had also insinuated in his introductory remarks that the Ministry of Veterans Affairs was created in 2002. This is factually not correct. The Ministry was created on October 6, 2006 with its founding Minister being the Late Hon. Dr. Ngarikutuke Tjiriange.

Honourable Iiyambo also stated that national funds for development ends up paying veterans benefits because their United Nations RRR money disappeared in thin air and that it was mandatory for former colonies to receive such money from the UN.

I would like to state it on record that there is abundant evidence that there is no such thing as the UN money that was given to Namibians who were repatriated from around the globe in 1989 under the UNHCR. We have correspondence from the UN rebuffing such claims. The responsibility of taking care of the plight of the Veterans of the national liberation struggle lies with the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Having tried to clear some of these misconceptions, let me now answer your question Honourable Member.

As I had earlier indicated in this house, the Veterans started benefiting financially from their programmes in 2009.

In conclusion Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to urge my colleagues to always do a thorough research on matters they seek to come and raise in this house to avoid making statements that would bring confusion to the nation.

Once again, I would like to assure the Veterans in particular and the nation in general, that we are as a Ministry, working around the clock to ensure that Government's commitments towards their plight are fulfilled.

I THANK YOU