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Red flags flutter over MPs' assets register

Another year and still National Assembly MPs and the institution continue to struggle to adhere to their own rules

The National Assembly made headlines in early 2023 over the purchase of expensive mobile phones for its members, ostensibly because some could not afford to buy devices with enough memory for themselves.

The storm around the purchasing of expensive mobile phones inflamed discussions around the incomes, assets and liabilities of MPs as members of the public took to social media to point out that many MPs, aside from their gener-

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ous salaries from the public purse, also owned and operated businesses or were shareholders in various commercial activities, including lucrative fishing quotas.

The issue of expensive mobile phones aside, all the assets and interests of MPs should be recorded in the register of members' assets and interests on an annual basis.

TO PAGE 2

The register is managed by the secretariats of the National Assembly and National Council, respectively.

For the National Assembly, MPs are required to file their assets and interests declarations by 30 April every year.

However, the timely and comprehensive filing of such declarations have been persistent issues in the National Assembly, with reports over the years showing that MPs did not adhere to the rules on deadlines and even failed to submit declarations for specific financial years.

For its part, the National Assembly Secretariat has historically also come across as not effectively upholding and enforcing the rules of the institution, arguably fueling the culture of lax compliance among MPs as it concerns the submitting of their assets and interests declarations.

2022/23 filings

Compliance with the rules once again dogged the 2022/23 version of the register of members’ assets and interests in the National Assembly.

According to information provided by the National Assembly Secretariat, by 1 December 2022, which was seven months after the 30 April deadline, only 41 MPs had submitted assets and interests declaration forms for the 2022/23 financial year.

The National Assembly has 104 members, which means that by December 2022, only 39% had declared their assets and interests.

According to the ‘Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests for Members of the National Assembly’ all MPs have to declare their assets and interests by 30 April every year.

The ‘Code of Conduct’ makes it clear that the register of assets and interests is a transparency and integrity mechanism that is meant to track the changes in income and wealth of MPs.

However, as revealed in *Perspectives on Parliament* Issue 15, in April 2022, both compliance with and enforcement of the provisions of the ‘Code of Conduct’ have been less than optimal over the last 20 years, since it emerged in 2002.

Consider for instance that, according to the records of the National Assembly, only 66 MPs out of the 104 declared their

assets and interests for the 2021/22 financial year. That’s a compliance rate of just over 63%, but that’s almost double the compliance rate of 2022/23 by 1 December 2022.

Secretariat’s response

In correspondence dated 1 December 2022, the National Assembly secretary Lydia Kandetu indicated that MPs’ compliance with and the Secretariat’s enforcement of the ‘Code of Conduct’ had been hampered over recent years by the Covid-19 pandemic. This was why deadlines for MPs to submit their declarations had often been late in the year over recent years.

For instance, for the 2022/23 financial year the deadline for submission of declarations appeared to be 7 July 2022, according to the declaration forms.

Kandetu stated that aside from a later deadline over recent years, “repeated reminders” had also been issued to MPs.

She indicated that as from the 2023/24 financial year, MPs will again be required to adhere to the 30 April deadline for declaration submissions, as per the ‘Code of Conduct’.

The ‘Code of Conduct’ and the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament Act (17 of 1996) make provision for the Committee of Privileges in the National Assembly to investigate MPs’ compliance with the ‘Code of Conduct’ or the nature of their submissions, following a complaint or on its own accord.

However, in her 1 December 2022 correspondence, Kandetu stated that the committee “has never conducted any investigation into the declarations of Members of the National Assembly”.

Further reading:

In *Perspectives on Parliament* Issue 15 we investigated the issue of compliance with the ‘Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests for Members of the National Assembly’. You can access Issue 15 at the following link: <https://ippr.org.na/publication/mps-assets-register-remains-a-concern/>

National Assembly MPs who declared

Only 41 MPs in the National Assembly had declared their assets and interests to the National Assembly Secretariat by 1 December 2022.

The table on page 3 lists the names of the 41 MPs, the date on which the National Assembly Secretariat received their declarations, the date on which they signed the declarations and what they declared.

According to the National Assembly rules, MPs have to declare their assets and interests under the following categories:

Category	Meaning
1	Shares and other financial interests
2	Remunerated employment outside Parliament
3	Directorships and partnerships
4	Consultancies / retainerships
5	Sponsorships
6	Gifts and hospitality
7	Benefits
8	Travel
9	Land and property
10	Pensions
11	Trust

FROM PAGE 2

Date on National Assembly (NA) Received Stamp/ Signature	MP Name on Register	MP Surname	Categories Declared	Signed by MP on:
26/04/2022	Alexia	Manombe-Ncube	9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	26/04/2022
17/06/2022	Albert	Kawana	2, 6, 9 & 11 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	17/06/2022
07/07/ 2022	Agnes Basilla	Tjongarero	1, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	06/07/2022
17/06/2022	Agnes Mbingana	Kafula	9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	17/06/2022
29/04/2022	Apius	Auchab	1 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	Not signed
28/04/2022	Anna	Shiweda	1 & 9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 27 April 2022	24/04/2022
11/07/2022	Bernadette Maria	Jagger	3, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	01/06/2022
06/07/2022	Bertha	Dinyando	Nothing declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	06/07/2022
30/06/2022	Becky	Ndjoze-Ojo	9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	Not signed.
29/04/2022	Daniel	Kashikola	1, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	28/4/2022
29/04/2022	Dudu	Murorua	Nothing declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	Not signed
18/05/2022	Doreen	Sioka	Nothing declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	28/04/2022
16/05/2022	Esther Anna	Nghipondoka	1, 3, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	10/05/2022
27/04/2022	Elifas	Dingara	1 & 3 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	25/04/2022
17/02/2022	Erastus	Uutoni	9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 16 November 2021.	17/11/2021
14/06/2022	Hafeni Ludwig	Ndemwa	1,3, 9 & 10 declared. / type of bussiness activity in 1 not declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	10/06/2022
16/06/2022	Hamyera	Hambyuka	9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	15/06/2022
13/07/2022	Hilma Ndinelago	Nikanor	9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	22/06/2022
14/06/2022	Josef	Kauandenge	1 & 9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	14/06/2022
28/04/2022	Kalumbi	Shangula	1, 3, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 7 July 20232.	Not signed
12/07/2022	Kletus	Karondo	3 & 9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	27/06/2022
03/05/2022	Loide	Kasingo	1, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	03/05/2022
18/05/2022	Lucia	lipumbu	3 & 9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	16/05/2022
21/06/2022	Lucia	Witbooi	3, 7, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	21/06/2022
03/03/2022	Leevi	Katoma	1 & 9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 16 November 2021.	28/02/2022
08/06/2022	Modestus	Amutse	1 & 9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	06/07/2022
10/06/2022	Maria Elago	Elago	1, 3, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	06/07/2022
02/02/ 2022	McHenry	Venaani	1, 3, 5, 8, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 16 Nov 2021.	16/11/2021
15/07/2022	Nathalia	/Goagoses	1, 3, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	13/07/2022
07/07/2022	Nono	Katjingsisia	9,10 & 11 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	30/*[unclear]/2022
28/06/2022	Peter	Katjivivi	1, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	Not signed, different format, NA Speaker stamped
Not stamped but signed as received on 29/03/2022	Pohamba	Shifeta	1 & 9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 16 November 2021.	16/03/2022
15/08/2022	Shillipus	Katamelo	1, 2 & 9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	06/07/2022
27/04/2022	Sebastian	Karupu	Nothing declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	26.04.2022
28/06/2022	Silvia	Makgone	1,2, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 31 July 2022	24/06/2022
23/06/2022	Johanna	Kandjimi	9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	22/06/2022
17/02/2022	Saara	Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	1 & 3 declared. 9 indicates "As Previously reported. Deadline on form indicated as 16 November 2021.	16/02/2022
13/07/2022	Tjekero	Tweya	1, 9, 10 & 11 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	05/07/2022
15/06/2022	Tom	Alweendo	1, 9 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	14/06/2022
06/09/2022	Veikko	Nekundi	9 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	06/09/2022
27/04/2022	Yvonne	Dausab	3, 7 & 10 declared. Deadline on form indicated as 07 July 2022	26/4/2022

National Council MPs who declared

The National Council appears historically to have fared better than the National Assembly in terms of compliance with submitting of declarations of assets and interests by MPs.

According to information available by 1 December 2022, of the 42 National Council members, 29 had submitted declarations by that date (see table below). That equates to a 69% declaration rate.

As with the National Assembly, National Council MPs have to declare their assets and interests under a range of categories, which are (see table right):

Category	Meaning
1	Shares and other financial interests
2	Directorships, partnerships and board memberships
3	Sole ownership
4	Remunerated employment outside Parliament
5	Liabilities
6	Immovable property
7	Equity value in personal residence of member
8	Travel and travel discounts
9	Gifts and hospitality
10	Sponsorships
11	Consultancies
12	Pensions
13	Any other benefit of a material nature

MP Name on Register	MP Surname	Date on National Council (NC) form	Signed by MP	Categories Declared
Melanie	Ndjago	2022	2022	1, 5, 6, 7 declared
Nicodemus	Motinga	2022	2022	1, 3, 6, 7 declared
Paul	Isaak	2022	2022	3, 5, 6 declared
Jeremias	Goeiemann	2022	2022	6 declared
Paulus	Mbangu	2022	2022	6, 7 declared
Lukas	Muha	2022	2022	3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12 declared
Kosmas	Katura	2022	2022	12 declared
Johannes	Karondo	2022	2022	7 declared
Christopher	Likuwa	2022	2022	2, 3, 5, 6, 11 declared
Richard	Gaoseb	2022	2022	2, 3, 6, 7, 10 declared
Ueutjeravi	Ngunaihe	2022	2022	5, 6, 7 declared
Sebastiaan	Gobs	2022	2022	3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Lonia	Kaishungu	2022	2022	6, 7, 10, 12
Olivia	Hanghuwo	2022	2022	6, 7 declared
Elkan	Hainghumbi	2022	2022	7 declared
Peter	Kazongominya	2022	2022	6 declared
Augustus	Tebele	2022	2022	12 declared
Gerhard	Shiimi	2022	2022	Nothing declared
Laurentius	lipinge	2022	2022	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12 declared
Leonard	Shikulo	2022	2022	Nothing declared
Alfeus	Abraham	2022	2022	2, 3, 7 declared
Abner	Shikongo	2022	2022	3, 6, 7, 12 declared
Andreas	Uutoni	2022	2022	3, 4, 6 declared
Hans	Nambondi	2022	2022	7 declared
Sakeus	Nangula	2022	2022	1, 5, 6, 7 declared
Philemon	Ndjambula	2022	2022	3, 6, 7 declared
Bethuel	Tjaveonda	2022	2022	3 declared
BL	Busihu	2022	2022	7 declared
Micky	Lukaezi	2022	2022	3, 5, 7 declared