



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

RESPONSES BY HON. FRANS KAPOFI,
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
TO QUESTIONS POSED BY HON. MCHENRY VENAANI IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WINDHOEK;
THURSDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

I rise to provide a response to Honourable McHenry Venaani, who on the 16th of September 2021, asked a compound question on investigations pertaining to alleged corruption at August 26.

The Honourable Member wanted to know how far the investigations on allegations of corruption at the company were, and when a report on the findings into such investigations was expected?

Thank you very much Hon. Venaani for your double-barreled question. As you rightly quoted me in your statement, yes, investigations by the Namibian Police Force, an organ of State charged with such a responsibility are ongoing.

As I had informed the house during the first quarter of this year while answering a question by Hon. Nico Smit on the same subject when I was still Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, a criminal case was registered under case number Windhoek CR

500/07/2018, in July 2018. The case relates to fraud, theft, tax evasion and money laundering pertaining to the affairs of "August 26". As the investigations under the criminal case progressed, the Namibian Police together with the Office of the Prosecutor General also commenced with the process of tracing of proceeds of crime under the Prevention of Organised Crime Act of 2004.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

The August 26 Holding Company has a number of subsidiaries, such as, August Twenty-Six Logistics, August 26 Construction and August 26 Manufacturing which previously traded under the name August 26 Textile. It is imperative to note that the focus of the current investigation is on August 26 Textile, now trading as August 26 Manufacturing.

You will agree with me that document based investigations take a while to conclude. This is attributed to the fact that the police have to rely on a number of

other entities to obtain the required documents helpful to the investigation. Some of these institutions are swift in the provision of these documents while others take quite a bit of time. We have been informed by our counterparts at the Namibian Police Force that they are still waiting for documents and additional information from various institutions.

Moreover, there is a number of witnesses who had to provide statements under oath.

I can however inform you that majority of witness statements provided under oath have been obtained. I would like to believe that it is in the interest of all of us for the investigation to be conducted in a proper manner and not precipitously, for the matter to be concluded fairly and justly. This is an important case and the Police are therefore carefully gathering and considering evidence.

Given this information Honourable Member, and also the fact that the investigation is focusing on a period of over a decade, it would be pre-mature at this stage to state when the report on the findings should be expected. The

police have however assured us that they are working around the clock to ensure that investigations are concluded as soon as possible.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

I would therefore like to conclude by requesting that we allow the police some space and time to do a thorough investigation so that all loopholes are sealed and we don't come back to this house and start blaming them for not having done a good job.

I thank you.