

AFRICAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA — MISS AFRICA PERTH

**621. Mr J. NORBERGER to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:**

Could the minister update the house on the recent Miss Africa event and the great work the African Women's Council of Australia is doing?

**Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question; it is a very good one. The African Women's Council plays a very important role in the African, and indeed, the wider culturally and linguistically diverse communities. As members know, many people from a wide range of communities in Africa have made Western Australia home. Many of them, of course, have refugee backgrounds and some struggle to adapt to the new life in Western Australia. The African Women's Council is run by a dedicated group of volunteers headed by Dr Casta Tungaraza, whom many members know. Casta was awarded the Multicultural Community Services Individual Excellence Award 2012 for her contribution to the African and wider community. One of the events the African Women's Council runs is Miss Africa, Perth, which is celebrated every year on 25 May, which is Africa Day. The objective of the Miss Africa Perth event, among a number of things, is to encourage young African women from across the African community to participate in the community, learn values and give back to the community. It is an exercise in showcasing African heritage and encouraging young women in various skills and life, including work and study, and to make a contribution to the community. The finalists were from across the African community from Congo to Kenya, Mali, Zimbabwe and Zambia. I want to emphasise that many of the girls are from refugee families who have struggled. The winners are youth ambassadors. Both parties recognise this.

The Labor Party, quite rightly, invited Dr Tungaraza and the African Women's Council to a tea party in the Aboriginal People's Room last Friday. Congratulations! At the same time the Speaker, I think at the request of Dr Tungaraza, offered the council the opportunity to visit Parliament House whilst here. That was good.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! I do not want any comment, thank you; let the minister finish.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Unfortunately, that trip around Parliament House was seriously sullied by the member for Girrawheen going off unhinged.

**Ms E. Evangel** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Perth!

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** That is, the Speaker and Miss Tungaraza invited and requested that my policy adviser, Natasha Cheung, whom, I might add, has been active in the CALD community for decades —

**Ms E. Evangel** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Perth!

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** As a councillor with the City of Swan, as an active member of the Chinese community and as my adviser on multicultural affairs, she was in Parliament representing the Speaker.

**Ms E. Evangel** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Perth!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland! Member for Perth, I call you to order for the first time.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** She was here representing the Speaker and the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Several members interjected.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** She was there also at the request of the guests.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Perth, I call you to order for the second time. Minister, can you wind this up, please.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Yes. She was waiting in front of the Premier's office when the member for Girrawheen came down and —

**Ms E. Evangel** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Perth! I call you to order for the third time.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** — aggressively, verbally abused her.

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I believe this answer is completely out of order. The minister is not addressing the question he was asked. The minister has taken an extraordinarily long time and he is now answering matters that have nothing to do with him. He is now talking about a former candidate for the Liberal Party acting upon your instructions, Mr Speaker, here at Parliament House. This is an abuse of question time.

Several members interjected.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The minister in his answer said this person attended a Labor Party function at your request, Mr Speaker.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order. We will not debate what the minister said.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I do not understand how it can be in the purview of the minister to explain what happened to a person acting on your behalf. Clearly, if the person was acting on your behalf, that was not part of the duties of the minister and, therefore, they cannot be subject to the answer the minister is giving.

**The SPEAKER:** If you want to clarify that, minister, but it is not a point of order. Just finish your answer.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** As I made clear—it might be painful to members—she is my adviser on multicultural interests and was here at the request of the Speaker and the visitors and representing the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests—me.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I want this to be brought to a quick conclusion.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** She was here representing me. Member for Girrawheen —

Several members interjected.

*Point of Order*

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Mr Speaker, I will read to you standing order 75 —

Questions may be asked of —

(1) Ministers regarding matters under the Minister's administrative responsibility;

The Speaker of the Parliament is not subject to ministerial activity; therefore, anything that was done on your behalf cannot be part of the minister's responsibility.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down! Member for Churchlands, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Forrestfield, you are now on the third call. This is not a point of order. The minister said two things, and I will not start debating it. He said that she was representing him.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I am not going to debate this. I want you to draw this to a conclusion.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** She was at a Labor Party function.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** What was your officer doing at a Labor Party function?

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** She was not. She was waiting for the guest. Now, the issue is —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland! I am going to make a direction here. The question was asked about the African women and their contribution. We are now going right off this subject. I want this brought to a succinct conclusion.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** The African Women's Council visited Parliament House. After attending a function, they asked —

Several members interjected.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** The member for Girrawheen insulted —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I want this —

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** There is an apology required from the member for Girrawheen for insulting Natasha Cheung!

**The SPEAKER:** Right! Have you finished, minister?

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** No; I have been shouted down.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** I am trying to make an appropriate and delicate point.

Several members interjected.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** A member of the community visited Parliament House. My staff, representing me, at their request, were going to accompany them and stay where she was, and they were repeatedly abused by the member for Girrawheen—the so-called shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

*Point of Order*

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Standing order 92 states that imputations of improper motives and personal reflections cannot be made about people in this house without a suspension of standing orders and a motion accordingly. It is clear that the minister has now shifted his point of debate to a personal —

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down, please.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down, please! I call you to order for the first time, Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member for Midland!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It is clear that the minister has now shifted his contribution from whatever he was trying to answer with respect to the question to a personal attack on the member for Girrawheen. It is inappropriate and I would ask you to call him to order.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, you have two seconds to finish your answer.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** It was a shameful occasion when a person representing the minister was verbally abused.

Several members interjected.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** It was a shameful occasion when the African Women's Council was insulted.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, that is the end of that question.