

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
17 APRIL 2018**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER IN TERMS OF
RULE (98) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: You can never fully prepare as you notice I was caught on the hop having left my phone on, and I was trying to make sure that it does not ring any further. Honourable Members, one of you has left something very important in the Chamber, and I am not sure who is who but very important instrument of power and those instruments of power are keys. Key to your house, to your safe, to something very important and they are here, and it is the Honourable Kapofi. I will give the keys. If you leave anything here it will be safe, (*Laughter*) money too.

The message I am going to give you this afternoon might ring a bell to something you came across in the presentation by His Excellency the President when he spoke to us on the State of the Nation he referred to something that I am going to bring back to you and that is essentially an announcement that says that the National Assembly in collaboration with the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR), South African Institute of International Affairs, our good friends based in Johannesburg, and last the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung the famous foundation of the Social Democratic Party from Germany, and the Open Social Initiative of Southern Africa.

These are all well known institutions dealing with issues relating to governance etcetera, will be joining the National Assembly in conducting a half a day workshop on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is an institution that is very much connected to the African Union, dealing

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with issues pertaining to governance and they are joining us here to run a workshop for a few hours on the 19th of April and we have allocated C1 as a venue where this event will be taking place.

APRM is a body that Namibia has just recently joined for self assessment as well as for peer review where other countries will review us in terms of our performance in all aspects of development. All Members of the National Assembly are hereby cordially invited to attend this workshop in order to understand what APRM will be looking for, in particular they will be addressing one issue that is very important to all of us, that is the role of Members of Parliament in that important undertaking. So it is against that background that I wish to request you to humbly attend that workshop that is going to deal with Members of Parliament who are seen as part of the Namibian Chapter of APRM, and we want to make it a success.

Many countries have undertaken, have gone through this particular exercise and I do not want to mention names of any of those countries but if you discover who they are, you will realise that we as a country I think we have done extremely well and we should be among the countries that basically would enjoy being assessed within the terms of reference of APRM. So we look forward to all of you being there if you are able to make the time.

It will be on the 19th of April. We hope to start from 09:00 AM until 12:30 C1. I think it will enable us to appreciate, and I know our colleagues who represent us at the PAN African Parliament are familiar with this because, every now and then the Reports conducted by the African Peer Review Mechanism are usually brought to the PAN African Parliament shared with those Members of Parliament to see how many of these Member countries have qualified, have gone through this important exercise. So it will be on the 19th from 09:00 to 12:30 and we look forward to seeing you there.

Honourable Utoni Nujoma.

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HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: I want to ask a question. I have no problem with these Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) but I want to know maybe Comrade Speaker you can tell us, who fund these NGOs. Where do they get the money to come and teach us here in Africa? Why are they not lecturing for example Donald Trump and all the others who are bombing the world there? Here we are peaceful but we are always to be lectured, ha? What is wrong with this?

HON SPEAKER: No in democracy we should ask questions. We should find out what value is this undertaking going to add to the development of our country. Now for too long, for a number of years, Namibia has stayed away as a country from this, but finally at the Government level a decision was taken that we should join, so they are coming here for the first time to share with us how they have been able to undertake such reviews in other parts of the world so we will be able to make that judgment to say is this something really beneficial and you as Parliamentarians and lawmakers you will be able to share and let us wait and the taste is in the actual engagement. When you actually have a plate containing pudding you will be able to judge for yourself whether this pudding is to your taste or it is not.

But with regards to the funding the African Peer Review Mechanism is a baby of the African Union so they are the prime mover of this particular exercise. The other institutions are research institutions. They are basically going to join in to observe how this undertaking will be taking place, etcetera so can we leave it at that?

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes there is something in my way.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SHIWEDA**

TABLING OF REPORTS

TABLING - REPORTS OF THE VETERINARY COUNCIL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table annual Reports of the Namibian Veterinary Council for the period 1st August 2015 to the 31st July 2016 and 1st August 2016 to the 31st July 2017.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Deputy Minister. I could not spot you because there was an interference in the system here. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Other Reports and Papers. We covered that. Notice of Questions? Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I beg for your indulgence under Rule (92) to ask an oral question to the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation and all those imperial things.

HONSPEAKER: Yes, let us hear the question?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI / HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

ORAL QUESTION

QUESTION 14:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Minister we are reading in the newspapers of yet another suspension of the CEO of NASFAF. We want to know from you what has triggered this suspension at the student fund? Do you have the blessing and the concurrency of the Minister of Public Enterprises for that suspension? Because very often we see CEOs being suspended on paid leave and then they are brought back, kept there so what is happening? What led to this very eminent suspension that we are reading in the newspapers?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Minister could you deal with that question?

RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Yes Honourable Speaker, I did not anticipate that the question will come because there has been a Press Conference that explained what the situation is. It is the Board that suspended the CEO in concurrency with whoever should have been involved, and I think subsequently we will explicate ourselves in terms of what happened very soon.

Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: So the answer is being awaited as soon as the necessary consultations have taken place. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Notice of Motions? The Chief Whip?

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 09, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 16 of the *Appropriation Bill* be in terms of Rule 99 Sub Section (c) of the Standing Rules and Orders not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is the Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that leave with absence due to ill health be granted to Honourable Nico Smit until further notice.

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. In that connection the House is delighted to see the Honourable Mike Kavekatora back in the House. Welcome Sir, (*Applause*) it is good to see you.

Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? We are done.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE
STAGE - APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 2 – 2018]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Committee Stage – *Appropriation Bill* [B. 2 – 2018]

HON SPEAKER: Does the Deputy Minister Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair, any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B. 2 – 2018]. When progress was reported yesterday, the 16th of April 2018, Vote 09, 10 and 12 had been introduced and Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 11, 28, 30 and 31 had been agreed to.

Now for the introduction: I put Vote 14 - “**LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION**” – NS194,763,000 for the introduction by the Honourable Minister.

You have the Floor Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House,

I rise to introduce Vote 14 of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation of 2018/2019 Financial Year. The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation is very critical and central to ensuring labour stability, good employment relationships, investment enhancement, employment creation coordination, social protection and job security, to mention but a few objectives in a broader context. Hence this Ministry has direct impact on both trade and labour matters of Namibia and Beyond. However, some associate the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation only with

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industrial actions, and strikes in particular. Some think of the Ministry when there is a looming dispute, strike about wages and other conditions of employment, but pay little or no attention to its contribution to social-economic development and to justice in the workplace. The balancing role the Ministry plays in regards to investment (job creation) and good labour relations (trade unions and employers' organisations) should be appreciated and recognised.

Honourable Chairperson,

In Namibia's current economic and social climate, everybody speaks about the need for employment creation, but often without adding substance to such pronouncements. There is no doubt that Namibia is confronted by a high and yet unacceptable level of unemployment, particularly among the youth and women.

I emphasise that when we refer to creation of employment, we refer to decent work that respects workers' rights and freedom, enables a worker to work himself/herself out of the poverty cycle and contributes positively to the national development agenda.

Having set the tone for Vote 14, it is important to note that the Ministry of labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation derives its Constitutional mandate directly from Article 95 of the Namibian Constitution, which directs that State policies must aim at, among other things, decent living standards for all Namibians, protecting the right to form and join trade unions of one's choice and ensuring adherence to international Labour Standards adopted by the International Labour Organisation.

To actualise this broader and encompassing role, the Ministry further derives its mandate from a number of Acts of Parliament and high-level policy instruments, namely:

- *Labour Act, 2007* (Act 11 of 2007)

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- *Employment Service Act*, 2011 (Act 8 of 2011)
- *Social Security Act*, 1994 (Act 34 of 1994)
- *Employees Compensation Act* (Act 30 of 1941) as Amended
- *Affirmative Action (Employment) Act* (Act 29 of 1998), and
- Namibia's Vision 2030
- SWAPO Election Manifesto (2014)
- Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP)
- Agenda 2063 of the African Union
- SADC Regional indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)
- UN Vision 2030, and
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and relevant interventions

I will now highlight some of the programmes and activities that the Ministry carried out during the 2017/2018 Financial Year, amidst tough economic challenges faced by both Namibia and the African Region as a whole, as well as some key plans for the coming year.

Job Creation Efforts

Fifteen-thousand five hundred and sixty nine (15 569) jobseekers were registered on the Namibia integrated Employment Information System (NIEIS). Disappointingly, only the small number of 3116 job seekers could be placed in employment. This demonstrates that there are serious structural challenges in a component of the employment creation strategy

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that is intended both to provide fair opportunities to all who seek employment and to meet employers' hiring needs. Some of the shortcomings noted are: the absence of compulsory registration or reporting by each employer of every job that is created in the country, as it appears that many employees might have been recruited not from the NIEIS, but by word-of-mouth, personal connections, straight from a college, school, street or even the internet; lack of relevant skills necessary for economic growth; and inadequate attention paid to the recognition of prior learning.

Honourable Chairperson

Employment creation requires a serious and targeted approach and not only political and social talks without offering viable alternative. Although the State has so far tried to create the necessary conditions and conducive environment for employment creation, this has not translated into the creation of much needed jobs. If the economy cannot grow and cannot create the necessary job opportunities, then it should be redesigned or remodelled.

Employment creation coordination and monitoring is therefore the primary objective of this Ministry for the 2018/2019 Financial Year.

To meet the challenge in the promotion of employment to which I just referred to, the Ministry is revising NIEIS both to ensure that every job that is being created is recorded by the State, in order to provide for a true reflection of the state of affairs of employment created and to facilitate recognition of the potentiality of each and every Namibian to contribute to economic growth. I am pleased to inform you that in May 2018, the Ministry will embark upon a three-year programme of technical cooperation with the Republic of Korea (through the ILO) to update and upgrade the Namibia Integrated Employment Information System to produce a dynamic, inclusive, reliable and effective mechanism to facilitate employment creation in Namibia and to serve as a world-class model especially for developing countries.

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The Ministry also expects to benefit from the experiences of Korea in the successful coordination of the implementation of its Employment Policy.

I also would like to inform the Honourable Members that Employment Directives to maximise employment have been prepared and should be strictly complied with by those who tender for State contracts and who apply for valuable economic rights, concession and licenses. I have already approached the Ministers of many key Ministries to coordinate efforts in order to ensure that successful results are achieved.

I am sure that we all agree that achievement of gainful and decent employment will enable our people to get out of poverty and gain dignity. To this end, the Ministry has reviewed the Domestic Workers Minimum Wage Order and gazetted the new level of minimum wages in this sector. Similar measures were applied in the Construction, Agriculture and Social Sectors, although the latter is now the subject of a challenge in the Labour Court.

Furthermore, the Ministry has commenced research and analysis, with the assistance of the ILO, to determine the feasibility of introducing a National Minimum Wage for Namibia. This is very necessary in a county like Namibia where many employees are still paid wages that are not commensurate with their job content and productivity and are considered to be part of the “working poor”.

Parallel to this, the establishment of the Namibia Productivity Centre to balance productivity with innovation and decent work in order to make Namibia one of the most competitive economies in the SADC Region, and if not in Africa. This requires skilled and continued training of both the employers and employees to embracing productivity concepts for better results. This initiative is at an advanced stage.

To successfully continue with these activities and get the desired results, an amount of **NS\$32 799 000** is requested.

Promotion of harmonious labour relations

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As I have mentioned earlier on, there could be no tangible investment enhancement and socio-economic growth and development in the absence of good labour relations. In this area, Namibia's industrial relationship remains one of the most stable countries in the SADC Region. This is mainly attributable to the commitment of the Ministry and its social partners to social dialogue and collective bargaining processes hinged on an accessible, affordable, simple and relatively speedy system of alternative dispute prevention and resolution. This is done through labour inspections, conciliation and arbitration process.

Furthermore, the alternative labour dispute resolution mechanism that was introduced ten (10) years ago as an appropriate vehicle to resolve labour conflicts in the country is functional and gaining recognition and appreciation from its users. This is an alternative to the formal Court system. Ordinary employees and upcoming small and medium enterprises are able to access justice, fairness and relatively fast finality to their workplace, labour disputes without the assistance of a lawyer. Of course, to run such a public system to ensure access to justice requires technical skills, equipment and consistent regular upgrading and training.

In order to improve and maintain this system for it an amount of **NS\$23 245 000** is required to continue rendering professional services of fairness and access to justice.

Compliance with and enforcement of laws have been proved to be the biggest hindrance to high levels of implementation. The Ministry carried out combined inspections totalling to 2132, which comprised of 1116 occupational safety and health aspects and 1016 workplace labour inspections.

Some workplaces were found in compliance, others moderately so, while the rest failed the inspection test, resulting in the issuance of Compliance Orders for them to comply within a prescribed time, and the Ministry conducts periodic follow ups.

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To enforce the law and ensure compliance requires enormous human and financial resources, appropriate tools and equipment particularly to reach employers and employees in all corners of the vast country.

The Ministry remains steadfast and focused to fulfil its mandate to promote compliance with and to enforce the law, with whatever resources and tools are at its disposal. This has been and continues to be done through proactive and reactive inspections, and targeted and spontaneous investigations at workplaces.

Therefore, these activities need an amount of **N\$51 285 58**.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

The struggle to achieve equal opportunities in employment has borne some fruits, as is evident from the Report of the Employment Equity Commission that I tabled before this august House a few weeks ago. Therefore, there is no need for me to report on the progress that has been made in this area at this stage.

It is however important to state that the Ministry in collaboration with the ILO has embarked upon a three year programme to mainstream gender in the key areas of its work. It has already conducted a training course for 15 facilitators who will conduct a Gender Audit of the Ministry and its programmes.

The Audit will lay the basis for several gender-responsive programmes, including stakeholder training and instituting measures to mainstream gender-awareness programmes in the implementation of the National Employment Policy and in the labour market generally.

For Namibia to develop her human resources it has to be informed and guided by its needs. The Ministry has been conducting vocational counselling sessions and school talks informing students to make good career choices.

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Making a good career choice enhances one's employability and entrepreneurship opportunities while propelling innovation in the labour market.

As a contribution to social protection with a specific focus to employees that are facing retirement, the Ministry has been conducting pre-retirement workshops and awareness sessions in the country. These sessions have specific emphasis on how one plans for his/her retirement to avoid emotional stress, financial strain and social frustration. The target groups are those employees in the age group of 45 to 60. Currently, the programme is focusing on civil servants, but private sector can also be covered on request.

Social exclusion and poverty are affecting the populace although it shows some signs of decline in recent years. It is unacceptable that persons who worked throughout their lives should slip into poverty upon retirement. To arrest the scourge, the Ministry has been working with the Social Security Commission to operationalise the National Pension Fund. The Fund has to cover all employees including those who are in the informal economy and self-employed at an affordable rate. The final modalities and preference method of contributions are a current subject of the Commission's deliberations. It is this Ministry's conviction that any Namibian who has held a decent job in his/her lifetime should be able to live a decent life beyond the scope of work.

As an effort to ensure equity in employment and social protection, the activity requires **NS\$14 433 000**.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members,

Namibia is a proud member of the Regional (SADC), Continental AU) and International Communities (ILO) in the area of labour and employment, and it has discharged her obligations as expected and continues to work within the appropriate frameworks of these bodies.

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In June 2017, Namibia was elected as a Deputy Member of the ILO Governing Body, along with Lesotho (Titular Member) and Swaziland (Deputy Member) representing Africa and SADC in particular for a period of three (3) years (2017-2021). She is required together with others to be the voice of Africa and SADC in this Executive Body of ILO.

In accordance with SADC principle of rotation, Namibia will assume the SADC Employment and Labour Sector Coordinator ship starting August 2018 till July 2019. Her ascendancy to the position of coordinator and chair comes with some technical and financial obligations. This Ministry is ready and prepared to fulfil the tasks entrusted upon Namibia in this regard.

To Maintain Namibia's membership in good standing thus continues to play her roll and fulfil her obligations both at home and abroad the amount of **NS7 6444 000** is hereby requested.

To achieve the overall Ministry's objectives, different components need to be supported by an effective planning and administration system. This includes maintenance of its equipment, tools, infrastructure and ensurance of operational efficiency, therefore, an amount of **NS73 755 000** is required.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Finance, Minister of Economic and National Planning and the Director-General together with their capable staff for the preparation of the Budget of 2018/2019. As per the Ministry of Finance's directives that Vote 14 "**should fully cater for the fixed expenditure** items such as **personnel expenditure, utilities, maintenance, property rentals** and **security contracts** where applicable". The Ministry will ensure adherence to such directives in allocating the remaining funds to specific activities mainly in the employment creation strategies.

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It is now my singular honour and privilege to submit Vote 14 for the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation amount of **NS\$194 763 000** for the House is consideration and approval.

I would like to thank you, most sincerely, for your attention and support.

Thank you. (*Applause*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you Honourable Minister.

I now put: Vote 15 – “**MINES AND ENERGY**” – **NS\$264,321,000** for the introduction by the Honourable Deputy Minister, Honourable Kornelia Shilunga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly,

It is my honour to introduce to this august House the Budget allocation for Vote 15, the Ministry of Mines and Energy for the 2018/2019 Financial Year.

I would like to thank Honourable Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Finance, and Honourable Obed Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the National Planning Commission, and their respective teams for a diligent job in the preparation of the National Budget in these difficult economic times.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy’s mandate is to ensure safe, responsible and sustainable exploitation of the Geological, Mineral and

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Energy resources, for the socio-economic benefit of all the Namibian citizens.

The prime responsibility of the Ministry is the promotion and regulation of the extractive and energy industries in the country, including the collection of royalties, and ensuring that safety; health and environmental standards are consistent with the relevant national policies, legislation, regulations and international best practices.

Despite the financial distress experienced during 2017/2018 Financial Year, the Ministry of Mines and Energy has managed to meet most of its obligations with limited resources by embarking upon activities that are key in boosting the economic growth.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

Allow me to highlight some of the Ministry's Major achievements, during the 2017/18 Financial Year.

An amount of N\$23 billion was generated from mineral export earnings. A total of N\$28 million was earned from petroleum exploration & production rental fees. Additionally, N\$2.3 million was collected from mineral licences while royalties added another N\$1.3 billion to the State Revenue Fund.

Despite the challenges experienced in the uranium market, the Husab Mine commenced commercial production and exported its first product shipment during December 2017. The Mine is expected to produce to full capacity by the end of 2018.

The B2Gold Mine has produced 5,436 kg gold during the 2017/2018 Financial Year, an increase from 4,845 kg in the previous Financial Year.

The copper cathode production at the Tschudi mine remained on target as planned producing, 15,466 tonnes during 2017/18 Financial Year.

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The Okanjande Graphite project situated about 70 km northwest of Otjiwarongo commenced production in 2017. It is anticipated that the mine will have a lifespan of about 35 years at a production rate of 20 000 tons of graphite per annum. The company employs 139 people on the mine and 108 people on the plant.

The Namibian Diamond production for the period under review was just over 1,8 million carats. Over 240,000 carats of Namdeb run-off mine were offered locally to Namib Desert Diamonds (Pty) Ltd (NAMDIA) and local sight holders at a value of **three hundred and sixty million, one hundred and twenty-five thousand US Dollars (USD 360,125,000)** as compared to **two hundred and ninety one million, eight hundred thousand US Dollars (USD 291,800,000)** in 2016/17 Financial Year. This achievement has yielded an increase in beneficiation activities and enabled NAMDIA to fulfil its mandate.

A significant improvement of rough diamonds converted into polished has been observed due to improved monitoring, reporting and stakeholder engagement, by the Ministry, in driving the beneficiation agenda. To that effect, 54% of rough diamonds offered to the local sight holders has been processed locally.

The Ministry hosted the Kimberly Process (KP) Certification Scheme Review Visit in September 2017, which found and confirmed that Namibia has been compliant to the Kimberly Process minimum requirements and thus continues to trade its diamonds, which are certified as conflict free.

In a move to improve the unemployment situation in rural areas, the Ministry of Mines and Energy continues to support a slate processing facility in Noordoewer, //Karas Region at which 13 workers are employed.

The Ministry is also embracing the use of information technology with a view to increase efficiency, as well as to reduce costs. The use of the Flexi cadastre mineral rights licensing and management system is a case in point. Its use has improved service delivery and public access to the

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mineral rights register. The Ministry seeks to further upgrade the system, in order to ensure a clear, transparent and timely licensing process.

In terms of the exploration for oil and gas, the 2017/18 financial year was another volatile year, however, the Ministry enhanced its database with up to 834 line km of 2D seismic data and about 1,150 square kilometres (km²) of 3D has been acquired. Another survey acquiring more than 3,000 square kilometres (km²) of 3D data is currently ongoing within the Walvis basin.

The interpretation of a combination of these data together with other information available has enabled a number of prospects and leads to be mapped, taking the country a step closer to a discovery of commercial volumes of hydrocarbons. Furthermore, the geological mapping with High Resolution Airborne Geophysics continues to drive exploration interest in Namibia.

Concerning the Regional Geochemical Sampling programme, the national coverage is at 25%. In addition, the Ministry of Mines and Energy continues with the implementation of the Strategic Environment Management Plan for the Uranium Mineral Province (Erongo Region).

Great advancement towards the realization of Kudu Gas To Power Project continues to be realized. The BW Kudu, a wholly subsidiary of BW Offshore (Singapore based company) has formally taken over as the upstream operator on the license with a 56% working interest with NAMCOR retaining 44% interest in the Kudu License.

Following a review process which began in July 2017, informed by the current regional power market dynamics, Kudu Project stakeholders have made a decision to re-size the Kudu Power Station to 442 MW, requiring 60 million standard cubic feet per day over a 25 year Gas Sales Agreement. The lower gas offtake over a longer concession will make the Kudu Power Station a better fit within NamPower's generation needs and financial capabilities.

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The construction of the National Oil Storage facility in Walvis Bay is nearing completion at an overall rate of 95% with a projected total cost of N\$5.6 billion. The project is funded through the National Energy Fund (NEF) and is expected to be completed by June 2018.

Upon completion, this facility is expected to improve the country's security of fuel supply. Simultaneously, it is also expected to create employment opportunities and contribute significantly to government revenue.

In addition, the NEF continues to subsidize energy prices as per its mandate, through levies imposed on controlled petroleum products and electricity. During the 2017/2018 Financial Year, NEF paid an amount of N\$252 million to the Suppliers of Petroleum Products to subsidise the prices of petrol and diesel.

Similarly, during the same Financial Year, NEF paid an amount of N\$104 million for the fuel road delivery subsidy to the rural/far outlying areas of the country. These communities are generally less affluent and, they cannot afford the full cost of delivering fuel to their localities to be added to the pump prices.

Apart from the extractive industry activities, the Ministry is mandated to regulate and oversee the energy activities in the country. The following National Policies have been finalised and approved by Cabinet in 2017:

- The National Energy Policy.
- National Renewable Energy Policy.

National Integrated Resource Plan (NIRP).

The Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (REFIT) interim programme has added a total 45MW out of the anticipated 70MW to the national grid during the 2017/2018 Financial Year. Another 25MW will come on line within the next 4 months.

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The construction of a 37MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) plant near Mariental has begun, and is envisaged to feed electricity into the national grid by mid 2018. The ground breaking ceremonies of a 10MW Solar PV near Mariental, and 10MW Solar PV near Keetmanshoop took place on 22 February 2018. The power plants are expected to feed electricity into the national grid by the end of August 2018.

In terms of the Rural Electrification Programme, an amount of **seventeen million, eight hundred and thirty four thousand Namibia Dollars (NS17,834,000)** was spent towards the projects during the 2017/18 Financial Year whereby, 20 public institutions and localities have been electrified in Kavango West, Kavango East and Omaheke regions. 29 households and 7 formal and informal business centers have been connected to the national grid.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

Allow me now to motivate the Budget allocation of Vote 15.

The Ministry has received an overall Budget allocation of **two hundred and sixty four million, three hundred and twenty-one thousand Namibia Dollars (NS264,321,000)**, which is distributed among seven programmes which I will discuss shortly. An amount of **one hundred and seventy million, four hundred and ninety-eight thousand Namibia Dollar (NS170, 498,000)** is budgeted for the operational Budget of which 68% is earmarked for remuneration and employee's benefits.

The total development Budget is **ninety-three million, eight hundred and twenty-three thousand Namibia Dollars (NS93,823,000)**.

PROGRAMME 01 – PROMOTION OF INVESTMENT IN EXPLORATION AND MINING

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Thirty-six million, seven hundred and seventeen thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$36,717,000) has been allocated to this programme to ensure the safeguarding of mineral resources, investment promotion, the well-being of employees working in the mining industry as well as revenue collection, amongst other activities. Of this amount, thirty-five million, two hundred and ninety-four thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$35,294,000) is earmarked for operational expenditure under this programme.

An amount of **one million, four hundred and twenty three thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$1,423,000)** is allocated for the development projects and is earmarked towards the finalization of Small Scale Miners for the projects in Khorixas and Noordoewer.

Included in the operational Budget is **Twelve million Namibia Dollars (N\$12,000,000)** which is to be transferred to Epangelo Mining Company as a government subsidy.

The priorities of the Department of Mines during this Financial Year are, amongst others, to finalise the *Minerals Bill* and its regulations, the review of the Minerals Policy and to align them to the African Mining Vision.

In order to bring services closer to the people, the Ministry intends to relocate 2 staff members from head office to the Swakopmund office, particularly to assist the public with geo-information as well as administration of the Minerals (*Prospecting and mining*) Act, in-so-far as the applications and administration of mineral rights is concerned

The Development of the Minerals Beneficiation Strategy remains key to the Ministry in ensuring the sustainability of the sector and export of value added mineral products. The Joint Value Addition Committee has made significant progress in this regard and a tender for the development of the strategy will be awarded in the near future.

**PROGRAMME 02 – CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE OF
NAMIBIA’S GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

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This programme involves conducting of geo-scientific research and management of data, with the objective of enhancing the understanding of the geological resources and their potential contribution to the socio-economic development.

The main priority of the programme for the 2018/19 Financial Year is to improve and enhance the knowledge and information in order to provide products that address the current geology related needs of the country.

The programme received an amount of **fifty-seven million, three hundred and fifteen thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$57,315,000)**.

An amount of **thirty-six million, three hundred and fifteen thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$36,315,000)** is allocated towards operational Budget. While the development Budget under this programme is **twenty one million Namibia Dollars (N\$21,000,000)**. Some of the projects that will be implemented during the Financial Year are as follow:

- Continue with the upgrade and expansion of our National Seismological Network in order to improve geo-hazards assessment and mapping;
- Geophysical interpretation of the underexplored Kavango East, Kavango West and Zambezi regions will commence and is expected to end in 2019/2020; and
- Geological mapping and Hyperspectral survey of the Kunene region is expected to start this financial year. Remote sensing techniques will be used to reduce the time and costs for geological maps production. Geological data sets from Kunene region are now in high demand to both the mineral exploration and mining industry.

PROGRAMME 03 - PROTECTION OF NAMIBIA'S DIAMOND INDUSTRY

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Twelve million, seven hundred twenty-five thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$12,725,000) is allocated for the monitoring, regulation and facilitation of the diamond industry.

In realising the speedy evolution of the diamond industry, the Ministry initiated the review process of the *Diamond Act*, 13 of 1999 to ensure that the law governing the industry is responsive to the industry dynamics.

This process is anticipated to be finalised in the next Financial Year. In ensuring that the diamond industry remains protected against illicit diamond activities, Namibia must remain in adherence to minimum requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and international best practices, thereby upholding a good image of Namibian diamonds and meeting international market standards.

PROGRAMME 04 - ENERGY SUPPLY AND SECURITY

Seventy-seven million, four hundred ninety-two thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$77,492,000) is allocated to the programme to improve energy supply in the country. The following projects form part of the basket of projects to address energy supply, access to modern energy services and conservation:

- **Renewable Energy Power Supply Projects:** The Ministry continues to monitor the implementation of the Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (REFIT) interim programme and other Solar PV plants and wind projects.
- **Rural Electrification Projects:** The rural electrification programme shall continue to be a priority for the Ministry in providing access and usage of modern energy services. 34 schools, 7 other government institutions and 29 households will be electrified country wide in 2018/2019 Financial Year with a Budget of N\$50 million.
- **National Energy Fund:** The Ministry has created a new Directorate which is the Directorate of Energy Funds which consists of two funds

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namely; the National Energy Fund and the Solar Revolving Fund.

The Directorate received an allocation of **three million, two hundred and twenty nine Namibia Dollars (N\$3,229,000)** during the 2018/19 Financial Year, mainly for personnel expenditure to manage project funding and implementation.

PROGRAMME 05 - FACILITATE AND PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES AND OIL & GAS

An amount of **twelve million, two hundred and fifty seven thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 12,257,000)** has been allocated to this programme. The projects under this programme will include conducting research to create an enhanced understanding of the Namibian petroleum systems.

The upstream petroleum potential of Namibia will be promoted with the aim of attracting more investments in the exploration of oil and gas on the Namibian continental margin. For the purpose of ensuring that retail sites are run efficiently, a Dealer Margin Survey will be conducted country wide.

In an effort to ensure compliance to health safety and environmental requirements, inspection will be conducted on all petroleum infrastructures which include depots, service stations and consumer installation sites.

Another major project that will be executed this year is the phasing out of diesel 500ppm and replacing it with a much more cleaner and environmentally friendly diesel 10ppm. You are not clapping hands *(Applause) (Laughter)* thank you so much.

PROGRAMME 06 - POLICY CO-ORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

This programme caters for the provision of essential services to enable efficient operation for the entire Ministry.

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An amount of **sixty-seven million, eight hundred and fifteen thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$67,815,000)** has been allocated to this programme. Of this amount, sixty-one million, four hundred and fifteen thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$61,415,000) is allocated towards operational Budget.

While an amount of **six million, four-hundred thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$6,400,000)** is allocated towards development Budget such as the upgrade of the deteriorating electrical network at the head office.

Finally, as I conclude, *(Interjections)* very good you must continue clapping hands the. Finally as I conclude the motivation of Vote 15, the Ministry of Mines and Energy wishes to acknowledge the very challenging prevailing economic conditions and competing priorities. We, however welcome the allocation as it will still enable the Ministry to contribute its fair share to the fiscus and national development;

On that note allow me to extent my sincere appreciation to my Minister Honourable Tom Alweendo for his able leadership and guidance in the execution of our mandate. Equally I wish to express my gratitude to our Permanent Secretary Mr Simeon Negumbo and the entire staff of the hard work. My Permanent Secretary is just up there, thank you very much Comrade PS and the entire staff for their hard work, dedication, innovation and commitment for providing excellent service to our citizens and valuable investors to our country.

Let me also take this opportunity to invite the Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and the Honourable Members of the House to visit mining sites and energy related projects in particular the National Oil Storage Facility at Walvis Bay. You are all welcome and in this regard and at your convenience kindly propose suitable schedules for the Ministry to facilitate logistic arrangements for you to visit the mines. We really want you to see the diamonds and touch them *(Laughter)*. Yes we want you to go and visit the Uranium Mine and have a look at the yellow cake.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this House I hereby submit the Budget for Vote 15 amounting to **NS264,321,000** for your consideration and approval and wish to sure this august House that the funds allocated to the Ministry of Mines and Energy will be used prudently to contribute to the socio economic development of our country.

I thank you. (*Applause*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes thank you very much Honourable Deputy Minister. Thank you for the invitation but I should think some of the Committees have visited some of the mines. They are just going probably to complete the rest, thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Individuals.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

No as a Committee.

Okay I put: Vote 16 - “**JUSTICE**” - **NS304,829,000** is put for Introduction by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice. You have the Floor Honourable.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. On a lighter note I want the Deputy

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HON SHAPWA

Minister of Mines and Energy to give us diamonds so that when we go around the world we are marketing it (*laughter*).

Honourable Members it is my privilege to present the Budget statement for Vote 16 for the Ministry of Justice to this august House. In presenting this motivation I am mindful of the need to fast track the Debate on the Appropriation Bill the immediate implementation. I am further aware of the fact that we are at the Committee Stage of the Bill where the same should be addressed. For this reason I summarised the most important statistics relating to Vote 16 on the bookmark before you and I will make reference thereto during my presentation.

Let me extend my gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Finance and his colleagues as well as the Minister responsible for National Planning Commission for having produced volumes of information for consideration.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Justice is a key part of the Harambee Prosperity Plan under the good governance and accountability pillar.

You will recall that two legislations namely, the *Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2017* (Act. 10 of 2017) and the *Witness Protection Act, 2017* (Act. 11 of 2017) which are important in the promotion of good governance where passed in this House last year. These important legal instruments will enhance good governance and transparency in our society once fully implemented.

The implementation of these Acts will depend on the adequate budgetary allocation. Regrettably due to insufficient financial resources the Ministry is unable to implement these important legislations in the current financial year.

The Budget that I am presenting to this august House also covers financial allocations to the Ombudsman and other statutory functions that are carried out by the Ministry of Justice on behalf of other Offices, like the

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capital project of the Office of the Judiciary, which was created in terms of the *Judiciary Act*, 2015 (Act. 11 of 2015).

These responsibilities place additional demands on Vote 16 as their implementation require both human and financial resources.

It is therefore important to point out that Vote 16 is sub-divided into four Programmes in line with the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, and I refer you to image one if you have the document now. (*Image 1*)

The Programmes under Vote 16 and the funds allocated to each of them are as follows:

PROGRAMME 01 - ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

This Programme has been allocated an amount of **NS\$67,431,000 (Sixty Seven Million, Four Hundred and Thirty One Thousand Namibia Dollars)**,

Under this Programme, there are two sub-programmes, namely:

1. Legal Representation of Indigent Persons, (i.e. Legal Aid), and
2. Management of Deceased Estates, Insolvencies, Trusts and Administration of the Guardians Fund

On **sub-programme Legal Representation of Indigent Persons or Legal Aid**: Legal Aid is a statutory service provided in terms of the *Legal Aid Act*, 1990 (Act. 29 of 1990), as Amended. The Act was passed in fulfilment of Article 95(h) of the Namibian Constitution, which impacts on the right to a fair trial as enshrined in Chapter 3 of the Namibian Constitution. The service is provided by the Directorate: Legal Aid, which considers applications by indigent persons and provides legal representation in defined instances.

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The objective hereof is to ensure a fair trial for all by providing legal advice and legal representation to eligible applicants

The Directorate: Legal Aid is responsible for financing the cost of legal representation. In over 80% of criminal trials in the High Court, Regional Court and Magistrates' Courts. During the 2017/2018 financial year, a total of 9487 (nine thousand four hundred and eighty seven) applications for legal aid were received. In terms of the Act, the Director provides legal aid by either instructing in-house Legal Aid Counsel, or instructing private legal practitioners who are remunerated on the basis of a tariff agreed with the legal profession and promulgated by the Minister of justice in the Government Gazette. (*Image 2*)

Sub-Programme: Management of Deceased Estates, insolvencies, Trusts and Guardian's Fund: is another statutory service provider. The Master of the High Court is required by statute to supervise the administration of deceased estates, liquidation of insolvent estates, registration of trusts, appointment and administration pertaining to tutors and curators, and the administration of the Guardianship Fund (in respect of minors and mentally challenged persons)

The Directorate of the Master of the High Court proceeded with the development of an Integrated Financial and Case Management System during 2016/ 17 to facilitate the speedy initialisation of deceased estates, protect information and ensure daily reconciliation of Guardians Fund accounts. The development of the system is completed and the Guardians Fund module was launched during August 2017.

However, due to an unforeseen delay with the scanning and capturing of the historical data, the Directorate will only be able to launch the Trust and Deceased Estates modules during April and June 2018. Staff members were trained on the Trust and part of the Deceased Estates modules. The system includes an e-filing system which allows the registration of Trusts and Deceased Estates via the internet. The turnaround time for applications, will be reduced to one day. Guardians

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will be able to view any time the accounts of the minors under their care and apply for quarterly allowances online.

The Directorate will furthermore have a website which will enable members of the public to view information relating to deceased estates and trusts.

The Directorate intends to focus on the review of the Intestate Succession legal framework. *The Administration of Estates Act, 1965, the Wills Act, 1953 (Act. 7 of 1953), the Trust Monies Protection Act, 1934 (Act. 34 of 1934), and the implementation of the Integrated Financial and Case Management System during 2018/2019 financial year.*

PROGRAMME 02 - LEGAL SERVICES

This Programme has been allocated an amount of **N\$43, 373,000 (Forty-Three Million, Three Hundred and Seventy Three Thousand Namibia Dollars).**

Under this Programme, there are three sub-programmes, namely:

1. Legal Service" including international cooperation, community courts, boards and committees and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law;
2. Legislative Drafting; and
3. Law Reform and Development.

The objective of this Programme is to translate policies into legislation, recommend reform of the law, provide legal services and promote international cooperation in legal matters such as extradition, mutual legal assistance in criminal and civil matter, and reciprocal enforcement of judgments in civil and maintenance cases.

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The conclusion of bilateral agreements on cooperation in judicial matters with our neighbouring States, such as Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, other SADC States; as well as African and cross-regional

States is a high priority. In this regard, the Directorate: Legal Services will prepare draft agreements and coordinate the exchange of drafts and information between States.

This Directorate is also responsible for the preparation of Cabinet submissions for approval to be obtained for conclusion of these agreements as well as submissions to Parliament for ratification thereof.

Community Courts: Community Courts are tools which could reduce the workload in the district Courts as an alternative measure to resolve disputes. We have engaged some of our Traditional Authorities and will continue with consultations so that we improve the access to and administration of justice at Community Courts level.

Sub-programme Legislative Drafting: The mandate of the Directorate Legislative Drafting is to translate Government policies into legislation; which includes drafting of Bills and subsidiary legislation such as proclamations; regulations; rules; and drafting of administrative notices in the form of government notices.

The Directorate has set itself strict standards for finalising bills, since its function directly impacts the constitutional mandate of Parliament (That of making and repealing laws). Performance standards for Bills are 1 day to 3 months for less complex Bills and 1 day to 6 month, for complex Bills. In 2017/2018, the Directorate received eight (8) Bills and finalised three (3) on time as per performance standards. The target is 59% and the actual is 34%.

Delays in the finalization of Bills for consideration by Parliament have hampered the law-making process. Among others, some of the obstacles to finalization of Bills are: Lack of proper consultations with clients; incomplete and unclear instructions; clients, delay in submitting the required information on policy decisions; complexity of Bills as some

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Bills require extensive research. Some Bills are supervised by experienced drafters meaning that the Bill goes back and forth between supervisor and drafter.

In addition to these factors the Ministry has been experiencing a continuous shortage of experienced drafters who can draft Bills without supervision. It is important to mention that this challenge is receiving our undivided attention. *(Image 3)*

Sub-programme Law Reform and Development: The Law Reform and Development Commission (LRDC) is a statutory body with a full time Chairperson who is appointed at the level of a Judge of the High Court of Namibia.

The main functions of the LRDC are to do in-depth research and analysis of all branches of the Namibian Laws and to make recommendations to the Namibian Government through the Minister of justice.

The Commission is further tasked to conduct consultations with the members of the public and other relevant stakeholders. Such consultations are costly and often involve extensive travelling throughout the country. The LRDC has undertaken the following projects during the period 2017/18:

1. Laws that contain provisions that impede and or retard development in Namibia;
2. Namibia Legal Information Institute (NAMIBLII) website;
3. Road Safety and Management Bill;
4. Uniform Default Matrimonial Property Project;
5. National Equitable Economic Empowerment Frameworks (NEEEF);
6. Administrative Justice;

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7. Red Cross;

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me now to proceed with –

PROGRAMME 03: - PROMOTION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

(Office of the Ombudsman). This Programme has been allocated an amount of **NS19,408,000 (Nineteen Million, Four Hundred and Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars)**, The Ombudsman is a constitutional Office which exercises its powers and functions under Chapter 10 of the Namibian Constitution as well as the *Ombudsman Act*, 1990 (Act. 7 of 1990).

The main activities in the Office of the Ombudsman are; The investigation of complaints relating to maladministration; human rights violations; misappropriation of public funds and the environment; including the over-utilisation of the natural resources.

The Ombudsman also educates and sensitises the public around the issues within its mandate. The importance of the Office of the Ombudsman cannot be over emphasised.

However, with the current Budget allocation, the Office of the Ombudsman can hardly function optimally. During the 2017/18 financial year, the Ombudsman received 3,976 complaints as new enquiries. Many of these complaints relate to Namibian children. The position of Children's Advocate in the Ombudsman's Office remain unfunded and therefore the work relating to Namibian children has stagnated. Another issue is the collection of child maintenance. (*Image 4*).

There are a total of 31,104 (thirty one thousand one hundred and four) active maintenance cases in Namibia. In places such as Windhoek half of the active cases are defaulted on, and the maintenance is never paid. In

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places such as Katima Mulilo the collection rate is exceptional with only roughly 160 defaults on 5500 cases.

The Office of the Ombudsman requires funds to carry out investigations into the reasons for the defaults in different parts of Namibia and to ensure that such defaults are minimised.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

Over and above the day to day activities, the staff of the Ombudsman, were planning to conduct the following activities although the Budget allocation to the Ombudsman no longer allows it:

1. Complaint intake clinics by Windhoek head Office, as well as Keetmanshoop, Oshakati and Swakopmund Regional Offices;
2. Continuation of the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan;
3. Investigation into solid and liquid waste management by town and village councils, and
4. Special Investigation – comparative study of all education facilities in rural and urban areas as well as the long delays in the finalisation of criminal cases against police officers.

PROGRAMME 04: - SUPERVISION. COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

This programme has been allocated an amount of **NS\$174,617,000 (One .Hundred and Seventy Four Million, Six Hundred and Seventy Thousand Namibia Dollars).**

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The objectives of this Programme are to ensure an enabling environment and high performance culture, to provide administrative, technical and technological support to ministerial programmes and to ensure proper financial management, gender mainstreaming, Capital Projects as well as an equitable distribution and effective utilisation of resources. This programme also covers development projects for the Ministry of Justice as well as the Office of the Judiciary.

On Capital Projects, construction works for phase 1 were carried out for the new Magistrate's Court at Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi Region. The project is scheduled for completion in June 2018 and it will cost a total amount of NS 53 million. Alterations & Additions for Phase 1 were also carried out at the High Court in Windhoek in the Khomas Region during the period under discussion. This project which is estimated to cost a total amount of N\$35 million is to be expected to be completed in 2018/2019 Financial Year.

The completion of this project was jeopardized mainly by the tardiness of the contractor. The situation had to be rescued and the Ministry of Works and Transport was requested to terminate this contract in order for the process to engage a new contractor to complete the project. This resulted in the non-spending of a significant amount of funds, which were allocated for this purpose. However, once the new contractor is on site, the project will continue as soon as possible as the current situation at the High Court is uncondusive.

Other upgrading works executed entail construction of additional new offices at Omaruru Magistrate's Court in the Erongo Region and Kamanjab Periodical Court in the Kunene Region, respectively, The above mentioned upgrading activities have reduced a lack of office space and dilapidated conditions at these stations.

The Ministry has also acquired a building known as the Schonlein Building, situated at Schonlein Street, Windhoek-West, which is now the Headquarters of the newly created Office of the Judiciary. The Ministry has also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of

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Windhoek for the use of the former City Police building in Bismarck Street to be used as a Traffic Court by the Office of the Judiciary.

This initiative is envisaged to reduce a backlog of traffic court cases in the Khomas Region. The building was renovated by the Ministry of Justice on instructions of the Office of the Judiciary.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

The Ministry of Justice is entrusted with numerous functions under a number of Acts of Parliament. We therefore require sufficient human and financial resources. However, we do understand the economic hardship we are facing currently as a country and will strive to do our best under the circumstances.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

I now seek the indulgence of this august House to support and approve the allocation totalling **NS304,829,000 (Three Hundred and Four Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars)** for Vote 16.

Of this allocation an amount of **(NS204, 742, 000) Two Hundred and Four Million Seven Hundred and Forty Two Namibia Dollars** is earmarked for the Operational Budget, while the remaining **(NS187, 000,000) One Hundred and Eighty Seven Million Namibia Dollars** is earmarked for the Development Budget.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Justice for his good leadership, the Permanent Secretary as well as the entire staff of the Ministry for their unwavering support. May justice continue to prevail over our beautiful land?

I thank you. *(Applause)*

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COMMITTEE STAGE – DISCUSSION – VOTE 09

HON MUNSU

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. We can now go for tea break and we come back at 17:00. House adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:45

HOUSE RESUMES AT 17:00

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes we resume with the discussions. Thank you, yes you have the Floor Honourable.

I put Vote 09 - “**FINANCE**”. Any discussions. I recognise Honourable Munsu. You have the Floor my sister.

HON MUNSU: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members I rise today to support Vote 09, 2018/2019 Financial Year.

Firstly allow me to take a moment to thank the efforts of the Minister of Finance and his team for an excellent job well done.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I would like to direct our attention towards the increase number of pensioners paying tax. Having carefully analysed the *Income Tax Act* we are aware that the Government is depending on the tax income to meet other goals. However, we have taken note how many pensioners have been thrown into the tax bracket in recent years.

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HON NEKUNDI

Therefore Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee allow me to seek clarity from the Minister of Finance how the tax brackets for pensioners and formality and how retirement tax can be minimised?

With these few remarks I support the Vote. (*Applause*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Nekundi. You have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you very much. What are you saying Comrade PM? Thank you very much Comrade Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Yes I am speaking to the Chairperson, for taking the Floor. I should equally thank my brother Natangwe Ithete for presenting the motivation on the Vote 09.

I have some critical issues on this particular Vote, that I will possibly take five minutes of the time if the time so allows. This is one of the very important Ministries and this is the custodian of the Budget of the whole Government. I hope Comrade Chairperson, the book I have I hope is the right book on which I am presenting.

One, I just want to find out from Comrade Deputy Minister considering that they are the custodians of Budget consolidation that found that almost all Ministries' Budgets are cut. However, this Ministry according to the

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HON NEKUNDI**

book I have last year they had a Budget of N\$4,000,000,000, this year according to the book the Budget is N\$9,000,000,000 which is an increment with over N\$5,000,000,000. How is that possible that we want to cut Budgets, but their Budget has increased by N\$5,000,000,000?

The next one Comrade Chairperson, under **Main Division 08**, which has a staff compliment of 26 persons in terms of the Budget book, last years' Budget was N\$80,000, and according to this year it has increased to N\$70,000,000 training alone an increment of N\$69,000,000, and when you divide that N\$70,000,000 with 26 employees of the Main Division it is N\$2,600,000 per person in that Main Division. I really want to understand in the context of that?

Then Comrade Chairperson, the total **maintenance Budget** for the Ministry of Finance is N\$113,000,000. It is just very interesting that when you look at that Budget, I am more critical because this is a custodian of a Budget allocation to all the Ministries. The Ministry of Health, one of the important Ministries where we have clinics and hospitals that require maintenance, its Budget for maintenance is N\$30,000,000 but Finance has N\$193,000,000. Again Education it has maintenance of N\$10,000,000 on maintenance, these are two important Ministries where we have learners who are in dilapidated classrooms yet they have N\$10,000,000 the Finance has N\$113,000,000 for maintenance.

The next element is **office refreshment** for this Ministry. It has N\$375,000. I expect them to have the least, or to have a zero Budget allocation to that for them to carry because they must be able to account for the Budget cuts.

Then the other aspects, you have **other extra budgetary bodies** which last year it was N\$81,000,000 this year it is moved to N\$2,000,000,000. It is written, other extra budgetary bodies, 2017/2018 it is N\$81,500,000. It moved in this current Budget it is N\$2,000,000,000 which is an increment with over N\$2,000,000,000 so I just want to have that understanding, how is that realistic?

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HON NEKUNDI**

Then you have **sub national bodies**, moved from N\$200,000,000 of last year to N\$309,000,000 an increment of N\$109,000,000.

We move to Main Division 02, is **training**. It has a training of last Financial Year it had N\$2, 400,000,000 it is now moved to N\$3,300,000,000 that is now increment with N\$831,000,000 when we divide with the staff compliment of that division it gives you N\$21,210,00 per person in that Main Division.

Then Comrade Chairperson, I am not comfortable, my understanding is that you have a **Tender Board** with an element of procurement, then you have again a Unit of Centre Procurement the same meaning. Tender Board and Procurement is the same meaning there is no difference but these are two divisions, one with N\$3,000,000, the other one with N\$40,000,000.

Then we have, **the National Youth Council** which is only given N\$7,000,000, yet we have a combination of these important institutions combined, plus again the PPP Management, these are elements of procurement. Together it is N\$46,000,000.

Comrade Chairperson, it is very much imperative to contextualise my concern coming from the youth myself. Comrade Chairperson when you look at this Ministry, in view of the increment that has increased by N\$5,000,000,000, the Youth Ministry in total was decreased by N\$141,000,000. The Sport Development was also decreased with N\$14,000,000. National Youth Service also decreased by N\$37,000,000. National Youth Council decreased by N\$10,000,000, however, this important Ministry is Budget increased by N\$5,000,000.

In the Ministry of Youth there is no money allocated for training yet the Ministry of Finance has N\$77,000,000 allocated for training in the Ministry of Finance. So I am putting this in context and hope that the colleagues will adjust such. *“Is dit genoeg”* (is it enough)

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HON NEKUNDI**

The next element Comrade Chairperson I equally want to contextualise the same Ministry with the Ministry of Agriculture, a very important Ministry to me when we are talking about food security. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry's Budget decreased from N\$2,100,000,000 from N\$2,300,000,000 and the training of that Ministry is a mere N\$2,000,000 compared to the finance of N\$77,000,000, while we need more to be trained in food production. I just want to get the understanding the derivative of that?

Again in context the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development that is a pillar for economic growth, an element of diversification, it is given a mere N\$347,000,000. So that is the context of the actual Budget Comrade Chairperson. Now I also just want to ask my brother if there are mechanisms in place.

Last week I went to do shopping at the shops in the northern industry and I bought there some items. I went into a Chinese shop, I went into a Pakistan Shop, I went in an Indian shop, I called them the corner operating box or shops, they do not give receipts and when they give they are in mandarin, yes mandarin and some of them only last from China Town when you reach home those letters, those figures are faded. How do they make sure these people are registered for vat and other related laws for them to collect the fees from these institutions? We have been speaking for too long for this and it seems there is just nothing coming forth. I just want to find out what has been done to address it? Importantly, Comrade Chairperson (*Interjections*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Proceed please. You are protected.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Yes I am proceeding. The next one my interest is equally to the Ministry, what

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mechanisms are put in place especially with the speedily incoming usage of the cyber cryptocurrency, which is (*interjections*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes proceed it is a difficulty (*Indistinct*)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:
Unfortunately (*Indistinct*) is an element of that. Unfortunately I am not paid to be a lecturer today, so they can hire me for (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON: You should not listen to the interruptions.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Comrade Chairperson, unfortunately I cannot detach my ears from people who are talking.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Ah, unfortunately that is the behaviour of (*indistinct*)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Yes I just want to understand because these are E-currencies and their operations are detached from the Central Bank, they are not attached to the Central Banks. How are they putting mechanisms?

First and foremost I want to find out are these currencies recognised in Namibia? Is it recognised in Namibia? What mechanisms are they

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HON SHAPWA**

putting in place to prevent each then used as an element of illicit financial flows? So I am seeking that clarity. Having said that Comrade Chairperson I submit my concerns and hopefully I will get the feedback. I do not know whether I am supporting this Vote I am not sure, there are a number of issues that are not clear. I will await feedback then I will put my position whether to support or not to support.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Okay I recognise the Deputy Minister of Justice Honourable Shapwa you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 09, Ministry of Finance. My concern actually comes from page 4 of the Deputy Minister's presentation yesterday, and I am happy Comrade Nekundi has just alluded to that and I want to emphasize that (Indistinct). I am very happy that there is a launch for integrated tax systems by the Ministry, however the concern is that when you go to the Mini Markets some are actually well established shops especially in the rural towns where you find and I am sorry to say, actually especially the Chinese and Indians you find that these shops are actually making a lot of money but they do not want to issue any receipt.

They grab the money, they put in their cash box or machines and you wonder how they would really declare the amounts that they made at the end of the day because there are no receipts from any machines so they just grab money, put in their cash boxes so I think the Ministry needs to take up this matter very seriously and make sure that these shops do declare the correct amounts of money that they are making because really I think we have a lot of people who are making a lot of money there and

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HON KAVEKOTORA**

they are not declaring it properly because how would you know really that this person has made so much profit if there is nothing recorded. I really want the Minister to look into that very seriously and I support the Vote.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for that contribution. I recognise Honourable Kavekatora. Honourable Kavekatora you have the Floor.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine will be very brief because I was not there at the motivational speech.

The first concern that I would like to raise on Vote 09, Ministry of Finance I need to understand from the Deputy Minister during the Budget speech of the Minister of Finance when he introduced the *Appropriation Bill* there is one issue that I wanted to get information on and that is the issue of the Budget deficit. The Minister was telling us that the Budget deficit is reducing yet at the same time borrowing has gone up. My understanding is that you borrow in order to finance the Budget deficit, but in this case when the Budget deficit has come down the borrowing went up. The question is, what for?

Two, I really hope that there is some miscalculation and mistakes especially as for as the Vote of Finance is concerned, because if you look at the motivational speech of the Minister on page 12, the Deputy Minister for that matter, they are requesting N\$4,045,000,000, that is the total amount that is being requested from this august House to approve. As the Honourable Deputy Minister has just alluded to, the amount that is put in the book, the Estimates of Revenue Income and Expenditure is N\$9,028,000,000 for the same Financial Year. Could you please perhaps

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HON KAVEKOTORS**

give us some indications as to what is the exact amount that you are actually looking for approval? Is it the N\$9,028,000,000 or the N\$4,045,000,000 or what is it that you are looking for? Is it not prudent for you to go back to the drawing board because it really gives a bad image especially from Finance because Finance is the custodian of the budget and it looks like your house is not in order?

There is a lot of inconsistency also, Honourable Chair. Inconsistency in terms of, if you look at Vote or item under **Goods and Other Services** you will find that there is a lot of money that is being lumped into an account called 'Others', inconsistently because if you look at item number 027/7, 2016/2017 the amount was N\$2,500,000,000 under 'Others'. 2017/2018 under 'Others', revised N\$137,000,000. Projection for 2018/2019 N\$20,000,000. I mean how do you move from N \$2,500,000,000 all the way down to N \$20,000,000, if there is no inconsistency in your whole budgeting process. It does not really make any justification at all.

To me the account 'Others' under normal generally acceptable accounting principles is a lump sum for things that you cannot define and it is supposed to be a smaller amount but in one year you have N\$2,500,000,000 and the other year you are coming with N\$80,000,000 and the other year you come with N\$20,000,000 that inconsistency raises questions about is this a parking bay for activities that are fraudulent or why is it that we have a Suspense Account, an account that does not define specifically what the money is to be used for but it normally carries a lot of money in such an account, that to me does not make any sense and perhaps needs to be explained.

The same goes for **other extra budgetary bodies** also on page 125, the inconsistency, 2016/2017 that account had zero amounts. 2017/2018 it jump from zero to N\$81,500,000. Currently in the current Financial Year Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance it jumped from N\$81,500,000 to N\$2,600,000,000 again. Where is the consistency? What are we doing here? Are we really sort of doing justice to the allocations or are we just

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plugging numbers because we know that the Budget will be approved anyway.

I really think that the Deputy Minister must explain this so that at least when we approve this Budget we know what we are approving. The Honourable Deputy Minister asked for a billion, the books says they need N\$8,000,000,000 or N\$9,800,000,000 and that whole inconsistency, I think something serious needs to be done. If I had my way I would have requested for the whole budgeting process to be referred back, and perhaps come back in a few weeks' time with a proper, prudently developed Budget because this does not say anything to us.

Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Chairperson, I will not repeat what my colleague Honourable Mike Kavekatora was saying I will just, Honourable Minister first of all before I go to my famous book I would like to ask you a question regarding the taxes which the Honourable Minister was saying the churches must pay.

I just want to hear from you, these taxes that the churches must pay will you do consultations with the churches on this issue? Will you come back with a formula and will you also come back on how you will tax the churches? Will then now register with the Minister of Trade and Industry as a Section 21 Company, or what will be the way forward for the churches.

My second question Honourable Minister is on the debts due to Government. Honourable Deputy Minister the Auditor General in his

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HON DIENDA**

Report and his findings he was saying that the Municipalities, Towns and Village Councils you bail them out, give them loans, but they do not pay back the loans. What is the way forward for these loans according to the Auditor General which are being owed by the Municipalities, Towns and Villages?

My third question Honourable Minister now I will go to my book, on page 128 and as Honourable Kavekatora was saying the inconsistency here. **Materials and supplies** Honourable Minister, under Materials and Supplies in 2016/2017 your Budget was N\$1,000,000, in 2017/2018 it was N\$8,000,000 in 2018/2019 N\$12,000,000, what is it that you are actually budgeting from, from N\$1,000,000 to N\$12,000,000?

Then my next question Honourable Deputy Minister is still under Administration Division 2, I also have a concern regarding **Office refreshments** from N\$62,000 to N\$200,000, what is it that you are eating in that office that we do not know about? Yes we only get water here so I do not know.

My next question Honourable is on page 130 Main Division 3 under **Internal Audit**, I also want to hear Honourable Minister, right through your Divisions sometimes you are budgeting for other conditions of service and other times not like in this stage you did not Budget for it, the next one you did not Budget and the one after that you Budget for economic policy advisory services. So for some divisions you Budget and for others you did not Budget what is happening here?

Then on employers contribution to **Social Security**, I think the Social Security becomes a problem for the whole Government because you did not Budget for the previous year and last year it was N\$16,000 and this year it is also N\$16,000 so I am having a concern because why is the amount the same if you did not Budget for the year before that? I think there must be an increment on this Budget allocation.

Then my next question Honourable Deputy Minister is on page 137 under the **Medical Aid Scheme**, for S & T Honourable, I do not know whether it

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HON DIENDA**

is a zero Budget and I am just wondering if all the different Regions are catering for the medical input there, so is there nobody because there are only 26 people who are working in this Department only 26, so it means these 26 people have to travel around the country to make this division successful, so why and how come there is no Budget for them to do monitoring and evaluation?

Then my next question is on page 139 and here I will take some time Honourable Minister. Honourable Deputy Minister **political funding** for Vote 11, I do not understand in 2017/2018 you only budgeted for N\$34,000,000 and I looked at page 56 of the National Assembly whether that money was maybe page 139 Budget Management and Control Division 10 page 139.

Political party funding, for 2017/2018 only have a budget provision of N\$34,000,000 and I look at page 56 of the National Assembly just to make sure that maybe it was budgeted for in the National Assembly but what I say in the National Assembly was in 2016/2017 there was a budget for N\$79,000,000 for political funding but nothing for 2017/2018 for political funding so I do not know where we got the money for political funding. But yet in 2017, I will come to that one, in 2018/2019 we have N\$112,000,000 for political parties funding which is greatly appreciated so that we can do our work as elected leaders. (*Interjections*) So you are the witchcraft doctor here, good that I know a witchcraft doctor (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Please proceed.

HON DIENDA: Honourable on the **Contingency Provision** on page 139, Contingency Provision we have a Budget of N\$147,000,000.

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Honourable I have this attachment, Honourable Deputy Minister you gave us this attachment of the Contingency Fund a summary of the previous book here. Honourable my concern here is you gave N\$18,000,000 to the children of the liberation struggle. The Vote for the National Assembly for this year is N\$118,000,000. It is a Ministry on its own with a big component and you are giving us almost nothing but you are giving the struggle kids N\$18,000,000. I do not know what the N\$18,000,000 was for if you are giving a Ministry N\$118,000,000 and you are giving some kids N\$18,000,000.

Then on the same Contingency Fund you have bailed out RCC two times for N\$21,000,000 for salaries. For salaries so in total you bailed them out with N\$42,000,000. Honourable I am having a problem with these figures because I cannot understand if we are giving money to institutions and they are not able. They are not able to perform with this money why must we give them more? If a CEO who is earning N\$200,000 per month and cannot perform then you cannot give him a raise no, then he must go without money until he comes back and give us what we are looking for.

The same goes for the Ministry of Youth and National Services. Last year I asked the then Minister of Youth and National Services, who sponsored the trip to Russia and he told me, “It is none of his business he did not know what was going on”, so now I am asking you since I see here it was you who bailed them out N\$500,000, it is here. He said he does not know about it. So now I am asking you Honourable Minister, is this the way that we want to go about things, putting our attention on things that are not benefitting all of us, or what is the issue here?

I hope it is now and I promise you I will only ask you two questions. Honourable give me time? Honourable just give me time for my books? I think it is the last one Honourable. Okay I will come back I am looking for it so I rubber stamped it.

Thank you.

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HON HINDA**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Maureen Hinda.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I actually before I start I do not have many questions for my neighbour. I just want to ask a pertinent question and see how the Chairperson will wish to move on this one that in the statement for Vote 09: Honourable Deputy Minister has requested for approval of this House N\$4,045,554,000 yet in the book that is given to us, he is requesting for over N\$9,800,000,000. I think it is an increase, of a difference of up to 128%.

I think before we move that matter needs to be corrected so that we just approve the correct amount on that. Are we correcting it? No I am just asking do we have an opportunity to correct that amount.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I should think he took note he will respond to that. Just put your other questions if you have.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much. So I also concur with my neighbour to say that in the midst of the cuts all over to its bone the Ministry of Finance, understandably so, yes they have new bodies that have come in but its Budget is now 128% increased from its previous years. I am also triggered to ask if our financial systems of Government does not give us accurate information on time so that in April as we stand now that we could have had some indication of the actual expenditure of 2017/2018, because it is definitely not good for one to be able to be

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requested to look at a Budget increase of 130% without having information of how best the previous Budget was actually spend. The previous Budget is still just giving you a revised figure. It would also be good to have an indication of what are the expected return on investment with these new systems that we have put in place and we have allocated like the Procurement Board that has been established and cost been allocated what are the expected returns on that investment. Are we not really throwing in money into the ocean that could have been best applied for other expenses that are on, services that are crucial but I will leave that there?

I just want to also add on the issue of procurement policy and the Procurement Board. I would wish to understand or how the Procurement Board Vis a Vis the Board of Directors of Public Enterprises fiduciary duties are applied because you will see that the procurement system makes provision that procurement is done either authorised by the Chief Executive or then directly by the Procurement Board. I do not see where the Board of Directors features and I am asking this question because Procurement Board resorts under the Ministry of Finance. (*Indistinct*) the Public Enterprises as well but I would want to understand how the fiduciary duties are imposed then on the Board of Directors whereas they did not have the responsibilities to decide on the spending of this money.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes proceed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: What I am trying to say is that is the Board still going to be kept legally liable for the spending that happened through the Procurement Board?

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I also wanted to find out and this will probably be my last one. That if we have looked at the **Public Private Partnership (PPP)**, I think in the statement the Deputy Minister said on page 3, Public Private Partnership Legislation is enacted to provide for rule based PPP formation as imperative means of financing. I would wish to understand to which extend the pressure on our Budget has been alleviated by these imperative financing? So what I am trying to say is that I think there is a need to tell us in terms of your capital Budget, is there a percentage that is then put aside for funding of Capital Projects that will not come from our public coffers that is funded through this alternative means of financing.

Lastly, I just want to and I would spare my colleague because my Chief Whip is saying not to ask too many questions, but I would just want to ask other Ministries, and I think my Minister has also emphasised during our Budget that the objective is to minimise allocations to those Budget lines that is called 'Others'. As a result there is a lot of readjustments done and therefore probably the fluctuation everybody is asking about but what I am asking for is whether N\$20,000,000 is not rather too much an amount to be allocated on that Budget line for the Ministry that is expecting other Ministries to have allocation to relevant Budget lines and to minimise the usage of miscellaneous.

HON MEMBER: Mis what?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Miscellaneous, no I can pronounce neh?

HON MEMBER: No I did not hear.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Okay thank you. My last one would also go to the issue of extra budgetary bodies' maybe if one can get some additional information of what exactly this extra budgetary bodies are

Lastly, in terms of the Ministers Office on page 127, I tried to compare the Budget of the different Ministries, and I have taken note that the Ministers Budget is a little bit higher even if I compare it with our own for the Office of the Minister who has got five people in comparison to our Ministry that has got 7 in his office. Is there perhaps a difference in payments to that extent between the Ministers or we are having an animal farm?

I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Dienda do you still have?

HON DIENDA: It is done.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is done, okay. Honourable Deputy Minister you have, okay I recognise, which one of the two are colleagues?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Both.

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HON MAKGONE**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Okay you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE

RESOURCES: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote. Mine is not a question, just a concern that I am raising with regards to the financial institutions that are giving out policies. We know that NAMFISA has the oversight function to regulate and supervise these financial institutions. I am talking especially about the funeral covers. Funeral cover if you are offered a product it will be until you die, but then it will have a date where the cover will become paid up. Now you are paying this instalment and let us say 2018 is the maturity date because it is not paying out we are not saying it is maturing we are saying it is becoming paid up. So 2018 is becoming paid up. What is happening because you are not dead because it is a funeral cover, what is happening is that the instalment stops it is no more deducted. But then the cover is still in force. The day when you die, when your people will be coming (*Interjections*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes proceed you are protected Honourable Makgone.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE

RESOURCES: When your people are coming because you have a cover amount you were covered let us say for N\$10,000 so you know that the day I die I will get N\$10,000 but because of (*Interjection*).

HON MEMBER: No you will be dead.

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HON MAKGONE

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: or those ones who will get it, but because it became paid up you did not die before that and when your people come it
(Interjections).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes proceed please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES ND MARINE RESOURCES: Your cover amount has been reduced by 50%. Your cover amount is being reduced by 50% so immediately when it comes up to that date and now from that time every fifth year it is being reviewed, the reduced amount is being reduced. Three things can happened when it is being reviewed it can increase, or it can stay the same or it can drop again, decrease again. Remember we are talking of the 50% now so it was reduced 50%.

Now after every five years it is being reviewed. When it is not being reviewed no you are not dead, when you are not dead that is what is happening. Let us say you become 60 then the instalment is stopping and when it stops immediately your cover amount is being reduced by 50%. So now your amount is N\$5,000 no more N\$10,000, and every five years there is a review that N\$5,000 can either increase or it can stay the same or it can reduce. It is happening and it is within the financial institutions.
(Intervention)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
What is the question now?

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HON MAKGONE / HON NAMBAHU**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Now this is exploitation on its highest level. It is a jackpot. So if I go to NAMFISA to put in my complaint (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we now listen to the exploitation bit.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: To put in my complaint, I will be told you have signed that contract there is nothing we can do because you signed that contract but I do not think that there is an agent that will explain to you this thing clearly the time when you are taking that offer it will not happen. So I think Deputy Minister, NAMFISA should really take this seriously if these things are coming to see how they can regulate these types of issues. That is all my contribution.

Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Thank you very much Comrade Deputy Speaker, I also want to register my support for Vote 09.

HON MEMBER: Who will die in my? (*Indistinct*)

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HON NAMBAHU**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Please can we listen?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: *(Laughter)* I do not really have contributions to make in the form of speech or something it is really whether recommendations and observations.

Comrade Deputy Minister will you consider, will you be amenable to the idea of putting together a Task Force, I have not discussed this issue with my Minister where I am now deployed because it is something that I think they will be very happy to do that because it is for patriotic concerns. Will you consider putting together a Task Force comprising of Finance, Trade and Industry, Labour and maybe others to look into this issue of small foreign owned shops not paying tax, and these people are circumventing the law.

You go into one mall and there are cubicles of the same shop owner who is scattered all over the place to avoid being called a big shop and graduate from a certain threshold and in that he will not be able to pay and contribute to the Receiver of Revenue. His brother here, brother there and brother behind, brother in front and brother behind, but it is the same person.

If we, I have seen in Ethiopia for example we must benchmark and I think time has come because sometimes those of us who have been in this Parliament for some time, we have been speaking about these things and then nothing happens. That is really becoming a problem. There comes a time where you do not want to speak about these things anymore.

Therefore in Ethiopia I have seen in Addis Ababa there, you can manufacture your mattress there but you cannot sell it, it must be a national who sells that for you and you cannot come here and you start selling phones, cement, things that nationals can sell just because you

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HON MBAI

have a subsidy from somewhere you can come and kick out this person from this place who is trying by himself. So this kind of thing I think really we should do something about it. If we must do something about this I remember where I was deployed some time back there was this problem of people ignoring the law as far as poaching is concerned. We had to conduct workshops, explain to them that this is what our law says, in as much as you are our friend we will not allow you to come into our house and do what you want because that is what friendship is about. We must not be afraid to talk about these things and really we must put a timeline as to when this thing is going to end. Investigate the laws either if we cannot catch them with a proper legislation what is it in Customary Law that can catch these people. Therefore there is a phase where my people are to be protected and my country has to be defended. Thank you very much.

I rest my case.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, I recognise finally Honourable Mbai.

HON MBAI: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson. I really do not want to engage the Deputy Finance Minister with so many questions to respond on. Mine is only on two interventions.

I believe that we came up with a promulgation of the *Procurement Act* with the intention really to address the shortcomings and problems occurring with procurement in the past, but my intervention is on page 7 from the Minister's statement particularly on Programme 04 **Government Procurement Management**. Our intention, I think the intention of the Minister was to strengthen the institutional capacity and activities of the *Procurement Act* to have in place a Central Procurement Board, a Policy Unit, a Review Panel, but to my surprise both the Central Procurement

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HON MBAI**

Board and the Review Panel are fully operational but I regret to take note that the Policy Unit a very important pillar of the *Procurement Act* is not fully capacitated. One would like to know what and when is this very important arm going to be fully capacitated.

The next question is really also on page 7 Programme 05 **Civil Service Health Care**. Honourable Minister it is only merely a point of dissemination of information. This is an issue when you go to a contracted doctor to have his or her services, if he/she are contracted you know the reclaim of the expenses of the payment that you have to do you just pay your levy and the company or the doctor will claim itself from PSEMAS, but in one case in another case that needs information to be properly disseminated is when you visit a specialist. Some specialists are not contracted with PSEMAS and they require that you have to pay immediately that amount just immediately when you finish the examination for the treatment.

You get the claim, you go to PSEMAS in order to reclaim the money that you have paid to a specialist, but unfortunately you are told that because the difference between a contracted medical person and a specialist, the specialist puts you automatically in another tariff. So at the end you are only reimbursed with a quarter or a third of the money that you have paid in cash out of your pocket to a specialist.

So that information really needs to be properly explained because you are expecting that you need all your money that you have paid to a specialist when you claimed to PSEMAS, why are you put in a different or another tariff to be paid half or quarter or a third of the amount that you have paid? Thank you very much and I rose just to support the Vote.

Thank you so much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Deputy Minister you have now the Floor to respond.

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HON ITHETE**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members first of all I would like to start with thanking the Comrades and the colleagues, all the Members that have contributed to our Vote and for seeking some clarity, mostly regarding the amount that we are seeking approval.

As I stated in my statement yesterday and as approved in the *Appropriate Bill* which was signed by the Attorney General, the amount is not N\$9,000,000,000 but N\$4,000,000,000 that is the amount, the amount that is in my statement. That is the amount we are seeking approval.

There was a question regarding the pensioners. I want to clarify that pensioners generally do not fall in the tax categories for income tax purposes, but those that earn income from their pensions and provide savings, will benefit from their savings through the increase of the taxable threshold as proposed in the *Amendment Bill*. That is regarding the pensioners.

Then there were questions regarding the ‘Others’ the sub national bodies and other extra budgetary. I want to clarify on that matter which is on page 125. The sub national bodies, let me start with sub national bodies Main Division 2. The Sub National bodies the amount is divided as follows N\$50,000 000 is for NAMRA the new Revenue Agency that we anticipate to start operating in early next year, and then we have the N\$2, 05,000,000 for PSEMAS payments and then we have the N\$147,000,000 that is for Contingency Provisions, and then N\$112,000,000 Political Parties funding that gives us a total of N\$2,825,095,000 that amount according to our book on page 125 under other extra budgetary, that amount that I just mentioned of N\$2,800,000,000 should be the amount that should be inserted where the N\$2,600,000,000 is. No where there is N\$309,000,000 at National bodies. Those are national bodies.

If you take that amount N\$2,825,000,000 and you add a new amount which is N\$107,000,000 for extra budgetary bodies and these extra budgetary bodies consist of Revenue Panels, Policy Unity, Central Procurement Boards, Financial Literacy. Financial literacy is

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HON ITHETE**

N\$2,000,000, Central Procurement Board is N\$40,000,000, Policy Unit is N\$10,000,000 Review Panel is N\$5,000,000 and the pensions for political office bearers for GIPF which is N\$50,000,000. That gives you a total of N\$107,000,000.

Now if you take N\$2,825,095,000 plus N\$107,000,000 if you add those figures together, plus on top there is membership fee of N\$24,000,000. Again there is State Owned Enterprises N\$128,000,000. If you add those figures together they will still give you N\$3,085,000,000 so it is just clarity because the House sought for clarity on those figures so I needed to clarify that and a number of Members have sought clarity on that.

The question of N\$4,000,000,000 and N\$9,000,000,000 I have clarified that what we are seeking is N\$4,000,000,000 from *Comrade Nekundi*. There is a question of N\$70,000,000 that also came from Comrade Nekundi for training. It was a wording error (*Interjections*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
That goes already?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes it was a wording error.
The N\$70,000,000 (*Interjections*).

HON MEMBER: Words?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Words yes that one of words. So the N\$70,000,000 is not for training. The N\$70,000,000 is administration fee for met-health.

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HON MEMBER: What?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Administration fee for Met-health, health, yes N\$70,000,000. The N\$70,000,000 that was asked by Comrade Nekundi.

Then there was also a high amount that was questioned with regards to maintenance what is it that we are maintaining? We have scanners around our country that are costing quite a high amount from our State coffers and it is taking a large chunk of money from our coffins.

HON MEMBER: Coffers not coffins, a few people want to die (*Laughter*).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Then there was again questions for our Procurement Units and for our procurements according to our Members they are taking high amounts of money. It was for the reason why we decided as Government or as Namibian citizens to come up with this body because a number of irregularities were always taking place in our Tender Board the previous one. So the Namibian people through this House have agreed to come up with the procurement unit as we are having it currently. So it is a decision that was taken by the Namibian people so we cannot do away with it. It was adopted in this house. Now for one to go against your own decisions it will not augur well with the people that you are representing.

The question of foreigners owning businesses in our country and they are not giving receipts to the customers is upon all of us whenever you find irregularities somewhere as a patriotic citizen you should report the matter. You should not ignore it, provided you go to a shop and you know

that you are supposed to be given a receipt and you are not given one and you keep quiet and you suspect here is some irregularity, by being silent you are also equally guilty. So we have institution in place where we can report irregular activities in our country.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can I intervene quickly there?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Deputy Minister I should think this is a very serious issue which needs either a law to regularise this type of thing, I am also a regular customer there, or the relevant institution either your Ministry, the Ministry of Labour and what is the other one which supervises they must also pay surprise visits just to see for themselves. We take note of that but *(Intervention)*.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee *(Intervention)*.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes advice, food for thought.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Through our Customs Officials we do go to businesses and do routine check-ups. We do surprise checks when we find that there are irregularities in their shops we sometimes count through estimating their products and give them an amount on how much to pay. The law is very clear that every business person, every citizen, everyone who owns a business should pay tax so there is no law that says they should not pay tax. So those that are contravening when we catch them they are always brought to book.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
We will come back to you, okay proceed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: *Honourable Kavekatora*, we spoke of the Budget deficit that went down but the borrowing is still going up. It is not really our policy, or it is not really our aim to continue borrowing. If we cannot otherwise and the country needs to move on for as long as what we are borrowing we can maintain it, there is not much harm to it for as long as we are cautious that we are not overdoing it and we can also not leave the country without activities running just because we are scared for the borrowing to go a bit high. So short falls will always be filled through borrowing. Of course first of all we will check within our domestic institutions before we go beyond our domestic institutions (*Interjections*) we borrow to finance infrastructure sometimes. Comrade Kavekatora, the deficit gap of the Budget is filled by borrowing within the country and there is nothing illegal about it.

We spoke about, there is a question regarding tax towards our churches. As we all know that churches are not ought to pay tax, but there are a numbers of churches that do businesses and they use the name church in order to avoid paying tax, so we have realised that one and we want to close that gap by asking them to pay taxes but not all the churches but churches that are involved in business activities.

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HON DIENDA: I will be ready for (*Indistinct*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we listen please?

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: There was another question regarding the Municipalities that are owing the State and they are unable to service their debt. Some of their debts are coming from before independence. We are negotiating with these Town Councils and Municipalities if they cannot really pay their debts most of them have learned maybe we can exchange with land with what they owe the State in order to cover their debts.

Then there were some comments which were not really questions regarding the refreshments and the contributions of Social Security, S & T that is not budgeted for. These are, for example the S & T these are all cuts which the colleagues are saying our Ministry gave itself higher amount but yet they can equally see in the books that there are certain activities that we have not budgeted anything. That is the indication that we have cut on those areas.

Then a comment was also made regarding the N\$18,000,000 that went to the Struggle Kids and the answer was already provided in the House here Vis a Vis the Ministries that got a minimal amount. So the answer to the Struggle Kids was already answered here in the House.

Colleagues also equally asked or raised concerns regarding the bail out of RCC two times, which I think was a very good thing for our Government to bail out a State Owned Enterprise where there are families and a number of people employed there instead of people to go home hungry. Our Government came out and bailed them out so that they can support their families and I do not see anybody should go against that support to

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HON HINDA**

our State Owned Enterprises. Young people yes went to Russia these young people from our country went to partake in the World Youth Festival whereby they needed about N\$5,000,000. Their own Government assisted them only with N\$500,000, half a million. They had to struggle with the rest of the money and these are the people that went to represent and became ambassadors when they were outside there and there is nothing wrong about it. *(Interjections)*

So in general Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Comrade Members I have attempted to generalise all your questions and tried to answer them as one.

Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Any objection? Okay lastly quickly summarise yours?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much. I think Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee the amount that the Deputy Minister has excluded from his request seems to be the domestic interest payment and I think it would be important for the record to hear that is that excluded from the request for approval? Is the Minister of Finance going to come back again to ask for that amount because what I did I took the N\$9,800,000,000 on page 126, the grand total of the Budget is N\$9,800,000,000.

The Minister only requested the amount he mentioned N\$4,000,000,000. The difference in that, is the amount that is for domestic interest payment. So maybe before we endorse the Deputy Minister just made that inclusion unless we understand that this sitting is only approving the N\$4,000,000,000, and the interest payment on domestic is not approved

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HON KAVEKOTORA**

by this sitting. I think that is the record that we want to be clarified. Maybe the Deputy Minister can say.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Okay, I recognise Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. What Honourable Hinda just said is exactly correct. That (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Okay so you mean (*Intervention*).

HON KAVEKOTORA: No I am coming, do not, okay. The difference is exactly that (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we listen please?

HON KAVEKOTORA: Interest payment and interest payment is excluded from the Appropriation Bill. Let us hear it from the Deputy Minister. Also relating to that, in the previous Financial Year 2017/2018 interest payment according to this book has been included in the request for the budget of Finance to the tune of N\$3,000,000,000 so I think we

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HON NEKUNDI**

cannot just let it go. Something needs to be corrected so that we know what the amount is. What is the exact amount that the Minister has requested? If the Minister is saying that he is only requesting N\$4,000,000,000 then I will not have a problem of approving the N\$4,000,000,000, but the question of the interest payment that needs to be paid to the tune of N\$5,700,000,000 needs to be explained as to how the Honourable Deputy Minister is going to pay for that if there is no request for that money to be appropriated unless of course I am missing something totally in the whole budgeting process.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Nekundi?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Comrade Chairperson, my major concern was the N\$70,000,000 which was allocated for training. The Comrade my brother here has cleared that one I just then submit my support to the Vote (*Laughter*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Minister would you now like to finalise, to explain this second round of questions? If not you can always stand over.

HON MEMBER: Stand over?

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HON KOOPER**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

No I did not say that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Comrade Members, as I said earlier that the amount that we are seeking support is N\$4,045,554,000, that is the amount and that is the amount that is in the *Appropriation Bill* which was certified by the Attorney General also.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any objection to 09? Agreed to.

I put Vote 10 – “**EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE**”. Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Paula Kooper. Yes you have the Floor.

HON KOOPER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

It is my pleasure to submit contributions to Vote 10, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture for the Financial Year 2018/2019 to this august House. Let me take this opportunity to first recognise and acknowledge the efforts of the Minister of Education, Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa and her team for the outstanding work and continuing efforts in steering the Namibian education sector in a positive direction in this difficult economic environment we find ourselves in. Your efforts Comrade Minister are significant, noticeable and highly appreciated.

Just to mention a few of the outstanding work the Grade 12 results show that in 2017/2018 Financial Year, 39.3% of the candidates met the

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HON KOOPER**

University admission requirement compared to 36.8% the previous year indicating an improvement with 2.5%.

As stated in the Budget Motivation Statement by the Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa and I quote, “79% goes towards the defraying of staff salaries and allowances. This has been a recurring trend over the years and it is inevitable given the current rate of increase in the demand for teachers which is a 3% annually. I have noted Honourable Minister, the efforts towards the Cabinet and the Right Honourable Prime Minister’s call to deduce remedy regarding the reduction of Government Wage Bill. My contribution towards this ever growing Wage Bill are as follows:

1. It is inevitable that the Wage Bill will always grow basing it on the demand versus the ratio attainment teacher to a learner. However, the 3% annual growth can be mitigated or reduced by the introduction of proven technological system platforms that can assist with the service delivery.
2. By using ICT as an enabler to deliver educational services this will not negate the recruitment of additional teachers. As a result of the increase in the learner enrolment numbers as well curriculum changes but it will minimise the Wage Bill percentage growth rate per year. Furthermore it will reduce the textbook recurrent procurement amount even introduction towards textbooks is realised.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members,

Finally allow me to make an observation with regards to the cultural programme. In your motivation statement Honourable Minister you referred us to consult the MTEF for a comprehensive analysis towards this Vote. However, MTEF does not give insight budgeting towards the culture programme allocation, which is a very important social progress aspect. With these few contributions I support the Vote.

Thank you.

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HON DIENDA**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House.

Honourable Minister my first question will be the Education Development Fund, is it still in existence and the reason why I am asking this question Honourable Minister is that in 2015, the Government gave funding of N\$580,000 towards this Division, and in 2017 the Government gave again N\$876,000 and the balance as it is currently now in May 2017, on this Development Budget is N\$740,000, that is why I asked you the question, is this Education Development Fund still in existence because if it is still in existence why is it not being used why is the money not spent? Why is it still in the Standard Bank account waiting there I do not know why? So that is just the first question.

Secondly, Honourable, I am not here by invitation I was voted in (*Interjection*) No I am not here by invitation I was elected.

HON MEMBER: What is it also?

HON DIENDA: Honourable no, we will divorce you. (*Laughter*) Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have a serious concern Honourable Minister when it comes to the bank accounts and the closing balances of these different accounts within the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has a serious problem when it comes to the funding as what was said by Honourable Kooper that 79% of the Budget goes towards salaries, so only 21% can be used for the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. But if I look at the

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Auditor General's Report I have found that in the regions they are sitting with money and just a few accounts in the different regions, in Kunene Region, in the Bank Windhoek account they were sitting with N\$12,000,000. Yes in Oshana Region they were sitting with N\$57,000,000 in their bank account. In Oshikoto Region with N\$32,000,000 and I can go on and on, this Report was tabled here by the Minister of Finance, so my worry is if the Regions are sitting with so much money and they are saying that there are so much problems within this Ministry why can this money not be spend? (*Interjection*) I did not say they must give it back I said they must spend it.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes proceed.

HON DIENDA: I am recommending Honourable that they must spend the money for the education.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I warn seriously the Honourable Members who are taking the floor, I humbly request not to respond to informal. Please do not respond to informal interjections, please.

HON DIENDA: And there are so many talking I even become confused. Now Honourable Minister on page 152 of the **Estimates of Revenue Income**, maybe this is a typing area I want you to correct me.

HON MEMBER: Error?

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HON DIENDA**

HON DIENDA: Typing error, what did I say?

HON MEMBER: Working error.

HON DIENDA: Oh, sorry it is you people you are confusing me. On page 152, Honourable Minister under Main Division 04 **Primary Education**, the establishment of 27,000, so I do not know the field at present it is not there so I do not know maybe the field and the funded positions are the same so if the Honourable Minister can just enlighten me on that one and also on page 154.

Then Honourable Minister on page 157 under Education, Arts and Culture, Main Division 6, **Namibia Library and Information Services**. The first one, not the second one. The estimates of revenue Income and Expenditure on page 157, Honourable Minister Namibia Library and Information Services there are these monies that you are giving to regions for libraries, I have noticed that the Kavango East Region did not receive any bursary provision for libraries for this upcoming financial year so if you can enlighten me on that one, and

The same goes Honourable Minister on page 159 also on the estimates of revenue and income page 159 **under Adult Education**. Under Adult Education Honourable Minister I have noticed that the money that you are giving to the regions for Adult Education, Oshikoto Regional Council there is no Budget provision for them. There is no Budget provision for Ohangwena for adult education for the Regions. So Honourable Speaker, with these few concerns I always support the Vote of the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.

Thank you.

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HON MWANINGANGE**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Deputy Minister of Defence Honourable Mwaningange.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. In contributing to Vote 10 of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture first I would like to congratulate and thank the Minister and the entire team in making this forward, well-crafted Budget.

It is really a reflection of most important issues as far as the education of our children is concerned. Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Comrade Members of the Parliament, having said that I would like to remark on one, but very important aspect and indeed this made a very forcing impact on the education of our children.

I am reflecting this Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on page 6 bullet 1 and 2, the last bullet. Here it is said about free vocational or technical subjects being included in the current primary and secondary education. Moreover this also now happens that it is what is reflected as basic pre vocational skills. The vocational skills courses which takes into consideration for those learners within special educational background and needs, such as those with learning difficulties and so on. So it is with those skills at those levels that will enhance the learners' good opportunity as far as such educational needs are concerned. There is no doubt Comrade Chairperson that a child or a learner who starts at the level or those levels will have a solid foundation when advancing at the level of secondary and vocational training developing years.

However, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members this is a way of collective efforts by not only education but other stakeholders. Other stakeholders have to support and promote this progress made and idea being put forward. With these few words (*Intervention*).

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HON MWANINGANGE / HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

You support the Vote

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Comrade Members I would like to thank once again Honourable Minister and so I submit.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Vote 10. I really do and I have a few concerns that I would like to raise.

Whenever you listen to the Ministry of Finance, it is always saying that the lion share of our budgetary allocation goes to the social sector. Now I am starting to doubt that honestly. I am doubting it not on the quantitative figure that is being quoted, but I am doubting it in terms of the relationship and the correlation between the figures that are being quoted.

It is a given and a fact that and I have been hearing it ever since, and even when I was an assistant teacher before I became a politician, teachers are underpaid and that seems to be a factual statement that teachers are underpaid yet 79% of the budgetary allocation goes to remuneration, and only 21% is left for the rest.

Now yes I understand that the amount that has been given to Education if you look at the figures, it is a reasonable amount and the current Financial

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HON KAVEKOTORA

Year is N\$13,400,000,000 I mean if you look at that, I wish I had a rich father to have N\$13,400,000,000. But in relation to what needs to be done in Education I think this figure is way too little because and I think we need to do some sort of an exercise a batch marking exercise of other countries and their educational system.

What is the ratio of the remuneration to Education? Is it really that 80/20 rule or is it less than that, because I really feel that the 21% that is left for the rest of the educational process cannot be adequate, and I would like to urge Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture perhaps just to do that exercise so that when we talk about a figure of N\$13,800,000,000 to be huge to put it in context because if we do not do that we might lose the point altogether and continue to underfund our educational system, and then start blaming other issues while the real problem is the financial contribution to education. I want to hammer on that point because to tell me because I am even in business if you cannot have a salary bill of 80% (*Interjection*). “*Mbwae Mwina*” (please, shut up) I mean you run out of ideas so just shut up (*Laughter*). You cannot expect (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: A salary (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Kavekatora can you listen, who should, you said shut up, to who?

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HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON KAVEKOTORA: To the Honourable Minister who interrupted me.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
No can you just withdraw that.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Okay I do.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Apologise.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Withdraw.

HON KAVEKOTORA: I withdraw. But I thought you said people should not be interrupted Honourable Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Did you withdraw the shut up?

HON KAVEKOTORA: I did withdraw so I just want to continue.

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HON KAVEKOTORA**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Continue, can we listen to one another? The more we are going to interrupt one another the more we are going to be here to 20:00 and I do not know.

HON KAVEKOTORA: A similar onslaught was done to me in this very same House and nobody asked for that to be withdrawn so it is just in terms of consistency. So from my perspective Honourable (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Sorry, who gave you the authority to point to the Presiding Officer like that, Muharukua it is you. (*Laughter*). Yes proceed please. Can we listen now to one another? Colleagues can we listen, proceed please. Proceed? You are done?

HON KAVEKOTORA: I am trying to proceed but people are making noise. So in a name this is the environment for instance the ratio of salary to other administrative activities it goes beyond (*Laughter*). That must be withdrawn (*Laughter*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Can we listen please everybody. Let us listen.

HON KAVEKOTORA: If your salary bill goes beyond 50% there is a need for a business process reengineering with your salary going beyond 50% there is the need for a business process engineering.

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HON NGHAAMWA**

I do not know and that is why I am doubting whether that 80% is really something that we can sustain moving forward. Therefore my appeal is to double the Ministry of Education Budget from the current N\$14,000,000,000 to N\$26,000,000,000 that will bring the relationship between salaries to the other educational activities to round about 40% and that in my opinion unless there is a benchmark figure that could be a much closer approximation of reality.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Nghaamwa, you have the Floor. Can we listen to one another, to your neighbour even?

HON NGHAAMWA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise in confident support of Vote 10 2018/2019 Financial Year.

Education remains very close to my heart because I believe it is through education that many young Namibians are going to realise their dreams. Allow me to appreciate the Minister's Budget motivation statement because she outlines the development of the teaching course, the curriculum and pre-primary education in such an understanding way.

To my very surprise the enrolment of children in pre-primary has increased from 41,091 to 41,743 in 2017, which is a clear indication that the access to education is indeed improving in Namibia. I applaud the Government for this achievement.

It pleases me that the Honourable Minister has mentioned the challenges faced by the pre-primary phases on page 17 of her motivation document. I believe that the Ministry has been trying to combat the unavailability of

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HON JAGGER**

classroom and school infrastructure with the fringe of education in Namibia special initiative. This will further aid the Government's effort in providing quality education in Namibia especially in the deep rural areas.

However, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members

With the challenges identified allow me to put forth a recommendation. I would like to recommend that the Minister look into a possible agreement between the University of Namibia and the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund to engage on a fully funded training for pre-primary and primary school teachers to save as motivation for Grade 12 graduates to go for training as pre-primary and lower primary teachers.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, with these few words I support the Vote.

I thank you. (*Applause*)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I recognise Honourable Jagger.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Appreciation is expressed to the Honourable Minister Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, and her dedicated team and to the many hundreds of Namibian educationalists and citizens who have made efforts to contribute to the improvement of our education system through various means, those that you have baptised with the befitting name of friends of education.

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Honourable Minister, I will not go into the numbers, into the figures but on page 9 in your motivation. I want to understand on page 9 the 530 new **family literacy promoters** who will be trained to carry out regional mobilisation to create awareness of adult education programmes. Now what I want to understand is, are they not teaching classes to adult learners? Are they just there for mobilisation I am not clear on that one?

On page 13/14, Honourable Minister **School Feeding programme** it is true that it is a strong incentive to attract children to attend school but I cannot reason away. The aim is to provide at least one meal to needy learners during the school hours so they can concentrate in class that is really the aim. I was just thinking this provision of maize blend should be supplemented by vegetables. I know the maize blend is good enough, is very nutritious but if we can maybe supplement it with a vegetable. Now these vegetables I propose should be cultivated on the school grounds by the learners, and this practice shall definitely help learners I mean to help to instil in the learners an awareness and appreciation for agriculture and promote food production and self-reliance in communities where schools are.

I think Honourable Minister that is just my suggestion that the Ministry needs to expand the programme to other needy children especially in certain parts of the country where the communities are highly marginalised.

Now I also understand the financial implication to that but especially where we have community hostels, now those children in community hostels only rely on the one meal per day believe me or not, when they go to school in the morning there is no food. When they come back, they only eat 10:00 breakfast at school whenever the break time is. Coming back for lunch there is no food. Tonight there is no food, morning there is no food. They wait until the next morning. Unless the teachers now provide through their own ways, through thier own means to get some food for them so that they can help them to have some breakfast and so on.

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HON JAGGER**

If the teachers are not doing that it means that they will, in a way, in their own way take from the school feeding programme which is not supposed to be and therefore you will find in many of the schools especially in the rural areas that the school feeding programme will be for the school, the meal blend will be finished before the end of the term because seeing these learners hungry teachers have to make those plans. If the school cannot provide the parents cannot provide then they have to go the other way which is in actual fact not the way it should be.

Now some schools and community hostels are forced to provide meals over weekend also. So since the policy makes only provision for one meal Monday to Friday those in the community hostels are now forced to go back home over the weekends which is also dangerous. Lions, elephants, and snakes you name them. Now if the schools cannot provide meals over the weekends then they must go home to get some food from the parents. It is long distances in some ways they have to come back Sunday sometimes they also do not come back and miss their classes. It is not in line with the policy to provide meals over weekends, afternoons and so on I know that (*Interjection*) yes my animals now, I should not talk too loud about them.

Now the Ministry, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee the Ministry should investigate the possibility of gardens linking up the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, yes please help the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. The possibility of gardens and I am very serious at schools to supplement the school feeding programme. It will also save a lot on the expenses on catering services provided to Government hostels. If we have these big gardens in schools compulsory then also the produce coming from those gardens can equally help those Government hostels that are supplied with food from caterers.

Page 9 again of your Budget speech motivation, an amount of N\$58,000 Honourable Minister is budgeted for Grade 10 and 11 textbook procurement. Now I want to understand also through you also to the Minister of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is there really no way where we can move towards E Textbooks (*Intervention*).

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HON KANDUMBU

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: It takes time also, the issue is after 20 years.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:
After 20 years is too far we can try to get it earlier to get E textbooks into the schools. It is just too much that is being spent on textbooks and also the management of textbooks that goes along with that. Can the Ministry give it a thought? It is just my humble suggestion. Some textbooks recommended by NIED do not always cover the syllabus that is also another concern.

Now there are too many titles for most of the subjects in the catalogues. It is confusing teachers in the ordering of textbooks so if we can minimise the number of titles in the catalogues it would really help us also because School A is ordering five textbooks, School B three textbooks, another one five textbooks so that we have a specified number of textbook titles in the catalogue that is being provided by NIED.

Honourable Minister having said that I have no choice but to support the Vote and I do so now.

Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Kasuto, no sorry Honourable Kandumbu.

HON KANDUMBU: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members.

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HON KANDUMBU**

Allow me also to use this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture and her entire team for the eloquent Budget motivation speech.

Honourable Minister on page 7 of your motivation speech Honourable Nekundi. Major curriculum changes have been made in the senior secondary curriculum in order to allow in the Namibian secondary curriculum international standards. I do not want to read the whole paragraph. Honourable Minister I would just like clarity there, how will the curriculum which is the new reform affect teachers who are trained to teach junior secondary Grade 8 to 10, since Grade 10 shifts to senior Secondary school.

Question 2 on the same page, how is the upgrade and downgrade of combined school will be implemented without affecting the effective teaching and learning as well as teachers' effective service delivery.

On page 8 Honourable Minister (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Is that okay?

HON KANDUMBU: Question number 2?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can you repeat the question?

HON KANDUMBU: Question 1 or 2?

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HON KANDUMBU

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Number 2.

HON KANDUMBU: Number 2, the question is, how is the upgrade and downgrade of combined school will be implemented without affecting effective teaching and learning as well as teachers' effective service delivery?

Question 3 on page 8, HIGCSE has been phased out now we have NSSCH, has been offered in parallel with NSSCO curriculum in the Namibian classrooms. My question goes like this, what are the criteria that the Ministry will be using in selecting schools that will offer Grade 12? What are the criteria the Ministry is going to use to select those specific schools which are going to teach Grade 12?

Honourable Minister on MTEF page 119 **Construction of teachers' houses**, I particularly welcome the idea of the construction of teachers. We all know about our teachers complaining that they do not want to go and teach in the rural areas simply because there is no descend accommodation but my question is for the past three/four/five years there are teachers' houses which have been abandoned. The construction started and then they did not finish. Now I would like to know from the Minister whether the construction which is referring on page 119 in the current Financial Budget is going to complete the houses which have been abandoned, or they are going to start with new construction.

Honourable Minister I commend the Ministry for upgrading Bradley Makupi Primary School in Mupungu Constituency in Kavango West. However, Honourable Minister Nkurenkuru is a town. It has been proclaimed as a town for the past 6,7,10 years, but it is disheartening to learn that in Nkurenkuru there is no Senior Secondary School and it is my plea if possible if funds to be availed. The current Nkurenkuru Combined to be upgraded, or there is a need for a newly constructed Senior Secondary School given the fact that the population of the Nkurenkuru Town is growing.

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HON KANDUMBU**

Honourable Minister in your motivation speech on page 19(xiii) it is really disheartening there slow trend of infrastructure development and rehabilitation remains a concern as about 85% of the infrastructure are in a state of disrepair. It is disheartening to see the state of the infrastructure. I come from Education I know what I am talking about.

When you go to the hostels for example you find that there are taps which are broken for the past two/three years or even 20 years. The water is just running throughout and when the bill comes out it is in millions, and the Ministry has not choice they have to settle these bills, because learners and teachers need water. But sometimes these taps which are running throughout sometimes it is just a small problem which can be fixed but it takes years and years without being fixed. We cannot only blame Works but I am suggesting. It is not Works I am not protecting my brother.

I mean Honourable Minister, Honourable Members I am suggesting I am of the opinion, we are having our VTC trainees those who are specialising in plumbing why can we not utilise them because they are capable of fixing these broken taps? Again sometimes we resort on these things of tendering unless we have to hire the tender, we have to put in tender but we have to remember that those people who are having companies what they are normally doing they get these tenders, at the end of the day they will go to VTC they pull those trainees they are the ones coming to do this work and then the Ministry will end up paying millions and millions but for small problems.

Honourable Minister whenever you are touring the whole country, maybe let me be specific with the Region where I come from, you find many chairs and desks, broken ones, everywhere but when they see the visitors coming if you pronounce yourself that you are coming around 10:00 you might not find those broken chairs and desks they might hide them somewhere but it is there. I mean it is too many you cannot count them. but it is so disheartening again to see the little funds which we are having we are ordering or we are importing these school furniture from South Africa, but we are having our VTCs trainees who are specialising in

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joinery why can we not hire them on a reasonable cost rather than for us to spend millions and millions of money?

HON MEMBER: It is experience.

HON KANDUMBU: It is not a matter of experience no one was born with experience because (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Sorry?

HON KANDUMBU: Yes there was no one who was born with experience that is why they are being called trainees they have been trained. In order for them to gain experience we have to give them this work. We cannot just give (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Member you are really doing fine, you are touching very important issues but just try to summarise not repeating. You are doing well because your time is also about to be over, proceed.

HON KANDUMBU: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. On another thing when we go to our hostels you will

find that there are beds which are broken, many of them. Still we can use our trainees. In doing so on the other hand we are on one hand letting them to gain experience and on the other hand we are creating jobs for our people I mean for our unemployed youth. It is my appeal to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to coordinate with the VTC in order for us to minimise this problem.

My last point Honourable Minister the officials of Kavango West Region are scattered. They are paying high rent, some are travelling from Rundu, some offices are still in Rundu, and it is also my appeal when the Ministry is going to secure some funds at least to consider constructing Kavango West Directorate offices. With these few remarks I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable //Gowases.

HON //GOWASES: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON MEMBER: It is time up.

HON //GOWASES: Mine is just a comment. Let me say it loud and clear. Education is not a preparation for life, education is life itself. Honourable Minister and your entire team thank you so much for the extra mile that you work in education especially with the launch of the friends of education special initiative in November 2017 this is really a boost financially to our education, thank you for that effort.

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HON KAVITA**

I support the Vote of Education wholeheartedly.

I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you my sister. Your intervention is every time to the point. Thank you for that. I recognise Honourable Kavita.

HON KAVITA: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support the Vote 10 of the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please can we listen to one another there, your neighbour is talking.

HON KAVITA: Honourable Minister on page 119 and up to 120 MTEF there are a number of schools to be renovated, constructed and upgraded. Among the list I noticed Mureti Secondary School to be renovated during the current Financial Year. I applaud the Minister for doing so. Honourable Minister although the schools in the Kunene Region remain a big concern. During winter season, learners as well as teachers have to endure the harsh conditions. Teachers are frustrated to teach in those poor conditions. The poor teaching environment prevents to attract qualified and experienced teachers.

My question to the Minister will be, what is the plan of the Minister to remedy the situation in Opuwo and other regions who fall under the same situation? With these few words I support the Vote of the Minister.

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HON MURORUA**

Thank you. (*Applause*)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Murorua. Yes.

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Allow me to first and foremost applaud the Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture together with able staff for a job well done. Almost everything has been said but I would like to concentrate on one.

Honourable Minister I think it is a very good move that you are now moving into providing free vocational or technical subjects and that it has been included in the school curriculum, but you are stating that it is going to happen at the primary and secondary phases.

My question is first and foremost whether it is going to continue in the senior secondary phase. I am asking this because I know that after the Senior Secondary Phase, the learners who would want to go for vocational training have to go into the conventional vocational training centres, but my experience has taught me that if a learner is only having a Grade 10 then this learner is going to be provided only theoretical vocational training with very minimum practical training, as opposed to one that has got a Grade 12 which are going for a fully-fledged vocational training course and they are then becomes tradesmen or tradeswomen, but for the others they are only being trained for one year and then thereafter they have to work for five years, and after the five years they have to sit for a trade test.

Now to find a year while you have only been trained theoretically with minimum practical training is very problematic for many of the learners. I am stating this because over the years that I have been serving in the

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region I have sent more than eight years almost every year close to 100 students to name it at the cost of the Regional Council of Kunene and many are times after their studies those ones that were not having a Grade 10 would come back and complain to me that I was trained but I cannot find a job, because the job market demands that the person must be fully trained or he/she must have Grade 12.

The other thing that I would like to know also Honourable Minister is whether this training, the vocational training in the schools is as I have clearly alluded on going to be on a theoretical basis only or whether there is practical training to be and what percentage of our schools in each region is equipped to provide for this vocational training at that secondary level or senior secondary level?

I thank you and I support the Vote. (*Applause*)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Ipinge-Nakale you have the Floor.

HON IPINGE-NAKALE: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee I think I am going to be very brief because the other Comrades took my words.

I rise to support the very important Vote and to applaud the Minister and her team for a well prepared Budget motivation speech. Honourable Chairperson, Vote 10 Budget allocated N\$13,483,065,000.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee before I support Vote 10 I want to say the following. In the Budget motivation speech on page 10, number 10 it reads as follows: N\$60,000,000 is allocated to construction of additional classrooms.

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HON IPINGE-NAKALE

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, firstly when I was looking through the book the MTEF on page 119 I felt or I found the following that, few schools were budgeted for construction of the schools in the deep northern parts of Namibia. As it has a high and fast growth rate in population, and this morning I was listening to Omurari Otjiherero radio and they were talking about schools at Otjimuhaka. The tents used as classrooms (*Interjections*).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes proceed.

HON IPINGE-NAKALE: The tents used as classrooms were taken away by rain and teachers are now trying to relocate the classes and the learners, it is now those tent classes. This news, this Morning it threatening my founding and my feelings. And now my humble request is to the Minister of Finance to increase the Budget Vote of the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture so that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture can put on permanent classes for our children. Learners are suffering and also avoid incidences of rain and diseases caused by it.

Secondly, on page 18, in the motivation speech it reads, lack of discipline, violence and it goes further but I only want to talk about violence. Many of our children's rights to education is not threatened primarily by lack of access to school or discrimination but by violence and bullying. Violence has a major impact on students learning. I know some schools have already started with campaigns against violence but my question to the Minister is, what is that that the Minister is doing to try to solve this challenge?

Thank you I support the Vote. (*Applause*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you I now call upon Honourable Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE:

Thank you very much Honourable Members of the House for your immense interest in Vote 10 and in the Education, Arts and Culture Ministry.

Let me start right away with my attempt to respond to some of your questions and equally also right from the onset appreciate your kind words, compliments and positive comments about our humble efforts as the team at the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. We shall continue to do our utmost best in the best interest of our children in Namibia, so thank you for your kind words and appreciate that you are observing what we are doing.

Thank you *Honourable Paula Kooper*, for your support equally and I must also say that your proposal in terms of the technology is well taken. Of course already we are looking into many aspects of E-Learning and E-books and all those are already discussed at the level of the Ministry. Of course it is not going to be happening tomorrow but for sure there is no way that we can be left behind in terms of ICT in Education. It is a global talk. I attended a global conference in terms of ICT in education two years back in Incheon, South Korea so definitely we are not left behind we are planning towards that so thank you for your advice on those ones.

Honourable Dienda, you spoke about the Education Development Fund and I must assure you that the Education Development Fund is in existence. It is in existence of course we have done a lot through that Fund already so it is in existence. If you want more clarity around that we can have some cup of tea in the restaurant but it is in existence.

I do not know you spoke about multiple bank accounts in the Ministry which ones did you really mean I am not sure about?

HON DIENDA: In the regions?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Of course yes, why there would be bank accounts at the regional levels, you will not bear in mind Ministry of Education has decentralized some functions to the Regional Councils and of course there are also some of the activities of the Ministry that we have decentralised but it is taking place at the Ministerial Level for example procurement of textbooks, stationary, small minor repairs and maintenance those things are happening at the Regional levels, and it is obvious that there would be accounts where these funds would be kept.

You also spoke about some moneys that are left in the accounts at the regional levels I must say some of what you are observing that you see as moneys that are left in the accounts of the Regions are really not necessarily money that is just lying idle. It is committed funds that in some instances cannot be expended timeously, and you would also see that the execution rates are not really sometimes as we are expecting them to be and that is because of many other external influences of the whole cycle of how our Budget is being worked, while you think you will expend money by the year end and you are left by the end of the Financial Year with money. That does not mean that money does not belong something. In many instances, most instances it is committed to some of the activities of Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

In some instances where we see that the possibility of the money to be expended we are even asking for the money back to the central and we are reallocating to other critical areas in the Ministry that is really what is happening in the Ministry.

Honourable Dienda you mentioned about pages in 152, 154, I do not know but what I know is that you were raising your concern about the non-allocation of moneys for some of the activities. You mentioned for example Kavango East.

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HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

You spoke about the adult education provision. It may be that in the book that the allocations are not precisely perhaps done as it would be shown in the reality at the level of the Ministry but all I can do is to assure you that all those programmes that are standing programmes under the six (6) main programmes that we are running we made sure that there are equitable allocation of funds of course also bear in mind that priority areas are being looked into, and when the resources are scarce we would definitely prioritise where it has to go based on the information that we are having in the Ministry.

Honourable Mwaningange, thank you very much for your support I think that was really just support on what we are doing.

Honourable Kavekatora, also thank you very much for your support. It is a reality, it is true that about 80% for now it is at 79%. That is a reality there is no way that any figures are misleading or it is not telling the reality that is happening in the Ministry, but this 79% is not only speaking to the teachers component, it speaks to the total staff component, the teaching and the non-teaching staff members that we are having in the Ministry and when you take all of them including the about 28,000 teachers that we are having, we are talking about more than 30,000 close to 40,000 staff component in the Ministry that we are talking about and that is where it continues to be very skewed in terms of the Wage Bill, and that is also why the Prime Minister's office has urged us to look into how we can really work towards the reduction in the Wage Bill and my Ministry has been really doing a lot in terms of looking into the compensatory reduction processes and many other activities that we are busy with in terms of how we can help and rectify reallocating teachers from where we have got a surplus of teachers at the schools where we have got low level, and that is where also the complaints comes from that positions are not filled.

It is because we are busy with this process of looking into where do we have the deficit, and where do we have the excess number of teachers and it is a cumbersome process. So that is why also the filling of positions are going really slow because of this process but thank you very much.

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What you have asked us to say get into an exercise, I have instructed my staff members already to get into an exercise to look what is, if we talk about providing the real quality education that we have committed ourselves under the Sustainable Development Goals under the United Nations. A Real Budget to provide that would be three times possibly more than what we are currently and especially on the side of the Development Budget that it gives challenges on the side of development budget.

One thing that I am also saying normally when I am bemoaning the situation of the allocation of funds to our Ministry is, people should understand the dynamics of some of the Ministries where we have got warm life bodies of people, and where we have got situations of a Ministry that is like an air but dynamic where you have to appoint annually staff members with the provisions, introduction of the universal primary and secondary education. There is no way that appointments can be stopped in a Ministry like Ministry of Education because the ratios between the learner and teacher are ever changing.

In my speech you have seen that the ratio has been 21:1 that is the ideal ratio if you want to provide quality education to learners but the ratio is now so skewed with the bloating and the increment of the enrolment annually that we stand at about very abnormal ratios of even 70:1, there is no quality proper education that can take place, but those are the realities, why because she will need more teachers and if you do not take more teachers one teacher ends up with 74 learners in a classroom. We need more classrooms if you do not have classrooms you utilised the space that is there and that is where the plateau systems and every other thing comes in, so one thing leads to the other.

Somebody said, I must not say somebody, the Finance Minister said it is not money that solves everything. Of course we agree with that statement but where do you want to provide quality services? There is no way like in the scenario of the Education that that statement would stand but it is not always about money. Yes in Education it is not always about money, and that is why we are advocating in provision and for the teachers to

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learn to do more with less. All those things we are doing there is no way that somebody can speak about that and we the exact people same thing in the shoes would not think out of the box to the extent that we ignore that. But of course yours was really to support us and to give us exercise to look into the real situation what it is that Education needs to make it happen.

Definitely I have already instructed them to do and we will continue to do that so that we have got a better understanding of the best and the reality for Education funding or currently we cannot, especially on development. There is no way we will be able to construct the needed schools because it is not only about classrooms. We need new schools but every time because we cannot afford we keep on building schools and so many friends come on board, this one will build four classrooms, that one will build a classroom block for us, this one will build a hostel, friends are doing that, and while friends are doing that still the deficit continues.

So there is a need for us to improve on the funding on the developmental side otherwise also we improve on the private Public Partnerships, that phenomenon we thought it is going to be solving some of the things but it seems it has complicated a lot of things. Either we do not understand it or either we are afraid to implement it, and we are also afraid to get into agreements in terms of the BDOs, in terms of the JVs and I think it is about time if we want to move forward that we loosen on some of the very stringent ways that we want things to be done. Of course checks and balances must be there but it makes things very difficult for some Ministries that are live moving warm Ministries.

Teachers are underpaid: I am not sure whether I would be agreeing with that statement because we are benchmarking, and if we look around from where we are benchmarking I think the Namibian teachers are fairly paid. They are fairly paid.

Honourable Nghaamwa, thank you very much for support and I must just say your recommendation is noted and taken and we will look into that. Of course we have got a very cordial working relationship with University

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of Namibia (UNAM) and Ministry of Higher Education but definitely your recommendation is taken.

Honourable Jagger, the 530 individuals are literacy promoters. It is obvious that I said there is a lot of challenges in terms of promoters coming and going, and that has prompted us to appoint. So they will be doing the mobilisation as well as the teaching and promotion.

The school feeding programme yes the maize blend is very good it is nutritious, but I agree with you that we need to work towards improving and bringing on some other foodstuffs like vegetables. Immediately after I took office we wrote a directive to all the schools to embark on school gardening programmes and a lot of schools are doing that. There are school gardens. Of course some schools have got challenges of water and seeds and many other things, but it is a programme for which we have directed all those schools to be done.

I must also mention that we are working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, to the extent that we would be asking small holder farmers around the Regions, in each of the Regions that would work in partnership with our Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to see how we can provide vegetables and foodstuffs. So we have got a programme, we have got collaboration already with the Ministry of Agriculture. We cannot over emphasise that there is a need to grow gardens and definitely we would continue to advocate for that.

Also I must mention that on the improvement in terms of the nutrition we are working on, we have already started to work some years back I found it in fact in the Ministry with UNICEF on a plan to improve on the nutrition of the school feeding programme so those are all issues that we are looking into. I must say the community hostels that we have touched on we have allocated N\$22,00 per learner to the community hostels but as he was saying we are chopping, cutting and trying to make it work if a half loaf of bread instead of full loaf, but definitely there is provision also made for the community hostels.

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You also, I think I have touched on the textbook issues, too many papers, too many textbooks it is about time that we start to plan to move towards the E Textbooks and so on and also minimising the titles in the catalogues definitely yes I agree with you we are already also looking into that.

Honourable Kandumbu, you had a mouthful of questions my sister-in-law.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Or advices and comments.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: The curriculum change, let me not say the curriculum change let me say the review. The review of the curriculum is a project, a huge project with a lot of implications definitely.

You were concerned about how does it affect the pictures, how does it affect the infrastructure, how does it affect the learning and all those kinds of things, it has been provided for. There is provision, I was reading in my speech if you maybe go back to my speech and re-consult my speech you will see the allocations that has been made.

I must thank the Minister of Finance this time around. When we requested for the appropriation for the curriculum review project because it is a project that required time span specifically allocated for it and the Minister of Finance has helped us in a way to do that. So there is breakdown in my speech how we will be allocating financial wise and that is also for the training of the teachers so that the teachers will be trained to be compatible with the reviewed curriculum. So it is taken care of if I could really take together your concerns that you have raised, but if there are other outstanding issues that you want me to give you specific questions on definitely I will do so.

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In terms of the standards, I must say that our curriculum has been providing the best of education in terms of standards, because we are benchmarking with the Cambridge education and Cambridge education is internationally regarded and accepted that is why children that matriculated in Namibia can go anywhere in the world and to be admitted that is the standard we are talking about. So while we are still continuing to work with Cambridge we have also already started to Namibianise this provision of our curricula.

Construction of the teachers' houses yes there are houses that have been abandoned, and I must also say there is an accumulated backlog over the years that is haunting us still and that has kept us by now with us. Yes in the instance of houses that has been abandoned we have taken some measures, some of the contracts have been terminated and when you terminate a contract it means so many things either you are taken to Court, or either you have to start with a new company meaning it is a process that you have to follow and this comes with time and a lot of delays and also the money that you have agreed on is escalating, it is no more the same money but definitely we continue to provide houses for teachers and where the houses have been abandoned obviously either we would get into an agreement to urge the company to continue with the work depending on the circumstances and otherwise we will terminate and we will get a contract with other persons to continue to complete those ones provided that the funds are there.

Nkurenkuru Senior Secondary School, yes why not. Nkurenkuru has been declared as the capital of the new Kavango West Region, and there is a need for us to look into that. Either we would extend the curriculum in terms of schools that are already there in Nkurenkuru, or either we need to plan for a new Senior Secondary School but we must also bear in mind that regions must complete their fares because the recommendations project identification forms it normally comes from the Regions through the various structures that are there so the regions must also try to see that their fares are forwarded for the planning purposes when we want to start to do such big projects, but I agree with you there is a need for that.

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HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

Yes infrastructure disrepair, I said about 85% of our infrastructure is in a state of disrepair. If you look in the southern part of the country those infrastructures that we found are ailing. At the central north/east, north/west we do not have infrastructure what you see most of the regions are infrastructure that we have put and the numbers are blotting so definitely while we have to look into disrepair state of infrastructure we need to look into constructing new ones.

Thanks to the provision under this beautiful fancy name and the President was also mentioning it in the State of Nation Address the renovation programme that is assisted through the moneys that we have acquired through the loans and things, we are focusing on the renovations of schools. Definitely we have identified at least two schools per region and those nominations came from these regions so we will be looking into every region where we can start to renovate the most dilapidated schools. But also fencing is coming in handy where we will not be able if for example a region has got more than two schools to be renovated that is where fencing would be coming in provided we stand ready with PDPs and JVs and all those kinds of things so that we can accelerate the service provision.

Taps broken, windows broken, doors broken, ceilings falling apart, come on. You know some of the things depends on the type of leadership that we have at the institution. To allow a ceiling until it falls on the children, to allow windows to be broken until they cut the learners, to allow a tap to run until the utility bills are uncontrollable. It rises and it falls on leadership. But I agree with you that we can look into, especially in the regions where we have got VTCs we can get into agreements and ask them and of course Ministry of Works is responsible for all these Government Buildings and they have to do those maintenance.

It is a good suggestions to say let us see how we can utilise the trainings, not only the VTC training but also the inmates, and especially for the fixing of the chairs and the desks we can get into agreements with the correctional services as well as the VTCs and the Ministers are willing. My sister has already also agreed that we can look into how best we can

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HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

help the Government not to have unnecessary expenditure on that. We have got also SMEs in the regions that are already fixing these desks and the chairs for the schools you know there are lots of frames you will see at every school, broken frames that are standing there. Those frames are being used to fix the tables so we are doing everything possible to save money and also drawing up the situation.

Yah, offices are scattered I think I have responded to that question. There are project identification forms but they are also at the national level where we look into the priorities and we are guided by priorities when we plan and when we provide services.

Thank you *Honourable Clara //Gowases* for your kind words and appreciation for the fancy and other things

Honourable Kavita, your concern about Kunene yes, Kunene and many other regions are challenges with infrastructure especially and we know the hardships that they go through long distances, lack of infrastructure, we have got friends like the Libertina Amadhila who came in and assisted us. We definitely all we can say it is planned for that is why it reflects in the books and we will continue provided that we have got resources to do what we can do the best.

So my plan as per your question, what is your plan for Opuwo? My plan is to improve on every challenge that we find in Opuwo in terms of education. I think Kunene at some stage was declared as a special region. We may piggy back on that provision and see what we can do.

Honourable Murorua, the pre vocational subjects that we have started to introduce after the 2011 Education Conference is covering the primary as well as the secondary. Secondary meaning junior secondary senior secondary, it is throughout the school system and it is both practical and theory that is why you will see the Budget has also changed because it is very expensive to offer vocational technical subjects at schools, because you have to change a classroom totally into a classroom where you will be able to provide practical as well as theory.

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HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

For example yes where children has to do the hospitality it is no more like in our days where we just go and have cooking and so on. Now they must learn hospitality how to make up a bed, how to lay the table and there are many things. *(Interjection)* No I am asked if I had a choice I would not even answer any question but I am responding to questions of the people so I cannot be pressurised.

So these technical subjects requires telephones, it requires classes, cutlery those fine things that are expensive and that is to cover for the practical side of what we are offering so yes we are offering both practise and theory goes hand in hand and it goes up to the secondary. There was something that was very specific *(Intervention)*.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Nakale?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Yes you spoke about students cannot get into job markets. Honestly I personally think when we provide the vocational and technical subjects it is exactly to capacitate people to stop looking for jobs but to create jobs. These small things like carpentry, you know plumbing go and register your company people will ask you to come and fix their taps and do their carpets in their houses and so on. So these skills must help us not to rely and expect the Government to give us jobs but to create jobs and register companies and go and do your job. I am seeing a lot of young people who are doing that and we are supporting them.

What percentage of schools for the start roll out. After we have started to implement the 2011 Conference recommendations? We have identified in every region one school but that also influenced by the number of learners that have got the interest in the technical vocational subjects so it depends on the number that we are having. If the number rises obviously we

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HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

would be rolling out but for now we have identified in every region one school to be the technical school and it is not something that is to come it is something that has already started. Right now schools are providing these subjects already.

Honourable Rebecca Ipinge-Nakale, tents are being blown away again it has to do with the infrastructure, I think in a way I have touched on your concern already. You asked me what do I do with the violence in the schools? What do we do with violence in the society because school is just but extension of the societies where we are coming from?

So we need to fix the society to fix the violence in schools but in school we would be applying the rules, the regulations that are there in schools to ensure that we instil discipline but when teachers becomes also threatened in the school environment it becomes bigger than that and in the instances where it is criminals thee law must take its course but there are roles, there are laws and we are trying our utmost best but the society must be fixed where the children are coming from.

Thank you very much I think I have attempted, if there are outstanding questions I am open for any Comrade and Honourable Member tot approach me I will be able to handle that.

Thank you so much. (*Applause*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 10. Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Vote 12 – **“GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE”**. Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Minister Erastus Utoni.

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HON UUTONI / HON MAHOTO

HON MINISTER OF SPORTS YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICES: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. In the first place I want to support the Vote of the Ministry of Gender, Equality and Child Welfare.

Mine Honourable Minister is not a question. It is an advice that I want to give perhaps you can make use of it. If you look at page 4, 2.5 you are talking about a number of 344,055 children who are receiving this claim, yes on that amount of money that is allocated there.

My advice Comrade Minister is that maybe you need to introduce a physical control check for those children who are receiving this grant. It is very important because sometimes you do not know how many children are still living. Maybe you can take an example of this company of Epupa they have an annual routine physical check for our grandparents to check whether they are still living but if you are just giving and giving the number will just increase so that is my advice Honourable Minister,

I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Advice is advice, I recognise Honourable Mahoto. You have the Floor Honourable Mahoto.

HON MAHOTO: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

I rise to add my voice on the Budget of Gender, Equality and Child Welfare. In the first place I would like to support it from the onset. I feel humbled today to be accorded this opportunity because I have something to say on this Vote, Vote 12.

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HON MAHOTO

The Ministry was allocated this big billion (*Laughter*). And when I read it here on my paper I can say N\$1,212,373,000 to some of the people when they look at this figure they think it is a lot of money, it is not according to me. I say like that because Gender is just in that component of gender itself. Gender is a cross cutting issue. It was supposed to be budgeted so that each Ministry is having a gender component on its own. (*Applause*)

That is why you find that it is very difficult for the people to understand gender in our country they think it is just a matter of men and women only and it is just a concern of the women, it is an issue of the women.

I can add my voice again by saying in this Budget the Ministry must request from the Ministry of Finance a big budget so that the programmes of the women are implemented fully.

Lastly, I am not going to say much because of time, on the programme of this care protection of the children, there I have a problem like the former Minister who just spoke now because this programme is not well (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Managed?

HON MAHOTO: Well (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
What is that, managed, supported?

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HON MAHOTO**

HON MAHOTO: Well checked because the money is just dished they do not make some follow ups to see whether the money is ending in the right hands. Many people are just abusing these funds. The money is being eaten by the mothers while the children are staying with the grannies.

I say like that because I was a Gender Liaison Officer I am speaking from experience. I know what I am talking about. So our Government must make sure that something must be done to those people who are not utilising the money in a proper direction. Those who are just taking the money and entertaining their boyfriends (*Laughter*) I can say like that it is my humble request whether you laugh or not.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Order.

HON MAHOTO: Okay can I be protected. It is my humble request to say (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we listen to the humble request, yes. Can we listen please? We cannot hear.

HON MAHOTO: I need to be protected because there is a lot of noise going on in the House. Yes (*Intervention*).

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HON MAHOTO**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Can you repeat again because there was lots of noise, your humble request?

HON MAHOTO: Can I repeat what?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Your humble request.

HON MAHOTO: My humble request is to request that our Government must give stiffer sentences to those people who are misusing the funds, because this means when it started it was originally for gender mainstreaming. These components just came in between. When it came in between it means the Gender mainstreaming programs were cut. Even now if you ask the Ministry itself to tell us even today how many women have benefitted even those in the managerial cadres, who those women are who are in the fish quotas, diamond quotas, the Ministry will not explain.

They will not explain, why I say so. I say like that because the Budget to the Gender Mainstreaming has been cut and it has been taken for child protection and also child care but the money is not utilised properly and I really thank our good Government for introducing this because some of the children were unable to go to school because they were shy, they had no uniform.

Since it was introduced now our children all of them whether rich, poor they are equally treated. They get funds, they go to school with uniforms and whatever, and I am happy for that and I will request the Ministry to make sure that they wear Gender lenses and all Ministries should do it so

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HON DIENDA**

that our programmes are done all over not just to be a burden for the Ministry itself. Thank you Honourable Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you for that intervention, very good indeed. I now recognise Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister this morning we received a visit from your staff again as usual, and I want to congratulate you on that part because your staff members are always consulting our Committee on Gender so that is a job well done.

Honourable Minister this morning the topic was about women economic empowerment which I saw you had budgeted for on page 180. So this morning as the Honourable Mahoto was saying, this is a Committee of Gender there were only four men who were attending that gathering with your staff, but it was a good initiative and I think the eyes of our men are open now especially the ones who are saying that who will do the cooking if we are in Parliament till late in the night. (*Interjection*) Yes they are speaking as if they are disabled.

Still on page 180 Honourable Minister, I have noticed that you have a Budget of N\$3,500,000 for power. I want to know is it still in existence and how many staff are being employed in that office because I always saw it locked and I was wondering I did not receive an invitation to that office for a long time, is it still in existence?

Then Honourable Minister in your speech, gender responsive budgeting, and gender based violence, Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill. Honourable I also want to congratulate you. This is a nice effort but my concern is we will Budget for N\$8,000,000 for Gender Base, GBV

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HON DIENDA**

campaigns but the GBV is just increasing and I am asking myself when I saw this N\$8,000,000 what is it that we are not addressing in this country? What is it what makes us blind not to see? What is it that we as women are maybe doing wrongly or what is it that the men are doing wrongly that the increases are there instead of a decrease?

Then on the same vein also Honourable the shelters of GBV cases I do not know, I know that in each Region we have a shelter for GBV cases but I think it is too little. I once met a lady and she was telling me she was only allowed to stay for one month in that shelter and after that one month she was requested to vacate, and I understand the reason is maybe we must make way for other cases which are coming in but what message are we giving to the women if we are saying we must vacate this office within one month and look for alternative accommodation? Most of the cases they are going back to the situation at home because they have nowhere to go. I hope that the Motion which was tabled in the House will give more light on how we can deal with this issue.

Then Honourable Minister I will go to my next question which is actually a concern on page 184, **Child Care service** page 184. Honourable Minister, I saw under others, previously we had a Budget of N\$1,000,000 but now we only have a Budget of N\$20,000. So when I looked into my books to see what this others was all about for this dramatic change from N\$1,000,000 to N\$20,000 I could not find what it was all about so maybe if the Honourable Minister can enlighten me on that one also.

Then Honourable the foster parents, the grants for the children, I have noticed Honourable that our children will still get N\$250 as the Honourable was saying that the men are eating this money with the women so I do not know is it the Nekundis' or who are these men who are eating that N\$250 (*Laughter*). It is only N\$250 so I do not know how people can actually come and drink and eat that N\$250 which is not even enough? It is not even enough for that child so really (*Interjection*).

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HON DIENDA

Yes they do it. So Honourable Minister but what was most disappointing for me, Honourable Muharukua what was most disappointing to me was when the Auditor General said in his latest Report and I will read to you, *“The total Budget of the Ministry was underspend with an amount of N\$45,000”* and he said further, *“These funds could have been used for other pressing needs in the country”*. And then I went further and I was so disappointed that this Ministry cannot afford to under spend money. That from this money N\$40,000,000 was actually for child care services. Child care services N\$40,000,000 out of this N\$45,000,000 which was under spend was meant for child care services.

Honourable Minister I will understand if you will explain and say that yes it was because some of the children died along the way something happened. Listen these are facts because if you die you cannot receive the funds anymore so that might be a reason. So the child will be deleted from the system, but my concern is there are so many applications there in the Ministry of Gender for these grants, and children who want to benefit from it.

So if you have experience that some of the children are being deleted from the system then we have to bring on board the waiting list of the other children who are not benefitting and this is my disappointment that I say that if we under spend I would have understood when it was for other Capital Projects or what but not for child care services so that is why it is difficult for me and a disappointment in this specific.

Honourable Minister as usual I support your Vote because it is my Vote and it is my interest.

Thank you so much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Limbo.

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HON LIMBO**

HON LIMBO: I will be very short because I can see everybody is tired. Thank you Honourable Chairperson.

I just want to start by saying I want to support our Vote as mothers and fathers of this House.

I go straight to page 6 of the Minister's speech. I think others were already said by the colleagues who said before me. On the issue of **promotion of Gender, Equality and women empowerment**. I think as we were told earlier that if you look at the Budget you will think when the Minister was reading there she was talking of N\$1,000,000,000 and something and all of us who were getting excited, we thought the money is going to come to this programme but unfortunately the money is given to our children. So I will still urge if possible because I believe if this the gender equality is achieved definitely even this number of children we are going to we are talking about is going to decrease because the mothers and fathers are going to have time to look after their children better.

Otherwise I do not see the need of us because if you look at the Ministry itself it is having very little money to support our rural women and I would like to find out from the Minister how many of our women have graduated from these smaller projects we have been supporting to move to middle class if there is any because, I believe by so doing if we start graduating from the pre-school to somewhere the whole family is going to improve.

The other one is on **gender responsive budgeting** because we were told that this is something we have parked that the whole Ministries must start promoting gender budgeting. But I still believe some of the Ministries are not doing that. We must start asking ourselves every Budget we are looking at we must see how many of these amounts we are committing is going to benefit our women because women in this country are still left behind, and that is why, not unemployment but the poverty cycle is continuous because if the mother is hungry it is very difficult for children to stay in the house. So I just want to urge the Ministries to make sure that in the next Financial Year, each and every Ministry we must start looking

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HON MUHARUKUA**

at the gender responsive budgeting so that we support the Ministry of Gender. With these few remarks I support your Vote Honourable Minister.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, I recognise Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes thank you Honourable Chairperson, just one question for the Minister.

Honourable Minister when these vulnerable children are registered there is a time lapse between the registration or the application for registration and the time they actually receive the funds the N\$250 grant, Generally it takes very long.

The question that I want to pose is one, should the determination be at the end of the application of this person is eligible, of this child is eligible for the grant would the Minister consider giving the money in retrospect from the time that they have applied.

Two retrospect is looking behind from the time you applied.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I should think they understand.

HON MUHARUKUA: Karupu is asking what?

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HON MUHARUKUA

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
They understand proceed.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Karupu does not understand.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
No he does.

HON MUHARUKUA: Yes the back pay in the teachers' terms is back there.

The other question then is what is the Ministry planning to do to shorten that time because if it takes a year or six months before a person who says I am impoverished or I am vulnerable to actually get to assist them, poverty and hunger and all the results all the effects of it still has taken hold of these persons for that period of time so just those two questions, Honourable.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. In the absence of anyone Honourable Minister would you like to reply in summary?

HON MEMBER: Take your time,

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HON SIOKA**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Summarise.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you very much colleague. I really not support, I am so glad to let me say for (*Interjection*). For, ha?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Minister please forget about (*Intervention*).

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Anyway he is my son. He knows why he is saying so. I am so glad really for those who posed questions to the people's Ministry, Ministry of Gender, Equality and Child Welfare because it is our Ministry. I think maybe my motivation satisfied the majority of you, and really I accept the questions which were posed now.

Let me start with *Honourable Utoni*, my brother, I know you will advise me rightly and that is our culture in SWAPO that we do advise directly to one another. Yes it is our culture by advising ourselves that do this way, do this thing if you are wrong here. We do advise one another, I really appreciate your advice we will look into that one.

Let me come to my aunt *Honourable Mahoto*, thank you very much also you are talking out of experience. You have been in the Ministry you know what was happening and really why I am saying that I appreciate what you are saying especially on the issue of the big amounts which people are seeing, this amount is not going to the empowerment of women the majority of the amounts the big chunk it goes to the children obviously

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HON SIOKA**

because right now we are still registering. We are still receiving more forms and the room is full there. We have even popped out some volunteers who came to the Ministry to come and assist so that we feel we complete the forms, we enter the forms so that our children can be registered because we have extended it. Before it was just orphan kids, and everyone and now we have extended to vulnerable children. That is why we are saying that the forms are still bundled in the Ministry. They are still there and we are still calling for me because we have seen that our children really are starving. Poverty is among our people, that is why the Ministry of Poverty was created because we have got many battle fields where we are fighting this poverty. So in general the increase is not for empowerment of women it is just for the care and protection of children.

I am disappointed Honourable Mahoto by saying women are the ones who are chopping this money with their boyfriends' even men too they are doing the same we should not only look for women because *(Interjections)*.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL: Actually especially women.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Yes it is a burden also. It is a burden my son which is given to women because why we are focusing on women is because women are the people who remain with the children, it is true than men. Men are nowhere to be found so what can a woman do? You see it does not mean that they are spending it on boyfriends. We should not discourage our women we should support them in difficult situations, if they were married to their husbands, *(Interjections)* yes so even men also are doing so. They are the people who are running away from looking after the children. They just deliver and run away. Should I sit down? They run away, men are running away *(Interjections)*.

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HON SIOKA

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Colleague, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: They do not look after their children even they deny their children outside the wedlock.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
No dialogue. Even the Honourable Minister is just (*Interjection*).

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: You are so interested neh? I can even mention some of you here.

Yes let me come to *Honourable Dienda*, women empowerment (*Interjections*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Even the Chief Whips of the Ruling Party for that matter, ah. I will mention you.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Dienda you talked about the empowerment of women, you are seeing this office the power office why is there a fee? The fee you are seeing in this book that is for the international, our dues which we are paying to power, yes. And if you see that N\$5,000 ha?

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HON SIOKA**

HON DIENDA: It is N\$3,000.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Yes which you are seeing there, if it is N\$3,000 that is our due which we always pay to power. Otherwise on the office point of view as far as I am concerned to me the Office is not functional that is why you saw it locked it is not working.

GBV Budget is decreased, yes you know the situation where we are as a country financially wise we do not have enough money and also these Directorates really suffers always it does not receive lots of money. Last time I remember in 2015, when I came to the Ministry even the African Ambassadors gave us some money that we trained people in gender based violence so we do not have enough money in this Budget.

Yes there was a woman who was at the shelter also the amount is too little which is budgeted for the shelter. It is true it is little because of the story I have explained now. Then one woman, you met a woman who was in the shelter and she was told to move. For that information I do not have it that maybe I can explain it. Maybe we have to know the person and the region where the person is coming from so that we can find out from our Director in that region. The other one was the woman who was told to vacate, and four others.

N\$1,000,000 now it is N\$20,000, the situation where we are today of financial conflict this is the results of it. Some we have to cut, where we have a N\$1,000,000 the others will have less or N\$800,000 and N\$20,000.

Foster care child not getting enough N\$250. It is true because we want to reach everybody. I am still insisting that we have this small cake we have to share it, 250. As I said that we have extended this grant to vulnerable children so that they get also and the number is so big, the house is full of forms where they have applied.

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HON SIOKA**

Yes underspend. On the N\$45,000,000, N\$40,000,000 yes this one immediately when children turn 18 it is a fact that that child should graduate and move away from the grants. From 18 down we do support but also we go up to 21 if there is a special case. My sister I think you will help me, yesterday we were talking about this 21, but right now we do not have that Budget because of the Budget cuts. But we end at 18 years right now. Maybe as you have mentioned I do not want to be mentioning death. Yes people who leave us, the children are leaving you know we are affected with many things so they are leaving us also. That brings the total amount down.

Honourable Limbo, how many women have also graduated from the project? I mentioned on page what, on my page I mentioned 280 women. We trained them, and then we give them the materials so that they go on and I mentioned in my motivation speech I said 100% of those people who are getting the project, 70% of them out of that are women, only 30% we are gender are men. 70% are women 30% are men so also men do benefit.

Ministries are not budgeting for GBV, it is true there are just few Ministries, if you listened I was listening tentatively. I heard my brother here I do not know maybe I am from that House, the Ministry of Labour I heard them talking about gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting, I heard another Ministry is it today who was motivating they are just few. Mines and Energy maybe because there is a lady, so for you women who are in those Ministries really do fight that we have this gender responsive budgeting. Consider that women are there also so that we share the cake together.

Honourable Muharukua, the period when you applied to get the N\$250, I doubt if we have got a fixed time, it depends on the forms. Like right now if you go to my office I am inviting you for a cup of tea and then you see the books we have. So to give a sixth time I will tell lies to the nation. It depends when we pull that box then we finish it. We pull the other one and then we finish it. The other one I did not get it well because I was still answering it with my red pen somewhere, how long does it take?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE – DISCUSSION – VOTE 09
HON ITHETE**

Really the time I cannot predict. Otherwise colleagues I thank you, you go and rest well.

Thank you for your support.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 12: Gender, Equality and Child Welfare. Any objection? Agreed to.

I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I know we have concluded our Votes for the day there is just one thing that I just wanted to clarify so that the colleagues can go with that clarity back home with the questions that were raised regarding the interest on our Budget, the amounts that rise up to N\$9,000,000,000 and so on I wanted to clarify that.

The N\$5,000,000,000 does not need to be appropriated, it is normally appropriated in the *Finance Act* that is the amount we call statutory.

I just wanted to clarify that.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you so much. Honourable Speaker I report progress and ask leave to sit again.

17 April 2018

**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much, very lively indeed, so much energy, so much devotion to the cause of doing what is right but I think the evening belongs to the Honourable Mahoto (*Applause*) (*Laughter*). Honourable Members well done we must call it a day.

The House stands adjourned until tomorrow the usual time. So decided.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:45 UNTIL 2018.04.18 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
18 APRIL 2018**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation.

HON SPEAKER: Welcome back no birthdays until May. Any petitions? Reports of standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes, Deputy Minister.

TABLING OF REPORTS

**TABLING - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
NAMIBIAN VETERINARY COUNCIL**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members I would like at the onset to thank the Honourable Speaker for accommodating me to read this summarised Annual Report that I presented yesterday. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

The Namibian Veterinary Council was established under the *Veterinary and Para Veterinary Professions Act, 2013* (Act. 1 of 2013). The Namibia Veterinary Council is a statutory body that is responsible for regulating the standards of veterinary and veterinary para professions in Namibia.

This is necessary to ensure that the quality of veterinary care available to the public is of acceptable standards and that both veterinarians and para professionals are suitable, competent to perform their functions within the scope of the profession in the Republic of Namibia.

18 April 2018

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SHIWEDA**

During the periods under review namely 1st August 2015 to 31st July 2016 and 1st August 2016 to the 31st of July 2017 the activities of the Namibia Veterinary Council can be summarised as followed.

- The Council held altogether nine (9) properly constituted meetings of the full Council, in addition sixteen (16) meetings of the various Council Committees and sub-Committees that is Education Committee, Examination sub-Committee, investigation Committee, wildlife Committee, facilities Committee and continue professional development Committee were held.
- The audit for veterinary and para veterinary qualifications were conducted and the route relating to the practice of veterinary and veterinary para professions were published in the Government Gazette of 13th May 2016.
- During the period under review, a total of forty eight (48) new veterinarians were registered to practice in the Republic of Namibia of whom 17 successfully passed the Council examination in February 2017. 10 Veterinarians were registered for an additional professional category of wildlife and 19 new veterinary para professionals were also registered.
- The Council actively participated in the steering Committee of the school of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Namibia and was also involved in the stuck up meetings confirming the Diploma in Veterinary Pharmacy which are still ongoing.
- The first three years cycle for continuing professional development was concluded on 31st March 2017. In the meantime the Council is in the process of auditing the submissions for randomly selected veterinarians to assure the CPD compliance.
- During the period under review 8 veterinary facilities owned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry are yet to be inspected pending the upgrade of such facilities.

18 April 2018

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SHIWEDA**

- The Council represented the interest of the veterinary profession in negotiations with the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Namibian Police and the Namibian Professional Hunters Association and last but not least Honourable Speaker,
- The financial status of the Council still remains a serious challenge. However, the Council will continue to fulfil its obligations to the Namibian public and to do more with less until the overall economic situation in the country has improved.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you very much for your kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, yes.

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. Just a comment or two on this Report.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, please.

18 April 2018

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON MAAMBERUA: I think this is a very serious Report in terms of what is actually lacking. An institution that is established by an Act of Parliament, giving an Annual Report(s) without financial statements, particularly if we have to look at page 14 and 15 where it is clearly lamented under the funds of the Council that, as per instruction from the Ministry, the Operational Budget for the 2015/2016 year, was submitted in November 2015, and an invoice for the amount was submitted on 1st of April 2015. Up to date despite various attempts by the Registrar and Chairperson to follow up via correct channels, no feedback, no acknowledgement, no funds have been received. The Report is asking for the permanent solution that needs to be found to eliminate the problem in the future.

However, what is very serious is that Council has identified the following areas of concern which still hampers the smooth functioning of the Council and make it difficult to fulfil its mandate, and look at the problems. No acknowledgement of receipt by the office of the Permanent Secretary of the Annual Council Budget. That is on page 15. No feedback by the Office of the Permanent Secretary on the said Budget. No acknowledgement of receipt by the Office of the Permanent Secretary of only correspondence regarding the payment request or any response to this etcetera.

Now in terms of section 17(1)(a) and (b) of the Act, Council must employ and remunerate a Registrar as staff of the Office but currently in the absence of a Budget it is not in a position to do so in the long term. If we are talking about an Annual Report where this is a statutory body that needs to function using public resources, and there is this attitude the Permanent Secretary does not do this, and so on and so on and I think this is serious. I do not know we are actually expecting from the supervising authority that is the Ministry to give us a different picture and not just to submit a Report written by the Registrar whoever I think is Doctor Rein Hansen is the Chairperson and then is the same person for both Reports.

You see we need a Report from the Ministry very serious.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SHIWEDA / HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: Can I, well, in the light of those comments I was thinking whether I should go back to the Honourable Deputy Minister Honourable Anna Shiweda whether she would like to quickly respond to that, or whether, this is actually submitted for information I would have thought, but if you want us to have this, to be discussed, then I think we should provide the opportunity to do so. I am in your hands.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker these are very valid observations from the Member and in my Report I also alluded to that, that the financial position of the Council has been a challenge all along. However, it has been existing up to date meaning that there has been funds, operational funds that has made it possible for the Council to exist. The Report is submitted for discussion and it will not do any harm if we avail time at another opportunity to discuss the Report and definitely I will also have to get feedback on those specific observations from Honourable Maamberua. That is what I can say for now.

Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think we are together now. We will see how we can find space within our timetable so that we can continue the discussion. Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Comrade Speaker. I just hope that in terms of our rules since it is just submitted that it would not lapse as we go to the next term, if you can just insure that.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON !NARUSEB**

HON SPEAKER: We will make sure thank you. Yes Honourable !Naruseb.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members.

The Honourable Deputy Minister in fact did quite well because it is in compliance of the law that this Report as it is produced by the Council should be tabled in the National Assembly. We have done that, but as you have done Honourable Maamberua, if there are issues that you need clarity on then we are all ready to do that, and I have also taken note that the Report speaks about a Financial Report that was supposed to be attached. That is the omission so if you would grant us through the Honourable Speaker that standing for us to look into where we missed, then we are quite happy to come and oblige. I so submit.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We are together so we will ensure that we do justice to the Report.

HON SPEAKER: Other Reports and Papers? We have covered that. Notice of questions? Notice of Motions? Yes, questions.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTION

18 April 2018

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MURORUA**

HON MURORUA: If allowed Honourable Speaker I would like to ask an urgent oral question to the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, let me hear you.

QUESTION 15:

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Minister I am asking this question bearing in mind the constitutional provision of schedule 5 concerning properties vested in the Republic of Namibia read together with schedule 8 concerning the repeal of laws.

1. Whether the Minister could clarify to this august House and also to the public, how it happened that a private person for that matter could own a piece of land in the Etosha National Park as it is in the newspapers, and
2. How much land is owned by private people in Etosha as well as in other national parks of our country?

I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much Honourable Minister.

RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION

18 April 2018

**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON SHIFETA**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I want to thank the Honourable Member for the question. Yes, I can confirm that there is a claim by private person owning the land less than a hectare, about 4 000 square meters in Etosha National Park which he acquired through inquest. That means he inherited it from his great-grandfather.

The property apparently was bought in 1905 just two years before the proclamation of the park. We are now trying to validate the information, and also weigh options because the case has been dealt with before, immediately after independence. I have gone through some records and also the gentleman came to see me last week, that this case has been dragging on for many years and we want a solution, and we are looking at different options as to what we can do, but what is clear is that Etosha National Park is a National Park and of course, owning property within the boundaries of Etosha as a private person will not be practically possible.

I will not pronounce what will happen now because since the negotiations have been going on since independence, but it has just come to my attention recently that there is a person who owns property, but we are going to do everything possible in the interest of the public whatever possible we are going to do it in the interest of the public. The property was valued by three private valuers, of course, commissioned by the owner of the property about N\$12 Million and that is what the person wants so when the Government valuator went it was only about N\$500 000 so now that is why there is a stalemate as what should be done, but we will have a way to deal with it.

Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. My understanding is that the answer from the Honourable Minister is that further verification of the information is

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION
HON SHIFETA**

called for and to see how this conform to the laws of our country. Is that how I understood it?

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Yes.

HON SPEAKER: But the other issue that you are not able to comment on whether there are other similar developments elsewhere in our National Parks, whether people can come up and claim a piece of land, but obviously the Minister is not able to comment on that because we do not have that information at hand or do you have?

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Speaker I also instructed my officials so that they can get in touch with the Deeds Office and establish whether there are some private properties in other parks apart from Etosha National Park, other parks as well because we just heard these rumours recently that there are some private owners in those parks. That is still to be established but this is the only one so far we know of.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable we leave it at that. Thank you very much. Notice of Motions? Chief Whip.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

18 April 2018

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I move without notice that the proceedings on Votes 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the Appropriation Bill be in terms of Rule 99(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Next messages from the Head of State? Ministerial statements? So we are all covered.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE
STAGE - APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 2 – 2018]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Committee Stage – Appropriation Bill [B. 2 – 2018]

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Deputy Minister Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON ITHETE**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move so Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: It is so moved that I leave the chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B. 2 - 2018]

When progress was reported yesterday, 17th April 2018, Votes 14, 15 and 16 had been introduced and Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 28, 30 and 31 had been agreed to.

For introduction I put Vote 17 – “**URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**” - **NS2 151 702 000** for introduction by Minister of Urban and Rural Development. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Hon Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

I stand before you to introduce, and motivate my maiden Budget Vote, and thank his Excellency the President for the trust and confidence he has

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HON DR MUSHELENGA

in me for appointing me Minister of Urban and Rural Development that today I now stand here to seek your support for the allocation of **NS2,151,702,00 (Two Billion, One Hundred and Fifty One Million, Seven Hundred and Two Thousand Namibia Dollars)** to Vote 17, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, for the financial year 2018/2019.

This allocation will be utilised to fund the implementation of operational and developmental activities that are spearheaded by the Ministry and are grouped under five (5) main programmes. I will now present the Budget allocations per programme.

PROGRAMME ONE – RURAL DEVELOPMENT

An amount of **Ninety Eight Million, Six Hundred and Ninety One Thousand Namibia Dollars (NS98, 691, 000)** has been allocated to our Rural Development Programme.

This Programme consists of a multitude of interventions that are initiated and carried out by the Ministry and Regional Councils as well as the coordination of other development programmes that are carried by other government and non-governmental institutions that are aimed at improving the livelihood of our fellow countrywomen and men who are residing in rural areas.

The focus of the Programme is on:

- **Creating opportunities and empowering** rural communities to initiate and engage in self-help employment creating income generating development projects; and
- **Improving sanitation** through the provision and/or enhanced access to proper toilet facilities at household and general community levels in rural areas

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HON DR MUSHELENGA

In line with our commitment under the National Development Plan Five (5) and the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), and the combined efforts of the Ministry and Regional Councils resulted in improved sanitation in the Regions across the country in the form of 1,691 ventilated pit toilets or latrines.

Our performance is below targets largely due to the limited Budget that was provided to us during the previous financial year, as well as capacity constraints at the level of implementation.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

We plan to use the 2018/19 Budget allocation to our Rural Development Programme amounting to continue and expand a number of our ongoing interventions that are implemented through Regional Councils aimed at improving the livelihood of our fellow country women and men who reside in the rural areas.

Let me move on to the next Programme.

**PROGRAMME TWO – SUPPORT TO PLANNING,
INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

**One Billion Eleven Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety Thousand
Namibia Dollars (NS1, 011,890, 000)**

This Programme consists of the various interventions by the Government that are aimed at supporting and expanding the **development and provision of housing, basic enabling infrastructure and services** in both urban and rural areas as well as ensuring proper, integrated and sustainable **urban and regional land use planning and development** in the country.

During the previous financial year, the Ministry in partnership with other stakeholders at national and local authority levels as well as this august

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HON DR MUSHELENGA

House recorded the following achievements:

- The passing of the Urban and Regional Planning Bill, which is aimed at fostering uniform standards in spatial planning in the country; accelerating approvals of spatial planning applications by decentralising certain approval powers to sub-national government level and also reducing the approval bodies at the Central Government level from two Boards (NAMPAB and Townships Board) to one single board;
- The other achievement is the area of housing. A combination of efforts from the Government, community-based organisations such as the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia as well as through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), we were able to build **4,960** housing units during the 2017/2018 fiscal year. The highest percentage of these units have been realised through the Government-sponsored initiatives, namely the Mass Housing Development Programme, the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) as well as grant funding to the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia.
- Similar joint efforts by the Central Government, local authorities and sections of the private sector (Public Private Partnerships) have resulted in the delivery of some **4,424** serviced plots the preceding fiscal year. A large percentage of these numbers has been brought about through the Government-sponsored initiatives such as the Massive Urban Land Servicing Project (MULSP) and other Capital Projects that have been funded from the Development Budget and implemented by Regional Councils and Local Authorities. The other portion was financed among others through external commercial borrowing by local authorities, partnership arrangements between local authorities and private financiers/developers and funding towards land and housing development by the Government Institutions pension Fund (GIPF);
- During the past financial year, we made a contribution towards improved sanitation in the country in the form of **6,173** proper toilet

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HON DR MUSHELENGA

and ablution facilities. Linked to new houses that have been constructed through our housing development programmes; the HPP's initiative on the elimination of the bucket toilets in identified areas as well as the construction of shared community toilets in informal settlements.

- Another achievement during the period under review is the proclamation of some 53 new townships around the country, which townships consist of and have yielded plots for various uses.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

Despite known challenges, including resource constraints and high input costs, we remain steadfast in our resolve to address the backlog in respect of serviced urban land, housing and availability of basic infrastructure to our people, especially the ultra-low and low income groups.

It is our belief that the responsibility of ensuring affordable and decent housing for our people is not only that of the Government, but for all of us, including the private sector as employers, property financiers and developers as well as the community itself.

In the face of competing demands on the Treasury, we are compelled to be more innovative and to identify other complementary sources of funding to supplement State funding. In this regard, we will among others look to **public-private partnerships** and **increased contributions of the private sector and State institutions toward the realisation of our goal on housing**. The goal is achievable through improved coordination and harmonisation of resources and capacities. This includes **employers offering subsidies** and other direct forms of support to enable their employees to acquire decent accommodation as well as for **financial institutions to develop and offer concessional structured financing to enable the NHE and local authorities** to serve and provide affordable land and housing.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

The next programme for which we are seeking a Budget allocation is that of Decentralisation.

**PROGRAMME THREE – (DECENTRALISATION) –
ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Fifteen Million, Five Hundred and Two Thousand Namibia Dollars
(N\$15, 502, 000)**

The importance of decentralisation in Namibia can be tracked back to Article 1 of our Constitution, which states that all “*all power shall vest in the people of Namibia, who shall exercise their sovereignty, through the democratic institutions of the State.*” In this regard, we, as a Government of the people and for the people, we have adopted the policy of decentralisation as an important tool for bringing Government and services closer to the people and to empower our citizens to actively participate in the process of planning and meeting their development needs.

While we acknowledge that the pace of decentralisation is not at the level where it should be, I am happy to report that during 2017/18, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, decentralised its functions of early childhood development, community development, child welfare services and gender equality and research to Regional Councils.

I wish to renew my appreciation to the Minister and her team as well as those who have already met their decentralisation targets, namely the Ministries of Education, Arts and Culture, Works and Transport, Land Reform; and Information and Communication Technology. I thank you colleagues, Ministers, and your teams. I also wish to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for her valuable support to and periodic enquiry into the decentralisation process. In the same vein, I wish to call other decentralising Ministries who are still in the process of finalising

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HON DR MUSHELENGA

their decentralisation plans to move with renewed zeal and a sense of urgency.

We will utilise the budgetary allocation to continue our existing initiatives that are aimed at accelerating and sustaining the pace of decentralisation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

The largest single allocation of our 2018/19 Budget in the amount of Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight Million, Four Hundred and Fifty Four Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$858, 454, 000) is operational and development Budget support to Regional Councils, Local Authorities and Traditional Authorities.

PROGRAMME FOUR – COORDINATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES

Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight Million, Four Hundred and Fifty Four Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$858, 454, 000)

Despite the various challenges that are experienced and noted instances of poor performance and service delivery on the part of a number of regional and local authority councils, these **sub-national government structures have been assigned and continue to play an important constitutional and developmental role** in our society. As such, the Central Government and this august House has an obligation to provide the requisite financial support to enable these governance structures to sustain their operations as well as to strengthen and expand their capacity to serve as effective instruments and transmission belts of development and government services to the Regional and Local levels.

As such, we will use the allocated Budget to support and enhance the operational and service delivery capacity of regional councils and local authorities as well as recognised traditional authorities as follows:

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HON DR MUSHELENGA

- An amount of N\$700 million is subsidies to the Regional Councils, while N\$50 million is subsidies to Local Authorities
- An amount of N\$10 million is earmarked to procure fire fighting vehicles and the construction of fire stations in order to help local authorities to effectively respond to fires and related disasters
- In order to enhance business activities and revenue generation, an amount of N\$5 million has been set aside to enable Local Authorities and Regional Councils to formulate and/or implement Local and Regional Economic Development (LRED) plans and strategies, which will bring about the aforementioned desired outcomes; and
- An amount of N\$15 million is earmarked as support to traditional authority related activities.

Hon Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

Our last programme for which I am seeking the support of this august House for a budgetary allocation in the amount of **One Hundred and Sixty Seven Million, One Hundred and Sixty Four Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$167, 164, 000)** is **Policy Supervision and Support Services**

PROGRAMME 05 – POLICY SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

One Hundred and Sixty Seven Million, One Hundred and Sixty Four Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$167, 164, 000)

The main activities that fall under this programme are policy supervision and direction as well as financial, technical and administrative support to the four core functional areas and Programmes of the Ministry as well as to Regional Governors and sub-national government structures.

Hon Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

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HON DR MUSHELENGA

Knowing the important role of the Urban and Rural Development Sector, and the value that we collectively attach to this Sector, I have no doubt that the Honourable Members of this august House will support the Budget allocation to the Sector (Vote 17) for the 2018/19 Financial Year, totalling **Two Billion, One Hundred and Fifty One Million, Seven Hundred and Two Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$2,151,702,000)**

You will agree with me that the urban and rural development sector deals with some of the emotive issues in the country, namely access to serviced urban land, housing, regional and local authority governance, and we require more resources than we have actually been allocated. We are however grateful for what has been allocated to us and we shall strive to do more with less.

In this regard, I wish to thank the cabinet, the Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning/National Planning Commission and their staff for the effort that they have made to find resources to allocate to us in the face of serious resource constraints and many competing needs.

I wish to conclude by paying tribute to my predecessor Comrade Sophia Shaningwa for having laid a good and solid foundation for most of the core initiatives that the Ministry is pursuing and on which I will continue to build.

Thank you Comrade Secretary General! I further want to commend Honourable Sylvia Makgone, former Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development, for her positive contribution to the work of the Ministry during the previous financial year. I equally wish to recognise the continued commitment and hard work by the team that I am so proud to lead consisting of my Deputy Minister, Honourable Derek Klazen, Permanent Secretary, Mr Ndhidina Daniel and staff of the Ministry, the Honourable Regional Governors, Regional Councils, Local Authorities and the National Housing Enterprise and other sector partners, including the private sector.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

It is now my pleasure to submit, for your support and approval, the Budget allocation to Vote 17 for the financial year 2018/2019 in the amount of **Two Billion, One Hundred and Fifty One Million, Seven Hundred and Two Thousand Namibia Dollar (NS2,151,702,000)**

I thank you for your kind attention and in anticipation of your support.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Minister for that very concise and brief introduction. I now put Vote 18 – “**ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**” - **NS402 064 000** for introduction by the Minister of Environment and Tourism. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, on behalf of my colleague Deputy Minister and on my own behalf. I would like to thank his Excellency, the President Dr Hage Geingob for the trust and confidence he has vested in us to contribute positively towards achievement and fulfilling the mandate of this socio-economic ministry.

Further allow me to express our appreciation to Minister of Finance, for the fair allocation of scarce resources during this difficult period. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, despite several economic constraints the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has made rigorous efforts to deliver quality services to the public during the 2017/2018 financial year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson the Government through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism with support from the other law enforcement

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HON SHIFETA

agencies have been hard at work in the implementation of measures and tactics to fight poaching in our national parks and other wild life areas in the country. Namibia experienced high levels of elephant and rhino poaching in the past few years, and the response to this in the current financial year, the national strategy on wildlife protection and law enforcement was approved.

This strategy provides for specific measures and approaches on how to deal with issues of wildlife protection and law enforcement in the country, and it is being fully implemented.

Legislation that deals with wildlife protection and law enforcement matters, inter alia the nature conservation ordinance, ordinance 4 of 1975 was also Amended to increase fines and penalties for poaching of rhinos and elephants and other related offences which will enhance their deterrence effects.

Similarly the *Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act, 2008* (Act. 8 of 2008) was also Amended to increase fines and penalties in possession of wildlife products more particularly rhino horns and elephant tusks. In this financial year we have seen a decline in the poaching of rhinos and elephants

In 2017, 32 rhinos were poached compared to 61 in 2016, while elephants 22 were poached in 2017, compared to 101 in 2016. In the financial year 2018/2019, government will continue to fund efforts aimed to reduce poaching levels to insignificant levels to protect our national heritage.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members,

Conservancies in the communal land have made important contributions to community livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and tourism development, though more still needs to be done. However the governance in conservancies need urgent attention, and will be addressed without delay. We shall continue to develop conservancies as per

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HON SHIFETA

sustainable conservation and tourism development program from which our rural communities can derive equitable social and economic benefits.

Human wildlife conflict is an ongoing conservation challenge, some local communities have lost their crops and livestock as a result of this conflict. The government continues to invest funds in the development and implementation of the human wildlife conflict mitigating measures to curb the losses associated with human wildlife conflict.

Honourable chairperson, Honourable members,

It is a known fact that Tourism is an important industry in Namibia, it currently contributes significantly towards the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) making it a valuable sector within the country, unlike other segments which have not been spared by the tough economic challenges in the country, what is going on. The tourism industry has witnessed tremendous growth over the past two years, this tells us of the resilience within the industry and the key role it can play toward the attainment of Harambee Prosperity Plan, National Development Plan 5, and ultimately success of Vision 2030,

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members,

The annual tourists statistical Report for 2016 has been finalised, launched and disseminated for tourism planning purposes. It is in this report that the country recorded **1, 469,258** tourist arrival which is an increase of **81,485** from 2015. Of the increase the German market continued showing an increase in overseas arrivals. The 5th Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) was finalised, launched and distributed. The TSA reflects the tourism contribution to GDP and employment in the sector

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members,

The ministry is implementing two important strategies on tourism development, namely:

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HON SHIFETA

- National Sustainable Tourism Growth and Development Strategy, and
- National Tourism Investment Profile and Promotion Strategy.

These strategies were launched and operationalised in 2017/2018 financial year. As a result to national tourism bodies were established namely:

- Inter-ministerial Committee on Tourism Development, and
- National Tourism Competitiveness Advisory Council.

This is to fill the gap identified in the tourism sector. Through these bodies the ministries will be able to address cross cutting issues through Offices, Ministries and Agencies and other stakeholders. These initiatives are aimed at enhancing our competitiveness as a destination globally.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members,

Cabinet approved a National Solid Waste Strategy, in November 2017 to improve the overall management of waste in the country so that Namibia becomes the leading country in Africa in terms of standards of waste management by 2028. Developing waste management infrastructure, increasing human resource capacity, promotion of waste minimisation and recycling and raising awareness for behavioural change amongst our citizens will be the key focus areas of this strategy

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members,

The *Environmental Management Act, 2007* (Act. 7 of 2007) remains the country is foremost piece of legislation to minimise the impact from development on our environment. The implementation of the EMA was intensified during this financial year 2017/2018, which culminated in the review of 393 out of 566 Environmental Impact Assessment Reports this year. This includes country wide inspections and the issuance of compliance orders to 18 environmental offenders.

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It is also during this reporting period in which engagement with stakeholders were scaled up, resulting in the gazetting of 22 competent authorities that are obliged to compile their own environment plans to address environmental abuse pollution sand waste management concerns in the country.

As part of raising awareness on environmental management act tailor-made sessions were held with Members of Cabinet and Members of Parliament, focusing on the key provisions of the *Environmental Management Act*. Significant progress was made during the period under review in clamping down on illegal sand mining operations and improving operations on waste disposal sites.

In line with business process reengineering, the development of an online application system for environmental clearance screening certificates is also now at an advanced stage, and will be launched during 2018. The operationalisation of this system will improve efficiency and accessibility in terms of service delivery.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members

It is a well-known fact that Namibia is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change, we are now seeing the impact that the changing climate is having on the very fabric of our society, and the economy is development. Now more than ever we need to build the resilience to climate change so that we ensure our water, energy and food security. In this respect I am pleased to announce that we have been able to mobilise support through the environment investment fund of Namibia from the international community to do just this.

During the period under review we were able to mobilise projects and investments worth approximately N\$1.1billion to strengthen our climate resilience including but not exhaustive. Two projects on climate resilience, agriculture and community based natural resources management, which are being implemented through the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, with funding from the Green Climate Fund

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worth N\$232 million, it is N\$116 million each. These projects will benefit an estimated 76,500 communal area residents and 21,000 small scale farmers in our rural areas respectively

Sustainable use of natural resources and energy financing program, this program is a partnership of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, with the French agency for development, and it is facilitating access of entrepreneurs and SMEs to green investments in areas such as renewable energy systems, energy efficiencies, sustainable tourism and agriculture through environmental credit lines worth approximately N\$655 million. These are important Green economic sectors, with potential for employment creation and value addition through our natural resources

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members,

Approximately N\$72 million for the development of pilot rural dissemination plants using renewable power and using membrane technology in Grunau and Bethanie, in the //Karas Region, through the adaptation fund. Approximately N\$156 million for the Namibia Integrated landscape (*Indistinct*) for enhancing livelihood and environmental governance, eradicate poverty project, through the Global Environment Facility. This project will seek to support poverty eradication through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in targeted landscape.

Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, continues to play a pivotal role in mobilising financial resources in both grants and green credit lines. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, this year alone the Environmental Investment Fund stands to access N\$300 million in grant funding from the Green Climate Fund to fortify climate adaptation in important sectors such as agriculture and renewal energy.

While the Environmental Investment Fund has done exceptionally well in proving its capacity and resource mobilisation for the most vulnerable sectors to environmental degradations caused by climate change, these resources are not sustainable to the Environmental Investment Fund, as it

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merely receives administration fees from this project. While the Environmental Investment Fund continues to enjoy a good reputation at the Green Climate Fund amongst the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, our Development partners have continuously raised concerns around the inadequate capitalisation of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, they have further questioned our Government's commitment off course towards supporting the (Indistinct) of the Environmental Investment Fund. The Budget allocated to the fund, to the Environmental Investment Fund for the next financial year 2018/2019 is merely N\$5 million.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members

It is therefore important that we learn to ensure that the vehicle is as important as the Environmental Investment Fund, is (*Indistinct*) and strategically capitalised so as to continue bringing in financial resources for the country. I will particularly call on all the Offices, Ministries and Agencies involved in the management of (*Indistinct*) in Namibia to assist us to ensure that measures on polluting products such as plastic bags, lubricant oils and the batteries can be turned into a source of revenue that can be contributed towards the environmental investment.

Continue on Voice Note 1551

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you very much.

I now put Vote 19 - "**Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development**" - **N\$347 778 000** for introduction by Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

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HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House. This is my maiden speech, so please I do not want any interruptions.

It is with much gratitude and privilege that I stand to present to this august House, the estimates of expenditure for Vote 19: Ministry of industrialisation, Trade & SME Development for the Financial Year 2018/19.

During the financial year 2017/2018, the world over continued to experience economic distress. Several factors have contributed to this outcome. Economic growth in the developing and emerging market economies experienced a slowdown for the sixth consecutive years. Advanced economies have shown only a modest recovery. Namibia just like other developing economies has been affected by these major changes in the world economy.

Let me now reflect on the details of the budgetary allocations to Vote 19 for the 2017/18 fiscal year.

The total Budget allocation to the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development for the financial year 2018/19 is **THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY SEVEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY EIGHT MILLION NAMIBIAN DOLLAR (N\$347,778,000)**

This allocation is divided into **ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY TWO MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY EIGHT THOUSAND (N\$192,778,000)** FOR THE OPERATIONAL BUDGET AND **ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIVE MILLION (N\$155,000,000)** for the DEVELOPMENT BUDGET.

This allocation represents an overall Budget decrease of **TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED AND TWELVE THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (N\$227 412 000)**

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or 39.5% The Operational Budget of the ministry decreased by **ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY FOUR MILLION FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTY THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (N\$144 460 000)** or 43%

The capital Budget decreased by **EIGHTY TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY SIX THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (N\$82 946 000)** or 35 %.

In order for this august House to appreciate the financial predicament facing the ministry in this financial year, I need to go beyond the figures and indicate how the operational Budget will impact on the performance of the ministry. From the total operational Budget of N\$192million, the operational budget is allocated as follows

SADC meetings and Summit	N\$50 000 000
Integrated Client Service Project (which I am not sure if it will ever take place)	N\$20 000 000
Remuneration	N\$86 672 000
Utilities	N\$ 5 362 800
Maintenance Expenses	N\$ 800 000
Security contracts	N\$ 3 600 000
SADC Membership Fees	N\$26 342 820
Total	N\$192 777 620

As can be seen from the document that you have, pages 278-79 of the Estimates of Revenue, Income & Expenditure book, there are zero allocations to very critical operational areas of the ministry including support services to the SMEs, zero provision to all Commercial Offices and SOEs resorting under the ministry. This state of affairs will undoubtedly lead to dysfunctional ministry, SOEs and Commercial Offices.

Activities in this ministry are grouped under five (5) main Programmes, namely:

- Trade Promotion

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- Industrial and Business Development
- Investment Promotion
- Special Industrialization Initiatives
- Supervision and Support Service

The focus of the programmes indicated above and the specific allocations are discussed as follows:

1. TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAMME

An amount of **NINETY EIGHT MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY EIGHT THOUSAND NAMIBIAN DOLLARS (NS98,258,000)** has been allocated to this programme.

This programme consists of two main components, namely Domestic and External Trade Management.

1.1 Domestic Trade Management

An amount of **TWENTY THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED AND TWO THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (NS23,502,000)** has been allocated to this activity.

This activity focuses on the development and adoption of an appropriate legal, regulatory and institutional framework for effective registration, establishment and operation of business; the registration, protection and enforcement of intellectual property, standards conformity assessment and franchises, as well as promotion and safeguarding of consumer welfare and market competition as important conditions for a vibrant and robust domestic economy.

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To meet these needs, specialised regulatory and service agencies have been established such as the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) Namibia Standards Institution (NSI), the Competition Commission and the Namibia Estates Agents Board and the others.

Under the domestic trade management activity, we envisage despite all the cuts, we envisage to do the following in the 2018/2019 financial year:

- Continue to provide financial support to SOE's executing our mandate, namely Business and Intellectual Property Agency, Namibia Competition Commission and the Namibia Standards Institution for their full functioning, otherwise what is the point of having them, when we do not support them to execute their mandate.
- BIPA has planned to construct its own Archive Warehouse (Katutura) and to construct a head office that is accessible, and we will do everything we can.
- Digitalisation of the Archives is work-in-progress.
- To open all regional offices to ensure that all businesses small or big are registered that they can meet their obligations to pay their taxes when they are due
- Waiting for the tabling of the draft National Consumer Protection Policy in the National Assembly during the 1st quarter of the year 2018 and drafting.
- The draft Chemical Weapons and Control Bill is approved and submitted to CCL for approval.
- Completion of construction of the Inspection Centre in Walvis Bay.
- Introduce new inspection and market Surveillance.

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- Implementation of the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) to automate the laboratory processes.
- Implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) to automate all the laboratory processes.
- The Commission will host its Annual Competition Week. This is an event that brings together industry, academia, competition practitioners and civil society to discuss pertinent issues pertaining to competition in the economy. The emphasis is to create awareness and highlight the benefits of competitive markets in the economy.
- The Commission will also continue to conduct market studies in the Housing, Construction, Health and the Lands sectors respectively
- In support of overall national priorities of economic growth and social development as outlined in the Fifth National Development Plan, the Harambee Prosperity Plan and Vision 2030, of which we are only left with twelve (12) years to be an industrialised nation. The Namibian Competition Commission’s mandate is to promote efficiency, adaptability and development of the Namibian economy; provide consumers with competitive prices and product choices and promote employment and advance the social and economic welfare of Namibians.

1.2 External Trade Management

An amount of **SEVENTY FOUR MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY SIX THOUSAND (N\$74,756,000)** has been allocated to this activity

The purpose of this activity is to increase the volume, value and range of Namibian goods and services that are exported as well as securing external markets and preferential market access conditions for local products in regional and global markets. In this regard, the Ministry has devised an export development and promotion programme and undertakes targeted

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promotional activities such as trade missions, which we did not support, but we will attempt, under the circumstances, but also through trade fairs and exhibitions; product and market research and development; and construction of trade estate centres in identified target external market. We cannot just produce only for ourselves, but we need to also export to other markets and we need to use the structures that we have established.

Achievements:

- Within the framework of trade facilitation Namibia has ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in 2017.
- Cabinet has approved the Business Model for the National Single Window Environment in Namibia which will be hosted by Namport. The Single Window will thus bring about a shift from the current paper based systems to ICT based automated environment and increased efficiencies.
- With respect to COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA), the negotiations are at an advanced stage. The TFTA Framework Agreement has been concluded, trade remedies and dispute settlement annex has been finalised and substantial progress has been noted in concluding the two outstanding annexes on rules of origin, and tariff elimination.
- In an effort to achieve its industrial agenda as well as to safe guard Namibia's domestic industries, notable progress has been achieved in the drafting of the *Namibia Board of Trade Bill*.
- To continue having market access for Namibian products in the EU market, government developed a National EPA Implementation Plan that will assist Namibia on how best to address and implement the different issues under the SADC EPA - EU Agreement.

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- Namibia, together with other SADC Member States concluded negotiations in the first four priority sector such as Communication, Financial, Transport and Construction Services.
- Namibia has entered into a SADC Trade Related Facility contribution agreement with the EU. The TRF will support the (Industrial, Upgrade and Modernisation Programme (IUMP) and enhance the systems that allow for improved market access of Namibian goods and services

For the Financial Year 2018/19, the focus under this programme will be on the following activities:

- Engagement in bilateral, regional and multilateral trade and economic integration arrangements, particularly to finalise the negotiations towards the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, Tripartite Free Trade Area amongst Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community and Southern African Development Community (SADC), which itself will be a stepping stone towards the Continental Free Trade Area. Continental Free Trade Area refers to making Africa as one market of 1.2 billion customers. So we need to have building blocks to get there, but if we are not there when decisions are made, we will be locked out of those opportunities.
- Development of Namibia's Trade Policy in collaboration with UNCTAD, based on the adopted Industrial Policy and the Growth at Home Strategy.
- Securing market access to mitigate the challenge facing Namibia in terms of the small size of its domestic market and small industrial base, the Ministry will continue to lead negotiations and trade missions for market access in the international market.
- Promoting Trade Facilitation through the National Single Window Project to facilitate and streamline import and export procedures which

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will reduce transaction costs in the conduct of business and cross border trade.

- To deal with issues related to unfair trade practices, tariff investigations and tariff setting the Ministry will fast track the establishment of the Namibia Board of Trade being the national body required under the 2002 SACU Agreement. This is an important obligation on which work has started with the next step being to review and finalise the draft Bill for consideration by Cabinet and Parliament.
- Develop Negotiation Strategy on Trade in Services that will enable the local service providers to take full advantage of market access opportunities in other Member States on Trade in Services.
- Finalise development of National Trade Policy Framework. The framework is intended to establish the strategic outlines of a subsequent, more focused policy formulation process.
- Conduct 1st phase of the supplier development program to enhance and develop capacity for selected Namibia clothing and apparel manufacturers to meet the requirements of South African clothing retailers, and continue signing up signatory to the retail charter with the aim of increasing Namibian manufactured products.
- Finalise the feasibility for the establishment of GS1 accredited Bar Code Centre which aims at enabling manufacturers to meet minimum requirements for shelf space entry

2. INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

This programme consists of two main activities; namely Industrial Planning and Development and Small Business Development.

2.1 Industrial Planning and Development

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An amount of **ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHT MILLION SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (NS108,661,000)** has been allocated to this activity.

The purpose of this activity is to create conditions necessary for increased investment and the development of a robust and competitive industrial sector in the country. The activities that are carried out under this Programme are aimed at building and boosting the capacity of local industries to efficiently produce and supply goods and services to meet both local and export demand, as well as the ability of local industries to withstand global competition.

Typical example, we allocate N\$2.5 billion to PSEMAS, N\$2.5 billion. Where will that money going, it is not going to find its way in Namibia, if we had our own pharmacy that money would have been in the country to build our own economy, and I do not think and believe that you would need a pharmacy of N\$2.5 billion much less than that. That is the importance of starting to build our own industries.

The achievements in the 2017/2018 Financial Year can be summed as follows:

(i) Industrial Policy Development and Planning Activity:

This function of the Ministry involves the development of policies and strategies on industrial development, whose objective is to boost the supply-side capacity of local industries and ensure an increased contribution of the manufacturing sector to the country's GDP. This activity also involves the compilation of data on manufacturers and industrial output.

To strengthen the implementation of the Industrial Policy and The Growth At Home Strategy to intensify our initialisation drive, the Namibian Government through its Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development continued to research on resource availability in the country and value chains in strategic sectors. As a result, the Ministry launched ten

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(10) Sector Growth Strategies aimed at identifying development opportunities in the economy as well to establish collaborative relationships between government and the private sector

The 10 sector growth studies were conducted in the fields of:

- Leather and Leather Products. Lots of wasted hides of skin be it game or cattle, wasted. These are raw products for our industry,
- Semi-precious stones and Jewellery,
- Game meat and processing,
- Charcoal,
- Arts and Handicraft,
- Swakara wool,
- Fish and seafood processing,
- Metal fabrication,
- Taxidermy, and
- Cosmetics

But those ten (10) would be our focus. During the current financial year, the Ministry will continue to work with the various Associations established to further develop a Plan of Action to drive deeper the value additions of each of these sectors.

(ii) Industrial Infrastructural Development

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The availability of appropriate industrial premises and related infrastructure makes it easy for investors to set and operate industries. The scarcity and high cost of serviced industrial land in most part of the country has posed a serious challenge to and hampered investment and industrial development in the country.

This programme entails identification and acquisition of land in the various regions especially in the regions where industrial land is not available due to lack of financial resources on the part of local and regional authorities; the servicing of such land, and the planning, construction, management and maintenance of industrial sites and business parks. The infrastructure created by the Ministry is leased to local entrepreneurs especially SMEs at below market rental charges. This intervention thus helps local entrepreneurs to secure affordable business premises and reduces the cost of setting up and operating small businesses in the country, thereby increasing their chances of success.

To date, the Ministry through the Namibia Development Corporation (NDC), the Implementing Agency of Government, has constructed over forty nine (49) SME and industrial parks throughout the country, which accommodates six hundred and seventy six (676) business operators. These operators have created jobs for five thousand and eighty eight (5, 088) persons on a permanent basis and during the construction phase of these parks, seven thousand two hundred and seventy seven (7, 277) jobs were created.

It is evident that the costs of acquiring business premises have increased over the years, and though SMEs are regarded to be the main drivers of wealth creation, funding institutions are reluctant to lend to them. Thus, the demand for operating space has increased dramatically over the years. In this regard, the Ministry is in the process of constructing additional parks country-wide.

The Ministry is currently in the process of constructing eight (8) industrial parks at Omaruru, Opuwo, Tsumeb, Outapi, Divundu, fencing of the site

at Katima Mulilo , as well as Rosh Pinah and Oranjemund, as well as a Thatch Grass hub, at Rundu and Automotive Hub at Walvis Bay.

(iii) Kavango Cattle Ranch

The NDC manages one of the largest cattle ranch in the country, situated in the Mangetti area, and which significantly contributes to meat production in the country. The ranch has not been operating at full capacity due to low cattle stock and deterioration in the conditions of the infrastructure.

The Ministry with the assistance of contracted SME operators have been busy upgrading and construction of a fence around the cattle ranch. Equally, electrification fencing is being installed at the ranch for wildlife reserve. Furthermore, preparation for fodder production is underway where bush clearing and land preparation has been conducted. The NDC would in the near future plant-cultivated seeds in this regard.

(iv) Naute Dates/Grape Development Project

This activity is aimed at increasing the capacity of Namibia to commercially produce and export grapes, dates and pecan nuts as well as giving technical support to emerging farmers. This project is managed by the NDC, and has developed additional 200 hectares under date palm, table grapes and pecan nuts as well as carried out a study on the processing of dates into value added products.

In light of the above, during the current financial year, the construction of a wine distillery is underway while the cooling and packing facilities for dates and grapes has been completed. The procurement of packing and cooling equipment and machinery has been concluded and installation, commission and training on how to operate these machines are underway

2.1.1 MAJOR INTERVENTIONS WILL BE THE FOLLOWING:

i. THE DE-BUSHING CHARCOAL VALUE CHAIN PROJECT

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By volumes, Namibia is the biggest African wood charcoal exporter, with a share of about 5% in world exports (global ranking: 5). However, in terms of overall export value and value growth rates, the country is only ranking 13th (according to 2015 mirror data, 12th, with a total export value of USD 28.3 million).

This prevailing situation is because:

1. Namibian charcoal is exported to South Africa for further value addition such as producing other by-products of charcoal; sorting; and re-packaging it, which then, is re-exported and imported as South African made products to Namibia and to the rest of the world.
2. Namibia loses out by exporting jobs to other countries
3. Namibia loses out on foreign earnings

The Ministry has therefore identified the need to support the industry in the adoption and use of this new technology with key focus on entrepreneurship development, job creation and income generation especially among the emerging and previously disadvantaged Namibians.

In this regard, the Ministry has begun with stakeholder consultations, with a view to develop a fully-fledged support programme through its entrepreneurship and industrial support schemes. It is envisaged in the long-to-medium term, it is foreseen that this support will extend to include the biomass for electricity generation and bio-fuel if proven feasible. In this regard, a decision is being explored to acquire land on which to set up a Charcoal Training –cum Production Research centre (self-sustainability) to train those interested in the production of charcoal and related products. Yes, you may clap. (*Applause*) This centre is to train Namibians to produce top-notch quality charcoal and charcoal by-products for the export market.

To this effect, a number of possible sites have been identified for possible purchase. Our Ministry with the assistance from the Ministry of Land

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Reform is in the preparation stage of acquiring a farm for the setting of the envisaged centre.

This centre will be anchored around the following core functions:

- Production of Charcoal and charcoal by-products – this is to enable the centre to be sustainable by servicing its own overhead costs and operations
- Training – Provide technical skills to Namibians in particular the youth and resettled farmers on how to produce charcoal with industry
- Research (yes youth and women) and Development – to explore the best practices, technologies to be applied and other uses of charcoal by advancing product development. The uses of charcoal will be interrogated, among others, such as:
 - **Activated charcoal** – is a potent natural treatment used to trap toxins and chemicals in the body, allowing them to be flushed out so the body doesn't reabsorb them.
 - **Medical products** – One of the most popular uses of charcoal is for the safe and effective treatment of poisoning and drug overdoses. It's used in emergency trauma centres across the world. In addition, it's used to reduce bloating and gas, lower cholesterol, treat bile flow problems safely during pregnancy, and even prevent hangovers.
 - **Dental Treatment** – charcoal helps whiten teeth while promoting good oral health by changing the pH balance in the mouth, helps prevent cavities, bad breath and gum diseases.
 - **Detoxing** – emergency toxin removal
 - Water filtration

- Mould cleansing
- Anti-aging, beauty and body health

ii. TOMATO PASTE PROCESSING

This project in its initial phase aims at establishing a small scale high-value processing facility for tomato paste and in the later stage focuses to process other vegetables. Prominently, this initiative is to supply the fish canning industry in particular the pilchard sub-sector with tomato paste, which is a key ingredient in the processing of canned pilchard and horse mackerel.

Subject to feasibility studies and tests, it is important to highlight the opportunities presented by the two Fresh Produce Hubs under the care of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for value addition and production of agricultural inputs to the private sector. It is further proposed that a processing plant for vegetables and tomato paste should be pursued on a PPP level to optimise on capital and technological advancement of the private sector.

The project intend to bring various stakeholders on board where the core beneficiaries would be the smallholder tomato and other vegetable farmers; in the near future producers of the envisaged tomato paste as well as in the far future, other value added vegetable products; and the fish canning companies and individual households.

To date, the Ministry had consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, AMTA (Agro Marketing and Trade Agency) and AgriBusdev to map out the way forward on collaboration on how best the envisaged tomato paste processing plant would be fed with through puts and to maximise on the optimum use of this institution during implementation.

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Furthermore, the Ministry had various meetings with the fish canning industry to appreciate the imported quantities, quality and other requirements regarding the tomato paste product. But most importantly, the Ministry has been soliciting for support from this market to absorb the product once the final product is available.

Meanwhile, the Ministry with the cooperation of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD), Omusati Regional Council and some fresh produce farmers in Omusati Region, discussed the existing Business Plan co-funded by JICA, which was drafted by the University of Namibia on behalf of MURD on the establishment of a tomato paste processing plant. During the review of the study it was found, that the Omusati Region is located in a climate condition where tomatoes in particular the specie required for tomato paste, can be cultivated throughout the year.

In this regard, an outlet at the Omahenene Industrial Park, which was under construction, earmarked for an anchored tenant, has been allocated to this project to be equipped and to serve as a tomato paste processing factory.

2.2 Small Business Development

An amount of **FORTY SIX MILLION FIVE HUNDRED AND SIXTY NINE THOUSAND (N\$46,569,000)** has been allocated to this activity

The purpose of this activity is aimed at boosting entrepreneurship among the local population and at increasing the entry and participation of emerging and existing small businesses into the mainstream economy. This programme is used to provide a wide range of business supportive services aimed at bolstering production capacity of local small businesses, and increasing the employment and success rates of SMEs as well as their capacity to contribute to the country's GDP and exports.

The Ministry continues to render the business supportive services under this programme, such as business mentorship and managerial skills development, feasibility studies and business plan development and the provision of productive equipment.

Achievements in the 2017/18 Financial Year can be summed as follows:

EQUIPMENT AID SCHEME

Under this intervention, the Ministry procures production equipment and machinery principally for manufacturing enterprises and makes them available to needy SME operators on favourable leasing terms. The Equipment Aid Scheme under this intervention is geared towards boosting the production and competitive capacity of the SME sector through technology acquisition and adaptation. Since its inception, the Scheme has helped to sustain and create new jobs in the budding SME sector.

Three million Namibia Dollars (N\$ 3, 000, 000) was allocated for this programme during 2017/2018 financial year. The Ministry under this programme has assisted five (5) entrepreneurs with production technology resulting in retrenchment being averted in following sectors and regions: Synthetic Hair Manufacturing in Khomas; High-end fashion designer with tailoring equipment in Khomas; Meat Processing in Oshikoto; Automotive servicing in Omaheke; and Youth in Tourism in Zambezi Region.

Despite the achievements, for this financial year, no allocation has been made. What a pity to destroy/and/or reverse these gains. The assessment Report is in its final stages, and this is now with all the equipment aid scheme, feasibility study, business plans all of these. We will have to work hard to sustain or to retain them, but we shall overcome because Namibia is the land of the Brave.

SCHOOL UNIFORM PROJECT

The Cabinet has directed our Ministry in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to phase out, the import of public schools uniforms into Namibia, over a period of 2 years, in favour of locally manufactured attire without compromising on quality and competitive prices. This intervention among others will address unemployment in the country, outflow of capital and expertise to foreign countries.

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In this regard, the Ministry embarked on the implementation of this Cabinet Directive and has appointed a Textile and Garment Expert to assist with the assessment of existing SMEs in the garment industry in terms of the production capacity.

The Ministry has assisted a number of SMEs with different types of tailoring/ sewing machines under the Equipment Aid Scheme (EAS) in all the fourteen (14) Regions who were assessed to ensure their participation in the Programme. The purpose of this assessment is to ensure that local clothing manufacturers are adequately empowered in terms of skills and production technology to be able to participate in the production of quality school uniforms.

The assessment report is in its final stage of completion where recommendations are made on the modus operandi for this project. For instance among others:

- It is envisaged that each region will manufacture school uniforms for their respective schools
- A central Cut and Trim unit will be established in Khomas Region to ensure the correct colour, fabric and garment design/pattern is dispatched to SME operators to produce the garment products required by a particular school
- Training sites are being explored in Keetmanshoop, Oshikango, Katwitwi, and Nkurenkuru as initial training centre to empower our local manufacturers to improve on the quality of the products but also to increase their productivity.

3. INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMME

An amount of **THIRTY SIX MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED AND FOURTY FOUR THOUSAND (N\$36,744,000)** has been allocated to this Programme.

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The purpose of this programme is to achieve an increase in number, value and nature of domestic and foreign direct investment in Namibia. This objective will be achieved by, among others, creating an enabling environment for investment, which involves having in place an appropriate legal and regulatory framework; a proper plan and strategy for marketing Namibia as a preferred investment location, supportive investment incentives and enhancing a positive competitiveness ranking of Namibia.

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Achievements during the 2017/18 Financial Year are as follows:

- The Ministry embarked on the establishment of the Integrated Client Service Facility or one-stop-shop aimed at improving the Ease of Doing Business in Namibia through streamlining the procedures of starting a business in Namibia. The project is structured in 3 phases, and the first phase has been completed with the launch of the NamBizOne portal in May 2017. The portal serves as an information hub for investors to understand the investment opportunities available in Namibia and to provide a contact point for investors to communicate with a Business Investment Advisor (BIA) from the Namibia Investment Centre for further advice.
- The revision of current investment incentives regime to ensure they continue being an effective tool for attracting the required quantity and quality of investments especially into the NDP5. A submission to Cabinet was made on the amendment of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Act to incorporate the proposed Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

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HON TWEYA

regime. The amendment will allow for the introduction of Special Economic Zone incentives.

- The Ministry is promoting 16 investment projects in various economic sectors. Some projects attracted interest resulting in several projects entering into agreements and memorandum of understanding. Except for the Rosh Pinah 5MW Solar project which has secured a partner, AEE Power a Spanish based company and currently operational, most of the projects are still in our promotional plan for the financial year 2018/19.
- With a population of only 2.3 million people, Namibia has a relatively small open economy that is predominantly driven by export of primary commodities. In an effort to reduce the country's reliance on the extractive sector, the expansion of other economic sectors remains crucial for diversification hence, the attraction of much-needed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the economy.
- In the face of increasing competition for FDI by Namibia's competitors and to further complement ongoing initiatives aimed at improving Namibia's competitiveness, the development of the National Investment Promotion Strategy which aims to seek to improve Namibia's investment attraction efforts by focusing on regional competitiveness and/or comparative advantages that can be exploited for investment promotion in all 14 regions of the country. This in turn would lead to an increase of domestic and foreign investment as well as boost the number of jobs available for Namibians youths. The strategy is aligned to the Growth-at-Home industrialization strategy of the Ministry that was developed to ensure value chain processes to natural resources are enforced in the country.

Sector wide achievements recorded by NIC

- Support to the industries through the NCCI and WBCG.
- Jobs created during the period were 1837.

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- Investment facilitated N\$7, 3 billion.
- Facilitated inward and outward missions.

Priority interventions planned for 2018/19 Financial year are the following:

- Implement phase two and three of the Integrated Client Service Facility to address ease of doing business and improve Namibia's competitiveness ranking.
- Profiling and appraisal of new investment opportunities in NDP5 priority sectors.
- Targeted investment promotion approach and development of a National Investment promotion strategy that is aligned to the Growth at Home Strategy, Industrial Policy, NDP5 and Harambee Prosperity Plan.

Policy interventions

- Finalise and implement the revised Namibia Investment Promotion Act and its regulations
- Finalise and implement new Investment Incentives in priority sectors
- Finalise and implement Targeted investment promotion strategy

4. SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMME

An amount of **TWENTY THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED AND TWO THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (N\$23,502,000)** has been allocated to this programme.

This project aims to give effect to the implementation of identified industrial development priorities in the context of developing the

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Manufacturing Plan for the implementation of National Development Plans. In order to achieve the significant expansion of Namibia's manufacturing sector, the Special Industrialisation project aims to increase the contribution of manufacturing to GDP and accelerate economic growth by increasing growth in priority sectors, and expand industrial output, diversify products, enhance value addition, and to develop new and strengthen existing value chains. It makes provision for research on economic and financial viability of projects, and provide guidance on subsequent targeted interventions

The Ministry has acquired industrial land at Brakwater where earth works, provision of bulk services such as water, sewerage, storm water handling has been completed except for the provision of bulk electricity, which is underway.

The Ministry under this programme has identified and has already initiated implementation of the following projects:

- Cold Storage for beef products (this one is not at Brakwater)
- Peugeot Automotive project (walvisbay)
- Northern Tannery (Ondangwa)
- Naute Grape/Dates projects
- Gemstone and Jewellery Development (Keetmanshoop)

Finally in terms of ensuring competitive industrialization environment, efforts will be applied to the development of a Special Economic Zones Policy whilst at the practical level the work to finalise the Private Public Partnership (PPP) framework for the !Nara Free Economic Zone, which is a 400 hectare economic zone is being finalised.

5. POLICY SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

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An amount of **THIRTY FOUR MILLION AND FORTY FOUR THOUSAND (NS\$34,044,000)** has been allocated to this our fifth and last programme. This programme is divided into two activities, namely:

5.1 Policy Supervision

An amount of **THREE MILLION ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (NS\$3,127,000)** has been allocated to this activity.

The activity gives ministerial leadership and overarching oversight to ensure that the requisite policy and legal framework is formulated and implementation for the attainment of the ministry's mandate through proper alignment to other national development objectives and plans.

As elaborated elsewhere on other programmes, a number of policy and legal framework finalised were given guidance from this activity and will continue doing so in this new financial year

5.2 Coordination and Support Services

An amount of **THIRTY MILLION NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (NS\$30,917,000)** has been allocated to this activity.

It carries the oversight roles exercised by the Accounting Officer and the rendering of administrative/support services to other directorates/departments and agencies under the ministry to facilitate the implementation of ministerial programmes and projects. Achievements during the previous financial year are as follows:

It is through this activity that implementation of all policies and projects are coordinated and ensured.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Members of this august House

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HON VAN WYK

I want to leave you with the following: “*Only true wisdom is knowing you know nothing*”. Socrates for my remembrance: “Do something today that your future self will thank for”

Thus: “Smart people think, Brave people talk, Great people act”

In conclusion, I move by requesting this August House to consider and approve the sum of **THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY SEVEN MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY EIGHT THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (NS347 778 000)** for the operational and capital Budgets of the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development: Vote 19.

I thank you for your attention.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Minister for that very elaborative introduction. Now we are going to the discussions of the Votes. I put Vote 14 – “**LABOUR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION**”, any discussion? No, yes, Honourable Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 14, but I do have a concern and therefore few questions.

Honourable Minister on his motivation page 9 talked about the role of Namibia as the deputy member of the ILO. Now Honourable Members as a country we need to perform. We need to make sure that we are on the ball, and therefore all structures need to be in place. Right now we are also fighting together with other African countries to get a permanent seat on the ILO and therefore we need to make sure that we are ready for the fight.

Honourable Minister one of the recommendations or advise by the ILO to members was that members should try to have a labour attaché at the mission in Geneva to enable members to effectively attend to the work of the ILO, but I was made to understand that the position of labour attaché was created but when I saw the little money allocated if I am correct under main division 8 that is international relations and advice there is very little money allocated and my concern Honourable Minister is that we might not be able to fill this vacancy.

I therefore would like to find out Honourable Minister did we make provision for the filling of this very important position and if provision was made, when can we expect this position to be filled and if not provision was made Honourable Minister as I have said it is very important that we fill this position, what will we do to get money to fill this position? That is in short my contribution.

Thank you Honourable Chairperson.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Deputy Minister Honourable Shapwa.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 14 Ministry of Labour Industrialisation and Employment Creation, and to raise a matter which I think is very important for the Minister to consider.

Honourable Minister you were on point when you informed this House yesterday that despite a high number of registered job seekers only a fraction managed to secure jobs. You also clearly articulated the possible impediments which led to that and one of such impediments of which I am concerned about is that some recruitments maybe done through internet.

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HON SHAPWA

This is a good thing and it shows a step ahead in the level of ICT use in the country.

However, many of the youths who are successfully completing their tertiary education go back to their rural areas and undeveloped informal settlements in various towns where there is no electricity let alone internet which goes together with the use of electricity. I have been keenly looking at the job advertisements in our local newspapers and the majority of the job adverts by some private firms and some parastatals including the banking sectors require applicants to only apply via internet or information about jobs are only found on websites.

That means jobs in the private sector are very exclusive. Only those fortunate job seekers who have access to internet would access those jobs. My questions to the Minister are:-

1. Is it proper at this stage that employers are allowed to only accept applications submitted via internet?
2. What happened to those thousands of young people who are waiting to find jobs that has no access to internet for various obvious reasons?
3. Can the Ministry not compel every employer to accept hand delivered applications?

With that contribution, I support Vote 14.

I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Kavekatora.

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HON KAVEKOTORA

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to make some contributions to the Vote of the Ministry of Labour Industrial Relations and Employment Creation. My first comment is about job creation.

Honourable Minister the real jobs are being created through growing the economy. Job creation therefore is an economic activity and in my view there is a degree of misplacement of this whole concept of job creation. If I look at the activities as you have been listing them, the Ministry is actually tasked to ensure that there is a conducive environment between labour, business and industry.

If you look at page 3 of your submission at the bottom and talk about job creation, it says 15 569 job seekers were registered on the Namibian integrated employment information system. Disappointingly only a small number of 300 or 3 116 job seekers could be placed in employment thus demonstrating that there is a structural challenge in this component of employment creation strategy.

Now obviously what that paragraph is actually saying is that this is more of a placement agency as job creation agency. You have done nothing to create jobs but you did something to place people who are seeking jobs and it goes on and it talks about in order for you to continue doing this, you need something like N\$32 799 000 to do that.

Now I was just listening to my good friend Honourable Tjekero Tweya when he was talking about the Ministry of Industrialisation and SME Development. He was talking about having created more than 7 000 plus jobs. He was talking about developing entrepreneurship in this country to grow the economy. He was also talking about the importance of SME as a contributing factor to growing the economy and I know for a fact that SMEs are more of the back bone of our economy in this country and currently it employs more than 100 000 people in the SMEs.

I have been asking this question before and I am going to ask it again, whether the concept of job creation not the placement agency but the

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concept of job creation whether it really fit within the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations. I honestly when I listened to the speech by the Honourable Minister Tweya I just feel that job creation as an economic activity justice can only be done if that task is given to a Ministry that is responsible for growing the economy, and in my view that Ministry that is responsible for growing the economy is the Ministry of Industrialisation and SME Development, because that is where the real activities are actually taking place. I would want the Honourable Minister to comment on that and then

My last input is on the **estimate revenue and income expenditure** of the Vote. There is only one observation that I want to make and that is an observation that I have made before when it comes to the remuneration and the establishment of the staff members on Vote 14 main division 7 and I glad that a lot of Ministers have actually complied to being in line with what they are saying to have a meaning.

It says that on page 219 your establishment in other words the approved structure is only 11 in Vote 14 main division 7, but the field positions are 20 and the funded are 20. There is a discrepancy between the approved structure of 11 and the 20 that you have funded and field. The discrepancy of 9 positions is what I want to tune into it because either the figures are twisted or maybe placed in the wrong column, but if it is true that you only have an establishment of 11 you cannot fill 20, nor can you fund 20. Where do you get the authority from to fund the extra 9 if your establishment is only 11?

So I think with those few remarks I really want the Ministry to seriously look at the value that you add to the job creation part of your Ministry, because I think Honourable Tweya is adding more value to job creation than the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Next is Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Chairperson,

my first question Honourable Minister is on page 219 of the estimates of revenue and income. Honourable Minister main division 7, **Office of the Employment Equity Commission**. The main operations of this division to inquire into whether relevant employers have adopted and is implementing an affirmative action plan. Honourable Minister when you received these plans from the different Ministries, Agencies and so on, I have seen especially in the Ministry of Education revised discrimination.

Revised discrimination means that you have 20 female teachers and two male teachers at the schools, so we are now discriminating against the men and this is not what we want to achieve through this division, and it seems it will happen everywhere so when you are receiving Reports from different institutions, are you also looking at that comparison to make sure that we do not discriminate against our men? I have a husband, and I have a son. So I must also protect them from revised discrimination.

Then Honourable Minister on page 217 under labour services main division 4. Honourable Minister **Social Security**, I have noticed that you are giving Social Security N\$5 Million. Honourable Minister I will tell you what my problem is with you giving Social Security money, and I want you to explain to me why. I will say my problem.

Social Security as we say in Afrikaans is a “*bodemlose put*” (bottomless pit) all of us sitting here are contributing towards Social Security. Men cannot give birth. They can only make use of these funds when they are dead or when they retire. Some of us women we never used this Social Security but our money is there, and I saw some loopholes in this system when I see you even giving money to Social Security despite the fact that

they are receiving money from each and every citizen in this country who is working. Last year there was another fraudulent case. It is still hanging on in the courts at Social Security or some of the employers stealing money there, staff stealing the money at Social Security and the reason why they are stealing the money is because they do not know what to do with the money. The AVID case is still on. Money just disappeared. They do not know what to do with that money. Now we are giving them N\$5 Million. Do they really need this N\$5 Million? Please explain to me as somebody who are contributing but who are not benefiting from Social Security but I will also bring a Motion on this.

On the same page on 217 Honourable Minister what is the difference between **workman fund and workman's fund** because I saw you are giving N\$500 000 to workman fund and N\$1.1 Million to workman's fund so is there a difference and if yes, what is the different? I do not know and before I move away from Social Security Honourable Minister, the Social Security has Erf in Freedom Square here in Katutura. There is an erf there I do not know. Can you tell me what are they doing with the Erf? Do they want to sell that Erf, or what is the purpose of that Erf in Freedom Square in Katutura? (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: How do you know?

HON DIENDA: How do I know, I am reading.

Then Honourable Minister on page 216 labour services main division 4, the main operations is to conduct **labour inspections**. Honourable Minister every day you will read in the media about the Chinese people who are really not doing justice towards our Namibian citizens the salaries, the wages, everything that they are paying. Your labour inspectors I have noticed and see that your establishment is 396 and yet the positions filled are 375 so we cannot say that we do not have enough

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HON NAMUPALA

labour inspectors to do labour inspections in this country. What is the reason while our people are still crying out and saying the manner and the way in which they are being treated in this country is not fair, and they are crying but we do not do anything? What is the reason if you are being funded and if you are and all the positions are filled?

Then on page 214 I just want to know the office refreshments Honourable Minister I do not know you did not Budget for it under this labour market services and all of a sudden you want so much money from us.

On page 212 under general services Honourable Minister, property rental and related charges for 2017/2018 your Budget was only N\$1 Million, but now it is N\$2.1 Million. The increase is too much. What is the reason here if it is inflation rate? Inflation rate cannot go up with 200% so why are we paying so much, and the same with security contracts? In the previous book year we budgeted for N\$1 Million but now your security contracts went up with N\$4.8 Million. Was the security, the workers did they increase or what is the reason there, being that it is so up now?

Then Honourable Minister I left this one for the last one the office of the Minister. I have noticed here that the establishment is 6, the positions filled at present is 5 and we are funding six.

My question is will we still appoint a Deputy Minister for this position? Thank you so much Honourable.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. I recognise Honourable Namupala.

HON NAMUPALA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise in confidence to support Vote 14 of the Ministry of Labour Industrialisation and Employment Creation of

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the 2018/2019 Financial Year. As a Unionist this Vote remains of utmost importance to me, because it is the backbone of the Namibian labour force. Comrade Nghimtina in your motivational speech you mentioned a few Acts and policies that will constitutional your mandate. However, I would particularly like to focus on the Social Security Act 1994 the section that deals with maternity leave. I am sure all of us know the pro and cons of this section. However, allow me to remind us of the challenges young women or mothers are facing in this country.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members today most middle aged mothers within the working class are afraid to get pregnant due to the way maternity leave is handled. When a woman goes on maternity leave after delivery Social Security only pays N\$14 000 even those who receive higher than that on their monthly salaries which they are not paid even on time in many cases. Honourable Members it is based on these findings that many women are afraid to get pregnant because they fear financial problems after delivery.

Some women refuse to take the recommended maternity leave and work until the day of delivery, apply for sick leave for few days and return to work which can bring health problems to both the mother and the child, and according to the Doctor or WHO, a woman must rest for a minimum of six weeks after delivery if it is a normal delivery without any complication. Otherwise the one with complications need more rest.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members it is based on this background that I am humbly asking the Ministry to look into this matter. The maternity leave section should be revisited, because the current law robs many women of their rights to get children on their own time and choice. We have to bear in mind that we already have a small population. Therefore let us give a chance to young women to bring more life and add towards our small population.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members I just have a few recommendations on this matter among others.

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Number one, we have to look on this Act for possible Amendments; and

Two, look into the financial place on women during maternity leave and adjust the amount.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members with these few words I support the Vote.

I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you, Honourable Kaapala.

HON KAAPALA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only rise to contribute to this Vote. It is a very important Vote because it is talking about creation of jobs and labour matters, and I believe that all of us here we want to see our young people, our children working in this country. It is really the Vote that all of us needs to support.

Basically I only have a very small observation on page 3 looking at the statutory provisions and the policy instruments because I was really wondering when I looked at this, I could see that the Ministry has a serious mandate in this country so I would not really know how you make an assurance to see that all of these instruments are properly or practically implemented in this country whether from your Ministry you have monitoring evaluations to see, to follow all these things that they are working because if there is no monitoring and evaluation, then I think it is giving us a problem.

On the very same policies Honourable Minister I saw the policy that is also very important which you call the SWAPO election manifesto of 2014. I was just wondering as to whether your Ministry might not misinterpret it unless if it is very clear. It comes from your mouth and if it

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HON MUNSU

is very clear, it covers the whole nation not necessary SWAPO members as other people might look at it

Also on page 5 I looked at the national minimum wage. I think it is also very important that if this is not talked about then we have a lot of people that are abused outside there. It is important that your Ministry should come up with this but I remember these discussions of minimum wage are discussions that came a very long way. I think maybe your Ministry will take this to conclusion if I may say so. With the few observations Honourable Minister I support this Vote.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. Next is Honourable Munsu.

HON MUNSU: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I rise to support Vote 14 Labour the amount requested.

I want to thank the Minister for making provision to impact upon the program to mainstream gender in the key areas. Minister in your statement page 7, program 6 apart from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, the Ministry of Labour so far is the only Ministry to implement gender mainstream.

Therefore, I call upon all the Ministries and private sector to do the same. With these few remarks, I support your Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. Next I recognise Doctor Kawana.

HON DR ATTORNEY GENERAL: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support the Vote just one remark to my senior Colleague.

Can we maybe be briefed how far are the employment bureaus operational. I am asking this question because at the moment given the number of unemployed citizens of our Republic, some of them are struggling, one position is advertised in faraway places in the regions, there are about 300 applicants, when there is a shortlisting maybe about 100 or 50 go for interviews every time, but if there is a Labour Bureau, normally what happens in other countries the employment seekers information is centralised including the fields, their qualifications, experience and also employers who need to employ, they also send their information to the Employment Bureau so that there is that match up.

That way is much easier even in terms of statistics to know how many citizens are unemployed, to know even the gender of the people who are unemployed, to know the level of qualifications, the level of experience and in this manner also I believe it will help the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, because many a times we are told there are no experienced Namibians. There are no qualified Namibians, but if that data is available, then the immigration selection Board whenever they are requested from companies to bring in foreign personnel, they will be able to say no, in this field we cannot approve because we have such a number of our citizens who are capable of taking over, or to occupy those positions. Otherwise, I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

With this, Honourable Minister you have the Floor, no oh sorry finally I recognise Honourable Jerry Ekandjo.

HON EKANDJO: Thank you Comrade Deputy Speaker. Firstly, I would like to support to say that I support the Vote 14 wholeheartedly. It is under a capable Minister and Minister of war at one time at the time when he runs the Ministry of Defence. I am sure that he will also run this Ministry. I have just a small clarification Comrade Minister.

At one time I think there was an idea that the domestic workers the salaries I think it is one thousand plus N\$1 200 or N\$1 500. Now suppose I am having a domestic worker. This lady is coming from Katutura. I pay her N\$1 500 per month. She has a daughter and she has someone from Oshakati looking after her daughter here. That one is also a domestic worker. She must pay this one also N\$1 500.

That one from Oshakati in the village is also having a granny, she has somebody looking after her granny, so she must also pay that one N\$1 500. That one has also at the village far also a daughter somebody is looking after her whilst she is looking at the granny here. She must also pay her N\$1 500.

I think Cabinet I have said it many times so it means maybe if we say domestic workers, we should say maybe for those who are able can give, but for a domestic worker if this domestic worker is also employing another domestic worker must she also pay that N\$1 500? It means it is a chain. You give this one N\$1 500 because she comes from Katutura.

Also at one time it was said that they must be paid per hour. Sometime the people we employ in our houses they live with us as families. They stay with us so now if he or she is to start at 8 o'clock, you eat breakfast at 7 o'clock because you must come to work. It means from 7 to 8 is overtime because she is staying in the house and then she works from 8 to 1.

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1 o'clock to 2 is lunch. Now who must wash if she wash the dishes is overtime but she stays there 5 o'clock. After 5 o'clock some of us eat soup maybe whatever at 9 o'clock. Any work after 5 is overtime. She use your water, your electricity, your food. These people we eat together as a family.

You see some of the laws we get from ILO the people in Europe their culture is different compared to Africans. So we must not only take the culture there because there people there even if I become old, I get into the old age home. I sell all my property and I tour the whole world. In Europe in most countries if I had a son and that son work, that son must pay tax or pay my house because he is employed. He is under 18 he is working. If he stays in my house he must pay or he must go and rent, but with us we have extended family. You may be have a daughter or a girl who fails school or early school pregnancy and she is staying in Namcol and even during the time she stay at your house, you pay her.

I think Comrade Minister of war you remember at one time in the 90s, you have a cousin or a niece working, she comes from the north at your house but later on you find that she was working for a white man next to you. She was staying with you, you employ her but she was also working there.

So I think when it comes to this labour especially domestic workers, we must categorise for those the end product. The one who works is a domestic but the one who works for the domestic, I do think that lady can afford to pay N\$1 500 if it is compulsory. I do not think. Maybe it is just for consideration for the Honourable Minister of Labour.

Thank you Comrade Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Minister you have now the Floor to respond.

HON MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Thank you Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members.

Honourable Van Wyk thank you very much for your support and it is true that Namibia has to work very hard to prove to the world that we can do anything that is required.

Two the labour tax officer in Geneva attaché we Budget for him or her and Cabinet has already approved for that position. We are only trying now to find who, because it is also costly if you take somebody who has ten kids, the cost would be higher than if you have one, or maybe somebody who is to marry or only got married yesterday is going to be easier for containing somebody is cost in Geneva.

Honourable Shapwa thank you very much for your support. The issue of people who are applying through internet is something which we want in the world nowadays but what we are saying is that even you want to use it through the internet, you have to report to our office so that we can record everybody who is working similar to the question of

Honourable Kawana is the same. The system is there. It is waiting for everybody who is employing anybody so that we can record, even somebody who is discharged. That one is working very well mostly but is required as a country for us to know exactly how many people are applying for which post, which discipline, at which level so that we know and what we are doing most of the time and other companies are doing some of them not all. If they want some experts they ask from our office first and then we give them the list of the experts. Then they can now select it from there and they need also to report to us now to say we have taken a and b etcetera. What is very important for our country?

Honourable Kavekatora I think you have studied the situation. The Ministry of Labour is not being budgeting for job creation. It is to coordinate what is happening in the whole country so that we have a report to say how many employment have been created in the country and

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we are also working together with the Minister or Ministry of Trade, not only them but everybody. As I have said yesterday that any tender to be awarded from the Government, definitely we have to work together. We need to know how many people are going to be employed in that specific tender. We should also know how long that tender is going to last so that we know as a country.

We should not be ignorant of what is happening in our own country. That is the major issue. It is not an issue that there is a Budget in the Ministry of Labour that you are doing that one, but other Ministries may have little bit here and there, but the Ministry of Labour does not even a cent to give to somebody doing something, but it is only for coordination of what is being done in our country.

Then we come to the issue of observation of employment equity, equity Commission.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Is it Honourable Kavekatora?

HON MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Yes.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: He was saying that job the creation is supposed to be in the Ministry of Trade and Industrialisation. You can comment on that apparently. It does not fit according to him in your Ministry.

HON MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: That one I think I talked about it, but I am talking about the 11 people who are already employed at the Equity Commission but we are budgeting 20. I did not catch it properly.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Kavekatora can you repeat yourself?

HON KAVEKOTORA: ...of the estimate of revenue and income and expenditure 217 is the office of the Employment Equity Commission you are right. The establishment talks about 11 but the filled positions are 20. In other words you were given an authority to only employ 11 but you ended up employing 20 people. That was the question. How did you manage that?

HON MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: What is more important for our country service delivery, yes, if the money is there and people could be employed, there is nothing with that whatsoever. If it is in an establishment that they should be 20, 11 let me come later. I will find out.

Honourable Dienda you mentioned something, where are you now, you are gone. Honourable Dienda you are saying something which I think if Honourable Sioka was here you could fight each other there, because once we even had Board members, Honourable Sioka will make sure on a sitting that it is 50-50, but she mentioned also one time that this is not an issue for the women. It is a gender issue, gender balance is what she said most of the time but is not reversed discriminating that female is now

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against male and that we cannot have it in our country as well because we need each other for the development of this country of ours.

The other issue of Social Security stealing money and some people are in court already or the case is already in court, that one we cannot talk about something in court but what I can say is only that if you have the proof of that one, bring to our attention so that we can find a way to work it out so that culprits can be apprehended.

Workman fund I do not know because it is double. I have seen it here it is also workman fund which is for workman compensation. If something happens at the work, then you are disabled you can claim and be assisted.

The Erf in Freedom Square I can ask later on and I can bring the answers.

The issue of labour market services and the complaint through the sms in the newspapers, we are making follow ups now and then, even through the companies or even the individuals. Unfortunately, most of the time somebody is only talking about something but there is no contact number if you now want to make a follow up but most of the times as also I said in my report that more than 3 000 inspections were conducted is because of having all this information which came through the SMEs or even letters of complaints.

Rental of the properties yes, we have a lot of offices and we have to pay rent because we do not have enough Government properties which we are occupying. Therefore, we have to pay rent.

Security contracts. You know the situation of the finances in this country of ours, you cannot even rely on our police because they also have financial problems. It is true because if you are a Minister or Deputy Minister you were supposed even to be guarded by the police but sometimes you do not have. It is the reality but for properties of the Government you may need also the security people to protect the property of the Government.

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On the issue of Deputy Minister is already there luckily somebody has informed you, but we have him already Honourable Nambahu.

Honourable Namupala thank you very much for your support. What you said is a reality and we are talking about it now and then and we want also to find a solution to that one, because some of our females, the high paid once going on maternity leave, the payment is too little. But we are also looking at extending 12 weeks of maternity to 14 as prescribed by ILO. If it is possible, then we can also do that one.

Honourable Kaapala thank you for consideration that the youth need to be employed, but you asked whether we have a monitoring and evaluation of the laws. Yes, we have them and we are also working together with labour force etcetera, Labour Commissioner and everything is moving.

On the National Minimum Wage, I think the order was also given by His Excellency the President once he addressed us here and we are already working together with ILO so that we can come up with a national minimum wage. Minimum wage because we have our social grants, we have to make sure that it is not under, it is not smaller than the grants we are giving to our pensioners. Well, once it comes up we have to discuss it here in the Parliament for us to agree, but N\$1 500 probably it would be too little. Maybe we have to think of something bigger than that and you need also to consider to place it annually, and

Comrade Munsu thank you very much for your support and we have taken it very seriously that gender in our Ministry we have to make a follow up all the time.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Can I disturb you little bit. From now onwards no one should move because we are about to agree upon the Vote. We are almost 49-50.

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HON MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Thank you very much *Honourable Kawana* for your support but I think I explained already that the system is already there and

Honourable Ekandjo I know the time. Thank you very much Sir for the support but most of the time we have this scenario all the time but it is up to your to do what is capable to do by yourself, not to implicate yourself that you have a lot of people you are taking care of etcetera. If you are unable, leave it. If you are able, do it. This is what is important but there should also be an exemption a little bit, but not to have 20-30 people being employed and then you want them to be paid the same minimum wage.

Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you, any objection? Agreed to.

I put Vote 15 – “MINES AND ENERGY” - Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Nauyoma.

HON NAUYOMA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I tend to support this very important Vote that deals with our natural resources that have been sinking all the years that this country is full of natural resources, but before I do that,

I would like to find out from my sister there at page 6 of your motivation when you talk about national oil storage facility. I remember at one point this issue was debated on the amount of money that is to be spend on this facility, how it jumped from N\$3 Billion to now over N\$5 Billion or half a billion. What is the situation? Is it really going to cost us this kind of

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money with its completion, and what informed this expenditure really from N\$3 Billion to N\$5.6 Billion? That is one.

That is one and another one is on page 15 of her statement. I really looked at these figures of the electrification of schools and houses. To me the process is moving a bit slow. When we have 29 houses throughout the country to be electrified in this Financial Year, it is really a serious concern for me and 34 schools around the country because these 29 houses to me is just houses of one village in the whole year. You can only electrify one village. It is really a concern. I think we have to look at the rate it is going. I think you need to improve on this kind of allocation. Therefore with that in mind, I sincerely support this very important Vote and I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Kafula.

HON KAFULA: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. Allow me from the onset to applaud the Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy Honourable Kornelia Shilunga for the well-crafted and well-presented motivation speech for 2018/2019 for Vote 15 well done Honourable Deputy Minister.

Having said that, I am just seeking clarity on a few aspects. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Deputy Minister on page 1 of the, sorry, program 1 on page 84 of the MTEF that of 2018 up to 2021 is talking on the promotion of local and foreign investment in exploration.

Honourable Deputy Minister your motivational speech on page 3 touched on the Usab Mine which commenced its production in December last year. It also touched on the B2 Gold Mine which according to the records

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produced 5 436 kilogram of gold during 2017/2018 Financial Year, and also an increase from 4 845 kilogram in the previous Financial Year to mention just a few. Apart from these two Mines I learned that our Government has little shares in most Mining companies except Namdeb where we have 50-50 percentage. In most of the Mines that we have visited with our Committee on Natural Resources, we established that the Government is either getting few percentage or zero shares.

For example just to mention a few, we visited the Langer Heinrich Uranium Pty Limited. There is zero percentage to the Government, and Namibia is ranked fourth the largest producer of uranium and is the eighth largest Mine in the whole world. However, it produces about 7.1% of uranium offside worldwide. However, the country receives very little direct returns from the sales of uranium products.

For the B2 Gold as I have indicated that I will only a mention few there is zero the same applies to Etango Uranium. The Usab Mine that you have mentioned also on your motivational speech the Government is getting 10%.

My question is, why is the Government not having interest to benefit from shares as well apart from the tax collections

Lastly, I would like therefore to propose that perhaps the Government should have equal shares in all companies like in the case of Namdeb so that at least you can feel that you are getting something out of it.

In conclusion I support the Vote wholeheartedly hence we have to look into those aspects that I have mentioned.

Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Very important intervention there. I hope we will get some answers. The next is Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Minister since it is your first time to table the Budget here, I will not put too much pressure on you. I do not want to put my sister on the spotlight. (*Interjection*) I is not, it is my sister Honourable Minister I will just ask you like two questions. The others I will put it formally to you because they need investigation from you.

Honourable Minister on page 230 I support your Vote because I think it is time that women become more involved in mines and energy sector of our country. We will not steal any diamonds.

HON MUHARUKUA: You are campaigning for women.

HON DIENDA: Page 230 Honourable Minister are you with me main division 04. I just want to know. I saw the membership fees for Southern Times the newspaper. Are you also subsidising them or is it the monthly or the daily, weekly that you are receiving as the Ministry is that what you are paying here?

The same goes for the Museum Association of Namibia just some clarity on these two.

Then I just want, my last question page 232? The sub-national bodies that you are talking about here which are receiving N\$ 7 Million, I was looking for that N\$7 Million. Which sub-national bodies are these that you

are funding for N\$7 Million and I could not find it page 232? Thank you very much. The rest will come formally.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Limbo.

HON LIMBO: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson. Firstly, I want to thank Deputy Minister for inviting us to go and visit some Minies because you know in the early days of those difficult times, I remember several times when we were in exile, we used to sing this song of Kawe and Ongopolo. I did not understand what it was, and I remember one day we were demonstrating in front of the South African Embassy in London and we were singing this thing we want our Kawe and Ongopolo. I did not understand and then I asked my Colleague I think Honourable Kafula was there and Bience Gawanas. I was asking the Colleague I said ‘what is Kawe and Ongopolo’ so I want to see that Ongopolo and Okawe please, So I am looking forward to that. Thank you very much.

Coming back to your speech on page 15, I think I have the same concern like Honourable Madala. You know we have been waiting for 28 years now, I know it is very difficult. This is an expensive venture to give each and every village electricity, but some of us we have been waiting for too long. Really we have been on the queue. I do not know for how long we are going to wait. You just see electricity passing somewhere there passing, and we are just in the middle we are trapped.

So now, my son now, you are disturbing the mother. I would like to find out, since one of our conservancies was bought, I think I asked Honourable Kandjoze last year on the same issue. We have the transformers which are standing, but because people cannot afford to connect from the transformers to their houses, at least the conservancy

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managed to raise some funds and bought these transformers for the communities. Is it possible for the Ministry to meet these communities halfway because we tried? We saved little money and now we are still stuck and we are still in darkness. So Honourable Deputy Minister, I want to just plead with you to look into this problem.

I think the last I also want to see it is about time that the Namibian women we must start to shine since we have so much gold, we have so many diamonds. We just do not want to be spectators. We want to be participants in our economy, so how can women now start going into these ventures. What is the way forward? Do we need to go as an individual or a group of women or how? We want to know so that we start organising ourselves as women of this country. We want to start having shares in the diamond companies.

Thank you very much. I support your Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Katoma.

HON KATOMA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 15 of the Ministry of Mines and Energy but I have a humble request especially on the allocation of N\$50 Million to the rural electrification program.

I have a humble request to the Ministry to revisit the issue of excluding supplying of electricity to beneficiaries that are living in the locality to be electrified in the radius of 500 meters as it was the case before, because on page 240, the beneficiaries of this project, it says the target beneficiaries are all public institutions in rural areas, however, where there is no public institutions, households within the 500 meters radius from the transformer position will be considered for electrification.

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Now in line with this statement, this would mean to me that where there is a public institution more than two or three, then the household will not be considered no matter even if they are within that radius. In the case where there is only one or two public institutions, so it means the line will be pulled from one kilometre or two kilometres at a very high, cost but just to electrify one or two single public institutions leaving the households, the business outlets that are living within that radius without being provided with electricity a service that has come to their doorstep.

The benefit of electricity to a locality is a huge one ranging from improving the economic growth at the electrified areas, and boosting development and empower people to create own employment, and to minimise the flooding of people from rural areas to urban areas for development and for some other benefits.

At the beginning of this program since I was a Councillor and I know it was good at the beginning, homesteads that were situated within the radius of 500 meters were given electricity for free, but now this situation is no longer prevailing. So this is neglecting the communities that are living in that area when the services come to benefit from that service, but, now the community perceives this program is as if it is just Government bringing electricity services to its institutions, leaving out the communities that are supposed to benefit. So it is now as if it is no longer a community project, but is just a Government project. So I am appealing to the Ministry to consider revising this so that communities are benefiting.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Kavekatora.

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HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support this very important Vote with the following comments.

Firstly, I am really impressed with the first paragraph on page 3 that gives some highlights on major achievements for the 2017/2018 Financial Year. It talks about an amount of N\$23 Billion that was generated from mineral export earnings, and then it goes on highlighting a number of other figures that also are very impressive, but we all know that the extractive industry is one that is currently in the hands of foreigners, especially when we talk about the big mining houses.

Now the question is and that is also one of the industry where illicit flows can become very apparent, and I am talking about the illicit financial flows, in terms of transfer pricing, mis-invoicing and so forth.

Now my first question is that an industry that earn N\$23 Billion for Namibia in terms of export earnings, the first question is that how much of this money really remains in the local economy and not being transferred to other destinations because the possibility is quite high?

Secondly, it is about the benefits that are accrued to Namibians from the extractive industry. When you go to the second floor of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and you look at the Namibian map, the whole map is basically covered with concessions and what have you, but there is very little benefits that are accruing to local Namibians.

I know there is a Mine that has been developed at Ombazu, ombazu is where I was born in the Kunene region, and these people are just coming because they have a concession and mining rights from the Ministry of Mines, and they start staking claims left, right and centre, and they start developing these mines to a point where production now starts, but the locals who used to use that land for other purposes like grazing, nothing. No benefits accrues to them at all but then this is also an opportunity lost in the sense that where the mine is being established, grazing will not take place. That area is now specifically earmarked for mining.

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When is the Ministry of Mines and Energy going to enact some legislation, to make sure that in situations like that some benefits accrued to the locals in terms of developmental funds and what have you, because that is really a concern. If the whole Namibia is now mapped and taken over by mining, then that will also have a corresponding reduction in our whole agricultural activities that are taking place in those areas.

Electricity, I was in this House where I said Nampower needs to be unbundled, take away the generation from other activities that Nampower is currently working on, distribution and generation and everything is lumped into one. I am glad that the state President in his SONA address actually alluded to that fact that there is a need for us to unbundle electricity. We are currently still a net importer of electricity from various countries South Africa and Zambia and what have you, but there are opportunities in Namibia of enhancing the capacity of renewable energy.

An example that I would want to use at this point in time is the fact that we have farms and farmers where the Nampower grids stop at their farms. So if these farms are being assisted, I do not know whether it is true that the Ministry of Agriculture or whether the Ministry of Mines has funds available to assist these farms to put up concentrated solar energy on the farm, they can actually utilise that energy and at the same time feed back into the Nampower grid so that we enhance the capacity of locally generated electricity.

I am told that currently there is only about 15 independent power producers in Namibia. The question really is why such a limited number of independent power producers, as opposed to encouraging Namibians to really participate in the power generation especially because of the sun that we have, and get free of charge.

I think that is something that I would like to ask the Ministry whether you are working on something like that, or whether you could contemplate looking into something like that to make sure that at the end of the day you will not only enhancing the capacity of Nampower to generate electricity, but also you are actually empowering farmers who are

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struggling to pay off the liability with Agribank, to also participate in the power generating capacity of the country in reducing the dependence of Namibia on foreign generated electricity. I think that would be my only contribution and with that, I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Ekandjo you have the floor.

HON EKANDJO: Thank you Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am going to repeat what I have been saying over the many years and I am not asking questions. It is just an advice. It is just my thinking. I have been saying this over the many, many years especially in this august House.

If one looks at page 3:6 here it tells us the money accrued from the mineral resources number 6 page 3 or clause 6. This royalties and mineral licenses especially, I have said in on many occasions.

I view this just like if you work to get your monthly salary whether you are a Minister, Member of Parliament, a petro jockey, or a cleaner, you get your salary. This salary you get monthly, this salary will never bring you anywhere. This salary is only to pay for water, electricity and buying food for the child unless maybe you have a farm or a business something. The same also applies with the Government.

These royalties taxes what we receive here even the amount of mineral exports, import earnings, this together with what we get from the fisheries and maybe also from tourists these are just finances to fund school books, to buy school books, medicine in the hospital, pay salaries for the staff and public and civil servants. This money will never build infrastructure, they will never. They will end there.

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That is why I have been saying it over the many years that can we not maybe look at other ways? We are 2.2 million the country is endowed with an abundance of mineral resources. If you travel in the world where are you coming from, from Namibia oh it is a rich country? But are we really? We talk about our minerals. Are these minerals ours?

During the struggle we have been singing about Okawe and Ongopolo, we are fighting, our country has gold, diamonds, the sea, but are we really benefiting from it? I was thinking, maybe we must now look at other ways when it comes to infrastructures. These VATs, the taxes we pay, the royalties for mineral licenses will never build construction. Can we not maybe say if a Mine, we have an abandoned uranium mine, can we not say for instance company A, Mine A we give you five years construct a tar road from Ruacana to Walvis Bay. You do not pay any whatever. That is your job.

Company Mining number so, you build a railway from Tsumeb to Katima Mulilo. We give you two years. Mining number so we give you a task instead of paying homework, build from Ondangwa to Katfriya. Mining number so for four regions build in each region a hospital we give you five or six regions. I am sure if you do this within ten years you may see that the country has developed infrastructurally, because the royalties they pay for them it is a drop in the ocean. They do not feel. It is a drop in the ocean.

Alternatively, we say 50-50 all the minerals instead of paying this. If we go on this, I am sure within ten years we will develop Namibia, if we give the task and say diamonds these are. Now currently if we can say we build from Valgrass up to Berseba, Bethanie a tar road, we give Mine number so Usab Mine uranium, we give you four years construct a tar road. Vizra you build hospitals, clinics. I think if we do this really we will develop the country.

If you travel in the world people ask 2.2, it is just like you came at an area, the soil is fertile, the rain is there and the people say we do not eat. You say but why do you not eat, you have rain, so I think if we can do that.

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Secondly, also the construction of the oil facility in Walvis Bay. We have a long coast line more than 1 000 kilometres the whole cast line, from Orange River to Kunene River, to the mouth of Kunene. We congested Walvis Bay. Everything Walvis Bay, everything Walvis Bay. If you go to the harbour the containers you ask for a helmet, where can I get a helmet, because it is so congested. The passengers, is what, fishing, boats and everything. Cape fria was meant for export and import of heavy industries that was the purpose so that we decongest Walvis Bay. Maybe if the Ministry can also think about it.

I have been saying this on many platforms. It is a repetition I am saying. I am saying this because if we are to reach 2030, it is only through our mineral resources that we can reach there. 2030 from now is only 12 years and 12 years is a distance we travelled from 2006 up to now.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we listen to the good idea?

HON EKANDJO: *(Interjections)* 2006, Pardon? That is why 2006 up to now is 12 years. There is only 12 years before we reach 2060. If we are to reach 2060, we must really consider 50-50 making use of our mineral resources

HON MEMBER: Honourable Chairperson?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
No, just listen to him.

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HON EKANDJO: Then with that, I support this Vote because the Ministry under the able Minister of Mines Comrade Tom Alweendo and Comrade Kornelia they are capable. They will bring us there especially when it comes to kudu gas because with kudu gas we have been with the late Toivo ya Toivo, may his soul rest in eternal peace. Then we have Comrade Nyamu, then we have Comrade Erkki, then we have Comrade Kandjoze.

Now we have Comrade Tom six of us Ministers we are talking about kudu gas. I hope that the two Ministers (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: And also Katali.

HON EKANDJO: and also Katali at one time he was also a Minister, and we are talking about kudu gas and we must also think about atomic our nuclear power station. We almost came there when Comrade Erkki was a Minister. We almost came there, to realise that nuclear power station. We have nuclear and we keep on importing electricity from somewhere. Otherwise, Comrade Minister you do not need to respond. I am just supporting your Vote wholeheartedly. You and your Minister are capable, and I am sure that within the 12 years, Namibia will prosper than ever. Thank you Comrade.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you very much. Indeed we are poor living in a very, very rich country so we must do something really. It is serious. His comments are always the same like Madam Kafula, very relevant and very serious comments. With this, I recognise Honourable Murorua.

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HON MURORUA

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise in support of this Vote 14, but I have a very tiny question and that is in the development programs estimate and expenditure over the MTEF. That is specifically under the major power project development. *(Interjections)* Thank you very much.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Minister, what I would like to know is here, the project description is given as the main activities are the technical economic feasibility and environmental impact assessment study for the Baines Handle Power Plant in Epupa constituency, Kunene region.

I am asking this specific question because as far as I know the feasibility study was done, the environmental impact assessment was done, the social impact studies were also done so far so that it has been marked how high the water level is going to be in that Dam, and I am not talking about something that I have heard, I was there myself. We had meetings with Brazilian Consultancy here in Kalahari Sands.

My question is why is the allocation so low that we are now again restarting the process instead of starting to build the Baines hydroelectric scheme. It was even so far as we have identified the need to tar the road from Opuwo to Epupa and everything was approved, but now it seems that we are starting from scratch again and therefore it is worrisome to me that the allocation is so little, that it is only N\$3 Million which is to do the feasibility study while information on the ground, that which we were already given some years back was that, all these things were done and completed.

We had maps, we had documentation and everything that was ready by then and I am talking about six years back from now. That is why I am asking, why are we still at this stage?

I thank you.

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HON NAMBAHU

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION:

Thank you very much Comrade Deputy Speaker. I rise also to register my support for this Vote and also emphasise the point that I have confidence in the capable team that is heading the Ministry to bring some transformation.

Sometimes we do not skip because these are things that we have said already at some stage, but given the new captains at the helm of the Ministry, I was watching the white helmets that are messing up there in Syria. There is one thing, there was a time I remember whether it was Comrade Mushelenga and Comrade Amadhila. We visited the Mines and we made a table of the difference mines and minerals. Diamonds, Copper, Asphalt, Cobalt, Gold and what have you, just like the Mendeleev table, of course if you remember during your high school and make almost what Honourable Kafula was talking about.

How much are we getting from these minerals, and we realise there was over reliance even if we do not get enough from diamonds, but from others is almost zero and that was a long time ago when we were in the Committee of Natural Resources, when we were backbenchers.

I remember there was an incident when we were trying to enter the Mine of Namdeb when they were trying to say some of us, and then I remained, Comrade Mushelenga you were heading that Committee that time. Then I said no, I cannot be searched. I do not know what a diamond looks like and I am with you. I cannot be humiliated. I stayed there, I did not go down there. You cannot go and search my father, and I am a Member of Parliament. How controversial is that, probably it was to them, but I understand the Comrades that went later on were not subjected to the same situation that we were subjected to.

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Now the point is, there is a need to make that table again for us as a country depending on Article 100 of the Namibian Constitution, so that we can know how much are we getting from each and every one of these minerals? Is it just royalties? Is it just taxes? Is it just salaries? Which country on earth has developed on the basis of salaries? Which one and therefore, there is this course in some countries of indigenization. Others are looking for exploration, all these kinds of things.

Is the sector waiting for that kind of call or are they embarking upon a transformational agenda that we know it to which we can make contributions so that one day the song of Jackson Kaujeua, the window of change sweeping will not find us unprepared and we will be forced. Sometimes we are our own enemies. If you start talking these kind of things, you know we have social structures even if you do not like it. There would be someone who is saying yes, he is a radical. He is sounding communist. He is sounding what.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Just talk your point. No one is going to (Indistinct).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: So therefore if we do not, I know.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
You have the Floor, just make your point clear. There is only one Presiding Officer here.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Do you want to

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HON SHILUNGA

tell me that you are not a broad change and then we are not in different classes or what do you want to say so please do not push me there.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Please just proceed and make your point.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: My point is can we ask these people really to come up with a transformational agenda rather than just these things of social responsibility of supporting a kindergarten there, erecting something here which is not going to take us out of poverty and then really come up with something at least radical and transform the sector. This is what I want to say before we get pushed to do what has to be done.

I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you short comment from the chair. I should think I support hundred percent the school of thought to say that, the Mines in Namibia they must really expand their social responsibility rather than to dish computer here and there. They must be given heavy responsibility to build roads, to build hospitals etc. This is the time honestly.

With this my sister you have the Floor to respond. Honourable Deputy Minister you have the Floor to respond.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to respond to the concerns, to the questions and the contributions of the

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Members of the House and before getting into it, I would like to register my appreciation for all the observations that you have raised.

Let me start with the question from *Honourable Nauyoma* on page 6, about the national oil storage that was N\$3 Billion, and the price increased up to N\$5.6 Billion. Thank you very much Honourable Nauyoma for this very important question. It is not only a concern to you, it is a concern to many others. What has happened is, there were some variations that were not anticipated from the beginning or from the initial design of this very important project. Let me give you some examples of these variations.

When it was designed initially there was no pipeline for the jet A1 and it has become part of it at a certain point because it could not be built without it. Then there was also an exposure to forex when the costs structure was made in 80:20 that is one portion of 80% in US Dollars and 20% in Namibian Dollars so there was that exposure that has also led to the increase of these costs. Then there was also a need for us to purchase an additional piece of land for this project to be complete. Those are the variations. Just to mention some of them, otherwise, we can still meet and I will tell you more about this very important project. That is why yesterday when I presented, I invited all of you to visit this very important project just to appreciate the project itself.

Then on page 15 on the electrification of houses, the numbers that are indicated there it is a concern. The rate is very, very low. It is not only your concern, it is our concern too, but we have tried to Budget according to the allocation that we are given, and that is what it is but we are planning to do more with the next Budget, but otherwise, in this Budget sometimes we are only talking about the households that are covered by the Budget that is allocated to the Ministry, but this does not include the households that people or individual households are applying themselves to the distributors or whoever is providing electricity connections in their villages or in their areas, meaning that this is only what is covered by that Budget but the number might increase depending on how many people who were connected by various distributors in different regions.

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Honourable Kafula thank you for the applaud and you also have a concern especially on the experience that you got when you visited the Mines and I have made it as part of my introduction especially on the Usab and B2 Gold that Government is only getting 10%.

I would want to answer to this question with the question from *Honourable Nambahu* that was also talking about how much we are getting from our mineral resources.

The same concern came from *Honourable Ekandjo*. You see it is a genuine concern for us to ask as to how much are we getting from these mineral resources and it is true that we have been thinking about these minerals all along to say we want to benefit from them and it is also true that Government is making the environment conducive to the attraction of investors.

Investors comes in the country with the intention to extract the minerals. They also have an intention to sell and recoup what they have invested in the project and at the end of the day to make profit. Government benefit from getting income, from getting taxes, royalties, from getting employment of the people and the skilled transfers that are happening at the different Mine houses, but one thing that we need to remember when we say we need 50-50 from the Mines coming up with a Mine is capital intensive and for you to get 50-50, you also need to contribute to the establishment you see.

We do have Epangelo Mining that was established for that purpose, but we also realised that maybe the design of getting the shares needs to be reviewed. I agree with you hundred percent when you say we need to get more than what we are getting now, so we are also looking into the issue of reviewing some of these shareholding, but Epangelo can only get shares especially from the new Mines, but if I may also give you some information. We have about 37 Mines in the country but when we say we want to get 50-50 we must also look at their status. Are they active? Are they making profit? Are the commodity prices talking to what we want to

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do or not because it does not make sense when we say we want to get 50% of what you are getting and the commodity prices are very, very low. These are some of the issue also that we need to look at when we are talking about benefiting from or getting shares in some of these Mines.

When you look at the Mines that we have currently, we have some that are producing. We also have some that are on care and maintenance. We have some that are considering retrenching the workers. We also have some that are opting to sell because they are not making profits. Therefore all those issues will affect whether we would want to get 50-50 or not.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Nekundi, go back to your seat?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Let me proceed with *Honourable Dienda*. Thank you for the support. You spoke about the Southern Times and the Museum. Those are all like the Museum is the membership fee and the Southern Times is the newspapers that we are receiving and that is paying for that.

Comrade Limbo on the slow rate of electrification and you are also talking about the queue. You have been waiting for a long time. It might be different when you say you are in a long queue maybe you are talking about having applied to the distributor and having to wait for a long time for connection, and then it is different from the electrification that we get from distributors and also the one that the Ministry is supposed to deliver for rural electrification.

You also spoke about conservancy transformers that are standing and they have come up with certain amount of money and they want the Ministry to meet them halfway. I do not know which conservancy you are talking

about. I remember there was Mayuni Conservancy that we have met and we are, (*Interjection*) it is not Mayuni. Are you sure? Alright I have it on my table. That is why I thought I know the name alright. That conservancy there is also another one Kwando. Those ones are on our tables and we are discussing them if those are the ones that you are referring to.

Then on the issue of women must shine, participate in the economy it is very good to hear from a fellow Member of Parliament, who is also a woman that I have never seen in my office you see, because we have to seek for opportunities also. We cannot just wait for the budget to come so that we complain. You must visit our office. I am waiting for you. I even gave a message last year that I need all the women to come, and I give the information of what you can do.

Men are also welcome and we are receiving so many men every day and I am not seeing women. That is why I called the women. One thing that I can also inform about the women is that, when I got into the Ministry, I started visiting the Mines and wherever I went to visit, there were women employees at the Mining house, but wherever I went, I have to put on men protective clothing you see and then I started complaining to say no, we do not need to wear this, why can you not make some for women, and I initiated the establishment of women in Mining? I am the patron of it. We launched it last year and it is hard at work developing some of this and this is all meant to make sure that women participates in mining.
(*Applause*)

Honourable Katoma on the rural electrification of households within a radius of 500 meters. Yes, that was how it was at the beginning but then it made the process of rural electrification especially to public institutions very slow, and then the Regional Councils and the Local Authorities they were called, and we all together decided that maybe for now we target public institutions first for the process to go fast and then later on we can consider households because the public institutions even if you are saying Honourable is saying they are no more community projects, but Government projects.

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They are not Government projects, they are still community projects because the school that we are electrifying, the clinic that we are electrifying is for the community and it benefits many people instead of connecting one household and that is why we are currently targeting public institutions including the schools, because we have also made a promise in Harambee Prosperity Plan that we would want to connect all the schools within the Harambee period and that is why we are focusing too much on the public institutions, but it is a concern that is coming more frequent from the communities and we are considering reviewing it whether it is going to change or not and whether it is going to work especially in this difficult times.

Comrade Kavekatora, Honourable Kavekatora, oh I am sorry (*Laughter*) he was once a Comrade (*Interjection*) he is coming, welcome. On the extractive industry in the hands of foreigners. Yes, we might say that, but the extractive industry is an industry that is open to all of us. It is not only open to the foreigners. It is also open for Namibians. Why are you not coming to take part? We also wait for Namibian business communities to get into mining and be owners of these Mining houses.

Then on the issue of the locals not getting anything. Really I would not want to dwell much on this because, this is not a provision that is made by the law for us to reimburse people for grazing purposes, or for grazing that has been lost, but we are doing what is allowed by the law. Thank you so much, it is also a good suggestion. Maybe we need to look at the enactment of a legislation that would be able to benefit them, so that benefits are accrued to the locals

Then on the unbundling of Nampower . We have started already. You just talked about independent power producers that entered the market and they are already generating, and we have so many of them about like last year we came up with about Fourteen (14) IPPs that were delivering or giving us 5 megawatts each. Some are already commissioned, the majority are already commissioned and some few ones are still to be commissioned, but the market is open as long as we follow the procedures on the ground.

Then on the farms whether we can empower or maybe fund the farmers to come up with renewable energy. We do not have a Budget for this. If we could have a Budget, we could easily do it, but for now we do not have it but the market is open. They can always approach the distributors or whoever is responsible for distribution, and then they can come up with their power plant just like others did. (*Interjection*) to get the Budget from, from Defence, ok thank you. Namibians are very much encouraged to enter the electricity industry and that is why in many of these projects that were brought about there are so many Namibians.

Honourable Ekandjo thank you very, very much for the suggestion.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
You have already answered him, it is only Murorua and Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: I have already answered him.

On the issue of the long coast from Orange to Kunene. I think this is not only for the Ministry of Mines and Energy. It includes Ministry of Works and some other Government Ministries for us to come up with a project like that.

On the kudu gas, you have mentioned that there were so many Ministers before us and they did not manage to bring kudu on board, and you have confidence that my Minister and I will be able to bring it about. Thank you very much for that confidence and the trust. We are going to deliver kudu.

Honourable Murorua is not there. He was talking about the Baines Hydropower. What is budgeted for is just the continuation of the process that has to be done still on the Baines. (*Interjection*) Thank you.

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HON MAKGONE

Honourable Nambahu on the table that we need to do thank you very much. It is a good proposal. It is also a good suggestion for us to come up with it. Maybe you can also give us a copy of that table that you developed when you visited the Mines. Otherwise, thank you Honourable Members for your observations and contributions. I am really happy for what you have given us and we are going to implement.

Thank you. (*Applause*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. I put Vote 15. Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Vote 16 – “**JUSTICE**”. Any discussions? Honourable Makgone.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINES RESOURCES: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

On this Vote, I want to go to page 3 under program 1 **the Directorate Legal Aid**. Legal Aid is responsible for financing the cost of legal representation in over 80% of criminal trials, and that during the last Financial Year a total of 9 487 applications for legal aid were received. I just have two questions.

Question one - how many times can a criminal qualify for legal aid? (*Interjections*) the one that is looking for legal aid? Are there any limitations to the granting of legal aid per person in a specific cycle of time? (*Interjection*) In a year because now I should say conflict of interest, because let me declare my interest, because Honourable Chairperson there is a criminal that is on my case, that within a year can come into my kraal. Three times within a year stealing cattle as from 2007 every year. This person every time he steals, was only caught after six times and then I was involved myself. I had to sleep in the field to go and get my cattle out of there. I got 45 cattle back. How many were gone? 45.

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HON MAKGONE

This person went out on bail.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we listen?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: After this day, this person stole someone else's whole kraal of goats that went out grazing. This person who went into someone's cattle kraal is out. This person as I speak now, they are looking for him. A week ago five cattle of someone, the cows are just strewn there on the ground. (*Interjection*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is justice, yes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: No it is justice, we also want justice. So that is why I am asking. So meaning this person can qualify for legal aid. Now I want to know how many times this person can qualify for legal aid?

The second question is whether there is an integrated system there at justice so that if this person is caught immediately when the finger prints are put on, then all the cases are reflecting so that this person cannot get bail again. We are suffering. This is my question.

Thank you.

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HON NAUYOMA

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. Honourable Nauyoma.

HON NAUYOMA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is also very short and it is on program 3 page 7 of the statement on the promotion of good governance especially the role that is played by the Ombudsman. Up until now we are hearing these traditional practices that are supposed to be ruled out of this land by now, of Traditional authorities or traditional people that are still continuing unabated to evict widows from their homesteads.

I do not know when this education will go out to reach the people. The custodians of the law like Headman, traditional leaders and the community out there, that this practices is supposed to be out by now but even today I heard about this (*Indistinct*) in the Kavango-East where people are still, widows still being forced out by the family, and I thought this knowledge would be known by now that no widows would be pushed out and material grabbed from them. (*Interjection*) I am not talking about propaganda now, this is not politics, I am talking about real issues and I think the Honourable Minister really needs to take up these issues.

Maybe education did not reach some corners of our country maybe to empower the Ombudsman to continue with this program of educating communities how things should work as we speak now. This primitive way of doing things I think is over. Therefore, we need really to take this challenge really seriously to protect our women especially because in most cases they are the victims of these circumstances. Therefore we really need to act upon some of these issues. Therefore with that in mind, I support this very important Vote for Justice for all.

I thank you.

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HON SIBUNGO

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Sibungo.

HON SIBUNGO: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is just a minor though major. Mine is on the appointing of maintenance investigators and maintenance officers. (*Interjection*) I am fighting for the children is rights (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Sibungo, do not respond to illegal interruptions. Just concentrate.

HON SIBUNGO: Thank you Chairperson. We are all aware that Messengers of the Courts are not maintenance investigators. They are just there to deliver summons and advice on Court proceedings. So investigation is the key to the maintenance claim to have a balanced view of the case and gathering all information including the finances and other obligations of the parties to the case. Unfortunately, this is hardly done because all the Courts most of them do not have maintenance investigation officers, and maintenance officers to do the right job. So at the end of the day you find that the cases are just piling and then cases are just there. Poor children are just there suffering yet their fathers are there eating KFC.

We are all aware that despite the *Maintenance Act* section 7 and 8 are clear about the appointment of the maintenance officers and investigators and for me I see it to have been overlooked because since the Act was Amended in 2003 until today, there is nothing that is done in appointing the maintenance officers and investigators. For me I feel it is justice delayed and justice denied.

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HON KARUPU

Children are suffering and the custodial parents and primary caretakers are rendered ineffective because the Court requires evidence and proof to claims levelled against the defendant and accused.

In this I will suggest to the Ministry that since we have a high wage bill why does the Ministry also maybe not take away like they are doing with the Messengers of the Court that they outsource the investigating officers and maintenance officers just to help in this matter and they are just paid the two-three hours that they have worked for the Ministry.

I so submit and I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Karupu.

HON KARUPU: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to add my voice to Vote 16 Justice.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members the Ministry of Justice is dealing with offenders. To my experience when I conducted meetings or I mean projects when we were on the trips to look at Courts and the accommodation of the Public Prosecutors. We came across that we are very much challenged as a country when it comes to Courts, because the Public Prosecutors sometimes are very, very close just an inch with the offender and their safety is at stake. When I look at this allocation here for the upgrading and construction of lower Courts, the allocation seems not to be sufficient. I think we need to relook at it in the future.

So as to the construction and purchasing of houses of those Public Prosecutors. Some houses do not even have security boundaries.

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HON KARUPU

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Karupu point of order here.

HON KARUPU: Muharukua, what is your problem?

HON MUHARUKUA: No I do not have a problem Honourable, I think
(Intervention)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Point of Order.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Chairperson I just want to
(Interjection)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes it is.

HON MUHARUKUA: I just want to seek some clarity.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Just look here and ask your question. Yes you can talk now

HON MUHARUKUA: You see if I look at the Speaker and I point then there is problem that is why I am looking behind. I agree with the aspect of safety, it is not just the Prosecutors that are in problems it is all the lawyers. What I wanted to ask is what sort of solutions would you proffer, that the Ministry must take on board, because it is a problem. I completely agree with you. (*Interjection*) I am speaking loud enough, Can you not hear me, what is your problem.

Okay, can you here me? The issue is it is quite correct that these people are at risk. What sort of solution would he proffer for the Ministry to take along, because there are a number of things that can be done at Courts to ensure that the safety of the officials are actually correct, other than all those that are available.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you, proceed Honourable Karupu.

HON KARUPU: Thank you very much for that good question. That is why I am sympathising with the Ministry of Justice that if resources is allowed to them. I know those who are building and upgrading the Courts, they know the standard the Courts. All what they need is resources to upgrade it, it would really be upgraded. Currently, we have built some houses, small houses. You can understand that is why that Court is just like that. If you can be given resources, it can be upgraded and it can meet the standards. That is why I am saying that in the future in this allocation, we have to look at it as well as the security boundaries of the houses of Prosecutors.

Sometimes offenders are not locked up. They just appear at the Court and go back, and sometimes they come to the Public Prosecutors house. Come and knock and when you open the offender is already in the house. You see how dangerous is this?

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HON DIENDA

These people are in danger so we have to look into this. It is a very, very important Ministry to ensure justice and safety. I support the Vote.

Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. I recognise Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Minister I really feel pity for you for this Vote for this money. Why my dear we are suffering with justice delayed is justice denied? Yes, we are suffering in this country. That is why I am saying I feel pity for you. It is not his fault.

Legal Services look at that division there is no people. There is no money. Look at the office of the Law Reform legislative drafting. We cannot continue like this people honestly speaking. I am speaking from experience. Just go to that Maintenance Court the cases, the men, they are in arrears with their payments. They are in arrears for years and there is nobody who is following up on these arrears. You will find the Sacky Shanghalas' sitting in Parliament but they cannot find them there at the Maintenance Court, because the addresses which they gave is wrong addresses so nobody can find them.

Honourable Minister you promised us one time here. You said that you will put the pictures of the men who are in arrears on the milk boxes, we are still awaiting for these milk boxes where the pictures are, so that we can see them every day and put them there. *(Interjection)* Come again the Sacki Shanghala?

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DIENDA

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Where does this question come from again the? (*Indistinct*)

HON DIENDA: This is not right Honourable Minister honestly for this maintenance. Honourable Kwana you promised us this now take your promise to Honourable Shanghala. I know he is a culprit so he will not follow up on this one. (*Laughter*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Please proceed Honourable.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Shanghala I have noticed I am always there at the maintenance court just following and listening. I am always being grabbed by the people to accompany them. I have noticed that the men who are supposed to appear they are coming with lawyers. You do not have money to pay maintenance for your child but you have money to bring a lawyer, to do what? So if that is the case Honourable, punish them double.

If the woman is asking for N\$500, then you charge him N\$1 000 because if you can afford a lawyer to come and represent you in court, then you can pay the maintenance of your child, so they must be no mercy on them but also Honourable Minister what I also do not agree with (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Can we listen to one another so that (*Indistinct*)

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HON DIENDA / HON ITHETE

HON DIENDA: Is the fact that the investigations are not being done properly because men are coming there with fake payslips, or they do not even ask for a payslip to establish whether what the women are asking is really something that the men can afford. Now there is no payslip and you are just deciding, okay, now you will pay. The lady is asking N\$1 000, you will pay N\$1 000 without doing proper investigations to see whether this poor man can afford the N\$1 000 (*Interjection*) and whether this poor man does not have other ten other children who also need to be supported so these things need to be taken into consideration. The monitoring evaluation Honourable Shanghala I really want you to think about it.

Honourable Minister the legislative part, drafting of the Bills I do not know what you will do because there are so many outstanding and outdated, and I do not know it seems like we as Parliamentarians are running away from our responsibilities of not approving laws here or not Amending and we do not review the outdated laws.

I think it is time that just for this specific areas in your Ministry to see how we can bring other funds in so that we can support this division in your Ministry so that we can move forward instead of backwards, and with these few words Honourable Shanghala, I support your Vote as usual.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Last Honourable Ithete.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

Honourable Minister and Deputy Minister I also rise to support your Vote. I was not really going to speak but I was just triggered by Honourable

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HON ITHETE

Madala when he wants to find out or when he is questioning why people are being chased out which I also have a concern why people are being chased out of their houses when the spouse or one of the partners died.

My question is as follows if a man married a young women they married young, then for example I married very, very young. Then I bring my wife in our homestead at my parents' house and (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
In town or village?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: At the village then we got whatwe call “*Epata*” in the same house, or in Otjiherero they say at “*Kezuko*” “*Orupare*” English “kitchen” the woman got a kitchen in the same house. Now unfortunately, I only lived maybe for two years and then I am gone. This young lady she is now living with my parents there. Nature dictates that she must find another partner. With the so-called right (*Interjections*) (*Interventions*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Minister when you say gone are you dead or what?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, I am gone. I am no more. This young woman nature dictates that she must get a partner and she is a human being, she is a fellow Namibian, she has a right, and as well know that women are always fighting for their rights and these things of equal rights, she has the right to find a man, she has the right to bring a man at her house. Will this young woman now bring because of her rights bring her new man at her “keluo laye” the house (*Interjections*)

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HON MUHARUKUA

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
“*Ouf Ahawe*” (No) He must get out.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Because the question was why are they being chased out?

Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Kutumbe (sit down) You have already been.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Chairperson I want to give you information. This is the danger when you try to mix culture or when culture and the modern life meets. Sometimes that clash just does not produce the right thing. You see in terms of culture, I am talking about the culture that I am from, and I believe that the majority of us our original culture was like that although we have migrated away from it.

If you marry, your late, say for instance I marry and I die, my wife would automatically become the person who inherits all my cattle. My wife and her children will automatically become his wife and her children, given there is a choice. I do not want to go into the extensive, you know what happens, but she got a choice among the people that by culture should in Herero we say “*Okulya*”. I do not want to say inherit, It would make a woman a thing, but to take her as a wife.

Now in the event that she does that, she would not be chased away because the quarters that she is in that is mine would remain hers, and she would be taken care of in those quarters by my brother for instance or my nephew for instance. (*Interjections*) So when these things meet it is a clash so that example really Honourable Minister let me give another one.

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HON ITHETE / HON NEKUNDI

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

No, just sit down. The Minister can answer.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Just to conclude Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and just to make it very clear that our laws and all laws does not discriminate somebody who is living a cultural life or a modern life. Laws apply to everybody irrespective whether you are living now in the village or you are living in town.

Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes, Honourable Nekundi.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you very much Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First and foremost I am really supporting this very important Vote.

I just have a query in terms of justice. If an individual wants to approach the High Court in Namibia my understanding is that you must have an Attorney to represent you. (*Interjection*) I am saying my understanding, because there are some procedures that an ordinary man or woman can just not fulfil. Now if an individual has a matter that he or she wish to be addressed through the High Court, we are cognisant that if a person has for example been accused mostly so by the State that accused person it is the State that funds for their Attorney through the Legal Aid.

My concern or my query is that, would there possibly be an opportunity at one time that an individual who is not accused, but has a matter that he

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wants to be addressed through the Court system, can the Government, can the State equally assist that person with through the Legal Aid. Can that be considered in the future? So that is just my query.

Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, Honourable Deputy Minister or Minister, Deputy Minister you have the Floor. (*Interjections*) You have the Floor. Honourable Deputy Minister you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and let me thank all Members of this House who contributed through questions and comments to this Vote 16. Let me answer them one by one.

The first one was *Honourable Makgone* who is concerned about how many times one can get Legal Aid. The purpose of Legal Aid is actually to ensure that one receives a fair trial. Therefore, if you appear before a court of law no matter how many times you are still entitled to Legal Aid because the purpose is for you to get a fair trial so there is no such limitations, and I think you went on with your own case whereby this person a habitual stock thief kept on coming out. I think the only time when this person can be restricted is when this person is actually incarcerated, and either through refusal of bail or by being sentenced to jail. Otherwise, there is really no such a limitation because the purpose is to make sure that this person attains a fair trial.

I actually want to say some of these questions they are many of them relates to Office of the judiciary which the Minister will come, he may be able to articulate some of these things tomorrow in his speech, but I will answer them anyway.

Honourable Nauyoma you are concerned about the outreach program of the office of the Ombudsman. Yes, these practices of course continue and the Ombudsman has I think through my motivation yesterday, I said actually they are unable to go on with most of their programs on outreach because there are no resources, but as soon as they have enough resources, I am sure they would be to go to every corner of this country and be able to educate people about their rights. That is really what is happening. The only problem what is hampering them now to go everywhere is the lack of resources?

Honourable Sibungo you are concerned about the lack of investigators and maintenance officers. Yes, that is really a big concern to us too. We have actually proposed year before last year for Public Service to create an establishment for that and we were granted. However due to lack of resources again, these positions are not yet budgeted, but as soon as we have those resources, we will be able to have maintenance investigators and maintenance officers on board and I am sure the situation would change. For now in the absence of resources, I think we have to do with the few that are at the Courts.

You were proposing that the Ministry has a higher wage bill. I do not know where you get that from. Actually we are very lean even on our wage bill. We are very lean on the wage bill as well so we do not have a high wage bill that we can divert to the hiring of maintenance investigators.

Honourable Karupu you were concerned about the safety of the Prosecutors, and of course *Honourable Muharukua* also said the lawyers in Court and also at the houses. Yes, it is definitely our concern as well but as you have seen now our development Budget which I presented yesterday is actually a drop in the ocean. We have very little to construct proper Courts but we do our best wherever we can to make sure that where there is a problem with the little that we have, we would be able to provide for a better courtroom or conducive environment in a courtroom so that these people's safety is not at stake so it is really a big problem.

It is maybe not only at the Court that you have seen. There are many, many Courts that needs a lot of improvements but due to lack of resources, we are unable to cater for them at the moment.

Honourable Dienda yes, thank you, you feel pity for the Budget. I think soon as the resources in the Government has improved, we would be able to make sure that a lot of these problems are catered for and I already spoke about the investigators of the maintenance which we were referring to that really it is just a question of having funding for it. Once we do, we will have them in place and I think many of these people who are hiding their payslips, and so on, they will be able to be investigated properly and the Court will be able to get all these people and our children will be able to get what they are supposed to get from their fathers, because it is most cases fathers.

Then you were also concerned about the outdated legislations. Yes, I think you have seen that under the Law Reform Development Commission there is such a project and that is the reason. We want to get all the outdated laws in this country so that we would be able to attend to them and modernise them or get away with them if that is the case. Who was the last one, (*Intervention*) no it is not the last one.

Honourable Natangwe once the young ladies who are left by their deceased young husbands to bring their new partners in their late husband's homes or in-laws houses. I am sure even in any other what we call modern life no parents would want, or allow that not even your own parents. People would not want you to bring your partner in their homes so I think the rights have responsibilities, and your responsibility as a person who came in, was married there is to make sure that you also do not interfere with the homesteads of these people of the peace, and so on.

I think you just brought it on a lighter note. Yes,

Honourable Nekundi you support the Vote. Thank you very much. You want to know whether any person who is approaching the High Court and is not in a criminal matter can also have a right to have representation.

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HON SHANGHALA

Yes, we do have that system. Most of the divorce cases are getting Legal Aid so it is not only in criminal matters, and if you look at the statistics that we provided, we actually provided those of funding for criminal matters and also for those of civil matters. So it is not only for criminal matters, but in all other cases we do provide for funding as a state. With those, I wholeheartedly thank everyone for participating in this Vote

I thank you. (*Applause*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I put Vote 16 – “JUSTICE”, yes.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Chairperson allow me to just underline two issues on this Vote 16. I would like to thank the Deputy Minister for having capably delivered the motivation and answered the questions.

What I would like to do is emphasise two things. Firstly, as lawmakers sitting here Honourable Dienda almost touched on it. This is a House that legislate. When we legislate, there are professionals who draft those laws. I am singing a song that Doctor Kawana used to sing. Maybe he was soft. I think I have a higher pitch. I will sing the song until (*Indistinct*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

What is that song?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: That song is, that we might as well not be sitting here making laws, if we are not attending to the legal drafters. I have to tell you attending to the plight of the needs of the Ministry of Justice to have sufficient and capably trained legal drafters.

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HON SHANGHALA

It takes close to ten years to hone in the skill of a legal drafter and even Parliament itself needs legal drafters if Members, backbenchers were to come to Parliament with Bills, or even if this House were to make input for example if we had legal drafters here at Parliament, it would make the work so easy and quick that they would draft, Amendments would be made either for the National Council and input made, we do not have, and I will sing this song until you rule me out of order today and tomorrow because this goes to the very heart of the rule of law.

Our rule of law requires that the law must be publicised and available to everybody. Local authorities pass by-laws. Who is going to govern them, and I understand there is no money? I understand there is no money but at the heart of this project called democracy is the rule of law and that law must be written by somebody. (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I will give you two minutes to finalise.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: In Afrikaans what do we call it “*rekkie*” elastic band. You can pull it to a level it is called an elastic limit. If we pull it too hard “*daai rekkie saal breek*” (the elastic band will break). Those legal drafters are over worked, well you get the point. Do not side show a very important point please Honourable Muharukua, you are a lawyer, do not (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The problem is, you are just facing there, we do not, please face in the

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HON SHANGHALA

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Because Honourable Deputy Speaker, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I find it sometimes when we speak and we say this has not been done, it would those who want to show that you are not doing anything that I have to address, and I am saying that the reason why those things are taken forever long to draft laws, we do not have enough legal drafters. We do not have enough specialised legal drafts etcetera. That point I put there.

The next one which is going to be spending the remaining seconds you have given me is to say that when you look at the constitutional office of the Ombudsman it is a constitutional Office and you got N\$400 000 for operations, you will not perform because N\$400 000 is a drop in the bucket.

Now lastly, there is an important issue which affects everybody here and that is the administration of estates. Honourable Nauyoma touched a bit upon it about the administration of estates. Previously the administration of estates of black people and white people along the racial lines of the laws as they were drafted, and obviously there were different ones for those who were categorised as Bastards, were treated in that fashion. Now after the Courts have come in, they are all administered (*Interjection*) you know Muharukua, sometimes you must "*puratena*" (listen) (*Indistinct*)

Now when you live the life of an urbanite and you also live in the rural areas you have your estate being administered under two systems. One is civil law and one is customary law. That process, that law, that body of the law needs to be Amended and brought in line with the constitutional dispensation. Whether it is the old *rules and Estates Act*, whether it is the customary law as it relates to that so that your estate can be dealt with once and for all. Otherwise, you have a partial dealing of your estate one in town and one in the village because it is stuck with another law.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, I should think your time is up. Can you listen to what I am saying?

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HON SHANGHALA

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Now for us to get, no, no, the answer, it is a response to a question of Honourable Nauyoma.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
You can just come in and make a Ministerial Statement so that you can be questioned.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: A Ministerial Statement will be made on the issue of those reforms, but on the issue of the question relating to the responses and the resources being made available. The point is that, that process of reforming that law requires time, it requires consultation and it requires more resources because if we are to deal with people's estates and the complication of those laws quickly, it may cause more problems than it intended to solve. That is the issue so those that will take time that customary law marriages will be dealt it, it will take time for that body of law and those actors there to be brought in line with one mind thinking, that the estates are dealt with.

That is the clarity that I wanted to give and it is a pity that we feel that we can chip and chip around over seconds of such an important issue because when I come back on this issue, then I must get the support of the Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can you sit down? Who is chipping and chipping out? *(Laughter)*
Honourable Minister just listen very carefully serious. Can we listen? No, no, just listen Honourable Members. The Honourable Minister of Justice wrote me a note to ask my opinion as to whether it is him or his Deputy who should answer, and I advised him to say it is up to you, the two. Now you are referring to the Presiding Officer chip, chip. You must withdraw that. I put Vote 16. *(Interjections)*

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HON MUHARUKUA

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Chairperson I do not know if Honourable Kavetuna wants to become the Speaker, then she must resign and come and be a Speaker. Be that as it may, you are paid to be here be patient. You just want to get in your Mercedes and run away, wait. Honourable Chairperson I want to inquire from the Minister. Honourable Minister I think the House has noted that you have a number of reforms that you want to bring, but what I did not get from the clarity that you wanted to give on the brief statement that you made is what is it then in relation to this specific Budget that you need Amendment of it, to ensure that that which you say happened. You said you need to do it, but you are not asking the House to provide you with a solution.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
With that, can you promise to come up with a Ministerial Statement also including some of the things you touched because they are so important.

With that, I put Vote 16. Any objection? Agreed to. I report progress.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Speaker I report progress and ask leave to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, all I can say is that we are making progress. Step by step we are halfway through. Two things quickly who is the start for this evening Honourable le Sylvia Makgone. I listened she sang the same song as the one I heard from the Honourable Doctor Kawana way back.

18 April 2018

**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Where is the system to make sure that we register all those offenders who must be captured in the system so that when they appear before the Magistrate or before the Judge, would be able to pinpoint that this person should not be given a bail. I think she is right.

Anyway now this morning there was a very passionate appeal from the Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever. She brought a particular case one of our citizens Mr Goeiemaan who lost his son I think, a mother-in-law and it was a very emotional case that attached many of the Members of Parliament seated here. Obviously it is a family in distress and they needed some support and solidarity.

That family I am happy to announce received that support and solidarity from most of you. Money was collected voluntarily. Nobody was forced (*Laughter*) and the good news is that Members of Parliament have put their hands together and collected N\$3 610. (*Applause*) It is really, we have to make sure and again, these are exceptional cases. Nobody is forced but I think it says a lot about how much you care and how much you are able to walk that extra mile to do something positive, well done.

Lastly, tomorrow morning 9 o'clock another reminder that Honourable Members are reminded, requested to attend half day workshop on the African Peer Review Mechanism tomorrow Thursday 19th April commencing at C1 and you are all expected to attend. Those who can afford, who can manage are encouraged to do so. I think on that note, we say a job is done and it is time to adjourn the House until tomorrow the usual time, so agreed.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 19:55 UNTIL 2018.04.19 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
19 APRIL 2019 (must be 2018)**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayer and Affirmation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS IN TERMS OF RULE
(98) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Welcome back, a few things that we need to get out of the way as some of you do know by now Honourable Members, today is the 19th of April. It is the birthday of the SWAPO Party of Namibia. This is the day that marks SWAPO Party's birthday. I know have the pleasure on behalf of the House (*Interjections*). Can I be allowed? I want us to listen in a very dignified, quiet way and then after I finish you will be allowed to comment. I was saying the 19th of April is the birthday of SWAPO Party of Namibia. It is the day that marks the birthday when the formation or the transformation of the Party took place, and I now have the pleasure as we normally do on behalf of the House to wish the SWAPO party and its entire membership a happy birthday and pleasant returns. Happy birthday SWAPO. (*Applause*) (*Ululations*) May we continue?

HON SPEAKER: May we continue with good news? Honourable Members you will be pleased to know that NBC will be presenting a new mobile application NBC Plus. I know all of you are connected. I do not need to go home to listen to the news, not anymore due to the hard work of our team at the Ministry they have done it. So NBC Plus, Members of the National Assembly today are going to be availed of some of these important details, application of the gadgets that NBC has now put together for the purpose of making us connected.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON ESAU**

The presentation will be done in the courtyard during tea break that is if the Deputy Speaker is going to allow tea break and all Members are bring requested to visit the NBC stall to be shown this wonderful innovation. Study the information for you. We will leave it to you to make use of the hospitality that has been extended to us by NBC.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Yes Honourable Bernard Esau.

TABLING OF REPORTS

**TABLING – ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL
FISHING CORPORATION OF NAMIBIA (FISHCOR)**

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
Thank you very much Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members for this historic day of the 58th Anniversary of Mighty SWAPO Party. I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the National Fishing Corporation of Namibia (FISHCOR) for the year 2016.

I so Move Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Table the Report. Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions. I call on the Chief Whip?

19 April 2018

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 25 of the Appropriation Bill be in terms of Rule 99 Sub Section C of the Standing Rules and Orders not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? I think we are all covered. All what I need to do in announcing the birthday of SWAPO I omitted additional information that was provided to me and that is to say this important event or rather the main event of marking the birthday of the SWAPO Party, will be celebrated in Mariental in Hardap Region on the 28th of April. On the 28th of April the City is Mariental, the Region is Hardap Region so this is the information I was requested to convey to you particularly those who are interested in joining the celebration. That said and done we move on.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE
STAGE - APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 2 - 2018**

19 April 2018

**COMMITTEE STAGE – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON ITHETE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Committee Stage – *Appropriation Bill* [B. 2 – 2018]

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair, any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B. 2 – 2018] When progress was reported yesterday the 18th of April 2018 the 17, 18 and 19 had been introduced and Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 04, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11 12, 14, 15, 16, 28, 30 and 31 have been agreed to.

Now I put for the introduction Vote 20 - "**AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**" - **NS\$2,137,075,000** is put for Introduction by the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

19 April 2018 **COMMITTEE STAGE – INTRODUCTION – VOTE 20**
HON !NARUSEB

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

In line with the Ministerial Mid-Year Term Plan the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is implementing four programmes, namely:

1. Agriculture,
2. Water,
3. Forestry,
4. Supervision and Support Services.

Guided by these four programmes I would like to introduce and motivate the Budget allocations for 2018/2019 Financial Year. In doing so the Honourable Members are referred to the technical paper contained detailed information on the previous years' achievements and planned activities for the coming year.

I am motivating a total Budget, the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee has alluded to it but I shall nevertheless repeat it, of **Two Billion, One Hundred and Thirty Seven Million, and Seventy Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (NS2,137,075,000)** for the Financial Year 2018/2019 for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

Of this total, **Nine Hundred and Ninety Seven Million, Four Hundred and Forty Five Thousand (NS997,445,000)** or 46.7% is for the operational budget while the remaining **One Billion, One Hundred and Thirty Nine Million, Six Hundred and Thirty Thousand (NS 1 139 630 000)** or (53.3%) is allocated to the Development Budget.

The breakdown of the total Budget allocated to the Ministry for the financial

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year 2018/19 is as follows:

- **Nine Hundred and Ninety One Million, Six Hundred and Ninety Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty Two (N\$ 991 693 352) or 46.4% is devoted to the development of the water sector and to supply water to rural communities in communal areas, of which Six Hundred and Twenty Three Million, Six Hundred and twenty Eight Thousand (N\$ 623 628 000) for the Neckartal Dam while N\$ 108 million is for the Technical Committee on Water Supply Security to the Central Area of Namibia (CAN) to refund City of Windhoek, thus leaving a meagre Two Hundred and Sixty Million, Six Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty Two (N\$ 260 065 352) for other water related development activities.**
- **Seven Hundred and Twenty Nine Million, Three Hundred and Fifty Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty Two (N\$ 729 352 632) or 34.1% is for the development of the agriculture sector;**
- **One Hundred and Forty Nine Million, Two Hundred and Seventy Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety Six (N\$ 149 272 596) or 7.0% is for the development of the forestry sector; and**
- **Two Hundred and Sixty Six Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty Six Thousand, Four Hundred and Twenty (N\$ 266 756 420) or 12.5% has been allocated to the supervision and support services.**

The Budget I am motivating is for basic needs for human kind sustenance namely; food and water, without which life comes to a standstill and for sustainable socio-economic development. However, it is disheartening to note that despite the centrality of agriculture, water and forestry to the nation's livelihood and to the country's economic development, and despite the commitments Namibia has made at global, continental and regional levels, the allocations to this crucial sector of the economy is continuously on a decline, and it must be understood that I am not necessarily pointing a finger, because I am part and parcel of the

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collective, but I am merely stating the facts as they are, having dropped from an average of 4.6% over the past 10 years to now 3.7%.

This is contrary to our commitment as a country under the frameworks of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 at global level, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) at continental level as articulated in the Maputo and Malabo Declarations where we committed ourselves to allocate not less than 10% of national Budget to agriculture, for obvious reasons because agriculture is at the rudimentary levels of sustenance for our people.

Furthermore, at national level, the agriculture sector has an obligation to ensure that there is food at all times to feed the growing population and that no one dies of hunger which is attributed to lack of food as outlined in the country's Vision 2030, NDP5 and Harambee Prosperity Plan.

It is worth noting that agriculture remains a strategic sector as it supports about 70% of the Namibian population and employs about 135 832 individuals which represents 20.1% of the total workforce (NSA 2016). It is further worth noting that for Namibia to attain the noble objectives of Vision 2030, NDP5 and Harambee Prosperity Plan, agriculture that supplies water, food and raw materials required for industrialisation need to be accorded the priority it deserves in our national Budget allocation. This is because agriculture is inextricably interlinked with, and is key for the attainment of 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals namely; Goal 1 – No Poverty; Goal 2 – Zero Hunger; Goal 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing; Goal 4 – Quality Education; Goal 5 - Gender Equality; Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation; Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Goal 10 - Reduced Inequality; Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production; Goal 13 – Climate Action; Goal 14 – Life Below Water; Goal 15 – Life on Land; and Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

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With this general overview, I shall now elaborate Vote 20's motivation programme by programme:

1. AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

In order for the agriculture sector to achieve these desired outcomes set in the NDP5 and HPP, an amount of **Seven Hundred and Twenty Nine Million, Three Hundred and Fifty Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty Two (NS 729 352 632)** is requested for this programme for the ministry to carry out the following activities. Cognisance should be had that this amount is premise on the ceilings that are available:

- 1.1 Implementation and monitoring of the Rain Fed Crop Production Programme (RFCPP) including the components of “Conservation Agriculture” and “Draft Animal Power” that is implemented in all 10 crop growing regions. This programe is important to build farmer’s resilience through adaptation and mitigation of climate induced risks. In addition, the Ministry will procure additional tractors and implements to ensure effective and efficient service provision to farmers in crop growing Regions.
- 1.2 The Ministry will finalise the construction of Uvungu-Vungu Dairy Project and initiate the construction of Musese, Zone, Katima/Liselo Farm, and Orange River Irrigation Projects. We will also continue to expand and upgrade irrigation infrastructure at the existing Green Scheme Projects which includes procurement of machinery and equipment for the existing Schemes.
- 1.3 MAWF will continue to increase seed production in the form of foundation and certified seeds.
- 1.4 The Ministry has achieved a major milestone in developing, listing and releasing mutant varieties of sorghum and cowpea. However, to

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ensure that these varieties are indeed new, a DNA profiling exercise will be run by an independent laboratory. The outcome of the profiling activities will further enable property right ownership claim/registration and patenting of the new seed varieties by Namibia.

1.5 The Ministry will continue with the step by step construction of the Windhoek Fresh Produce at Wanaheda. In addition to Rundu and Ongwediva fresh produce hubs, the Windhoek Fresh Produce hub is aimed at facilitating market access for fresh produce.

16 The Ministry will forge ahead with the completion of the construction of the Ongwediva Agricultural Technology Centre.

1.7 The Ministry will continue disseminating information and providing advice to emerging, resettlement, and Affirmative Action Loan Scheme farmers.

1.8. The Ministry will strengthen border control inspection capacity to ensure that all agricultural products entering and leaving the country are in conformity with the acceptable standards and are recorded.

1.9 The Ministry will continue to implement the policy aimed at creating conditions which will allow farmers in the Northern Communal Area (NCA) to access local, regional and international markets for their animals and animal products. The implementation the OIE endorsed Official Control Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease and Lung sickness for the Northern Communal Areas for eventual eradication of FMD from Protection Zone and Lung sickness from the entire NCA will continue.

- This will involve strengthening of veterinary services by bolstering staff capacity through recruitment of competent staff and skills development, development of surveillance and response guidelines, construction of veterinary infrastructure, procurement of equipment and vehicles, community mobilization. International collaboration in the management of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases will also

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be strengthened. It will also entail the erection of a livestock fence between Namibia and Angola and the relocation of livestock relying on grazing in Angola to grazing areas within Namibia.

- Routine preventative vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease, Lungsickness, Anthrax and Rabies will continue during 2018/19.
- The Livestock Identification and Traceability System will continue in the NCAs focusing on the tagging of cattle. A pilot project on tagging of sheep and goats will be implemented in some parts of the NCA during 2018/19.

1.10. The Ministry will continue to implement animal disease surveillance by undertaking activities such as: farm inspections, community visits, ante- and post-mortem inspections at abattoirs, supervision of livestock auctions, export certification and inspection of imported animals and animal products, in order to provide evidence and assurances to our trading partners at regional and international markets with regard to the animal health status and the quality and safety of our meat and meat products.

1.11. The Ministry will continue with the construction of veterinary clinics, offices and accommodation as follows: Traceability Office and Chief Veterinarian Office for Central Regions in Windhoek, Veterinary Clinic and Laboratory at Ondangwa, Offices and accommodation at Tses in //Kharas, Ndiyona in Kavango East, Ncaute in Kavango West and Sangwali in Zambezi, construction of State Veterinarian house Kamanjab and renovation of State Veterinary Office at Walvis Bay.

1.12. The Ministry will continue with the beef value chain development project by focusing on the completion of the Meat processing facility at Ongwediva Fresh Produce Hub in Oshana Region; Outapi Abattoir in Omusati Region; construction and equipping of Rundu abattoir in Kavango East Region; renovation of Katima Mulilo (Zambezi) and Oshakati (Oshana) abattoirs and by conducting the feasibility study on the Bukalo abattoir and Meat Processing facility in Zambezi region.

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1.13. The Ministry will continue with infrastructure development for sanitary and phyto-sanitary facilities to prevent the introduction of exotic plant and animal diseases into Namibia. The following entry points are targeted for completion during 2018/19: Oronditi, Swartbooisdrift, Katwitwi and Dobe.

1.14. MAWF remains at the forefront in conserving genetic material for future use, particularly those of indigenous origin. In this regard, efforts will continue to be expended to conserve and promote various livestock breeds and ecotypes that are well adapted to the local conditions, but are under threat of extinction due to uncontrolled cross breeding.

1.15. The Ministry will continue with training programme for the development of critical human resources capacities in the respective technical fields of agriculture, water and forestry to the Ministry's staff as well as to non-staff beneficiaries. While no new funding is requested for 2018/19, the Ministry will only continue providing funding to the existing beneficiaries as per our existing obligations and no new funding is requested for 2018/19 financial years

1.16. As part of meeting our objectives set out in the Harambee Prosperity Plan on Vocational Education and Training (VET), the Ministry will continue supporting the development and the conversion of Tsumis Arid Zone Agricultural Centre (TAZAC) and Mashare Agricultural Development Institute (MADI) into Vocational Training Centres that offers (1) year certificates in Livestock Husbandry, and Crop Husbandry & Horticulture at NQF Level 2.

1.17. To fast-track the implementation of NDP5 and HPP, the Ministry is proud to have developed the Harambee Comprehensively Coordinated and Integrated Agriculture Development Programme (HACCIADep) with a view to give practical, tangible and visible meaning to policy intentions of the Government that seeks to direct our effort towards programmes and projects that would help achieve our long term goal of Vision 2030.

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The HACCIADEP programme is aimed at stimulating economic activity in the agricultural sector in a manner that contributes to a high and sustained economic growth, development of agricultural value chains, decreased income inequality and increase employment creation. The Programme encompasses the following schemes:

- a. Flood water irrigation and infrastructure development scheme;
- b. NCA Beef value chain development scheme;
- c. Small stock value chain development scheme for small and medium scale Agricultural producers and agro-processors in the Southern Region of Namibia;
- d. Agricultural mechanisation scheme;
- e. Cereal value chain development scheme;
- f. Horticulture value chain development scheme;
- g. Poultry value chain development scheme;
- h. Dairy value chain development;
- i. Seed System development
- j. De-bushing and bush value chain development scheme.

The above pragmatic schemes are to be undertaken in a flexible manner. While some of the initiative will be implemented during the 2018/19 financial year, the majority of these activities are due to commence during the 2019/20 financial year. It is worth noting that we have already secured funds for the implementation of three of the schemes under HACCIADEP namely; Agricultural Mechanisation Scheme and Seed System Improvement to be funded by Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and the NCA Beef Value Chain Development Scheme to be funded by the European Union under EDF11.

That leaves us with seven (7) unfunded schemes that have the potential to significantly contribute to the country's economic growth, erosion of unemployment and reduction of income inequality. Hence my plea to this august House to consider availing budgetary resources to these initiatives.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

2. WATER PROGRAMME

The purpose of this programme is to improve water security, by ensuring coordinated planning and implementation of the rural and bulk water supply infrastructure and the sanitation policy and programme.

NDP5 and Harambee Prosperity Plan identifies water sector as one of the focus areas under the economic progression pillar and has the following Desired Outcome: “By 2022, Namibia have a sustainable production and consumption of water resources resulting in improved access to safe drinking water for human consumption, agriculture and for industrial use. The water sector endeavour to attain the following strategies: Upgrade Existing Water Infrastructure; Construct New Water Supply Infrastructure; Improve Management of Existing Water Sources and Enhance Transboundary Water Cooperation.

In order to achieve the objectives of this programme and stated desired outcomes, an amount of **Nine Hundred and Ninety One Million, Six Hundred and Ninety Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty Two (N\$ 991 693 352)** has been allocated to carry out the following activities:

- 2.1 The construction of Ondangwa – Omuntele pipeline extension and King Kauluma - Omutsegwonime Water Supply Scheme in Oshikoto region as well as the Construction of water supply scheme for the displaced communities of Kavango East (Shamvhura to Shamangorwa pipeline) will continue in the 2018/2019 Financial Year.
- 2.2 The construction of Iitapa – Okeeholongo Water Supply Scheme Phase 1 and the Katima Mulilo – Kongola Water Supply Pipeline Phase 2 was completed and will be handed over during 2018/19 financial year.

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- 2.3 Continue with the construction of Neckartal Dam in the //Kharas Region that will be completed during the 2018/2019 financial year. The forecasted date for commissioning is June 2018, while the completion date for monitoring and reporting is expected to be in August 2018.
- 2.4 With regard to sanitation coordination, the Ministry will continue to create health awareness, through community education and participation, in sanitation and hygiene practices. This will lead to an increase in coverage and use of improved sanitation facilities in both urban and rural areas of the country. The Ministry plans to construct 176 improved latrines under the Namibia Water and Sanitation Program (NAWASA) during this financial year.
- 2.5 The implementation of the *Water Resources Management Act, 2013* (Act No.11 of 2013), which includes national water resources monitoring and investigations, conducting nation-wide public awareness campaigns, continuing with compliance monitoring and strengthening human resources capacity, operationalising the Water Regulator and the Water Advisory Council as well as Basin Management Committees.
- 2.6 The Ministry will continue engaging with the neighbouring countries in bilateral, multilateral, regional and international co-operation in the sharing of water from international shared Rivers and transboundary aquifers, through the various River Basin Organisations (RBOs) of the Okavango/Cubango, Zambezi, Cuvelai, Kunene and Orange Rivers. Government will also continue to engage on issues of common interest at regional (SADC) continental (AMCOW) and international (UNESCOIHP) level.
- 2.7 Namibia and Botswana agreed to cooperate on cross border water supply. To this effect, the two member states are finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on water cooperation and a Joint Technical Team is established with its terms of reference highlighting modalities of the envisaged cooperation.

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- 2.8 Following the approval of the Terms of Reference (ToR), the full feasibility study of the Noordoewer/Vioolsdrift dam at the Lower Orange River jointly carried out by Namibia and South Africa will be completed during the 2018/19 financial year and thereafter, funding for the construction of the dam will be needed.
- 2.9 The Ministry through the Technical Committee of Experts (TCE) for the Cabinet Committee on water Supply Security (CCWSS) will continue with the implementation measures aimed at addressing water supply security in the country by undertaking the following activities namely; Upgrading of the Gammams Direct Potable Reclamation, Kombat - Berg Aukas power supply and the refurbishment of the Von Bach pump stations to enhance water supply to the Central Areas of Namibia (CAN); refurbishment of the Kuiseb collector 2 and replacement of the Schwarzekuppe-Swakopmund, and Omdel-Wlotzkasbaken pipelines to improve water supply at the Central Coastal Areas, coupled with upgrading and extension of the Oshakati Water Treatment Plant (OWTP), and the Rundu Purification Plant to improve water supply in the central northern areas and Kavango East particularly in Rundu town and surrounding areas.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

3. FORESTRY PROGRAMME

The purpose of this programme is to develop and manage the forestry resources; to enhance socio-economic development and environmental sustainability, in order to ensure that forestry activities are undertaken countrywide. In order to execute this programme, the Ministry request an amount of **One Hundred and Forty Nine Million, Two Hundred and Seventy Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety Six (NS 149 272 596)** for the financial year 2018/19, to carry out the following activities:

- 3.1 Continue to implement the de-bushing programme in order to increase the land's carrying capacity and improve livestock production in the

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country. The programme further involves value addition to the harvested bush in order to create the much-needed jobs for our citizens. In this regard, the Ministry will also incentivise private land owners and communities in the Northern Communal Areas to address bush encroachment by developing a market for forest products removed from the farm lands.

3.2 Continue with the maintenance of the botanical garden and herbarium, as well as preservation of plant genetic materials at the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI).

3.3 Continue implementing the Forest Protection and Conservation programme, through which fire equipment and tools including fire beaters, high-pressure pumps, firebombs, drip torches, wind-driven knapsack sprayers and fire signboards will be acquired. The equipment will be distributed to the Fire Management Committees at Constituency level, in the fire prone areas. Local communities will be capacitated on the use of the equipment and will also be engaged in clearing fire breaks (fire cut lines) in fire prone areas.

3.4 In order to enhance forest fire management at the local level, the Ministry will continue to undertake forest fire awareness campaigns countrywide. In this regard, extension messages will be developed in local languages and broadcast through the local radios during the fire season to better understand the fire problems in their areas.

3.5 Continue to support bee farming within communities in order to diversify income-generating opportunities while enhancing pollination for both the forest and crop fields. In this regard the Ministry intends to help communities establish bee keeping farms by trained them on bee keeping management to ensure safety of the people and promote economic contribution of honey bees.

3.6 The Ministry will continue with the national tree planting campaign aimed at putting 500 ha under tree planting. In this regard we plan to produce 500 000 seedlings at Ministerial nurseries as part of the tree

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planting and orchard development initiative. The seedlings will be used to establish orchards, sold to the general public and donated to public institutions.

3.7 Continue to support communities on sustainable management and utilisation of forest resources, through the establishment and maintenance of the community forests in rural areas of the following Regions: Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Kunene, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Kavango East, Kavango West and Zambezi. In this regard, Eleven Community Forestry Centres will be furnished with necessary equipment and tools during the 2018/19 financial year to enable these communities to manage and sustainably utilise forest resources in their areas.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

4. SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The purpose of this programme is to facilitate policy formulation, leading to the creation of legal framework for the Ministry; the implementation of policies; the promotion of agricultural and agro-industrial development; the mobilisation of technical and financial resources; the development and maintenance of an agricultural information system; the administration of the *Co-operatives Act*; and the promotion of marketing of agricultural products. It also provides administrative support to the programmes and ensures proper financial management, optimal deployment of resources, acquisition and development of physical infrastructures, Information Communication Technology services, transport and communication, consumables, employee safety and wellness, utilities, legal costs, asset management and protection, public relations, publications, capacity building and staff development. Furthermore, the programme caters for emergency relief assistance in the agricultural, water and forestry sector. In order to implement these activities, an amount of **Two Hundred and Sixty Six**

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Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty Six Thousand, Four Hundred and Twenty (NS 266 756 420) is allocated:

4.1 The Ministry will continue to provide support to Co-operatives in the country and provide business development services to strengthen cooperative movement in Namibia. These services are provided in the form of annual monitoring visits to Co-operatives and training through the Co-operative College.

4.2 Continue to collect production and marketing statistics in Agriculture, Water and Forestry sectors and also monitoring the food security situation in the country on quarterly bases.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

5. DROUGHT AND FLOOD SITUATION AND GOVERNMENT RELIEF MEASURES

Allow me to inform this August House that climate change continues to affect our existence as the country remains threatened by drought and flood conditions, as a result of late rainfall in some part of the country and late heavy rains in other parts of the country experienced during the 2017/18 rainfall season. Overall, the country experienced poor rainfall performance in the first half of the season (October – December 2017) stretching toward January and February in most places. As a result, the agricultural production as well as water supply is affected. However, after good rainfall received between March and April, crop harvest and grazing conditions might change for the better.

It is also important to note that, since last season, maize production continued to be affected by the Fall Army Worms, and the impact is felt more in the Green Scheme Projects and the Dry-land Commercial farms where large amount of maize is produced. Furthermore, some areas in the

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Zambezi region are affected by flood as a result of river overflow and crop production in the affected area including Kalimbeza Rice Project is expected to be low. With just over a month before winter sets in, crop production is likely to be affected negatively by the weather for the majority of late farmers, probably they monitor the patterns and started late with their activities.

It is our expectation that the drought and flood situations will be experienced in some parts of the country, albeit much lower than experienced during the 2016/17 rainfall season. The latest information that I gathered this morning is that the level of the Zambezi river if I am recollecting properly is more than 6 meters, probably 6.5 there around, but the good news is that because the rain patterns where it originates is on the going down pattern, so it might not be severe but the risk of flooding exists. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry together with the Office of the Prime Minister and other stakeholders, will remain prepared to implement drought mitigating measures, as well as develop new measures, to deal with the consequences and effects of drought, in the affected areas of our beloved Country. Furthermore, the Ministry commits to identify medium to long-term adaptation mechanisms to Climate Change by finalising the revision of the 1997 National Drought Policy and implement its strategies among other interventions.

6. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

The policies and strategies of Government require commitment by all role players for its success. I would therefore like to thank Honourable Anna Shiweda, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Mr. Percy Misika, Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Deputy Permanent Secretaries in the Ministry and all the stakeholders i.e. GRN offices, Ministries, Agencies (O/M/A), SOE's, private Sector, Farmers' Organizations, Non-Governmental Organisations and Development

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Partners for their support and display of confidence in the role and contribution of the Agriculture sector to the sustainable socio-economic development of our country.

Last but not least, may I finally inform this August House that: what I have presented is our planned activities for 2018/19 financial year in a nutshell. I therefore advise the Honourable Members to find time and refer and study the Technical Paper for detailed and comprehensive information on the 2017/18 financial year achievements as well as planned activities for the 2018/19 financial year.

Additionally and as usual, Honourable Members should also read the important documents, presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance, as they also provide sufficient factual information, regarding the various programmes and the allocated funding thereof.

With this motivation, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I now call upon Honourable Members to discuss, consider and finally approve the allocations to Vote 20, for the 2018/19 financial year, amounting to **Two Billion, One Hundred and Thirty Seven Million, and Seventy Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 2 137 075 000)** only for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

I thank you for your kind attention.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. We can now break for tea and at the same time visit the rest rooms, and we must be back exactly 16:20. So agreed. “*Itamufikama hano*” (you do not want to stand up) we break for tea.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00

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HOUSE RESUMES AT 16: 20

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Please be seated. We have a working quorum we can proceed. I put Vote 21 (*Interjection*).

HON MEMBER: Working quorum?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE EWHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes working quorum. Vote 21 - “**JUDICIARY, JUSTICE**” - **NS366,348,000** for the introduction by Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister of Justice you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I see the Chairperson wants to give the function away, but please do not give it away. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the Whole House Committee,

I take the Floor to motivate Vote 21, **Office of the Judiciary**. In doing so I am humbled by the confidence and trust bestowed upon me by the President Dr Hage Geingob who has seen it fit to appoint me as Minister of Justice for our motherland. As per my own provokers I was thrived to exercise my functions to the best of my ability in accordance with the laws of the Republic without fear or favour.

To my predecessor who also happens to be my successor and I am then saying to him, AK47 Dr Albert Jakkobo Kawana the Attorney General, thank you for your time at the Ministry of Justice.

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History will record you as the first Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice as well as the longest serving. The work has been visible in shaping the administration of the Justice system of our country whether at the Ministry or at the Office of the Attorney General the work will be memorialized by the ongoing reforms which are building on your efforts. Thank you once again for your service.

The same appreciation must be extended to Dr Ernest Ngharikutuke Tjiriange as well as Mrs Pendukeni Iivula Ithana one of my adopted mothers, a veteran of this House from its inception as well as my predecessor both at the Law Reform and Development Commission and at the Ministry the Honourable Daniel Utoni Kollie Nujoma, (*Interjections*) you do not know what that means.

I pay tribute to all of you whilst you are still alive. You have each steered the justice agenda during your tenure in immeasurable ways that if I recite your work now, I will veer off the purpose for which I have taken the Floor, yet it could have been a miss if I did not honour you in your life. I do not want to be asking for science. Soon I will organize an event to chronicle the magnificent work done by the justice sector in consolidating democracy in Namibia, were we can pay proper tribute to all of you and reflect on the journey traversed.

Having said that I must now turn your attention to Section 13 of the Judiciary Act 2015, Act No.11 of 2015 which states that the Ministry responsible for justice represents the office of the Judiciary in both Cabinet and the National Assembly, it is based on this provision that I have a legal basis and pleasure to present the budget of the office of the judiciary on behalf of the Honourable Chief Justice the head of the Judiciary and the entire Judiciary.

Although the Honourable Members of this august House, Members of the Media and especially members of the public associate the Ministry of Justice with the Office of the Judiciary encompassing the law higher and superior Courts. The Ministry of Justice represents the Office of the Judiciary only in Cabinet and the National Assembly.

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As indicated by the separation in Vote numbers between the Ministry of Justice 16 Vote 16 and the Office of the Judiciary, Vote 21. The Judiciary is wholly independent in the Ministry of Justice in terms of financing the material operations. I would like to reiterate this point by taking a moment to explain the concept of the independence of the Judiciary in Namibia.

Independence Judiciary

The Republic of Namibia like many other countries has followed the trend of performance budgeting. This is where the Minister signed the Performance Agreement with specific outcomes to which he/she commits and is given a budget within the available resources to meet those targets. For the Office of the Judiciary the question of who should set the objectives for Judicial Sector performance the Executive, Judiciary, Legislation or, goes to the heart of judicial independence.

Therefore in order to maintain judicial independence the measure of a successful judiciary lies in how well the judiciary provides access to justice. That is the measure. This is not the task the Judiciary can achieve alone.

I am compelled to quote Article 78:3 of the Namibian Constitution which states, *“no Member of the Cabinet of the Legislature or any other person shall interfere with the Judges or Judicial officers in the exercise of their judiciary functions and all organs of the State shall accord such assistance as the Courts may require to protect their independence, dignity and effectiveness subject to the terms of this constitution or any other law.”*

Additionally, an effective judicial system requires that minimum transparent legislation, fair law and predictable enforcement. It also requires the Government that is legitimate accountable and committed to maintaining order by lawful means. The vices we have in society as poverty cannot be fought without effective and equitable systems of justice.

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Legislation

The Office of the Judiciary has therefore been working closely with the Ministry of Justice to ensure that the *Small Claims Court Bill*, the *Divorce Bill* and other Legislation can be brought to this House for consideration as soon as possible. Other legislation essential to Namibia and sadly seen too often in the courts relates to Gender Based Violence and Rape. Laws combatting such despicable actions will also be considered this year.

Access to Justice

Legislation alone does not make a successful Judiciary, but its fair, speedy enforcement does contribute in buttress acts to access to justice.

Fairness

It is impossible to accurately determine fairness based on statistics, but one could argue that if the parties feel that the matter was not fairly adjudicated, they will appeal. In terms of Civil judgments there were 3 appeals registered in 2015, 2 in 2016. Low appeal rates, in civil matters, indicate the fairness and soundness of the judgments.

In criminal matters heard in the Magistrate's Court a review matter arises when an unrepresented accused is convicted and sentenced by the magistrate. There are other manners in which a review arises as well, but I am specifying this one. In such a case the Magistrate is obliged to refer the record of proceedings to a High Court Judge for the latter to review whether the proceedings in the Magistrate's Court was in accordance with justice.

The finalisation rate of such reviews increased from 95% in 2015 to 98% in 2017, which represents a 3% increase in agreement with the conviction and sentence between the Magistrate and the reviewing Judge. This number is a representation of fairness

Speed

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Another essential component of access to justice lies in the speed at which justice is rooted out. Honourable Dienda the other day said Justice delayed is Justice denied. I would like to reiterate the age-old mantra of Sir Edward Coke in Part 2 of his *Institutes of the Laws of England* (written *Circa* 1620s).³ He commented and I quote:

“And therefore, every Subject of this Realm, for injury done to him in goods, in lands, or in person, by any other Subject may take his remedy by the course of the Law, and have justice, and right for the injury done to him, freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay.”

To ensure a speedy trial the Office of the Judiciary has implemented three programs, namely, Compulsory mediation; E-justice; and the Aspirant Judges Training Program.

- Compulsory mediation compelled that matters be first taken through a process to see if they can be resolved that way if not, they proceed to trial.
- E-justice, allows you to access and file documents electronically, so it is done speedily. Therefore they are accessible to you wherever. Less paper and in line with the period we are in less paper, printing paper costs money.
- Aspirant Judges training program, allows those that want to become judges in the profession to go through a training programme, and when they need to select judges they then optimally take from those that have been trained, because you know what the aptitude is and you can quickly then streamline them into the process, already we have some judges who went through this process they are doing quite well.

These reforms have been implemented since 2016 and have provided a marked improvement in the speed at which the wheels of justice turn. We boast a 96% delivery rate of judgments in the same year as the case was heard.

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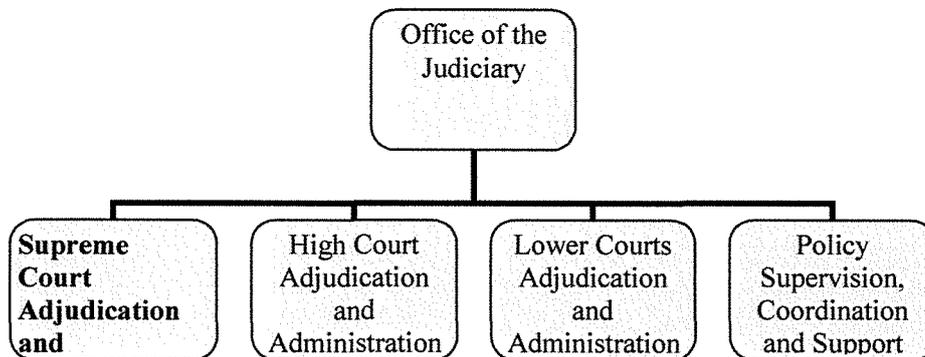
Attack on Judges

In recent weeks there has been an alarming increase in the verbally violent attacks against judges that are fulfilling their mandate to their best ability. I will deliver a separate Ministerial statement in due course to speak more fully to the issues which such attacks raise. Making unfounded, defamatory statements against a judge goes to the heart of the rule of law, judicial independence and the consolidation of democracy to which we all strive. Such senseless speech must come to an immediate end.

Having set out the highlights of the past financial year and having addressed some of the issues faced by the Office of the Judiciary, I now turn to motivate Vote 21 per activity.

Motivation

For the 2018/19 financial year, the Office of the Judiciary is requesting a total of Supreme Court Adjudication and Administration N\$366 348 000 (Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Million, Three Hundred and Forty-Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars) to fund four Programs as I will present to you



It must, however, be noted that the proposed budget for the 2018/2019 financial year reveals a decrease of N\$ 32 620 000.00 (Thirty-Two Million, Six Hundred and Twenty Thousand Namibia Dollars) to that of 2016/17. (8.9 % decrease)

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It is now my pleasure to present the proposed programme allocations for the proposed Budget allocation for the Office of the Judiciary in accordance with the programmes outlined in the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)

Programme 01 – Supreme Court Adjudication and Administration

The primary objective of this Programme is to provide accessible, quality and timeous administration of justice in the Supreme Court, the Apex Court of the land. The allocated funds will be utilised to improve the court system by rendering the necessary judicial and administrative support to the Court in its adjudication of matters before it.

The function of the Supreme Court cannot be under stated. The Chief Justice and the Supreme Court Judges preside over the general tenor of the jurisprudence of this country. They have delivered a sterling service to this Republic since Independence, and they deserve our commendation.

Programme 02 – High Court Adjudication and Administration

This Program has been allocated an amount of N\$ 81 977 050.00 (**Eighty One Million, Nine Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand and Fifty Namibia Dollars**)

The Program is aimed providing accessible, quality and timeous administration of justice in the High Court.

The funds allocated to this programme as it is with the Supreme Court, are expected to be used to improve the court system by rendering the necessary judicial and administrative support to the Court.

32. The High Court, as is known, is the first point of appeal from the Magistracy and it is really inundated with a heavy case load. Efforts will be made to investigate

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the increase of jurisdiction in the Magistrates Courts, from the N\$ 25 000.00 monetary limit, to for instance, N\$ 50 000.00 or N\$ 70 000.00, so that more matters are resolved at the Magistracy and there is no need for their elevation to the High Court.

Currently as you are aware, magistrates are what you call creatures of Statute. The Act says they cannot hear a matter of over N\$25000 and they are limited, the anomaly is for instance the community court can hear a matter worth 700 cattle which will be more but that Court appeals to the Magistrates Court.

Programme 03 – Lower Courts Adjudication and Administration

This Program has been allocated an amount of N\$ 181 656 147.00 (**One Hundred and Eighty-One Million, Six Hundred and Fifty-Six Thousand, One Hundred and Forty-Seven Namibia Dollars**)

This Program has been allocated the bulk of the budget because of the size of the staff and judicial establishment and the number of activities the busiest courts in the country are required to carry out. The magistrates, staff of the magistracy, both at the district and regional courts, are the backbone for the judiciary in this country. These are the unsung heroes of today who work all over the country, far from their homes in most cases, and have made their posted stations their new homes. To you I say, keep it up. I know that your accommodation, your offices - are far from conducive in most cases, yet you continue, day in and day out, to render your service. What more can Namibia ask from you.

Therefore, this sought allocation of funds will be utilised to improve the Court system through effective and efficient administration of justice in all magistrates' courts in the country. As well, some of these funds will also be utilised in conducting judicial inquiries across the country.

Programme 04 – Policy Supervision, Coordination and Support Services

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Please order, it does not necessarily mean that you are playing NBC now. Please you have the Floor. NBC has just been installed, proceed please.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: This Program has been allocated an amount of N\$ 81 823 885.00 (**Eighty One Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight Five Namibia Dollars**).

This Program forms part of the key mandate of the Office of the Judiciary and it is aimed at creating a conducive environment within which the within constitutional mandate of the Office of the Judiciary is fulfilled. The funds allocated to this Program will be utilised to facilitate the process of addressing infrastructural challenges (*e.g.* court rooms. I want to single out the Ondangwa District and Regional Court. If you understand migrant labour, the Regional Court is being conducted in the old Offices where cheap labour used to be acquired, and the scale is even outside, you pass it when you go to the Court, the so called (*Indistinct*) ITC needs and staff housing) appointment of staff members, training of judicial officers and support staff. These funds will also be used to monitor the norms and standards for the exercise of the judicial functions of all Courts in the country.

Conclusion

I conclude by remarking that learning to work more effectively within the constraints of Government budget rules and procedures is often a frustrating, but necessary, experience for those managing and reforming judicial systems. Many of these frustrations can be traced to the vexed issues of judicial remuneration levels, the necessity for certain time-consuming legal processes, and the frequent requirement of expanded or much-improved court facilities.

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I assure you that the Budget allocation for Vote 21 is expended meticulously on realising the dream of access to justice for all. The rule of law, and the effectiveness with which it is administered, is one of the keys to social and economic progress. I am oft quoted saying, "strangle the judiciary and institutions concomitant to it, and you can bring an end to this project we have embarked upon, democracy in Namibia."

Whilst I appreciate the financial constraints, there is a limit to how far you can stretch an elastic band - it is called elastic limit. Please consider some of these Votes with careful reflection because no one would want to approach the Courts and find them closed due to want of funds to operate efficiently.

We therefore thank the Chief Justice, the Deputy-Chief Justice, the Deputy Judge President, the Magistrates, the Permanent Secretary, as well as the Registry staff, for their efforts in keeping our judicial system running, and not only running, but at a pace where some of our neighbours have commented with approval and seek to emulate from our ingenuity. Our judges are invited to sit on the highest benches of our neighbouring countries. This is a testament to the confidence and integrity with which this justice system is being administered. I therefore salute our Judiciary.

I now seek the indulgence of the House to approve the allocation of N\$ 366 348 000.00 (**Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Million, Three Hundred and Forty-Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars**) for Vote 21

I see that my speech is being distributed, on top there is a statement to be checked against delivery. Please it means something. What I have skipped I have skipped deliberately I am coming with the Ministerial Statement on that issue because it is a serious issue.

I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, very brief indeed.

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HON ESAU

The next is Vote 22, - “**FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES**” - **NS258,606,000** for the introduction by the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE REESOURCES:
Thank you very much Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members

Before I deliver the Budget address for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, allow me also first to observe that today is the 58th Birthday Anniversary of our Ruling Party SWAPO Party. I take this opportunity on my behalf, and on behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to wish the SWAPO Party, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, and President of the SWAPO Party, the Politburo of the SWAPO Party, the Central Committee of SWAPO Party and all SWAPO Party structures and indeed all Namibians a happy 58th Birthday.

Long live SWAPO Long live Namibia. *(Applause)*

Having said that I am delighted to stand before this Honourable House to seek approval of the Budget for Vote 22, Fisheries and Marine Resources, the amount which I seek approval from the House totals **NS258,606,000** for the Financial Year 2018/2019.

This amount will be used by the Ministry to execute its mandate to conserve the marine aqua system and ensure thee responsible utilisation, conservation, protection and promotion of our marine and fresh water resources on a sustainable basis and promote the production of aqua culture.

The allocation of the budget takes into account the current economic challenges faced by Namibia as a country, and the Ministry is required to be prudent in its Budget execution activities.

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HON ESAU

Honorable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honorable Members,

Allow me to state, right at the beginning of my speech that our fishery sector is strong and vibrant. The stocks of our six commercial species which are regulated through total allowable catch (TAC) namely horse mackerel, hake, monk, red crab, rock lobster, and seals; which collectively represent about 97% of total catch, remain healthy

I addressed the fishing industry on 16th February 2018, a platform where all stakeholders gather to discuss and share pertinent issues affecting the sector on areas of concern and plan for the year ahead. I am therefore glad to report to the House that the fishing industry reported a positive performance in 2017/18. During this period, the total allowable catches (TAC) for various fisheries was 507,276MT compared to 521,714MT in 2016/17, representing a marginal decrease of about 3%. The total landings for 2016/17 were 501,613MT. This fish and fishery product is valued at about N\$ 10 billion, making fisheries the second largest forex earner for Namibia, after Mining.

I am delighted to inform this August house that ecolabelling process for our hake fisheries through Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), which I announced in 2017, is progressing well, and is expected to be completed in the next 18 months. We remain confident that our sound management measures on this fishery, which are based on international best practices, will be affirmed during this ecolabelling process, and that our hake will benefit from the anticipated increased market access arising from this certification.

I would like to stress that the Ministry will continue to lay special emphasis on employment and broad base participation in the fisheries sector. This focus is in line with our National Development Plan (NDP5) and Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) and is underpinned by Government policy aspiration to enhance distribution of fisheries wealth to all Namibians.

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Employment, together with resource rent such as taxes, levies and fees; and corporate social responsibility (CSR), are important tools in this policy objective. As already indicated in the Scorecard, the Ministry will be evaluating the number of Namibian jobs per MT quota allocated, and the quality of such jobs. For each tonne that we allocate fishing rights to a company, we will see how many jobs we are getting out of a tonne of fish.

Honorable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honorable Members,

Before I motivate for Vote 22 Budget, allow me to state that the Ministry estimates to collect at least **N\$ 360 million** as quota fees annually, which is paid to state revenue. This figure excludes income taxes that the companies are paying, levies and other fees paid by the fishing industry. The Budget allocated to Vote 22 during 2018/19 (**N\$ 258,606,000.00**) is therefore at most 72% of what the Ministry directly contributes annually to Treasury. I just want you to compare that to what we are mobilising from resources. Is therefore at most 72% of what the Ministry directly contributes annually to the treasury.

Allow me to motivate how the Budget will be utilised to implement the programs of the Ministry. Out of the total of **N\$ 258,606,000.00** allocated to Vote 22, an amount of **N\$229,247,000.00** is operational Budget, while **N\$ 29,359,000** is earmarked for development Budget.

In this Budget, personnel expenditure constitutes **72.3%** (**N\$165,904,000.00**) of the operational budget, while operational activities constitute **27.7%** (**N\$ 63,343,000.00**) There is therefore a 22.1 % decrease in funds earmarked for operational activities, when compared to 2017/2018 Budget.

This decrease in operational budget presents a challenge to the Ministry's ability to carry out mandatory activities such as stock assessment, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) for our EEZ and inland waters, and will also affect operations at our aquaculture facilities.

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The development Budget constitutes **11.3% (N\$29, 359,000.00)** of the annual appropriation.

The allocated amounts are proposed to be utilised as follows.

2.0 Programs:

2.1 Program 1: Survey and Stock Assessment

The key role of this program is to conduct research in order to assess the status of the commercially exploited marine resources, as well as the marine environment in order to provide scientific advice on the sustainable harvest levels and relevant management measures annually. The Ministry requires sufficient funding to defray costs associated with research, such as operation of research vessels, laboratories and personnel costs.

Honorable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honorable Members,

Eight biomass surveys were conducted during the 2017/18 financial year to estimate stock sizes, distribution and biology of all commercially exploited marine fish species, namely hake, monk, horse mackerel, sardine, crab, rock lobster and, orange roughy and seals. In addition, twelve short surveys were carried out to monitor the marine environment and ecosystem. Results from these surveys indicated that most of the commercially important fish stocks were in a good state, except for the pilchard stock which still needs to recover to a sustainable level. As per standard research procedures, these surveys will be repeated in 2018/2019 fishing seasons

The Ministry shall make use of its two research vessels, the RV Mirabilis and RV !Anichab, to conduct these surveys. The new multidisciplinary research vessel, RV Mirabilis, will undergo its biannual routine maintenance in June 2018. Consequently, funds are required for the running, maintenance and repairs of these vessels

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Honorable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honorable Members;

To fulfill responsibilities under this program, the Ministry requests N\$ **54,833,000.00** for the 2018/19 financial year.

2.2 Program 2: Human Resources Development

This program is aimed at equipping staff members with different skills and abilities, through training and development programs in various fields at all levels in the Ministry

Honorable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honorable Members,

During 2017/ 18 financial year, the Ministry administered seven bursaries and scholarships in fields such as administration, research and aquaculture production. Due to Budget cuts, and in line with MTEF targets, limited resources are allocated to staff training in 2018/19.

In order to fulfill our responsibility under this program, an amount of N\$ **425, 000.00** is requested for the 2018/19 financial year, as reflected in 027-7 others under Main Division 02 – Administration.

2.3 Programme 3: Marine and Inland Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)

The purpose of this program is to ensure that fishing and fisheries related activities within Namibia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and inland waters comply with our fisheries legislation.

I would like to acknowledge that 2017 was a challenging year with regard to implementation of Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures, due to budget constraints being experienced across the entire Government. This has resulted in about 65% reduction in patrols and related operations, when compared to 2016 levels.

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We have a challenge with reported Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in our northern maritime border with Angola. This situation needs to be urgently addressed in 2018, as it is unacceptable. In this regard, I am happy to report that there is a coordinated Government and inter-Governmental approach to address this matter urgently, and resources are being mobilised to this effect. Those involved will soon face the full force of the Law.

At this point I just want to share with the Honourable House that, one of our inspectors in fact was killed while patrolling the rivers along the Zambezi and Zambia Namibian borders, by illegal fisherman. May his soul rest in peace. I think this is a very sad situation, whereas we are trying to take control, the other illegal fisherman, but I also have to compliment our police officers as well as the Zambian police officers who in fact reacted promptly to reprimand or capture those culprits, I understand they are behind bars now, but this is a very sad situation. You can see what we are facing in this industry

We have also noted IUU fishing activities in our rivers involving use of illegal (undersize) nets, particularly in the Kavango and Zambezi rivers. In the 2017/2018 financial year, the Ministry conducted patrols of coast, rivers and inland bodies, and issued fines for violations detected

In line with our objective to strengthen MCS Monitor Control and Surveillance activities, Namibia acceded to the UN Ports States Measures Agreement (PSMA) and deposited its instruments with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Director General on 18 July 2017. The Ministry plans to exchange information, through this Agreement, with neighboring countries in order to further assist in the control, entry and denial into our ports of IUU or foreign vessels. This will help to prevent illegally caught fish from entering international markets through any ports in the SADC region.

Honorable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honorable Members

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HON ESAU

To fulfil our mandate under this program, we request **NS97, 198, 000.00** for 2018/2019 financial year, very little. This amount is inclusive of **NS 56, 151,000.00** for personnel costs and **NS 15,465,000.00** for one capital project, namely for construction of Kavango East Regional Office.

The Operational Budget also includes transfers to State-Owned Enterprises, namely Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI) which will receive **NS 6,512,000.00**, and **NS5,537, 000.00** which will be transferred to the Luderitz Waterfront Development Company (LWDC) as part of our commitment to that project

2.4 Programme 4 - Promotion of Marine & inland Aquaculture

The purpose of this program is to ensure responsible and sustainable utilization of inland fisheries resources and sustainable development of aquaculture, to Increase Income generation, enhance food security, reduce poverty, create employment, improve rural livelihood at household levels, and increase investment.

Under this program, 5 hatcheries produce fingerlings for small scale farmers, cooperatives and Ministry fish farms.

The hatcheries are located at the following aquaculture centres:

- Hardap Inland Aquaculture Centre (HIAC),
- Omahenene/Onavivi
- (Onavivi IAC),
- Inland Aquaculture Centre
- Ongwediva Inland Aquaculture Centre (OIAC),
- GI Karrutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute (KIFI)and

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HON ESAU

- Zambezi Inland Aquaculture Centre.

During 2017/18, funds allocated to these centres were utilised for various activities such as research, fingerling and fish production, training and extension services. A total of small fish farmers received 72,817 tilapia and catfish fingerlings. It is important that these hatcheries and fish farms are maintained and used optimally.

During 2017/18, the Ministry completed construction of Leonardville fish farm in Omaheke Region, which has a capacity of producing about 4 tonnes of fish per month under optimum conditions, for farmers' capacity building purposes. This is just a demonstration farm, you go there, you send your workers, they get empowered through training and then they go and start their own fish farms, that is why the tonnages of fish is not that high, just a small one to showcase what you can do in with farming fish.

The sustainable utilisation of Inland Fisheries resources is a priority for the Ministry. Inland Fisheries resources (rivers, lakes, dams) continue to support food security of riparian communities by providing protein at household levels. However, there are indications that our Inland Fisheries stocks are declining.

In our effort to strengthen Inland Fisheries management, the Ministry will continue to monitor fish catches, biological diversity and health of these resources. In this regard, the Ministry held consultations with Traditional Authorities, Regional Councils, Community Conservancies along the Zambezi and Kavango Rivers to discuss fisheries protected areas and closed seasons. The Ministry intends to empower riparian communities to manage their own fisheries resources on a sustainable basis.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honorable Members

The Ministry is keen to improve control on SPS (Sanitary, Phytosanitary Standards) in Mariculture, to facilitate market access of mariculture products to lucrative overseas markets. In this regard, the Ministry is

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developing Namibian Molluscan Shellfish Sanitation, Monitoring and Control Regulations, with the assistance of FAO through a project of the African Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF). This regulation should be gazetted this year.

Shell Fish production was about 448 metric tons in 2017/18. Most of the oysters were exported to East Asian and South African markets. Hatcheries at Swakopmund and Luderitz now produce oyster and abalone spat for the Namibian aquaculture producers. The production of local shellfish spat is critical from a bio-security point of view since it minimizes the risk of diseases from other sources.

Honorable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honorable Members,

In order to carry out activities under this program, an amount of N\$ 39, 513,000.00 is required to fulfil our mandate during the 2018/2019 financial year. This amount includes N\$ 3,250,000.00 for capital projects at Leonardville in the Omaheke Region, and Fonteintjie at Keetmanshoop in //Karas Region.

2.5 Programme 05 - Policy and Economic Advice

The main purpose of the program is to advise the Ministry on socio-economic outlook and performance of the fishing industry and also to analyse socio-economic impact of allocated total allowable catches (TAC) in the fishing industry.

I would like to inform the August house that by 31st December 2018, there will be 106 (one hundred and six) fishing rights which will have attained 20 years since their first date of issue, and a further 7 rights which will attain this period in 2019. In line with our Laws and Government Policies on this matter, I have communicated to all affected right holders that these rights have now terminated or will be terminating, having attained the maximum 20-year period. These expiring rights are spread across all the sub-sectors of our marine fisheries.

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This 20-year condition is not new, it has been Government Policy in our marine fisheries for many years, and all right holders are well aware of this fact. **20 years means exactly that, 20 years.** In line with provisions in the *Marine Resources Act, 2000*, I will be inviting all interested Namibians, including those whose rights have terminated, to apply for new fishing rights during the course of this financial year.

The Ministry has finalised the development of a **Scorecard** to evaluate the performance of right holders and hence determine the amount of fishing quotas to be allocated to each right holder, which is now before Cabinet. You must first have the right, apply on invitation (*Interjection*) on invitation, the invitation is coming, it is public, everybody will know. (*Laughter*) This **Scorecard** is based on eight (8) criteria as per the *Marine Resources Act, 2000*. The Scorecard will be implemented during the course of this financial year.

The Strategic Plan for the next five years (2017-2022) has been developed in the last financial year. This plan will be used to direct the Ministry's overall strategic priorities, operational management plans and activities. The plan has been developed with key contributions from our stakeholders, particular the fishing industry, line Ministries whose mandate affect fisheries and development partners.

The Ministry, in line with NDP5, is developing a Blue Economy governance and management system that sustainably maximizes economic benefits from marine resources and ensures equitable marine wealth distribution to all Namibians.

In partnership with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, the Ministry has identified functions and activities to be decentralised. To this effect, consultations has taken place in all fourteen regions with respective Regional Councils.

The Ministry has finalised review of resource rent levels and has gazetted new levies and fees on marine resources, which include quota fees, marine resources fund levies, and by-catch fees. The combined total of these fees

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and levies is set at a minimum of 5.1 % of the landed value in N\$/kg, of our marine resources. The review of these fees was aimed at increasing State Revenue, and ensuring that operational activities at the Ministry, which are essential for facilitating fishing and related activities are sustainably managed.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

In order to carry out activities under this program an amount of N\$ 18,921,000.00 is requested during 2018/2019 financial year. The amount includes the personnel expenditure which is N\$16,905,000 (89.3%) whilst N\$2,016,000 (10.6%) will be utilised for operational activities

2.6 Program 0 6 - Policy Coordination and Support Services

The purpose of this program is to provide administrative support to Vote 22 and ensure proper financial management, human resource management, provision of information technology services, and maintenance of infrastructure. This program also manages budget execution, maintenance of ministerial fleet and procurement

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

An amount of **N\$44,844,000.00** is requested in order to undertake activities under this program. This amount includes **N\$10,644,000.00** for finalisation of extension and renovation of the ministerial head Office.

3.0 Conclusion

In Conclusion, **Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honorable Members,**

Having taken such a long time to motivate, allow me to submit to this august House, the Budget for Vote 22: Fisheries and Marine Resources for

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HON NUJOMA

2018/ 19, to the value of **NS258,606,000.00**, for your consideration and approval

I submit and I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you, well-motivated. We are now going to the last Vote for motivation.

That is Vote 25 - “**LAND REFORM**” - **NS476,186,000** for the introduction by Honourable Minister of Land Reform. Honourable Minister you may take the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members before I start with my motivation I would like to make use of this opportunity to congratulate our Mighty SWAPO Party for attaining 58 years of mature leadership, tenacious fighting and I would also like to use this occasion to pay tribute to the gallant fighters of the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) for achieving the total liberation of Namibia, 100% liberation of this country. (*Applause*) Every inch we pay tribute to those gallant fighters.

I rise before this august House with a deep sense of appreciation to introduce Vote 25 for the Ministry of Land Reform for the 2018/2019 Financial Year and to seek your support and approval.

To start with I believe it is important to highlight and acknowledge the significant contribution made by the Ministry towards the realisation of the Ministry’s mandate in various areas of responsibilities.

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The Ministry's operations are premised on Government policy directors that are supported by robust legal framework guided by several documents such as Vision 2030, National Development Plans, Five Years Strategic Plan and Annual Plans.

All these documents have been aligned towards a collective goal whose objective is to keep all levels of Government accountable to the Namibian people to ensure timely service delivery and in extension of development of our nation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

The Ministry of Land Reform has set itself Ministerial Targets to achieve the following:

- 5 million hectares of agricultural (commercial) land to be acquired by 2020 under the National Resettlement Programme;
- 5 million hectares of land in communal areas developed into Small Scale Commercial Farming Units by 2020;

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members

While tabling this motivation for Vote 25, the Ministry acknowledges the various initiatives embodied within the Fourth National Development Plan [NDP5] that are earmarked to address the socio-economic development of our country through improved project implementation and the targeted efforts to mitigate the challenges of unemployment. The Ministry's four key programmes are premised on the national understanding of the need to create employment opportunities, the reduction of inequality in the distribution of economic benefits and to contribute towards sustained economic growth.

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HON NUJOMA

Having said the above, I now have the pleasure to present the 2018/2019 Budget for the Ministry of Land Reform, together with the highlights of achievements during the 2017/2018 Financial Year. The 2018/2019 Budget as expressed in its Medium Term Plan will focus on four key programmes namely

Programme 01 - Land Reform Programme

The Land Reform Programme especially the acquisition and access to land is part of the Ministry's core mandate, and therefore during the previous Financial Year. Despite financial constraints eleven (11) farms measuring **44.952.5177** hectares were acquired. These farms were acquired at a total cost of **NS112,618,857.75**. Two (2) other farms with a combined extent of 9426.7128 are pending purchase at the cost of **NS18,394,666.17**.

Under the Resettlement programme, the Ministry resettled twenty eight (28) farmers of which 15 are males and 13 females. It should be noted that these numbers fall short of the demand for land which is still significantly high and keeps escalating. I also want to inform this August House that the **NS120,000,000.00** budgeted for the Land Purchase Sub-Programme will more or less bring in the same results in the current Financial Year unless more consideration is done in the subsequent MTEF periods, we should not expect tremendous numbers of farms to be acquired for resettlement.

a) Water infrastructure development and rehabilitation

Regarding water infrastructure, at least 286,000 hectares of land has been developed with 857 km of fencing, 20 multi-purpose kraals constructed, 30 new boreholes drilled, 35 boreholes rehabilitated, and 98 kilometres of water pipelines installed in Kavango East, Kavango West, Ohangwena, Omusati and Zambezi Regions. This infrastructural development will benefit 7,800 farming households thus bringing communities in touch with real benefits. Infrastructure development in other regions such as Otjozondjupa and Omaheke is expected to commence in the next Financial Year.

Valuation, Property Taxation and Estate Management

The main valuation roll for 2012 was approved, by the Valuation Court in November 2016. As a result of the approval, the Ministry revised the rates of land tax downwards in response to the increase in the land values. Had the current rate been maintained, this would have led to high land tax being paid by the landowners. However, some farmers have appealed to the High Court against the decision of the valuation court to approve the 2012 valuation roll. The matter is still pending in the High Court. In the meantime, the Ministry has issued the 2016/2017 land tax assessments based on the 2012 valuation roll.

Following the issuance of the land tax assessments, some farmers applied to the High Court on an urgent basis to stop the issuance of the assessments. The High Court in its decision of 21 February 2018 granted the applicants the interdict. The consequences of the interdict are that no commercial agricultural farmland transactions can take place until the interdict is lifted or the main review case is disposed of. Notwithstanding the interdict, the Ministry is urgently engaged with stakeholders to find a solution to the effects of the interdict. Furthermore, the Ministry is in the process of preparing the 2017/2022 Valuation Roll which will be displayed for viewing during the second quarter of 2018/2019 Financial Year. In the last Financial Year (April 2016 - March 2017) an amount of **NS\$20,828,627.00** was collected in the form of Land Tax

Programme 2: Security of Tenure

Tenure reform to enhance security in communal areas through the registration of land rights is on-going. In this respect, **177,593** communal land rights were mapped and digitised representing 90% out of the **196,000** communal land rights rationally that can be registered. A total of **116,220** Customary Land Rights have been registered, presenting 65% of the communal land rights currently digitised and **01,432** certificates were issued countrywide. Upon completion, this programme will improve the livelihoods of over **500,000** Namibian citizens. They at least will have

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HON NUJOMA

their security of tenure and they can approach financial institutions if they want to develop their land.

Enhancing tenure security under the National Resettlement programme is on-going. To date the number of Lease Agreements signed between Government and the resettlement beneficiaries has increased to 61, Otjozondjupa - 16, //Kharas - 19, tunene - 9, Erongo - 4, Oshikoto -7, Khomas -1 and Hardap - 5. , in line with the quest to improve and contribute to the ease of doing business in Namibia, during the previous Financial Year, a total of **21,894** Deeds and **3,776** sectional Titles were registered, and through these processes, **NS\$2,532,182.20** was collected regarding revenue. Further to this, the project to computerise property registration is on-going, and so far a total of 44,898 Deeds documents have been digitised. In line with the quest to improve and contribute to the ease of doing business in Namibia, during the previous Financial Year, a total of **21,894** deeds and **3,776** Sectional Titles were registered, and through these processes, **NS\$2,532,182.20** was collected as revenue. Further to this, the project to computerise property registration is on-going, and so far a total of **44,898** Deeds documents have been digitised.

Programme 03 - National Spatial Data Infrastructure and Establishment of Fundamental Datasets

The Ministry of Land Reform has also managed to capture and vectorise all Map Sheets of the project areas, namely the **Kavango East, Kavango West and Otjozondjupa Regions** where Topographic Datasets were required. The scales were based on the 1:10 000; 1:50 000 and 1:250 000 base scales and these are waiting for cartographic production. The Quality control of the 1:50000 Map Sheets in the revision of the Erongo Region Topographic Datasets have been finalised and are waiting for the capturing of new satellite data and its approval. Two-Hundred and Eighty-Seven (**287**) Survey Diagrams, Sixty-One (**61**) General Plans, Sixty (**60**) Sectional Title Schemes and Twenty (**20**) Lease Areas of Resettlement surveys have been approved.

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HON NUJOMA

Programme 04 - Policy, Supervision and Support Services

The purpose of this programme is to provide support to the entire Land Reform and Resettlement Programme. The main focus is to supervise and coordinate the Ministry's activities and operations which include; the development, application, interpretation, implementation, execution and formulation of relevant policies by legislative requirements and national objectives. This programme is also provided for the development of the monitoring and evaluation system that enables us to provide regular and timely update to the National Planning Commission on capital projects.

The Ministry has been allocated **NS\$24,500,000.00** for the construction, renovation, and documentation of Ministerial Regional Offices during the current MTEF period.

Though Government is confronted with multi challenges in addressing the plight our people, I hope that a sustainable solution will be sought soonest to respond to the ever-growing land demand

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

I would like to inform you that as per the Directives from His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia, the National Land Conference, rich was postponed last year, will take place this year, under the auspices of the Prime Minister. To ensure inclusivity, a High-Level Committee Chaired by the line minister and comprised of Ministerial and Civil Society, will be established.

Extensive consultation, as undertaken last year by the Ministry, will be supplemented with inputs from subject matter experts and other important stakeholders who were not included in the first round of consultations. The Ministry of Land Reform jointly with the key stakeholders are tirelessly working in preparation for this long-awaited 2nd National land Conference

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HON IPINGE-NAKALE

Furthermore, the Government through the Ministry of Land Reform will undertake a Special Programme which is the repatriation of the Batswana's of the Namibian descent. The repatriations is a voluntary exercise and involve the assistance and support to those descendants of Namibia currently staying in Botswana as a result of the cruel German Colonial genocide perpetuated over our communities who would like to be repatriated to the country. The first phase of the exercise will involve the identifications of would be repatriated, the establishment of reception centres and handling facilities of both humans and their animals plus the identification of suitable land for this purpose

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge and re-emphasise the crucial importance of the Land Reform programme to the overall development objectives of our sovereignty. Over the years we have experienced an extremely low budgetary provision in the Ministry's allocation in the previous two consecutive years. During the 2018/2019 Financial Year, the Ministry of Land Reform requires an amount of **NS476,186,000.00** to implement all its four (4) Programmes, though minimal compared to the land demand, I require your support to approve this allocation.

I thank you sincerely. *Merci beaucoup*

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, very brief indeed. Now we will enter into the discussions of the following Votes, 17, 18 and 19.

I put Vote 17 – “**URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**”. Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Nakale.

HON IPINGE-NAKALE: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 17 and to applaud the Minister of

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HON DR ANKAMA

Urban and Rural Development efforts to build and give houses to our people. It is a part of serving our people. Keep up the good work.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable members, secondly, in my view this Ministry of Urban and Rural Development is one of the Ministries supporting children's rights amongst others, the rights to shelter. It is supporting since it is and giving houses to parents and the children are benefitting through their parents. Well done.

Thank you I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Good, thank you Honourable Member. I now recognise Honourable Ankama. Honourable you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Thank you Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee I have got a well first, I support this Vote. I always support it but then I have just got two questions.

Honourable Minister Programme I in particular I see **Rural Development**, yes rural development is good. Maybe there is need for us to understand the relationship between your Vote on this programme with the other stakeholders. Stakeholders could be Ministries, could be other agencies that might provide funds because the money looks very small as far as I am concerned, of course that is not sufficient and nowhere can fund.

The thing is looking at the general responsibilities of Regional Councils and Local Authority Councils, you expect them to do a bit more because the original idea was to make sure that for example constituencies have got network in terms of rural road networks from one constituency to the next, clinics perhaps, growth centres within constituencies so to say, but

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HON VAN WYK

when you look at it right now and the way we started perhaps I would say that yes that is not really sufficient because it is never sufficient but maybe you need to expand a bit just to give what is really being targeted here that is one.

Two - Last year I spoke about this as well, Eheke, you know Eheke very well and you know Ukwangula and many other places like Onuno or what, I mean these are places that have had infrastructure development long back about 10 years they have got services. Water is there, sewerage is there, road networks are there, power is there but you know these things 10 years is too many. About 10 years maybe 9, 10, 11 years. When you have got these infrastructures within the area there and they are not being utilised definitely something is not good. Money has gone to waste.

What is being done to make sure that people acquire title deeds because the main reason there is that people cannot have title deeds so if they cannot get that, they cannot go to the banks and get the houses built? Now the problem what I have tried to say is what is the problem of declaring or rather maybe towns like Ondangwa, Oshakati, you know taking those areas as part of the extensions that would be much easier I would think? Then you simply, you know give those title deeds as part of the town, that little place, that little settlement and then the construction would start I would think rather than waiting too long until you restart again from page one. So these are my basic questions otherwise I support your vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Member, now I recognise Honourable Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote but I do have a few questions Honourable Minister.

Firstly, Honourable Minister in your motivation on page 2 you talk about programmes that are carried out by other Governments and Non-Governmental Institutions (NGOs) that was page 253 subsidies and other current transfers we are talking about sub national bodies. I would like to find out Honourable Minister the Non-Governmental Institutions referred by you is it the same?

Then also on the same page a notice under sub division 030 **Goods and Other Services** at 027, there are huge increase when it comes to printing and advertisements. What is the reason for the huge increment? On the very same page 027 also a huge increase from N\$10,000,000 last year to N\$32,000,000 this year what is the reason for this huge increase?

Honourable Minister on page 254 we really appreciate the efforts to give some subsidies to **Local Authorities**. We know that in the past subsidies were only given to Village Councils I notice now that in this financial year Town Councils and Municipalities will also receive subsidies. My question is just, Honourable Minister the subsidies is it now for them to pay up the Namwater bills or is it for running expenses, salaries, if we can just get clarity on that?

Honourable Minister also on page 4 of your motivation you mentioned about the **houses built through the Shack Dwellers Federation** and I would like to applaud the Ministry for job well done. I believe that the Shack Dwellers Federation is doing good and I would like to appeal to Government to make more resources available. Also to encourage Local Authorities to make available more land to the Shack Dwellers Federation.

The Build Together Programme is also very good programme and we need to support it.

I however do have a problem with the continued support of the **Mass Housing Programme**. Seeing that across the country we still have a lot of houses unoccupied and reasons given by Local Authorities are that people do not qualify.

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Now if this Mass Housing Programme was to cater for the low and ultra-low income groups, the houses as they stand now on the ground is not accessible to these people so we need to revisit the Mass Housing Programme.

Then on the same page Honourable Minister you are talking about **Local Authorities borrowing money from commercial entities**, I would like to find out Honourable Minister if this is the case or how many Local Authorities are engaged in commercial loans with banks and how do we control the management of loans given or paid through financial institutions, because I believe that when one borrows money you need to invest that money somewhere in order to get it back. I am just afraid that we will go into loans, commit ourselves and then we use that money to pay salaries. We know that in some Local Authorities these things are very common.

Then Honourable Minister I also would like to find out **informal settlement** across the country especially in Windhoek we know the 7 de Laan and 8st de Laan the sanitation problem what we are going to do to attend to this problem.

Then also Honourable Minister if I can just get to the page. You talk about **social grants**. I do not get the page now, but somewhere you are talking about social grants I would like to find out Honourable Minister these social grants what is it for? Is it to support shack dwellers or what is it for?

I notice that there is also let me just get to page 254 under the sub division 044 Support to non-profit organisation, **Association of Local Authorities in Namibia**. Last year provision was made but this year no provision has been made and I believe that ALAN is really playing an important role if you look at the support given to Local Authorities.

Now on page 7 of your motivation Honourable Minister an amount of N\$700,000,000 is given to **Regional Councils** we really appreciate that, but ones again Honourable Minister we know that and we read in the

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newspapers about Regional Councils that are not prepared or they are not capable to account for money that was given to them. What will you do to address the issues of Regional Councils even Local Authorities that are not able to account for money given?

Honourable Minister to conclude I also would like to find out when it comes to the servicing of urban land in 1992 Cabinet resolute that a certain group of people in Rehoboth (*Interjection*) resolved to avail land to a group of people, 26 years thereafter about 476 people got the land. Now the problem is that Honourable Minister some of these people do have the land, they are having houses on the land but the land was never registered while the other more than 3,000 are still waiting. The Local Authority the Rehoboth Town Council always come back saying that there is no Budget.

My question is, Honourable Minister when will the Ministry Budget or Government budget to finalise the implementation of the Rukoro Report because this report is now outstanding for 26 years because of Budget constraints? The Report however said that the land should be given to these people as un-serviced land so I do not know for what reason the Local Authority has decided not to avail serviced land instead of trying to delay the process by having the excuse of not having financial resources. So that is my contribution as I have said I support the Bill.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you now I recognise Honourable Kavetuna.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I actually rise to add my voice to this very important Vote. I always feel that this is a dignifying Vote because it deals with people and their dignity. Allow me to go straight forward to contribute towards this Vote. My contribution will be based on Programme 2.

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I really welcome the amount of more than N\$1,000,000,000 allocated to this programme and the fact that it is talking to the massive servicing of project, land servicing project I know that if this land is serviced it can be categorised, not unlike the current situation where you service land and then you actually make it like a Mass Housing Project that did not really bear so much fruit for the low income earners. After the servicing of land maybe we can categorise our groups as follows and look at resources available and other partners in this arena.

For people in a higher earning category we can give them the land or they can buy the land and get money from the bank or any private funder.

Then the middle income we can look at NHE because they have a category for N\$450,000 to N\$800,000 or something like that.

Then the low earners, the domestic workers people with a monthly income, we can maybe look to strengthen the Build Together Programme, because I believe and I have seen the product especially in Otjiwarongo where Build Together is managed very well, that people can construct good houses with that money. So Build Together is not actually one programme that we can really just desert, it needs to be notified and assisted in order to deliver the product that we want.

Then we have the social housing or the low income housing as we had intended with the Mass Housing Project that did not deliver accordingly. Those ones we can look at the collaboration with the Shack Dwellers Association. They are doing a great job. Their houses are very cheap, they are very spacious, they are quality it does not even go beyond N\$100,000, so why can we not just look at this one rather than bringing somebody who is asking N\$7,000 per square meter to build a house that we call a low income house?

Then the last one I would like to talk about the issue of *sanitation*. Coming from the Ministry of Health and Social Services I think it is very disheartening for us to look at sanitation in the current form, the way that we are looking at provision of sanitation. The VIP latrines of the pit latrines to me it is nothing worse than the bucket system. We should be

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able to look at alternatives that are sustainable, that are very healthy, that are promoting health and that are retaining the eco system of this country. The VIP latrines are none of those. So I would like to request the Ministry if anything comes by to provide sanitation to the people that we should look at sustainable and healthy options, and very important also to mention is that with the middle man in between the provision of toilets to the people it is never going to be cheaper, so let us look at making sure that we have sewers that can service these people and people have flushing toilets in their houses, because even in our own homes we do not want to share toilets, how do you want 15 people to share one toilet in a deserted area? I do not think it is an option let us try to look at this one with a critical eye and give the people the dignity by providing better sanitation.

I thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good, next I acknowledge Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also would like to air my voice in support of this very important Vote with the following comments.

On Programme 02, page 3 for the Minister's motivational speech you talk about the request of N\$1,000,000,000 to develop and provide **housing and basic infrastructure and services**. Then on page 4 you went on to highlight some of the achievements, I think some of the Honourable Members alluded to that in a positive way to say the achievement that has been recorded to date, the combination of efforts from the Government community based organisations, the Shack Dwellers Associated resulted in a building of 4,960 houses that you show as an achievement.

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But Honourable Minister let me add another statistics to this for me to really gauge whether that is an achievement or not.

The housing backlog in Namibia is anticipated to be in the vicinity of N\$300,000 and if that is a figure to go by obviously it is also a moving target because people are coming on board. It would take Namibia sixty (60) years to wipe out the backlog on a rate of 4,960 units per annum or you and I even some of the young colleagues of Parliament will not be here after sixty years from today, 60, 6 0. I am sure it is only the General who will be around.

Secondly, and that is why I am questioning whether that is really an achievement we can be proud of. Secondly, on the same second paragraph of your motivational speech you talk about a **delivery of serviced land** to the tune of 4,424 units or plots. Now if one extrapolates that and you just take the plots that the President of this country has offered to Job Amupanda them of 200,000, it will take Namibia 45 years to only satisfy the demand by Job Amupanda them. That again is not an achievement. It calls for a structural review of the way we do things.

I am glad that Honourable Kavetuna has made the comments which she has just made. Let us look at the Shack Dwellers Association and empower them with additional resources because the last time the Honourable Minister was talking about only providing N\$1,000,000 to the Shack Dwellers Association. I can assure you that if you provide N\$10,000,000 to the Shack Dwellers Association the number of units that will be delivered to Namibia for the people that actually need the services of Government because that is also another issue. Government needs to play in the N\$500,000 range that there is no need for Government to play in those ranges those are the people who can afford to go to the banks and get money to buy their own houses. Government needs to play in the Social Housing segment of the housing sector there is no need for Government to play in those higher sectors. If you do that I can assure you that the Shack Dwellers Federation can deliver move units that what we are quoting here today.

Coming to another point I want to address the issue of **decentralisation**. That has been a Government policy to decentralise but I think at the point in time the Government has perhaps changed their minds because now what has been quoted every now and then including straight from the highest office in this country is to say that Namibia is a unitary State therefore do not expect everything to be decentralised. I do not know who was arguing the point that Namibia is not a unitary State, we all knew that Namibia as a unitary State but we adapted the policy of bringing Government closer to the people, but now if you look at the SOAN address the President is talking about E governance to be an instrument to take the Government closer to the people, I do not understand that.

It has been proven Honourable Minister that in terms of service delivery a decentralised structure because of the proximity of that structure to the people, tends to deliver a much faster service than a centralised structure. I think you have to think about the implementation of decentralisation in all earnest.

Now I want to come to the **estimates** and I am starting to have a serious concern about the costs of delivering these books because what is taken up in here is something that are changing at will and I want to demonstrate that by the following. If you look at page 248 of the current estimates of revenue income and expenditure under an account called 'others' and you know that I have a principle problem from an accounting perspective on this account called 'Others'.

2017/2018 in the current book there is an amount of N\$560,739,000 allocated under 'Others'. When I saw that figure it prompted me to go back to the 2017/2018 Estimates of Revenue and Income and Expenditure to look at what was in that account when this Budget was tabled and when the previous Budget was tabled to this august House, and the figure there is N\$35,673,000. Now as much as I have already given my support to the vote the question is do I really know what I am supporting? The figures can change from one book to the other at will, and if you ask questions, these questions are even not been explained.

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Honourable Minister, I want you to itemise this amount for me you do not have to do it now perhaps but I just want you to itemise this amount of N\$560,000,000 that amount has jumped from N\$35,000,000 to N\$560,000,000 in the same Financial Year. The only thing that has changed here is a revised figure, but you do not revise itemised amounts and put it under 'Others', how do you revise a figure and put it under a different account? I do not understand that. If the Honourable Minister does not do that I think I will invoke my power to subpoena you to Public Accounts.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Are you threatening me?

HON KAVEKOTORA: To come and explain how this amount came about. So please Honourable Minister could you please explain those figures so that at the end of the day we can attach certain value to these books. If these books do not bring anything then you might as well just make the Minister to just go and do the things without even having to present these books to us.

Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Very good, yes we proceed. Honourable Kooper.

HON KOOPER: Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members I rise to submit (*Interjections*).

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: General?

HON KOOPER: I rise to submit my unconditional gratitude and appreciation to Honourable Peya Mushelenga, all political office bearers scattered all over Namibia, Traditional Authorities, Administrative Staff and broader public of this Republic who contribute immensely directly and indirectly, in activities of this very important Ministry of Urban and Rural Development to succeed. While I am still on my feet allow me Chairperson to address Honourable Mushelenga directly. As a custodian of rural development (*Interjection*).

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Is not allowed, through the Speaker?

HON KOOPER: Through the Chairperson.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: She said so.

HON KOOPER: Honourable Minister the happening of late and I will talk about **Groot Aub** has ignited a cry among the rural poor since it has a very negative bearing on their plight. This place was all along an unproclaimed settlement harbouring the most poor and vulnerable and it is currently going through a painful and challenging transformation process that calls for immediate attention requiring resolute direction and action to

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remedy the situation. This situation has caused many to lose hope for a better life. I might even be asked on which page it is. The economic status of the community cannot be easily aligned with the status and subsequent liabilities that comes with it and issues like that causes the outstanding amount unbearable among by villagers and Local Authority Councils.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I would not want to be seen as anti-development but I am rather worried about the economic turmoil our people may find themselves in after this well intended status upgrade of this place. I, in no way intent reversing the extension of the borders in corporation and the administration of the City of Windhoek, but plead with you Honourable Minister to slow down the process and address the most inner dynamic of how this transition is managed in a better good of both the State and its people.

We have a perfect example of Uis in the West which may inform how the Ministry can deal with the Groot Aub process. I remain committed to the development of the rural poor, but plead that we create a win/win situation in the best interest of all involved.

I might have used the classic example of Groot Aub in particular but there are communities out there in general with the very same burning issues and therefore humbly submit on their behalf as well. With this kind request I submit my support for Vote 17.

I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Good, I now recognise Honourable Limbo.

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HON LIMBO: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. Mine is going to be very short because I had two questions, one question was asked by Honourable Van Wyk.

Honourable Minister I just have to start by saying I support Vote 17 but at the same time I have some problems. Knowing what is going on in our **Local Authorities** there is a lot to be desired and there is a lot of corruption going on.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Where?

HON LIMBO: In our Local Authorities. Honourable Minister in 2014 there was an investigation done in Katima Mulilo Local Authorities, and to date we have not heard anything, the outcome of this Report.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Of which report?

HON LIMBO: It is on page 7 of the speech.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please continue Honourable.

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HON LIMBO: I just want to know because if in the first place the research, I mean yes the investigation was launched what happened to the outcome, because up to now the people of Katima Mulilo are still complaining the way the plots are handled in that town.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: It is rumours you hear.

HON LIMBO: No it is not rumours. We hear you know similar things (*Intervention*).

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please listen.

HON LIMBO: You hear similar things were (*Interjections*).

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Stop preaching rumours.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please listen Honourable Member. Listen to the Honourable Member.

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HON LIMBO: I know General wants the proof to say (*Intervention*).

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE You are protected Honourable please proceed.

HON LIMBO: But I just want really to appeal to the Minister to avail this Report. We want to know what the findings were so that at the end of the day the communities must know what is going on, because if the Local Authority of Omaruru was dismantled what is wrong with Katima Mulilo? Even in Okahandja we hear lots of things were done. Rehoboth the same, why not in Katima Mulilo because we need to know what is happening?

You hear some of the so called investors are given stakes of land but the locals, even people from other regions it is very hard to get some piece of land there, but the people who come with brown envelopes overnight will get a plot.

So with that Honourable Minister I just want to appeal to you that this information is needed and we are waiting to hear more from you on this report. With that I support your vote.

Thank you so much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you for that brief intervention. Honourable Caley. You are prolonging by disturbing.

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HON CALEY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I rise to support Vote 17 Ministry of Urban and Rural Development.

I want to thank the Minister for the well-crafted statement he presented and motivated in this House. Since other things are already said, my intervention is on **Rural Development and then Decentralisation**. I do not have much to say on Rural Development, but I can quote the Minister on page 2. In his statement he really demonstrated what the Ministry wants to focus on, on the programme of the rural development and I quote, *“Creating opportunities and empowering rural communities to initiate and engage in self-help employment creating an income generating project”*. It is really what we want to see.

If the Ministry can manage to provide this noble support in a coordinate manner with other Ministries and organisations, agencies and then we will see the impact in the rural communities. I want to see a situation where I go to the rural community, when I come back I bring some whether meat, or fruits, or any other food and I call it organic food, which is very health unlike the people in towns we have to take things to the rural communities or rural areas. If we give that support I really want to see a situation that rural areas are supporting people in towns by providing these healthy foods.

Let me focus on decentralisation: Yes we know decentralisation will bring us to a point where we want to see the implementation closer to the people. It is for service delivery. I will start that Education gave a good example, because they are the first people who agreed to delegate their functions to the Regional Councils and it was for a good purpose. Therefore there Regions already at the stage where they are building Regional Parks I said. My appeal is, Honourable Minister to see to it that when they are building these Regional Offices Parks, they must not exclude the Directorate of Education, because they are already part of the management at the Regional Council. There are regions who are already building, but the Directorate is not included. I would like to see that because they are already one team.

Our Committee of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) visited some Regional Councils and we were happy to see that because of decentralisation, most of the Regional Council have access to the ICT system and we applaud them because it is really, in some cases working for good so that you can get your data there, and then you plan there and then you provide the service you want.

I want to mention that there are different systems in the different Regions. When Education pays the people they are using the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS). Regional Councils are using two systems. One is, let me just get the names correct. Most of the regions are using systems such as VIP except Omusati and Ohangwena for a good reason, because of the environmental that it was suitable for them to give the other pay rolls. However, when it comes to other transactions and other issues, whether it is Education or whoever, the capturing they are using the same system which is the PASTEL Evolution. That shows me how important ICT is.

Honourable Minister. In this book the Budget Book on page 258, there is the Main Division **Information Technology** but they stopped budgeting for this Division in 2016/2017 the rest is only zero. It might have happened that, I just wanted clarity from the Minister, maybe it was distributed across the division but I would like to see a situation Honourable Minister that looks at the establishment at the Regional Councils. We have System Administrators and we have IT Technicians, but with the exception of maybe a few only you, will find only two, one is administrator they do not even have a Chief who can supervise and link up with the management and give focus for them to steer the IT system for us to get what we want for decentralisation purposes.

Therefore, I will suggest for this Budget really I see that there is no way. This money, if possible in the new Financial Year I support that we increase it, because there is no way back with ICT and now when we listen to the people are saying the Regional Council staff is few. I will give an example of Education which I am familiar with. However, as Ministries delegate some functions to the Regional Councils, even the

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systems becomes small and these people in the IT need training as you know you need to upgrade as we are moving forward. There is no turning back we have to just go forward. Education, is having one technician to maintain the Regional Office computer, inspectors, circuit inspector, library, I am not talking about school, and at the schools who are having computer labs when they are writing exams, every computer must be serviced.

Let me not make the story long, I want to conclude by saying really let us support the Vote Urban and Rural Development. It is to benefit all of us and also for service delivery for our nation.

Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good now we have Honourable Kavita.

HON KAVITA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to support Vote 17 of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. We all know that housing is a difficult project to address all over the world, but on page 5 of the Minister's speech he mentioned about the different housing projects like Shack Dwellers, Mass Housing and others, but I omit to see the Build Together Project in that speech of the Minister.

Comrade Minister Build Together is one of the oldest housing projects in Namibia. It helped many poor people men and women of this country. Build Together Project is also one of the cheapest and affordable projects in Namibia, because even a Taxi driver, even a domestic worker, everybody, any low earning person can afford it, but if we really omit or maybe it is because of the financial situation we cannot afford it, I want to

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hear it from the Minister that what has the Minister in mind really to try to bring this promise because it helps poor people.

The other thing also that I want to mention except the Build Together Project is that, we have a dispute in the Traditional Authorities all over the country. Some Traditional Authorities you find two leaders in one Traditional head of authority so what is in the Minister's mind? Where is the difficulty that you cannot really solve these problems?

Comrade Minister I just also want to applaud your Deputy Minister and all your staffs that really try their level best to do what is supposed to be done in this country. With this I support Vote 17.

I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Now I recognise Honourable Murorua.

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to state that I am in support of this Vote, Vote 17, but before I go in allow me to, on behalf of Justice Garoeb, the founding President of our Party, and also the current leadership of our Party to congratulate the SWAPO Party for its 58th birthday. (*Applause*) I am stating this for you to remember, who it was that was carrying you here in Namibia during the difficult days (*Interjection*) you were not there, not even born (*Laughter*) so keep quiet.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, as I said I am in support of this Vote but I would like to know two things only and that is on page 253, 254 of the Estimates of Revenue Income and Expenditure, you are making provision for the compensation for **loss of communal land**. Loss of communal land compensation.

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Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House, the general understanding that we are having is compensation for infrastructure that the person has put up in communal land, but compensation for the loss of communal land is very much confusing. Who is compensated, and in which way is it being done if it is for land. It is not for infrastructure that it has been put up. We know of many developments that are taking place in communal areas, but I have never heard of traditional communities or Traditional Leaders that are compensated for the land that they have been utilising for grazing or for whatever purposes.

Secondly, Honourable Minister on page 262 under Main Division Line of Governors, the establishment makes provision, has been approved for 112 staff members and field positions at present are 95, but the funding is beyond the establishment and it is 140. In fact if you calculate carefully it is 45 staff members more than what the establishment provides for. Now Honourable Minister I would like to remind you that the Honourable Minister of Finance in his motivation stated categorically on page 6 paragraph 14,

“To store growth in and eventually reduce public debt we should bear testimony to consistent implementation of a fiscal consolidation programme going forward, and to achieve this objective we must contain growth in non-core spending, raise revenue, effectively manage historical cost drivers and hasten to implement enabling structural reforms. This is particularly in regard to the Public Wage Bill now standing at 50% of total revenue and 16% of GDP.”

Thirdly, the Minister is again stating on page 10 that under policy structural policy reforms bullet number 5, that the **Public Wage Bill** should be managed more effectively with specific Wage Bill reduction target ratios set for realisation over the MTEF period. Now if the Minister is so profoundly in no uncertain terms expressing himself on this issue, why do you as a Minister continue to go beyond the establishment and make funding for N\$140,000,000, while there is only a possibility for N\$112,000,000?

Is it that you do not take regard of the warnings that the Minister is giving us, or do you not really realise that our Government and the entire Namibia is trying to come out of the economic crisis that we are having as a nation that you are continuing to do this? Why should we continue and really approve such should I call them, misconducts?

I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Good, next is Honourable //Gowases.

HON //GOWASES: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My intervention is on page 3 Programme 02 of the motivation speech of the Minister Dr Mushelenga. Thank you for the well informative speech.

Year after year funds are budgeted for to service land in our towns, yet majority of our citizens have no access to land that they can call their own. Municipalities speculate with land. Plots which were serviced for years have not reached the population. Land becomes too expensive for the poor unemployed people to buy. The rich buy the plots intended for the poor, and develop them to unaffordable units. Land prices are entirely out of control. The lack of urban housing has become a key political issue of our age. Informal settlements are growing rapidly and most Local Authorities seem to be struggling to keep up with the demand for housing from the rapidly growing population.

Namibia is arm stringed by an outdated complex and framework which leaves Local Authorities with few options to elevate the response to challenges.

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should commit to a new housing vision which emphasize the provision of land rather housing and embrace progressive planning ideals. I support the vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable //Gowases. Now we proceed to Honourable Kandjimi.

HON KANDJIMI: Thank you Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

I rise today in confidence in support of Vote 17 of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development for the Financial Year 2018/2019. From the onset I would like to congratulate and thank Comrade Dr Peya Mushelenga for his continuous support that his Ministry renders to the masses.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, on page 2 of his motivation the Minister talked about creating opportunities and empowering rural communities to initiate and engage in self-help employment, which is a wonderful goal. However, over the last year rural activities have faced several problems as regards to development and evaluation. Rural areas find it hard to build an identity and a (*Indistinct*) because of the gap between urban and rural development that still exists in Namibia.

I appreciate the efforts of the Minister and Regional Council in improving sanitation in all regions across the country. My call today is simple to support and add fuel to the fire of rural development in Namibia. Let us unite in stamping out poverty, and sit (*Indistinct*) in Namibia by appreciating the roles of the rural areas in the degradation of nature.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I call for inclusive participatory and community driven process to implement in Namibia which is committed to the welfare of Namibia is rural people. With these few words I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good. Now I recognise Honourable Ithete.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

Comrade Minister let me also support your vote. I only have one small question on page 2 of your motivation speech Programme 01. The programme consists of a multitude of interventions, among others coordination of other Government and Non-Government Institutions.

The main issue here Comrade Minister in Ongandjera in Okahao there, there is what we call the Traditional Authority Open Air Hall. This hall was only transferred to the Traditional Authority under correction I think a year ago or last year.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: In Okahao?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes in Okahao. All those other years it was always perhaps under Government, but in the hands (*Interjection*).

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Their own?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes their own hall, what we call “*etala lombelewa*” that is what we call it in the vernacular. So this hall was occupied by Government offices, different Ministries for all those years. Now that it is transferred to the Traditional Authorities, these Government Offices are not contributing towards the rent of this hall.

I only appeal to the Honourable Minister since you are the line Ministry of our Traditional Authorities to facilitate those Ministries occupying space there to contribute towards the rent of those Traditional Authorities Open Hall, because they are finding it very difficult to maintain it.

Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Good, next and the last on my list is Honourable Ekandjo.

HON EKANDJO: Thank you very much Comrade Deputy Chairperson. First of all I just want to make a correction. I want to say before I take my speech what Honourable Dudu Murorua has said.

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In 1983, the so called ‘Ministers’ DTA dominated Ministers’ Council banned SWAPO from holding public meetings, and then we used to have meetings through Damara Council and SWANU proper not the one of the late Katjioungua, SWANU proper the one of Maamberua, and that was Damara Council but not UDF. UDF is something else from Damara Council, because Honourable said he carried us.

We cooperated with the Damara Council. UDF was created in 1989 it is a conglomeration of PUM (Popular Unity Movement), the one of Reggie Diergaardt and others. They formed including Damara Council, they formed UDF so UDF never carried us, but Damara Council carried us. It is just for record purposes.

Yes let me now go further. Comrade Minister what I am going to say is just general. You see towards the end of 2010 (*Intervention*).

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Order, Honourable Members let us listen.

HON EKANDJO: We expanded the boundary of Windhoek because before, the boundary of Windhoek used to end where the roadblock was, here the last one nearby Windhoek. On the way to the Airport there was a boundary and also on the way to the South at the roadblock and we expanded it to the boundary of Windhoek is now where the current roadblock is on the way to Okahandja. It is including Seis and the Airport is within, including Omeya.

The purpose was to expand the township because currently the black townships are just moving towards Goreangab Dam in the mountainous area westwards in the mountain.

So the purpose was that so that the City of Windhoek can expand northwards which is flat on the way to Rehobotha and also to the east maybe depending on the financial situation of the City of Windhoek they can still buy some of the farms there and expand because we are just moving to Goreangab Dam in the mountains that is where the townships are expanding. Maybe if the City of Windhoek can look into it.

Secondly Comrade when we expand the boundary Groot Aub was caught in a cross fire. Groot Aub was not ready, and the people were not consulted. I think the law also allows for the de proclamation of a certain area into a settlement. I think it will be proper if Groot Aub can be de-proclaimed into a settlement until such time the people are ready. The economic situation in Groot Aub cannot cope with the laws because currently, the Municipality laws of Windhoek have to apply there and the people there are having domestic animals, cattle, goats and others otherwise the Municipality will say even a dog you must have a licence.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Please let us listen.

HON EKANDJO: So if it can be de-proclaimed 1992, with the first democratic Local Authority election, there was an election held at Kapps Farm, but because Kapps Farm economy could not, it was de-proclaimed into a settlement. So I think if consideration can also be given to Groot Aub it can be de-proclaimed into a settlement until such a time they reach the status of a Village Council. I think currently the economic situation will not allow them.

In Windhoek more or less 10 to 20 cars are bought per month, the result is traffic jam, the roads do not expand. Before 1992 when the City of Windhoek was a white dominated Local Authority Council, it was called

the Town Council, that time Windhoek was not a city. The Town Clerk then, back then they used to be called Town Clerks. The Town Clerk before 1992, told us that there were plans to build highways on pillars from Airport crossing to Walvis Bay to Katutura etcetera,

HON MEMBER: To Katutura?

HON EKANDJO: there was such a plan. Maybe the City of Windhoek can also consider building highways because it is congested. Even the highway they are building now, constructing the one from Western Bypass to Hosea Kutako International Airport it is still flat it will just cause a traffic jam. Maybe since Windhoek is a metropolitan city now, maybe the city must consider building highways on pillars so that you just fly and those who want to go down can go down so that there is no traffic jam. I think maybe the City of Windhoek can consider it maybe depending with the financial situation.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Listen to the wisdom, listen.

HON EKANDJO: The other point I want to mention is I think 2011 to 2012 there was an idea to create a food mall opposite Wernhill Park where those Kombis park those that take the people to the South. That area was earmarked and in the City Council there were talks including the Ministry to create a food mall for food so that people there can buy, because during lunch time people who work just go to KFC, what is this, Fast Foods outlets and that food is unhealthy. If a food mall can be built there was such an idea where we can eat "*poitjie kos*", traditional food and whatever

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so that the people also can, and also the buses can also park there. There was such an idea and we even received a sketch from the City of Windhoek by the strategic something like that. They even gave us a sketch how they want to construct such a food outlet so that the people in the town lunch time they can go and eat “*Kapana*”, traditional food there, I think if that idea can still be currently.

Another issue which I have been saying on many occasions, the Western Bypass, that road creates a lot of accidents. Maybe the City of Windhoek in collaboration with the Ministry of Works, I think it is high time that Western Bypass must be transferred to the City of Windhoek so that they can control it and put lights because currently it is under the Ministry of Works and Transport and it is too dark.

The last I am going to (*Laughter*) (*Intervention*).

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Point of order Honourable Members. Honourable Member. There is a point of order.

HON EKANDJO: Okay.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: No what is it, do not threaten me?

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HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am allowing you, what is your problem?

HON MUHARUKUA: Oh you are allowing me, thank you. Honourable *(Intervention)*.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You were even threatening the Chair.

HON MUHARUKUA: No, no. Honourable my senior, I just wanted to inform you that that time when you were busy campaigning that was done already and that road was downgraded.

HON EKANDJO: Ha?

HON MUHARUKUA: That Bypass during your campaigns *(Laughter)* it was already downgraded and it was handed over to the City of Windhoek. Maybe you missed it because it was a very busy period *(Intervention)*.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are out of order. Honourable Member please proceed he is out of order.

HON EKANDJO: Yes I will conclude now. You see there are lots of accidents there because if you drive at the Western Bypass you rely on the lights of your car, maybe it must be transferred to the City of Windhoek so that they can put lights there maybe it will be better. It is a lot of accidents especially if you pass from Katutura Hospital always up to there are lots of accidents.

If you ask the Municipality they say no the road is not under us it is under the Ministry of Works and Transport it is a national road. That is why the City Police has divided Windhoek into zones but they do not patrol there because this is supposed to be patrolled by NAMPOL and NAMPOL is thin on the ground.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Order please Honourable leaders.

HON EKANDJO: And at one time also there were ideas within the City of Windhoek together with corridors of power in the Government in the 90s no 2000, after the construction of the Heroes Acre to construct a kind of a highway where the people can march from Katutura, Khomasdal, they march through Hosea Kutako, pass the Gamaams Cemetery up to Heroes Acre.

Currently if you go to the Heroes Acre at the roadblock there it is congested. Programme is drafted, arrival of so and so, this time and arrival of so and so but if you come to the Heroes Acre on the national days we spend hours there because the road is too narrow. Maybe if consideration can be done to widen that road.

The last one, at one time I paid a courtesy visit to Chief Mamili, and he was complaining because that time our officials wanted to proclaim Ntjitjimini as a kind of a village like with Bukalo. Chief Mamili said no

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that is his traditional seat. He took me to an area somewhere and he said that it is better that this area can be earmarked to the Village Council so that Government can put maybe school, clinic or Police Station, that people who want must go there. Maybe in the future we can consult I do not know but I am told that idea is progressing well. I think that idea is progressing.

Lastly, I do not know how many lastly I am saying Comrade. I think Comrade that was just my contribution. Minister you do not need to respond because this is just my contribution and since Windhoek is a metropolitan, yes just my contribution otherwise I have confidence in the Minister. He is able and his deputy and his staff they will be able to carry us forward, thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Now on that note I shall give the Floor to Honourable Minister for reply.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Before I respond I would want to say there were two Honourable Members who belong to the Standing Committee on Human Resources that had to leave with Committee work that is Honourable *Jennifer Van Den Heever* and *Honourable Elma Dienda* who had posed written questions and for the benefit of the public because these are elected leaders I have to go through this and provide answers.

Both Members asked about provisions to ALAN that they do not see in the current Budget. Yes previously we budgeted N\$5,000,000 to ALAN. We must say that this is a contribution by the Ministry but it is not a statutory contribution, so there is no statutory obligation to contribute. We contribute when funds are available and you will all agree with me

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that with the Budget that is cut with N\$481,000,000 we have also to cut on some of the provisions of the budget. *Honourable Dienda* also asked about the vehicles that were provided to Traditional Authorities but there are some Chiefs without vehicles.

First, the allocation of the vehicles to Traditional Authorities was a once off support that was based on the Executive directive, the Cabinet and since then there was no replacement however, Government is ceased with the matter to see under financial constraints what is to be done.

There was also a question about the Mass Housing and I think this question was repeated by some other Members here. Now the provision to Mass Housing is really for the completion of the commenced, but not completed houses so there are no new houses under the Mass Housing Programme that are going to be built or constructed.

Then there was a question on the allocation to refreshments for Governors. As you know we have 14 Governors that allocation is for the political entertainment that even Members of Parliament here have, but also for the Offices as you know when you host meetings there are refreshments sometimes they also provide lunch when they receive guests like you see some of the Provincial Governors do come from South Africa visiting our regions and so forth.

There was also a question by *Honourable Van Den Heever*, about the LAG if there is any allocation because she said there was an allocation last year of N\$3,500,000 there is nothing this year. There is actually an allocation of N\$5,000,000 to LAG. She also asked about the provision on page 260 about materials or food cash for work as for which institutions are these? These are for the Regional Councils as provided in *the Regional Council Act* of 1992 so hence were comments that were made for which I appreciate. Now let me go to some other questions that were posed here by Honourable Members.

Honorable Dr Ankama, asked about the Eheke, and another place like Ukwangula about their proclamation. I think having listened to the

interventions by the *Honourable Kooper and Honourable Ekandjo* on the issue of Groot Aub the Honourable Member would realized that there are challenges when you proclaim settlement to villages. You need economic activities that are able to support these settlements and that is why things and so on. Now for the same consideration that Members are pleading for Groot Aub to be proclaimed as a settlement is the same reasons why we have Eheke and Ukwangula not yet proclaimed.

HON MEMBER: (*Indistinct*).

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Yes I understand but you know the same thing we are talking about Groot Aub close to Windhoek, you extend to Windhoek, you create problems, the same with this, are close to towns we first need to have consultations with the residence of those areas not to experience similar problems.

Then there was a question by *Honourable Van Wyk*. I think Honourable Ankama also asked about the relationship about our Vote of rural development with other stakeholders. Just to say that we do coordinate these functions with all other stakeholders and Ministries that have a stake in rural development like the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for example and other Ministries that have a stake in the rural development.

There were other questions and comments from Honourable Van Wyk who was asking about Non-Governmental Institutions and sub nationals, when we speak about sub nationals we are referring to Regional Councils and Local Authorities then the Non-Governmental Institutions is when we have institutions like the Shack Dwellers and others that is the difference, that the sub nationals are Government structures.

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Your question on the Mass Housing obviously I have already alluded to it when I was answering Honourable Dienda. The other question of borrowing of money by Local Authorities, how are these funds managed? First Local Authorities borrow money from commercial banks in terms of *the Local Authorities Act* of course in consultation with the line Minister and so forth and these are borrowed for specific purposes like capital projects in Local Authorities. So it is really not possible to divert money because if there is verimenting of funds from one Vote to another they need to seek permission from the Minister to do that.

Honourable Kavetuna. Yours were mostly suggestions and comments so thank you very much "*Okuhepa tjinene kandu kandje*" (thank you very much, my dear). So we proceed.

Honourable Kavekatora, was talking of houses that were budgeted. Houses last time we heard about 4,100 as reported and we spoke of also land just slightly over 4,000 while there were talks of 200,000. Yes Honourable Member is an Economist, as I am. In economics there is a term, "all things being equal". So all things being equal that was the intention, but all things not being equal meaning without the provision of enough funds because of the financial constraints that we find ourselves, also competing with national priorities, it is not only houses. We have Minister of Education, Arts and Culture who wants to build schools, Minister of Health and Social Services wants to build hospitals, we need to share that little cake we have, so all things remaining unequal that this the best that we could come up with under strained financial constraints.

The figure of N\$560,000,000 that has really gone above, this figure is for the invoices that we received that were unpaid as you know because of the situation in which we are there were so many construction companies that have constructed houses that have not been paid. certificates submitted but no payment so that is why you see there is quite a huge gap between the figures of last year and this year, it is really to cater for those invoices that were not paid.

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Now on the question of decentralisation, yes it is a unitary State as we are saying but when the President is saying it is a unitary State and when Ministers are saying it is a unitary State it does not mean that there is no decentralisation. I already mentioned about the functions that have been decentralised and call on other Ministries to come on board. For information we will present to Cabinet the framework on decentralisation in the course of next week.

You asked for the background of items that is actually what I was referred to, to say you have those unsettled invoices that we needed to settle, so there is no need for you to subpoena me to the Committee. I was Chairman of the Committee also remember I know (*Laughter*).

There were also questions that were posed I think by, I do not know whether it was Honourable Murorua. No it was not Honourable Murorua. There was an Honourable Member who asked about Traditional Authorities disputes where you always have to, oh, it was ***Honourable Kavita***, where you always have two Chiefs in one authority.

So there is no Traditional Authority that is recognised with two Chiefs. What happens is that when a vacancy occurs, a Traditional Authority makes an application through the Governor. In the event the Governor receives two applications for one Traditional community, the Ministry will send a team to investigate to look at their Customary Law what will the Customary Law describes in terms of designating a Chief, and what procedures were followed and the Ministry will make a decision based on the correct procedures that have to be followed.

If things are not clear we do approach the Office of the Attorney General who should then provide an advice of what way forward to take but the Act also, makes a provision in the event where you have disagreements and the parties cannot reach a conclusion, you can call for an election of a Traditional Authority leaders, and members of that community can go for voting, that is if there is uncertainty regarding Customary Law and so forth and that is mostly applicable in matrimonial succession because, everyone will claim I have equal opportunity to become a Chief, in

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patrimonial really sometimes it is a bit easier because either they will tell you the brother or the eldest son and so on it is a bit well formulated.

There was now a question by Honourable Member who talked about, and I think is *Honourable Caley*, she was talking about Information Technology. Yes it is true Information Technology (IT) all Ministries even those that are decentralised are supposed to bring on board their Budget on IT, not only the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. Whether is the Ministry of Education, whether it is Ministry of Gender and so forth they are supposed to bring their contribution on the table?

Then there was a question by *Honourable Agnes Limbo*, about corruption and Katima Mulilo issues. First corruption issues are supposed to be reported to the relevant structures so if there are known cases they should. Now in the case of Katima Mulilo the investigation was completed, and it was presented to Katima Mulilo Town Council by the team of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development just a few weeks ago and we believe it will now be tabled. It should be tabled before the meeting of Council, before the end of this month that was the idea, so I believe the Honourable Member can be in touch and even maybe attend Council meeting to hear what is going on there.

Honourable Caley also spoke about economic development in towns supporting that was really to support what the Ministry is doing with regards to supporting economic activities in town, yes we had what we call local economic development Division in the Ministry that put up infrastructures for small cadres like the one I officiated in Okahao about two weeks ago.

There was a question about Build Together by *Honourable Kavita*, yes it is not provided for in this allocation, but it does not mean that it is written off. It is again for the very same reasons financial constraints, but in as much as it is not in the Budget of the Ministry, for Local Authorities that have funds to do the Build Together programme they are continuing with those programmes.

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Then I will proceed to *Honourable Murorua*. Honourable Murorua was asking about Traditional Authorities having lost land and needs to be compensated. First as lawmakers we all know that the land belongs to the State (*Intervention*).

HON EKANDJO: Finish and Klaar.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: So that is a constitutional provision and the State (*Interjection*). No I am coming to that and I think the other concern was now the compensation on the land of people that have been compensated is actually lesser than only concentrating on infrastructure. That is how you put your question.

HON MURORUA: Do not worry, I can repeat it

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Repeat a bit your question. If you can allow the Honourable Member just to repeat the question?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes through the Chair.

HON MURORUA: Thank you Honourable Minister through you Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House.

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What I asked is, Honourable Minister that you made provision for compensation for lost of communal land, my question is why compensation for loss of communal land while the understanding that is there is one can only be compensated for an infrastructure that you have put up in communal land not the land itself but here you are stating for loss of communal land not for loss of the infrastructure?

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you. Basically the compensation that we do maybe the reading in the book, but the compensation as we are doing, we compensate the infrastructure, on land we compensate for fruit trees.

HON MURORUA: That is infrastructure (*Laughter*).

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: No, we also compensate for the loss of the usage of land, especially for subsistence farming. If you were growing your crops there we take that into consideration. That is what is actually meant.

Honourable Clara //Gowases, as usual, she mostly made comments and suggestions just like Honourable Kavetuna and Honourable Ekandjo, not really questions I thank you for those contributions that you made your recommendations on housing. You have always been progressive since you came to this House.

Now *Honourable Ithete*, spoke about the property of Ongandjera Traditional Authority, the Traditional Office that Government handed over to, that other Government Ministries can rent. You see Ongandjera Traditional Authority may be falling under the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, but the owner of Government properties the in

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Ministry of Works and Transport, all properties that we are occupying are under the custodian of the Minister of Works and Transport.

I think when the Budget Vote of that Ministry comes it may be appropriate to forward that recommendation to the Minister responsible for Government buildings.

The comments from *Honourable Ekandjo*, was really also just comments to report. So Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, (*Interjection*).

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
What question was that?

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, please.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
What question did I miss?

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Are you insisting on your question, yes Honourable Murorua.

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HON MURORUA / HON DR MUSHELENGA

HON MURORUA: I asked a question on the, thank you very much again. The establishment for Governors, only provided for 112 yet the funding is for 140 and I also quoted the Honourable Minister of Finance that we have to guard against that, but yet you are continuing to do it.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you. Honourable Murorua on your question of the establishment and it is really perhaps one of those questions because what we have here in the field positions of the Governor do not even make up to 100 as it is reported here, the positions that we have that are filled in the establishment of the Governor, the information that we have here is that it does not even make up to 100.

So Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee what I have noticed, because it is only seven positions that are filled on the staff establishment of Governors so far. (*Interjection*) No, but that is the correct information that I am giving now. There could be typing errors in the document.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I thank the Honourable Members because everyone had (*Intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: No, you do not have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
indicated support for the Budget, and lastly I congratulate SWAPO Party for the 58th Birthday.

I thank you. (*Applause*)

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**COMMITTEE STAGE – DISCUSSIONS
HON MUTORWA**

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Minister for that explanatory response. On the sad note Honourable Members unfortunately we have run out of the required quorum, and we shall only, at least votes will stand over until tomorrow but we will proceed. (*Interjections*) we will proceed, we counted, we can ring the bell. Yes Honourable Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I do share your frustrations. It is our frustrations but in terms of the relevant I do not know which rule if there is a, if somebody has noticed that there is a likelihood of not having a quorum, there is a specific procedure prescribed which means call out, ring the bells and then only if after a certain period of time, I think it is 30 minutes or so, if still people do not come it is only then that we go to the ultimate.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That is correct. Thank you for that reminder. Honourable Member please ring the bell. (*Bell ringing*). Honourable Kasuto can you please go and get the Members outside.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Venaani, general without soldiers, go and command your troop and come back

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That is what I am saying, we are all in agreement. We are only 42 now. I have run out of ideas. They took advantage of me sitting here. (*Interjections*)

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HON DR ANKAMA

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Members the Whole House Committee is called to order. Honourable Members the Whole House Committee is called to order please take your seats. So as I had proposed previously we shall then proceed with our working quorum since we do not have the required quorum, the Votes will stand over but we shall proceed with our interventions for adoption tomorrow.

So we proceed now to **Vote 18 - “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM”**. Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee (*intervention*).

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Order Honourable Members let us listen.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Tell them to listen. Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee I am supporting my student’s vote. Honourable, my humble student you are supported, but then I have got some few, just a question or two with regards to Programme 03 with regards to **promotion of tourism**. Normally many people have got an understanding that tourism (*Intervention*).

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable please bring your microphone closer to you

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we do not hear you. The microphone is a little bit far from you Honourable Member.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Okay like this ha?

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes, better.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Okay now you hear me right?

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Okay good. When people talk about tourism people usually think about wildlife tourism that is what is traditionally known particularly here in Namibia.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Prime Minister is also starting.

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HON DR ANKAMA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Promotion and marketing of tourism my humble student Comrade Minister, (*Interjection*) yes he was my student and he remains very humble.

What I am trying to say here is while we are on marketing on this programme, marketing and promotion, I think it is high time, I do not know how much research we have done with regards to tourism worldwide. Of course I think you personally know, but those who are in charged with this task of promoting and marketing tourism for Namibia, Namibia is a very lucrative country in terms of tourism.

I am referring to cultural tourism. Cultural tourism is what the current day tourists are gearing to, because they have come here several times. Some have moved and come to Namibia up to five times maybe more than that and they are tired of looking at elephants, lions and what have you. Now they are moving into what we call cultural tourism. Cultural tourism refers to out, heritages, contemporary tourism, having local and the like.

So what we need to do is to prepare ourselves Namibians in our respective communities to make sure that we market our cultures, our traditions, our heritages this includes things like whether now food, or arts and crafts, etcetera. All what I am trying to ask is, how prepared is the Ministry to really get into what we call cultural tourism, other than just wildlife tourism?

Maybe my humble student would be able to elaborate a bit more, and create that understanding. Also send a message so that our people are prepared to want to do more then we can read much more from the culture. You know when these people come here (*Intervention*).

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No speeches Honourable Member, now I will apply the rules strictly, questions please or clarifications? No speeches.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: I understand but I know what other people said also but let me say this. Cultural tourism in particular when people come here they ask, “What do you eat? Where do you sleep? How do you create, do you have ways of creating your own artefacts? We do not have these. We do not even have what we call things like monuments here.

HON MEMBER: We do not have?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: No, no monuments we do not have them. Now instead of the guy to go and get grabbed by the lion, maybe he could come and see how you mould things like pottery or anything, woodcarving, something like that you know. So maybe you should prepare or say something about how you would want the communities out there to prepare themselves towards this kind of culture tourism.

Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes, next on my list is Honourable Veikko Nekundi.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Thank you very much Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First and foremost my taking the floor is to support Vote 18 Environment and Tourism.

However, as I am supporting the Vote there are one or two aspects I would like to seek clarity and another one possibly to move a suggestion relating to a particular Ministry under the Vote 18.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, on page 274 of the book written the Estimates of Revenue Income and Expenditure there is an item budgeted for Subsidies and other current transfers, and that says small and medium size enterprises. I am possibly trying to seek clarity as to (*Interjection*).

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: You said where?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Page 274 is titled Subsidies Small and Medium Size Enterprises. I would like to find out if these enterprises are public or private, and who owns them and possibly is it owned by the youth or what is the guys, the major players in the industries through the extensions of the multiplications of their enterprises and how they contain their sizes to remain medium and small so I just want to understand?

This is very important because we have a number of indigenous Namibians black for that matter who have tried for many years to enter that industry but they are being stagnated through multiple collusion practises by the gurus of the market, and this is really a challenge and so therefore I am seeking clarity if that is really to support the previously disadvantaged in particular the young persons as we attempt to continuously grow our economy.

The other aspect Comrade Deputy Chairperson is really I am trying to seek clarity. There are number of issues being raised within the tourism sector where the well-established are monopolising the industry through collusions.

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They have created their tourism routes and mostly the foreign tourists are glued to these routes. So how far are we, or are we first of all possibly aware of these practises that are for that matter anti trading, are we aware of such, and to what extent are we trying to address those abnormalities within the practices of fair trade?

The other aspect Comrade Deputy Chairperson my understanding of this industry we have a number of agencies sitting somewhere in Europe, Australia, United States of America and others Canada, who are the ones facilitating the tourists coming to Africa in particular Namibia paying in the foreign accounts of these establishments. Do we really have control of how to audit the true reflections of the moneys being paid and transferred for the purposes of our economy? And also taking into account the element of the fluctuation losses within the time frame of money paid and transferred to Namibia, to what extent do we have that understanding and how are we handling it?

I am also trying to understand the elements of the black money being spend at the tourism establishments. Ordinarily we are aware that the tourists when they come to the establishments they carry some of them (*Interjection*).

HON MEMBER: What money?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: It is black money. When you are dark remain dark. They pay in, they tender using foreign currencies and then the owners exchange them. Some when they travel out of the country it is not exchanged here. When they travel because these are also travellers who go to world forums and tourism and things like that to also promote their industries. They travel with the same money without converting it. Do we have an understanding of this, and

what are we doing possibly to address these abnormalities that are affecting our economy badly?

The other one Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I am trying to look at how are we dealing with the inward repatriation of foreign currency as they are paid in foreign accountants in relation to the practice that is trying to benefit these tourism establishments in the context of low taxes in foreign countries vis a vis our own country. So how are we dealing with the repatriation in the context of those inward currencies?

The last aspect Comrade Deputy Chairperson is the elements of exporting, of selling live animals, and I have said it before and I am still standing my point and also other plans for that matter where we are selling live animals exporting them to foreign countries, knowingly this is one of our comparative advantage tools. The reason the tourists come to Namibia they want to see lions, they want elephants and others. Now if we are exporting to any other countries why should these tourists still want to come to Namibia to see elephants if they now have now in their own countries?

I am not saying we must not export but it must be for a purpose of studies for example, and there must be proper mechanisms to monitor that indeed this animal is exported for the purpose of studies. There must be for that matter. You cannot do it something because scientific means you can always revive those things it depends. So to what and I am aware for example even the plans they call it hoodia what do you call it? I am understanding now we have exported this plant and now it is being planted in the American desert which was a product for us, it could have earned us and it produces medicine. Now we have exported it now we are losing markets so to what extent really are we having this understanding and are we attempting to address this matter?

We have the Ostrich Farm that was in the South, it is dead because of the export. Yes, with the export of this things of people that were supposed to buy from us, they are now producing in their countries why buy meat again from the same product? Why buy again the skills from us so we

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have lost, economically lost. We have lost from economical status, we have lost in terms of employment creation, it was creating employment so I am just trying to seek clarity and understanding and how we, collectively through the Ministry could really be able to address this context from a socio and economic perspective for the prospects of our nation. Thank you very much and I again support the Vote.

Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good Honourable Member. Now lastly I recognise Honourable Murorua.

HON MURORUA: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House I rise in support of this vote but I would like to know from the Minister the allocation for the **protection and management of key species and natural habitat** that is only N\$26,359,000.

Honourable is this amount not a little bit too little looking at the vastness of our country in the first instance and the vast distances that these animals are spread over all over Namibia, compared with the location of our offices, sub offices and our camps. I think looking at the rate that many of our very important species like the rhinos were being poached although we are reading that nowadays the number of poached rhinos has decreased considerably one would like to see an allocation that is much higher than what is currently here on paper, and being done to the Ministry because these species are very important for us. It is to my understanding also when it comes to specifically the rhinos we are one of the very few if not the only country, that has got free ranging rhinos, all the other countries are having them in parks, while we are having them in free ranging areas they are out of parks.

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The other issue that I would like to question Honourable Minister is on the Estimates of Revenue Income and Expenditure page 277 Main Division 07 Directorate of Planning and Technical Services. Under 106 you are making provision for **purchase of land and intangible assets**. I do not have a problem with the purchasing of land but looking at or considering the economic difficulties that we are as a country sitting with, and that we are still to pay for intangible assets which are not measurable and difficult to define one is asking yourself how much of the percentage of these monies are going for these intangible assets which we cannot define or measure and how much is really going for the land?

Personally I do believe that the term intangible assets should be outdated by now. because you cannot really rely that you buy a business and then apart from the assets that you know that the stock that is there you are also buying should we say goodwill which in my opinion depends on your customer service that you are providing in the first instance and all the other things related to it. So it might be different from what the previous owner might have been gaining from that. So therefore I think one would like to know what the percentage is specifically for these intangible assets that we are paying.

I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Good, now lastly, again we have Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON DR ATTORNEY GENERAL: Thank you very much. Happy the Mighty SWAPO Party, Happy Birthday I support the Vote.

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HON SHIFETA

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, now I shall give the Floor to the Minister for reply.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Thank you my teacher *Honourable Dr Ankama*, for the question and also comments and support of the vote. Yes it is true the culture of tourism is one of the tourist attractions we have in the country but so far now we can say wildlife attraction is second to none, but there is an effort to market cultural tourism. We have collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and also the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture in terms of putting up and promoting cultural tourism heritage and so on. We are doing that but of course this you have to do it with finances. Setting up and helping those villages to put up cultural villages there are some so far, we have some cultural villages and also some heritage that we are promoting and tourists visit, they go there but we are doing that and also a policy of 2008 which talks to that cultural tourism.

Comrade Nekundi, page 274 about the SME support. Yes this is on the environmental affairs we have some SMEs, those coming up Small and Medium Enterprises, for instance starting with if they have for instance recycling projects so that is normally supported. We give some support to these SMEs who are supporting environmental protection, doing some environmental protection and also to salvage some of the things that are recycled, the materials that are recyclable. There are so many other things that we do in protection of the environment.

The routes, yes we have some roads and of course some private businesses. Before they do that they promote their routes. They can have a business launch here and create a route, another one that side and another one the other side when tourist come they fill those routes.

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But again we have the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) who does the marketing of those routes as well and they do that also domestically and they do it internationally to attract not only from international markets but also from domestic markets and those roads are there created. We have the last one that we have launched, it was the Omulunga Route. It started from South African borders passing here and getting to that side of Kunene and up to Zambezi.

The issue of economic leakage I think that is what you are trying to say that some of these agencies are outside, they market or they get clients and these clients pay money in their accounts. It is very difficult to account that one. We are working, we have two bodies now that we have created. We think that they will see how we can tackle that matter because it has been on the table for some time. That there were people complaining that how much money really comes into the country, if an agent is in Germany for instance to just give an example, and then that person pays directly to the person who owns lodges, and these tourists go there from Germany on German accounts and also that you have somebody who owns a Car Hire here and that person also lives there or is in South Africa. So it is possible that you will have only maybe 30% here but of course the fact that these people have got investment here, they have to have supplies for whatever food and many other things, and also employing Namibians here. But that one is very difficult to account and also to address given our economic structure.

Export of animals, whether we study these before export: Yes we do that. We do not just export animals we, even if it is a private person sold wild animals outside, it depends also what type of animal is that, a study has to be carried out because that is also a requirement from the (*Indistinct*) as well that you cannot just export an animal especially those endangered species you must make sure that the destination where that animal is going the environment is conducive for that animal so that this animal you have the responsibility not only that time when that animal is sold but also where the animal is going whether that animal will be exactly used for the purpose that animals is to be. For instance research if that has to be done you will make sure that the environment where that animal is going is conducive and then in application they will normally explain how they

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will take care of that animal until we are satisfied the permit cannot be given. That is why some animals were refused to leave the country. We have a situation of the Elephants that are still stuck here and were supposed to leave for the Arabic countries somewhere there. Now we could not give the permit because we were not satisfied whether these animals will be treated as they are supposed to be treated according to our laws and policies. So we can refuse the permits.

Honourable Murorua, the allocation to conservation of our biodiversity, yes we understand. Also as Ministry we are not satisfied we have to guard our peace and see what we can do but it is a challenge, a very serious challenge. We already had a challenge now that there is a reduction it will be a challenge but we will manage the situation and see what can be done. That is why we also try to do some fundraising activities so that we can get some money to add to what we have here because this is completely not enough we need three times than this to be at least able to manage the situation.

For instance poaching is a very serious matter now in Namibia and many other countries where we have endangered species like rhinos and elephants and the criminals are very well organised and when they strike they know where to strike, and if you are not organised, you do not have persons on the ground definitely they will finish our animals. But the situation is under control so far. The last question was on the?

HON MURORUA: About the intangible assets?

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Intangible assets, what about intangible assets?

HON MURORUA: What is intangible assets?

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HON VENAANI

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Intangible assets we are talking about you see we have tangible assets, let me just make it clear. Tangible assets is something that you can touch. Intellectual property for instance is intangible, but it is an asset, you can put it in monetary terms, you cannot touch it. It is not a vehicle, it is not a house, but even knowledge, intellectual property is intangible those are intangible, anything that you cannot touch, anything that is not there
(Interjection)

HON MURORUA: Knowledge *(Indistinct)*.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: but it is something it is property still *(Interjection)* I think that is what it means. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, unless there is anything, I attempted to answer the questions.

Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Minister. Thank you so much. So the same rules shall apply the Vote will stand over. We proceed to Vote 19.

Vote 19 - “**INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT**”. Any discussion? Honourable Venaani?

HON VENAANI: Two issues. Thank you very much I support the Vote. I lament the fact that it is getting so little, really to industrialise this country but I want to ask very brief questions.

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One, it is a continental free trade area that I saw you, you went to Kigali. You almost looked like the President but you did not sign. Are we waiting for a SACU consensus to sign? Are we going to sign? Are we negotiating? What is the position Vis a Vis the Continental Free Trade Area Agreement?

I want to lament the fact that the Ministry of Trade does not have Trade Attaches or does not appoint Trade Attaches in many of the important centres of the world. For one I am aware that in London where our Head of State is today, we do not have a Trade Attaché and one knows and recognizes the importance of London being an economic banking heart of the world and European economic centre and we do not have a Trade Attaché so I do not know how you are answering to that.

Lastly, out of just great interest, you want to create a programme where you want to create a centre for charcoal production, but if I look at the money that you want to spend to create the centre that would research value addition in this industry, as opposed to spending money to increase our volume share because Namibia's global share of charcoal is 5% and we are losing that share because we are exporting our charcoal and I am speaking as a charcoal producer. You are sending our charcoal to South Africa.

Now in Canada they have these big logging source that can be able to de-bush 10 hectares within two hours, so I would have thought that the emphasis would go into buying some of these machines so that we de-bush more, and have more volumes to increase our market share and help our farmers to be able to add value even starting with briquettes, starting with packaging so that we can make money there, but the money that you are spending now on this centre millions of dollars, you could have bought probably ten (10) saws and you could have de-bushed thirty (30) farms in a month for example?

So I really see the logic that we want to go that way but sometimes it is money that we spend does not bring the necessary returns immediately and I would have preferred a situation where we said okay we have unemployment we want to increase the market share or a global market

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share of charcoal for example and this is what we can do, and I think we can do that and our country is the biggest in Africa in terms of charcoal production because we have a number of unwanted bush in the country and we cannot farm productively and optimally.

The people like the Prime Minister are in areas where they cannot really farm Tsintsabis, Tsumeb area because of the thick bush and those are the areas that we need to unlock because they have more underground water capacity. So if they are locking these areas with charcoal production they can be able to do more but now we are spending millions of dollars creating a centre, buying a farm, building the centre, it is supportable but for the immediate, one has to really make sure that we increase productivity to create jobs and do more. I support your vote.

Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Next I recognise Honourable Kavekatora.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also support the vote, Vote 19. It is very clear from the statement from the Honourable Minister that you are the driver of Vision 2030. Based on the programmes that you have alluded to, based on the activities that you are undertaking, basing on the achievement that you have made to date, you are the core driver of Vision 2030.

But I want to ask the question of, you also mentioned that we are just a few years before we have come to Vision 2030, and I am asking this question also in relation to the Budget that has been allocated to such very important activities of industrialising Namibia by the year 2030. I do not know whether our priorities are actually correct because in my view the issue of industrialisation will also transform into job creation and growing

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the economic cake, and what have you. If you look at the allocation that is being given to you I feel very sorry. I want us to go back to Telecom perhaps (*Laughter*) the two of us because it does not really match the magnitude of the work to be done from here to the attainment of Vision 2030 so I do not know how you are going to do it but I just want to give you my moral support and I want to say, good luck.

Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Lastly, I give the Floor to Honourable Kafula.

HON MPINGANA KAFULA: Thank you Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am from the onset in full support of Vote 19 of the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development. There are just few comments or questions that I would like to seek some clarity on.

On page 406 of the MTEF programme more on **MPC Code 18885**. Honourable Minister, it is not clear what actually is to be done for such a nominal amount of N\$53,000 in total for four Financial Years. If I am reading it correctly, which means these amounts are the estimated total cost of the entire programme of four Financial Years. It was actually supposed to be for five years but for 2016/2017 there was nothing budgeted for, for that programme. Can perhaps the Honourable Minister just enlighten us as to what will be done with this programme or infrastructure?

The other issue is also still on that page under the MPC Code 2121 on the construction of pharmaceutical plant in Okahandja. I could not establish in your eloquent presented statement, as to what is the current situation on this programme? So I would like just to know as to not me specifically, but would like to know as to where we are with this programme?

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The other observation is that there is a general challenge that is prevailing almost everywhere there, there are gemstones cutting, especially the training programmes for those set ups to sustain themselves.

The question is why is sustainability a challenge considering the value of the precious stones?

Lastly, is the other challenge, is the lack of jewellery production machinery, leaving the majority of the graduates mainly from Karibib and Keetmanshoop Training Centre without the ideas of how to make a living for themselves. I am informed that at Karibib Centre, there is a dimension stone or processing machinery that was bought by the Ministry of Mines and Energy already in 2014 if that information is 100% correct, for over N\$3,000,000 whereby it was never utilised, and it is currently just standing idle and lying in the sun for the past four years. Meanwhile we have a number of our graduates who are unable to have the machinery so that they can create employment not only for themselves but also contributing to the development of our country.

With these few observations I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Now the floor is back to you Honourable Minister to reply.

HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we thank those who took the Floor.

Honourable Venaani thank you for the support. The Continental Free Trade Area that Namibia did not sign and what is the status? Very briefly, more information I will provide, but for now let me respond as follows.

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This Continental Free Trade Area had three documents. The first one is the actual agreement for the Free Trade Area. The second legal document is the Free Movement of People and Goods that when you do business you need to be free to move and sell. The third document is referred to as a Kigali Declaration.

These documents give the intention of the leaders of Africa that yes we commit and in terms of these three documents they will have to be cleared in the respective countries to realign the internal laws in terms of rules of origin of those commodities to be sold as well as the free movement of people, you have got Visas, Passports etcetera.

Namibia did sign one of these documents which is the Kigali Declaration but these two Namibia did not sign per se because these are to be ratified by the respective Government, and in our case it has to be ratified here in this House. Now that has not been mandated to go and do that so it will still be presented to the House. So that is (*Interjection*).

HON VENAANI: You are twisting?

HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: No, there is nothing twisting here. So when I present it here you will then follow, but there is nothing twisting here. So that is with the Continental Free Trade Area.

The intention really is to make Africa as one market that we manufacture goods and to be sold in the Continent to the 1,200,000,000 customers instead of the current trends to manufacture including our raw materials to export, the money goes out and the continent is left without those resources. But more information I can assure the House I will communicate, because it is not a straight forward issue as is. So as the information will be unfolded you will then understand.

The second one is the Trade Attachés. Yes it is true. What we do at the moment is where we do not have Trade Attachés we are making use of the staff in the Embassies, and the Ambassador of the High Commissioner usually assigns a staff or two to fill that gap where we do not have Trade Attachés. That is the best arrangement we have at the moment under the economic diplomacy with our Embassy staff including London, China and some other embassies where we do not have Trade Attachés.

The charcoal production, yes it is true. Once again here, I do not necessarily believe that we need to cry too much about lack of money. What I want to share with you is the potential is there. What it requires is different thinking how to exploit that potential. It is true that one would have bought machines, you deploy them to do the de-bushing, cutting and you get the revenue, but the other side we should also appreciate is having a specific centre you need to start building the capacity of the skills that it is not a mere cutting, burning and selling but you need to start building the capacity, hence the importance of such a centre. But also to do further research for the sustainability of that particular product, that it is not only about charcoal, but also all the by-products or the benefits that can be derived from that particular product called the charcoal.

For now the priority really is to also look at the young people that are unemployed at the moment to do the de-bushing, the buying of a machine for now it is out because we do not have the money, so what do we do, we have the labour. Let us use the labour. When we have the money from the labour we can then think of buying the machines. Where there is no money I cannot further demand for money when there is no money, but what I have by thinking differently is the labour. Let us use the labour of those young people that are hanging around without doing anything. So that is what I can comment on the charcoal production centre. We must think for tomorrow, and research and development cannot be underestimated that is part of industrialisation that is part of innovation.

Honourable Kavekatora, thank you very much for the support, you are right Vision 2030 is about industrialisation, industrialised. The budget is little, and I appreciate your moral support. I am not sure whether they

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have got vacancies for us back at Telecom though and moreover you and I are now too old for those we do not need to go. It is only Honourable Venaani that is still within that age group that might be taken back, but the two of us unfortunately we are almost pensioners now so please do not think of going back again the places have now been taken over. (*Laughter*).

Honourable Kafula, thank you very much for the support, you referred to page 406 in the MTEF, my MTEF does not have that. It cannot be an MTEF, what is the correct document?

HON KAFULA: There is a development programme (*Indistinct*).

HON MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT: Oh the development one, thank you, 406. Yes 406. Though I want to take this page but with all what has been listed here, and I want to have a different approach Honourable Kafula, Honourable Members.

By looking at the MTEF that in terms of the programmes as long as the Ministry does not go outside that MTEF. I said here that in other programmes zero allocation, and I want to simplify it by saying that the challenge is that the Ministry will have to execute its mandate with 43% less from last year, and of all the cuts you can take this whole book, the Ministry of Industrialisation received the highest, or the deepest cut and I take that as a challenge in itself to still execute the mandate by thinking differently, to still do what the Ministry stands for. I do not have a choice, 43% less that is the deepest cut of all the cuts, that is the reality and that is what I have now.

So I do not need to be negative I need to be optimistic and make the best out of that. So some of those I said they may not be carried out, but we

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must move on. We have land in the past of countries that have survived when you are hit with sanctions suddenly, (*Interjection*) this young man there is nothing wrong with my time. Sanctions immediately the next day blank in front of you, but you still have goods that you need to sell out for your people to survive. You need to be positive and make the best of your current situation. This is what I can say in terms of the Government and all this.

As far as the pharmaceutical in Okahandja is concerned, the current status is as follows. We have land in Okahandja. We will start with the servicing of the land, that money is available because it is not huge it is below N\$10,000,000 and we will follow the route of PPP, where we have got the skills from friendly countries so we need to get an investor to make it happen. Even such facilities cannot necessarily be built with Treasury. We must find a way to have a pharmaceutical. I am very confident that in a few years we will be talking of something else despite the financial situation in which we find ourselves.

The gemstone cutting, so most of these from the gemstone whether it is in Karibib or Keetmanshoop, we may not proceed on the basis of what I just explained. We might proceed depending on how we will resolve the shortage of the funds but things will have to happen. That is all I can say.

As far as the machine that has been bought and never used, I am yet to exactly find out, because, you were also not sure so am I. I have not gone out to really see and determine exactly what the machine is still doing. I hope that once I have the opportunity to go out, I will be in a position one way or another to update the House as to what the situation is with such a machine if it has been bought and it is idle in Karibib or in Keetmanshoop.

I must thank you colleagues for your support, and

I thank you for your attention.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good, on that note of the deepest cut the vote stands over. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have now come to the conclusion of today's deliberations. The House is adjourned till tomorrow 09:00 sharp.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:50 UNTIL 2018.04.20 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
20 APRIL 2018**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER: took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

HON SPEAKER: Welcome back. This is a hard working House judging by the time it finished the work last night, well done. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of questions? Notice of Motions? Messages, yes, Honourable Kasuto.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON KASUTO: Honourable Speaker I Move without Notice that the proceedings of Votes 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 of the *Appropriation Bill* be in terms of Rule 99(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders not be interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30.

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, table the Motion. We have gone through the Notice of Motions. Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON ITHETE**

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE
STAGE - APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 2 – 2018]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Committee Stage – *Appropriation Bill* [B. 2 – 2018]

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The Whole House Committee is called to order. Before we go into the discussions, I will join the Honourable Speaker to congratulate all of us for working hard and for us in particular, for all those Members who see it fit to be here early in the morning but however, I should think everybody is exhausted and that is why a number of Votes are not going to be adopted due to the lack of quorum. I humbly, respectfully, ask request each and every one of us in the motivations to summarise. I should think 10 to 15 minutes is enough, and that is why you give the paper to us to

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**COMMITTEE STAGE - APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

read and also the way we comment and question be brief so that at the end of the day, we cannot go this is Friday up to 3 o'clock. I should think 2 o'clock is reasonable, (*Interjections*) oh, okay. So agreed.

Now the Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B. 2 – 2018]. When progress was reported yesterday, the 19th of April 2018, Votes 20, 21, 22, 25 had been introduced, while Votes 17, 18 and 19 stood over to be endorsed today due to lack of required quorum to vote. Henceforth the following Votes 17, 18 and 19 because we do not really have the required quorum, will stand over again for adoption probably on Monday (*Interjections*). The working quorum is 26. The voting quorum is 49, we are not 49. It is a pity really (*Interjections*) yes it is 49. It is okay, but I also humbly request the Honourable Ministers, sometimes after your Vote has been finalised, you do not see the need of coming, whereas the other Colleagues still need to motivate their Votes.

Now for the introduction, are we together? Right Honourable Prime Minister are we together, can we start? We can start for the discussions.

I put Vote 23 - Works, in the amount of (*Interjection*) okay, before that, (*Interjection*)

RT HON DR PRIME MINISTER: I believe really because of the importance (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
can we listen to the Prime Minister?

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RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Because of the importance of the issue that is on the table that is the least damaging of the options that we have available to us to continue the discussions, and not proceed to take decisions until next time when I hope we would have a quorum, but I think we have to agree that the Chief Whips must see to it that the Members are here on Monday, and on time. We also have to agree to be brief with our interventions, from the Ministers who are presenting, to ourselves who are commenting.

We should shorten our interventions and we should also not repeat things that have been said by other people, and I hope that that spirit would be embraced to the end of the consideration of the Budget and actually would lead us through the deliberations of Parliament going forward.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Okay, thank you.

RT HON DR PRIME MINISTER: Maybe they should really take register people who cannot come should ask for permission, not send sms to the Chief Whips when we are already here. You send the message I am in the Regions. How do you go in the Regions when you know there is a Budget being discussed in Parliament?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. We have heard.

Now I will put Vote 23 – “WORKS” - NS662 237 000.00 for the introduction by Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

20 April 2018 COMMITTEE STAGE – INTRODUCTION – VOTE 23
HON MUTORWA

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you Comrade Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

I have the duty to introduce Vote 23, for the department of Works, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Works and Transport, for the 2018/2019 Financial Year. From the onset, allow me Honourable members to join others, in congratulating Honourable Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Finance and Honourable Obeth Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning and their team of experts for crafting a well-balanced Budget under the current economic situation in which Namibia finds itself. I also want to express my gratitude to staff members of our Ministry for having devoted much of their time and expertise to craft this Budget. The Budget indeed endeavours to address the prevailing socioeconomic challenges being experienced by our nation. As much as the country is experiencing high demand for infrastructure development and given the economic hardship we face as a nation, the Ministry will endeavour to forge ahead with the provision of the most desired modern infrastructure.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

Honourable members, the mandate of the Department of Works is to develop, implement and regulate sectorial policies related to construction, ensure infrastructure development; and effective maintenance of fixed and non-fixed State assets. In addition, it must promulgate and regulate Legislative Acts related to the provision of Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Engineering Services to the public. It further provides technical advice and services, about the implementation of Buildings Construction Capital Projects, to government offices and ensure proper administration of all construction works being performed by Contractors. The Department also make provision for standard stock, material supplies, lithographic services, reproduction and auction services to all OMA's. The programmes under this vote are therefore built around these core responsibilities.

20 April 2018 **COMMITTEE STAGE – INTRODUCTION – VOTE 23**
HON MUTORWA

The Programmes under this Vote are therefore build around these core responsibilities that I have just highlighted.

This mandate guides the Department's endeavours to ensure the provision of safe and well-maintained infrastructure which must be responsive to the socioeconomic needs of our country. To address and achieve the Departmental programmes stated earlier, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, infrastructure development, Asset Management and ensuring responsive and compliant regulatory framework have been adopted as the Strategic objectives to be achieved through budgetary provisions.

Honourable members, the Department of Works budget caters for SIX (6) programmes which serves as the core responsibilities. These programmes are:

Programme 01: Construction and Building Regulations (Government)

Programme 02: Provision of Office Accommodation Requirements

Programme 03: Maintenance of Government properties

Programme 04: Provision of Stores and Printing Services

Programme 05: Provision of Horticultural Services

Programme 06: Policy Co-ordination and Support Services

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

On behalf of our Ministry, please allow me to introduce the total budgetary requirements for the Department of Works for the financial year 2018/2019.

The total amount of **Six hundred sixty - two million, two hundred thirty - seven thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 662 237 000)** is budgeted for 2018/2019 financial year, from which the total amount of **Six hundred and forty million, Eight hundred and sixty thousand Namibia Dollars**

20 April 2018 **COMMITTEE STAGE – INTRODUCTION – VOTE 23**
HON MUTORWA

(N\$ 640 860 000) representing 96.8% of the total Budget will go into operational activities.

The remaining **Twenty one million, Three hundred seventy seven thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 21 377 000)** which represents 3.2% of the total Budget will be spent on capital related investments.

PROGRAM 01: CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING REGULATIONS
(GRN)

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

The purpose of this programme is to successfully plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over to Line Ministries completed capital construction projects, renovated and upgraded Government buildings and properly maintained electrical and mechanical systems in buildings. The programmes further monitors the construction work by contractors on Government projects including office buildings and service centres.

The Program is actively involved in regulating, coordinating and initiating building quality and technical standards to an average of 350 projects, running concurrently during any given financial year.

During the period under review, the Ministry once again successfully managed a variety of ongoing capital construction projects on behalf of line Ministries worth more than N\$2.5 billion. The Ministry has now introduced the building construction project cycle to guide the budgeting process by line Ministries. The building project cycle approach successfully contributed to realistic and balanced implementation of capital projects and programmes on the development Budget for the 2017/18 financial year.

This program supports Photo-Voltaic Systems, allowing for basic power; lights and hot water, are installed and / or refurbished in existing

20 April 2018 **COMMITTEE STAGE – INTRODUCTION – VOTE 23**
HON MUTORWA

Government schools and clinics in remote areas where the National electrification grid does not reach. Provision has been made in the 2018/19 financial year for the installation of photo-voltaic systems at government facilities without connections to the national grid in the Oshana, Ohangwena and //Karas Regions. Beneficiaries of the photovoltaic Systems are determined by means of engagement between The Ministry of Education – Regional Councils, Ministry of Works & Transport and Ministry of Mines & Energy.

For this program, I request an amount of eighty-five million, seven hundred and five thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 85 705 000) to be allocated to the Construction and Building Regulation GRN programme.

PROGRAM 02: PROVISION OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

This Program provides for the office accommodation requirements of all Ministries/Offices/Agencies. It also includes the acquisition, management and control of accommodation through assigning of government houses for the use by ministries, as well as the provision of staff housing of government officials.

The Ministry handles the transactions pertaining to the procurement, expropriation, exchange and disposal of property on behalf of Government, under this particular programme,

Cabinet Decisions No 23rd /23.08.98/001 and 9th /20.04.99/005 wherein Cabinet resolved that some Government houses be alienated to sitting tenants under specific modalities, rules and regulations was expected to run for a period of three (3) to five (5) years; However, the gradual sale of non-assigned government houses is still ongoing, even though it was supposed to have lasted five (5) years maximum.

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HON MUTORWA

Since the implementation of the Alienation scheme, the Ministry sold **1256 houses** and **generated N\$331 883 624 up to 31st March 2018**. The valuations of these properties are conducted by the valuers in the Ministry of Land Reform. It is interesting to note zero valuations of these properties were carried out during the 2017/19 FY. The Ministry is also addressing the issue of government properties which were either erroneously transferred to Local Authorities or simply taken over without Treasury Authorisation.

This Program is inclusive of the operational Budget (of the utilities vote) meant for paying rates and taxes to service providers for all Government Owned Properties, an amount of *Thirty-five million Namibia dollars (N\$35 000 000) will be allocated while a fifty-five million Namibia dollars (N\$ 55 000 000) will be short to meet the service obligations.*

Similarly, for the (Property Rental and Related charges- vote) still under the operation Budget of this programme; used for the financing of the rental of offices accommodation on behalf of Offices/ Ministries/ Agencies, only One hundred and sixty-nine million, four hundred and ninety-eight thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 169 498 000) will be allocated while an amount of One hundred and thirty million, Five hundred and two thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$130 502 000) will be needed to meet contractual obligations for the FY 2018/19.

The program further includes the facilitation on land purchasing for development and property assessment studies on behalf of OMA's.

For this program, I request an amount of two hundred and thirteen million, fifteen thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 213 015 000) to be allocated to the Provision of Office accommodation requirements programme.

PROGRAM 03: MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES

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HON MUTORWA

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

The purpose of this program is to ensure sustainable and reliable maintenance and rehabilitation of existing Government properties and related infrastructure to the best possible standard. The servicing, maintaining and overhauling of water pumps and generator sets as well as the rehabilitation of other existing specialised installations such as the installations of boilers, lifts, cooling and sewer plants. The maintenance of Government properties and installations ensures the sustainability thereof.

Namibia inherited Government buildings infrastructure that has been left to dilapidate, some beyond their economic value and therefore not even fit for renovation, over a considerable time since independence. Time has come that, as government, we should have a serious consideration and pay urgent attention to renovation and maintenance of these infrastructure. Continuing to construct new infrastructure while the existing ones are left to deteriorate at an alarming rate, it is like shooting oneself in the foot. The government Garages for example if you go there, you just see heaps and heaps of vehicles parked, have been turned into scrap yards while some government buildings are not inhabitable.

We appreciate the attention being given to school infrastructure maintenance as Minister of Education was motivating here, President also made reference to the special programmes for school infrastructure upgrading and renovation, but hospitals and clinics/health centres and Regional Office for most Office/Ministries/Agencies equally require attention and necessary Budget allocation.

As per Cabinet Decision No. 22nd /11.12.07/006; 1st /22.01.08/002 and 7th /06.07.10/002 Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMA's) have established their own routine maintenance, Cabinet decided that this should be the responsibility of Ministries, for them to take care of minor renovations. I

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HON MUTORWA

hear that even if a bulb, then works must come, no Cabinet has already resolved on that, and therefore the specific Offices/Ministries/Agencies must Budget for those small, minor, preventative maintenance. Various Ministries are therefore expected to ensure that there is an appropriate maintenance Budget under their Budgets. The maintenance function, previously resorting under this Ministry, is delegated to the Regional Councils, who carry out the maintenance activities throughout the respective Regions.

We are requesting Honorable Members, for this particular Programme, *A meagre Twenty-one million, six hundred and thirty eight Namibia dollars (N\$ 21 638 000)* has been appropriated for the fourteen Regional Councils for this delegated Maintenance function, with a shortfall of **N\$ 113 000 000** which will be needed to carry out the delegated function effectively, of civil, electrical and mechanical infrastructure as well and mechanical specialist installations.

Alterations and renovations of regional/sub-regional maintenance offices as well as feasibility studies for construction, are included under this programme, which will bring more services to rural community areas. During 2017/18, zero feasibility studies were carried out due to limited travel funds available (S&T). Three (3x) feasibility studies are planned for the 2018/19 financial year.

For this program, I request an amount of two hundred thirty-nine million, three hundred and thirteen thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 239 313 000) to be allocated to the Maintenance of Government Properties programme.

PROGRAM 04: PROVISION OF STOCK AND REPRODUCTION SERVICES

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

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HON MUTORWA

The purpose of this program is to facilitate the provision of standard stock, auction services and reproduction services to all OMA's. The revenue generated from auctions during the 2017/18 financial year was N\$ 6 933 129. There were 12 auctions conducted during the said financial year. A massive drop from the previous year 2016/2017 where a total amount of N\$17 369 400. When I enquired the officials stated that the main contributing factor to this drop was the limited travelling funds available (S&T).

This is one aspect that we need to pay attention to, there are quite a number of Government properties that, particularly in the garages, if they are auctioned people will buy them and then Government gets some income. When I was in agriculture the same thing, confiscated materials for example from forestry. You travel to places like Mururani, you see these things rotting there, but it is money. I think we need to pay attention and we need your support to make sure that the auctions are effectively and regularly taken.

To ensure an effective auction service for the 2018/19 financial year, an additional **N\$ 400 000 will be needed for travelling (S&T) by the auction services team.** The amount of **N\$ 2 400 000** has been appropriated for the rentals of the reproduction machines, with a shortfall of **N\$ 14 600 000** which will be needed to meet our contractual obligations for the 2018/19 financial year.

For this program, I request an amount of thirty-four million, three hundred and thirty-seven thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 34 337 000) to be allocated to the provision of Stock and Reproduction services programme.

PROGRAM 05: HORTICULTURAL SERVICES PROVISION

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

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HON MUTORWA

The purpose of this programme is to facilitate the provision of horticultural services at government office buildings and service centres; maintain existing landscape gardens and to create new ones where needed; as well as to promote greener environment to all existing and newly established government buildings.

The Ministry performs activities such as planning, layout, planting, watering, fertilising, pruning, cleaning, supply and maintenance of pot plants, maintenance of swimming pools, I do not know whether we have them and provide plants for decorations during the commemoration and celebration of National events, under this programme.

For this program, I request an amount of thirteen million, eight hundred and twenty-one thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 13 821 000) to be allocate to horticultural Services provision programme.

PROGRAM 06: POLICY CO-ORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

The purpose of this programme is to provide, direct, coordinate and supervise the activities of the Ministry including the Parastatals enterprises, as well as to provide support in auxiliary services, finance and personnel affairs, and be accountable for the administration thereof. As per the Ministerial establishment report dated 19th February 2018; the current total positions was 2879 positions. Out of these 2879 only 2054 positions are filled, representing a 71.3% of position filled. The remaining **825 (28.6%) positions remain vacant**. The reasons for these vacancies not filled was due to the directive to freeze all vacancies as per the Public Circular: No. 11 of 2017 to support the curbing of the wage bill. However, these vacant positions not filled are posing a huge impact on the Ministry's operations, crippling the service delivery.

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HON MUTORWA

Other activities under this Programme, are to provide and ensure stable, reliable, sustainable and cost-effective Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services, to establish and maintain a sustainable network infrastructure, computer hardware and software and technical support services.

This Programme also oversees the implementation of the Ministerial Wellness Programmes to ensure awareness of general health.

For this program, I request an amount of seventy-six million, and forty-six thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 76 046 000) to be allocate to Policy-ordination and Support Services programme.

SUMMARY VOTE 23 – WORKS FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19

PROGRA M	P-CODE	BUDGET ALLOCATION OPERATIONA L (NS)	BUDGET ALLOCATION – DEVELOPME NT (NS)	TOTA L (NS)
Constructio n and Building Regulations (GRN)	1	13 821 000	0	1 821 000
Provision of Office Accommod ation Requireme nts	2	32 620 000	1 717 000	34 337 000
Maintenanc e of Governmen t Properties	3	226 892 000	12 421 000	239 313 000

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HON MUTORWA

Provision of Stock and Reproduction Services	4	212 815 000	200 000	213 015 000
Horticultural Services Provision	5	80 310 000	5 395 000	85 705 000
Policy Co-ordination and Support Services	6	74 402 000	164 4000	76 046 000
TOTALS				662 237 000

For this VOTE 23, I am requesting a total amount of six hundred sixty-two million, two hundred thirty-seven thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 662 237 000).

Honourable Members this is my story, motivation Vote 23. I thank you for listening, and your consideration and approval of the 2018/2019 Budget for Vote 23: Department of Works.

Thank you

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you Honourable Minister brief indeed. I put Vote 24 – “**TRANSPORT**” - **N\$3 474 598 000** for the introduction by the Honourable Minister. You still have the Floor.

20 April 2018 COMMITTEE STAGE – INTRODUCTION – VOTE 24
HON MUTORWA

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you. Maybe next year we will just make one Speech for both Works and Transport, because it is one Ministry.

1. Introduction

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

Let me thank the Honourable Members of this House, for affording me the opportunity, to present the funded programs for the Department of Transport, Vote 24, a component of the Ministry of Works and Transport, 2018/19 Financial Year.

Vote 24 is largely responsible for the oversight of the development of efficient and effective transport infrastructures, which contributes to the promotion of the country's economic development and social uplifting.

This sector has the potential to enhance industrial development and contributes substantially to our Gross National Product as per the country's National Development Plan 5 NDP%. The Ministry wishes to take a holistic and integrated approach to transportation planning, including multimodal and intermodal approaches in handling goods, transporting people and providing services in accordance with Namibia's strategic Policy Objective, to become an International Logistics Hub for SADC Countries and beyond.

A reliable, functional and efficient transport and logistics sector is the backbone for the realisation of our targets in other sectors such as; Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing, Fisheries, Rural and Urban Development and Tourism. Thus, to meet our Desired Outcome, that by 2022, Namibia will have a sustainable transport system supporting a

20 April 2018 COMMITTEE STAGE – INTRODUCTION – VOTE 24
HON MUTORWA

world-class logistics hub connecting SADC to international markets numerous hurdles have to be over-come.

Firstly, there is a formidable task of developing and maintaining the roads and railway lines. Changing climatic conditions causing excessive floodwaters during rainy season in the northern part of the country is a basic reality that requires pro-active planning and response. In the southern part of the country road wash-away affect our national infrastructure nearly every rainy season. These natural challenges make the preservation of Government road infrastructure Assets a daunting task. Therefore you need money to upgrade and renovate them

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

Secondly, in financing transport infrastructure we are aware of Namibia's economic and social characteristics including various demands made on tax-based revenues. The Ministry of Works and Transport's efforts to make transport a driving force contributing to the economic growth of our beloved nation continues. It is an open secret that the nations is worried about the seemingly inflated costs being incurred in the construction of our valuable infrastructure.

Honourable Members, be assured that such issues are being addressed for the benefit of this nation and as a Ministry we are determined and more than ready to uproot all unscrupulous elements involved in such degrading activities, wherever and who ever. We therefore request you Honourable Members to render us support in our endeavours for us to realize our national goal of Socio-Economic development.

20 April 2018 **COMMITTEE STAGE – INTRODUCTION – VOTE 24**
HON MUTORWA

I now wish to present to you, Honourable Members, programs that will be dealt with by the Ministry through the Department of Transport during the Financial Year 2018/2019 to ensure modern and reliable Transport Infrastructure.

2. Programme 01: Planning and Development of Transportation Infrastructure

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

The purpose of this programme is to develop world class transportation infrastructures and to maintain them. The programme includes the design and construction of gravel roads, upgrading of gravel roads to bitumen standards, rehabilitation of roads, construction & maintenance of State Owned Aerodromes as well as the oversight of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

The Ministry of Works and Transport continues in its efforts to maintain Namibia's status of having excellent transportation infrastructures. The Ministry seeks to ensure that Namibia has modern and reliable transportation infrastructures that are well maintained and cost effectively managed. Our objective is to guarantee access to economic and social centres as well as to link Namibia with neighbouring Countries and other parts of the world through various modes of transport i.e. Roads and Air.

In line with the Harambee Prosperity Plan as launched by His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob; our Ministry aims to make a tangible contribution to the vision of eradicating poverty and bringing prosperity to the Namibian people by providing connectivity through Transport Infrastructure.

20 April 2018 COMMITTEE STAGE – INTRODUCTION – VOTE 24
HON MUTORWA

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

For that particular Programme 1, I see quite a significant amount has been allocated to this Vote. I therefore request for an amount of Two billion and twenty-one million, six hundred and twenty-one thousand Namibia dollars (N\$2,021,621,000) to be allocated to Planning and Development of Transportation Infrastructure programme.

3. Programme 02: Provision and Upgrading of the Railway Network

The purpose of this programme is to ensure the provision of safe and reliable Railway Transportation services by executing an oversight function over the rail Operator, as well as by constructing new railway lines, conducting feasibility studies for new rail lines, maintain, upgrading and rehabilitation of aged railway lines. Namibia's railway network is more than hundred years old and requires urgent upgrading and reconstruction. Faced with weekly and in some instances, monthly horrendous car crashes that are robbing our country of mostly the economic active citizens, as a country we need to move to rail transport for heavy loads of goods instead of roads. The current trend of transportation of heavy loads on our roads is unsustainable as it does not only result in many car crashes but high road maintenance costs.

Honourable Members, I request for an amount of Seven hundred and twelve million, and eighty-seven thousand Namibia dollars (N\$712 087 000) to be allocated to the Provision and Upgrading of the Railway Network. (Railways Network Development, Maintenance and Rehabilitation Programme).

4. Programme 03: Formulation of Transportation Policy and Regulation Oversight

Through this programme, the Ministry formulates and implement transport policies that ensures safe, efficient and effective mobility and universal access to Namibian citizens and foreigners alike. The programme is also responsible for the regulation of transportation services in the transport sector and for the development, review and administering of relevant legislation.

Strategic activities to be carried out under this programme are the:

- Non-motorised transport facilities nationwide (urban and rural settings) and access to public infrastructure to promote the economic and social demands of all Namibia's citizenry.
- Conformity of all 21 approved Vehicle Testing Stations and Driver Testing Stations to Standardized technical requirements as approved under South African Bureau of Standards (SABS).
- Standardised learner and drive testing assessments.
- Uniform grading of Vehicle Examiners and routine testing to assert competencies.
- Enforce adherence to technical and safety requirements to promote safe, efficient and effective passenger and freight operations within urban, rural and cross border operations.
- Ensure adherence to safety standards and maintenance standards which will ensure that the asset value of the road network is sustained to support corridor movements and internal demands for transport services

20 April 2018 **COMMITTEE STAGE – INTRODUCTION – VOTE 24**
HON MUTORWA

- Minimise the impact of transport externalities on the country's economy and society

The initiative to integrate road safety into the school curriculum is still ongoing in close collaboration with NIED under the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. To date integration for grades 1-9 have taken place. The teaching and learning material for grades 10 and 11 have been produced and approved by NIED, however the training of teachers for the two grades is still pending and is set to take place during this financial year (2018/19). The delay was mainly on account of limited funding. Preparatory work for grade 12 is underway and will be intensified during 2019/2020 financial year. This being work-in-progress, the project will continue until 2023, by which time road safety education should have covered both primary and secondary school phases.

An in-depth analysis of crash data revealed a high prevalence of fatality related road crashes on the B1 and B2 trunk roads. Premised on the understanding that road safety awareness campaigns alone are incapable of producing road user behaviour change that are conducive to road safety, efforts are underway to mobilise all stakeholders towards the establishment of a pilot Law Enforcement Task Force on both the B1 and B2 roads. The Task Force will comprise of representatives from all functional stakeholders (Office the Judiciary; Prosecutor General's office; NAMPOL; City Police; Road Transport Inspectors from the RA; and Local Authorities with traffic policing as part of their establishment. The aim of the project is principally to suppress lawlessness on these two trunk roads.

This effort will among others increase the visibility of the traffic police, prompt detection and isolation of traffic offenders and quick dispatch of emergency response and speedy disposal of traffic related court cases. This will however, require a strong collaboration between all sectors involved in road safety.

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HON MUTORWA

Honourable Members, the Ministry is requesting for an amount of *Forty-three million, and ninety-two thousand, Namibia dollars (N\$ 43,092,000) to be allocated to the Formulation of Transportation Policy and Regulation Oversight.*

5. Programme 04: Air Transport Administration

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

This programme caters for Aircraft Accident Investigations. If there is an aircraft accident, then these are the people, the *(Indistinct)* like the accident that took place some years ago, I remember in the Bwabwata area, these are the people that do those things. Government Air Transport Services and Civil Aviation Air Navigation Services sub-programmes.

5.1 Sub programme - 04:01 Aircraft Accident Investigations

The purpose of this sub-programme is to:

- Fulfil the State's obligations towards *Civil Aviation Act, 2016 (Act. 6 of 2016)* and Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention to which Namibia is a signatory, they must do it with the funding that is appropriated through this particular Vote and Programme.
- Improve aviation safety by investigating causes of aircraft accidents and serious incidents and making recommendations aimed at preventing possible future occurrences.

In order for the programme to function effectively and efficiently to fulfil Namibia's obligation to the Convention I request an amount of *Eight million, six hundred and seventy-four thousand Namibia dollars (N\$8 674 000) to be allocated to Aircraft Accident Investigations.*

5.2 Sub programme - 04:02 Government Air Transport Services

The purpose of this sub-programme is to provide safe, secure and efficient air transport services to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, the Vice President, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Government officials and Foreign Dignitaries to local and international destinations. Additionally, the programme provides Charter Services to the general public and special operations including relief and rescue work countrywide as required.

Honourable Members, I request for an amount of Fifty-six million, two hundred and ninety-four thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 56,294,000) to be allocated to Government Air Transport Services.

5.3 Sub programme - 04: 03 Civil Aviation Air Navigation Services

The objective of this sub-programme is to ensure an internationally compliant safe, secure and efficient Civil Aviation Infrastructures and skills that contributes to the national security. A significant amount has already gone into the upliftment of skills needed to build the regulatory oversight capacity, as well as to provide services to the Industry. The Namibia Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) provides Safety Oversight and Air Navigation Services throughout Namibia. The current challenges experienced in transformation of Namibia Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) is the shortage of skilled human resources in most of the technical areas such as Air Worthiness, Air Traffic Control, Aircraft Maintenance and Inspections, etc. the Ministry is nevertheless confronted with the matter of skills shortage.

We cannot just complain about this, we have to device programmes, there are also programmes available internationally, and I am sending this message to those who are in this Civil Aviation Authority. Make use of

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all available programmes, we have the human resources here, expose them to the trainings so that tomorrow they can run and be up to date in terms of doing this and all that we need to do there.

In dealing with Civil Aviation Air Navigation Services, the Ministry of Works and Transport (MWT) through Namibia Air Port Company (NAC) was directed by Cabinet to upgrade and maintain airports like Hosea Kutako International Airport (HKIA), Eros, Ondangwa, Walvis Bay and aerodromes like Mpacha, Rundu and Tsumeb. As a matter of fact, Mpacha aerodrome is strategic for economic penetration in SADC for export of goods to countries like DRC, Zambia including other northern countries and tourism promotion as it stands close to Botswana Chobe National Park, Nkasa/Rupara National Park and half way to Etosha National Park.

Honourable Members, the then Directorate of Civil Aviation (DCA), now NCAA introduced the collection of user pay charges for flying over and terminating in our airspace back in 2006. Despite the many challenges it encountered to attract and retain competently qualified and experienced professionals it managed to collect an amount of more than N\$219 million to date. This funds could have been used to address the critical shortage of qualified and skilled professionals. The balance of the collections remain kept in the State (Aeronautical Suspense) Account under the control of Treasury.

With the establishment of the NCAA in November 2016 it required capitalisation which was not provided for, despite having collected revenue directly from airspace users through their own billing system. It will take a while before the NCAA can justifiably increase the current charges to cost recovery levels because sudden drastic increase will shock the market. It is reasonable that these funds are transferred to NCAA to financially sustain it; while introducing new complimentary charges that will help reduce dependency on Treasury in the future.

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Honourable Members, to achieve these objectives, I request an amount of Four hundred and seventy-five million, seven hundred and ninety-one thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 475,791,000) to be allocated to Air Transport Administration.

6. Programme 05: Maritime Legislation Administration

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this August house.

This program is to fulfil the Ministry's maritime mandate and objectives regarding safety of life and property at sea, protection of marine environment from pollution by ships and to promote our national maritime interest to the international community.

The program is delivered in line with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) instruments relating to flag, port and coastal State obligations and comprises the following main activities:

- Registration and licensing of ships and seafarers
- Maritime Safety and Security Administration
- Marine pollution Control and Marine Search and Rescue (SAR) coordination.

Lastly this program is responsible for budgetary allocation related to maritime infrastructure projects that are aimed at making Namibia a regional maritime logistic hub.

I am requesting the approval and support of this August House for an amount of thirty-nine million, five hundred and forty four thousand

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Namibia dollars (N\$ 39,544,000) to be allocated to Maritime Legislation Administration.

7. Programme 06: Meteorological Services Administration

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this August house.

Some people when the weather Reports are given, they think people are just speculating, they know, they are accurate. They told us that the rain will increase in April and the rain has come.

The purpose of this program is to provide timely and quality weather, climate and early warning services to all sectors such as: disaster risk reduction, agriculture, transport, health, energy, fisheries, environment and construction, whose operations are sensitive to the vagaries of extreme meteorological hazards and disasters.

The other objective of the programme is to ensure Namibia's compliance to National, Regional and International standards, regulations and protocols particularly those related to SADC, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and Annex 3 of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) dealing with the provision of aviation meteorological service for international air navigation.

*Honourable members, I request for an amount of **Thirty-five million, four hundred and thirty-two thousand Namibia dollars (N\$35,432,000) to be allocated to Meteorological Services Administration.***

8. Programme 07: Centralised Support Services Administration

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable and distinguished members of this august house.

The purpose of this program is to provide cost-effective transport services to all OMA's, efficiently: Procure, manage fuel provision, maintain – scheduled servicing, 24/7 recovery service and upkeep of Government Garage premises, repair and servicing of vehicles and other machineries, licensing of vehicles.

Honourable members, the current state of our government garage's functionality is not appropriate for effective transport management. More needs to be done to rehabilitate our government fleet and machineries.

Honourable members, although the allocation to this programme is inadequate, for the Ministry to be able to provide Government with required transport under the current situation, I request for an amount of eighty-two million, and sixty-three thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 82,063,000) to be allocated to Centralised Support Services Administration.

Honourable Members, I now present the Budget summary of Vote 24: TRANSPORT, allocations for FY 2018/19.

PROGRAMME	DESCRIPTION	OPERATIONAL	DEVELOPMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT N\$
01	Planning and Development of Transportation Infrastructure	766,749,000	1,254,872,000	2,021,621,000
02	Provision and Upgrading of Railway Network	172,930,000	539,157,000	712,087,000

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03	Formulation of Transportation Policy and Regulation Oversight	30,190,000	12,902,000	43,092,000
04	Air Transport Administration			
04:01	Aircraft Accident Investigations	8,674,000	0	8,292,000
04:02	Government Air Transport Services	56,294,000	0	56,294,000
04:03	Air Transport Administration: Civil Aviation Air Navigation	72,626,000	403,165,000	475,791,000
05	Maritime Legislation Administration	39,544,000	0	39,544,000
06	Meteorological Services Administration	19,432,000	16,000,000	35,432,000
07	Centralized Support Services Administration	73,327,000	8,736,000	82,063,000
GRAND TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR VOTE 24		1,239,766,000	2,234,832,000	3,474,598,000

In conclusion Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House committee, Honourable Members:

It is now my pleasure to present to you Vote 24: Transport, to the amount

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of **Three billion, four hundred and seventy-four million, five hundred and ninety-eight thousand Namibia dollars (NS3,474,598,000)** for your consideration and approval.

I thank you for your attention

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Minister. You could see that he covered almost eleven pages within ten minutes, I was looking at the watch.

I now put Vote 26 – “**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**” - **NS160 995 000**, for the introduction by Honourable Deputy Minister of National Planning Commission you too you must also be brief.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

Honourable speaker, Honourable Members

It is an honour for me to rise before this august House to motivate the Budget for Vote 26. The National Planning Commission (NPC) is a Constitutional body established in the Office of the President in terms of Article 129 of our Constitution, to plan the priorities and direction of national development.

As we deliberate on the Budget here today, it is important to note that economic planning as the main function of NPC is at the core of national development for this country. We are all aware that economic planning is multi-faceted and cross-cutting and it plays an important role in shaping Namibia's Development agenda. Therefore, NPC is at the fore front in the

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Country is endeavour to achieve our aspirations in our developmental frameworks.

NPC has successfully coordinated the Development of the fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) and its Implementation Plan in which all other development frameworks that Namibia ascended to, are mainstreamed. To effectively monitor all the development plans, NPC has successfully developed an Integrated National Performance Framework guiding the conduct of monitoring and evaluation in the country

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

The total Budget of Vote 26 for 2018/19 is N\$161 million which is meant to cover all our activities. When compared to the previous year, this represents 8.5 percent reduction from the N\$176 million allocated in 2017/18. The current Budget allocation is premised on the following major activities:

1. **The Implementation of NDP5:** this activity aims to ensure that the aspirations set in NDP5 are achieved. This therefore calls for NPC to vigorously monitor the implementation of projects and programmes countrywide to ensure delivery of what we have set for ourselves. This activity further entails the mobilisation and coordination of Development Partner's support to ensure that it is targeted towards our priorities.
2. **Macroeconomic research and data collection:** This activity entails conducting economic research, data collection and undertaking of surveys which are done through the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), all to ensure that planning and decision making is evidence based.
3. **Planning and Policy Coordination:** This activity focuses primarily on ensuring coordination and provision of direction and advisory services for the Implementation of programmes and projects in the Regions and across sectors to ensure that all stakeholders of these clusters are directed with regards to the implementation of their

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programmes and projects. This is all done to achieve one common goal, that of "Namibia's Economic Development". It is through this activity that NPC undertakes the review of socio-economic policies to assess their relevance and effectiveness and coordinates the development of these policies in line with our developmental frameworks

A table with the different programme activities and their respective budgetary allocations for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years is as follows:

Programmes	Budget Allocation	
	2017/18	2018/19
Macroeconomic Planning	10,416,000	9,458,000
Planning and Policy Coordination	13,183,000	13,081,000
Monitoring and Evaluation and Development Partners' Coordination	13,758,000	13,957,000
Policy Coordination and Support Services	138,863,000	124,499,000
<i>Of which NSA</i>	107,233,000	94,149,000
Total	176,220,000	160,995,000

As mentioned earlier, economic planning entails, among others, undertaking surveys, by NSA. It is for this reason that 58% of the Budget allocated to Vote 26 goes to NSA to ensure consistent and timely release of data for planning purposes.

While a lot has been achieved since the establishment of NSA, more still needs to be done to strengthen the national statistics system and to ensure that we achieve the highest standards possible in statistics management. Capacity enhancement across the national statistical system is crucial to enable proper identification, prioritization and tracking of our county's development interventions to inform policy planning, decision making and monitoring & evaluation.

Honourable speaker, Honourable members,

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In line with the government position of "*Doing More with Less*," NPC has embraced this notion to ensure that we make the best out of the limited resources allocated to us. However, we foresee challenges in executing some of our national activities which include the following:

- a) Agricultural survey
- b) Labour force survey
- c) 2021 Pre-enumeration Population and Housing Census
- d) Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Development Plans

With our current limited Budget allocation we may not be able to carry out the above mentioned activities which serve as sources of information for planning and decision making at various levels. As we are all aware, we are now in the middle of implementing our National Development Plans, with emphasis being put on monitoring and evaluation. The limited Budget, therefore, hampers effective monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable members

In conclusion, Firstly, I would like to thank His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia for his wisdom and guidance in placing planning at the centre of nation building.

Secondly, I would like to thank the Ministry of Finance under the leadership of Honourable Calle Schlettwein whom I believe had a difficult time in sharing the small envelope with all of us. I would also like to thank the former Minister of Economic Planning at the NPC, Honourable Tom Alweendo who immensely contributed to NPC's Budget preparation. My sincere gratitude also goes to my whole team at the National Planning Commission for their dedication in the fulfilment of our mandate.

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During this year of reckoning, at the National Planning Commission we pledge to do our utmost best to ensure service delivery to the citizens in an accountable and transparent manner.

It is now my pleasure to submit to this August House, a total amount of **NS\$161 million** for Vote 26 and I plead with all Honourable Members to support our Budget.

I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. It was also brief but however Honourable Deputy Minister, we do not have a copy. Ensure that the copy of your speech, *(Interjection)* no, there are people. Honourable Kavetuna explain to him. Thank you.

Now we are going to the discussions of the Votes. We start with Vote 20 – “**AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**”. Any discussions? Thank you. Then the Vote is standing over to Monday for adoption. Thank you Honourable Minister. *(Interjection)* No you did not show Honourable Jerry. Oh okay, let me go back then. I recognise Honourable Shapwa Deputy Minister of Justice.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I would like to support Vote 20, Agriculture, Water and Forestry, and my support I want to ask the Minister a few questions just two or three.

Honourable Minister I am very happy that I think your Ministry is one of those that are trying their best. However, I really want to ask regarding the **assistance**. When are you going to extend assistance to the commercial areas, because the Ministry seems to be really just

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concentrating on the communal area and the projects under the Ministry leaving the commercial farmers to suffer and the commercial farmers in the commercial areas if we are to be honest, are the ones who are creating more jobs or manageable jobs because in the communal areas there are a lot of jobs that the people are working there, I am sure the Minister of Labour can agree with me but if you look at what is the peanuts that spared to those people they are suffering but the workers in the commercial areas are much better off, but then we are not extending our support to the commercial area. That is one.

The other one, the particular assistance that I am looking for is especially with the **ploughing programs** is only in the communal areas, and there are a lot of farmers in the commercial areas who would actually do a lot in the production of crops, but they cannot afford to have these machines that could, can actually assist them to plough pieces of land to produce enough, so Minister please try to extend that program to the commercial areas as well.

I am happy, I have read in your motivational speech that you are now going to purchase fire equipment and tools. Unfortunately, the Minister says it is only in the conservancy fire prone areas so the farming area too some of them are in the fire prone areas and these machines are expensive to the farmers, farming is expensive. I think everybody knows that farming if you want to probably become a farmer that is what everybody says. Now if these poor people who are trying best are left to buy their own machines which are expensive, they are left to do everything, are we really going to get agriculture to the level where we want? So please Honourable Minister those are my interventions and I support the Vote.

Thank you

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Mahoto.

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HON MAHOTO: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

I rise in confidence to support Vote 20 of Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of 2018-2019 Financial Year.

Though the industry has played an important role in the Namibian economy, the contribution of agriculture in the development of the Namibian economy cannot be denied. In Namibia at least two thirds of the working population are in the rural areas and they are living through agricultural works. Therefore, I believe the Ministry serves a very important role in the development of Namibia and her people.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members,

Allow me to take a minute and appreciate the Minister for a well-documented motivational speech. On page 8 of the motivational speech point 2 the Minister elaborated the improvement of water security by ensuring coordinating, planning and implementation of the rural bulk water supply infrastructure. I will fail in my duty if I do not give necessary due to the Government for making sure that we always overcome the threat of water shortage in Namibia. I am very happy that construction of the Neckartal Dam in the //Karas Region would be completed during the year 2018-2019 Financial Year.

However, in an Article published by the Namibian newspaper yesterday titled '*villagers refuse to leave flooded homes in the Zambezi region*'. People refuse to move to higher ground listen to this statement, because of the rising water, it is not a problem. They want to be in their own homes, the homes which they are used to stay in. That is why they are refusing. So I would like according to that daily flood bruten off hydrological services of Namibia dated 12th April, the Zambezi River level continues to rise rapidly, making it higher than the past three years during the same period.

The villagers claim that they would be able to survive in their villages even in case of floods.

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Therefore I believe if the water was being harvested in that region the chance of the flooding in these areas would be less likely. So I humbly request the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to look into this matter because it will save lives. Children are dying in that Region because of these floods, and the Budget has not budgeted for that. I hope in the coming Budget next year this would be considered. The water must be harvested. It must be harvested to save lives of the school going children and even parents mostly the pregnant mothers, they do not go to the clinics to give birth because of the floods. They prefer the old style of giving birth in the villages which is very dangerous. Lives would be lost.

Coming back to the same Region again, I am very sorry do not think that I am a tribalist or not a national leader, it is not the case. That Region the Minister must look into it. It is surrounded, they are having so many problems in that Region. One, they own animals, those animals are not sold anywhere. They are just like an island because of foot and mouth disease. Their vegetables they are not sold anywhere again. Everything that they own is not sold anywhere. Now how are we going to solve this poverty and the theme is no one should be left out. The people in that Region are totally left out. Their animals are not sold anywhere, so the Ministry I am pleading to the Ministry to help us whether they can even do something for the sake of those communities in that Region.

Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognize Honourable Ekandjo.

HON EKANDJO: Thank you Comrade Chairperson. Mine is just very short. Comrade I support the Vote wholeheartedly more than hundred percent. The environmental climate change is taking place and with the environmental climate change, the same also rain patterns change.

In the future we might face drought. Currently, it is raining northern part of Namibia is flooded. Those people who have planted mahangu, the mahangu is now drowning in the water everywhere, and I think we have been talking for many years the issue of **earth dams**. I think maybe at some time we must think about it, because after two-three months it would be drought and then we cry about water but now water is there and that water will subside, or flowing to the Etosha pan. Maybe the issue of earth dams I do not think it is the Ministry of Agriculture, maybe the Councillors can be mobilised to see how they can involve the people in creating earth dams. This is just in passing.

The long term solution for Namibia maybe at one time I think there was an idea or we talk about there was such an idea or we exchange ideas of sending maybe a delegation to this Middle East the Arabic countries. Those countries they have a desert but they do make use of **sea water**. Those countries do not have rain whether Saudi Arabia, whether Israel, whether Jordan and all those countries in the Middle East they do not have rain, including Libya. They do not have rain. In Egypt make use of the Nile River but they take the River up to the last village at the far corner of Egypt and the other countries make use of it. Why can we not maybe send a delegation just a research to those countries especially those that make sea water and see how they do? We have a long sea more than 100 kilometres, and it is water there. We can make use of the sea water is the only solution. It is lot of money but the solution I think we must think about it.

The other thing is in the 90s there was an idea and it is still on the table of SADC of **getting water from Congo**. The idea originated from Namibia, it became a SADC project, and in SADC, it is Namibia who is pushing it. Even the last time when we asked such a question, the former Minister of Agriculture mentioned that it is still a SADC project of getting water. I think if it is a SADC project, maybe Namibia must now, is the one who Came up with the idea I think we must also push so that we can get water from the SADC because generations of Ministers of water come and go, come and go, come and go but the idea is just there. So I think the current generations of Ministers must now put that idea into practice Comrade

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Minister. Otherwise I support your Vote wholeheartedly. I know it is a very difficult job but you will be able to do it as a village man. You will do it.

Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. Next is Honourable Makgone or Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: We are one and the same thank you very much. (*Laughter*) I really wholeheartedly want to support my Vote, by my cousin.

I really when you were making a presentation it was like music to me. Those projects that you have worked on and that have been part of the act that has not been budgeted for, your water regulator, your policy unit and all those types of things, the shared water courses and all those things I should declare my interest really. I am happy that you have taken these things and then you forged on.

Probably it is to bring in academia, because by that time when we were working on these things, we brought in some colleagues from schools of excellence to start really teaching, lecturing in areas of water conservation, water purification, water sharing, international water courses, the law of the sea and all these types of things. I think maybe this thing really would be able to be taken care of and when it comes to inland fishing and all that, the Comrade from the Zambezi was saying these things. Maybe I see them there is a good approach with those that are over fishing.

The last point is really **the forestry**. I have two passions when I came to this Parliament. One of it was cleaning, and I have seen cleaning is now

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taken care of is in the SONA, but the issue of forestry I must declare my interest. I come from the area where we have this forestry at Onankali. Since I came in this country at Independence, I found some of those trees there and I do not know when are they going to be harvested Eucalyptus, or whatever? I am being lectured those Eucalyptus are there. (*Laughter*) I do not know whether there are there for decoration, I do not know whether they are going to be harvested after hundred years or they are there for, I do not know. Honestly I would want to see a proper utilisation of that. I am happy I should commend those officials there.

There are certain forestrys or community forestry's that are bringing benefits to the community that are beneficiaries, but some of these things I do not know. They need to be relooked into, the harvesting whether people are going to be able to buy things from there.

The issue of **tree planting** I am passionate about it. If people can be educated cut one tree, plant one tree just like we do with the cleaning. I think we would be able to go a long way.

Thank you very much Comrade.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. I recognise no one (*Laughter*). I give the Floor to Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members for your very insightful questions.

I want to thank *Honourable Shapwa Lidwina* for the support. Now assistance to commercial farmers. In a very ideal situation, everybody should actually benefit from the services that the Government of the

Republic is offering (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Sorry attention please. Let us listen to the Minister.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
but we are dealing with a situation in our country where there is cross disparities in terms of income, and that does not mean that commercial farmers do not need assistance, but when you have resources at your disposal, then you look at the need assessment that you must apply in order for you to be able to spread the resources probably to the areas where there are most needed. The reality of the situation is that (*Intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Newspapers are also prohibited (*Interjection*) Rule 116(g). I have also reminded the Minister of Justice. Please proceed.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you. The reality of the situation is that (*Interjections*) (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Proceed Please.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Yes, but the people are talking. The reality of the situation is that the bulk of the citizens of the land of the brave are finding themselves in that space that they have to engage in farming as a necessity to sustain themselves. They are subsistence farmers, and they are not well endowed with funds. That is probably why they are not able to afford commercial farms.

Now if we have to split the scarce resources, then in my opinion, the funds are well spent by distributing them to the subsistence farmers which we primarily find them in communal areas, and if ploughing implements are made readily available to that segment of our population, then in my opinion it is justified.

I also know that the commercial farmers are not entirely left to their own devices. There are extension services from the veterinary segment of the Ministry that are able to reach out in terms of the relevant support to the commercial farmers. So I would want us to agree as Members of Parliament, that if there is a loop sided approach from our Government if that is the perception, then it is done in good faith. It is done to uplift those who are farming to sustain themselves out of necessity, in order to capacitate them and in order also to empower them, to probably one day advance to the level of commercial farmers.

Fire extinguishers, why is it only made available in the areas that such services are made available again. It is again to (*Coughs*) I think, it is to be blamed on the late house that we spend here but it is under control. It is again to deal with the situation of areas that probably do not have the capacity to, out of their own initiative, the initiative might be there, but the capacity to acquire fire extinguishers, and embark on meaningful efforts of managing and dealing with the situation.

That is why the Government is involved in assisting in those areas, but when commercial farmers and even when fires break out at commercial farms, there are joint efforts to combat the phenomena. So I am linking up to my previous response and that, where there is a need for the hand of the Government to strengthen the efforts, that is where we reach out, but it

does not also mean that if there is a fire outbreak in the commercial areas in the surrounding places called like Windhoek that the Government will sit and expect the farmers to deal with it. We all see that the fire-fighting equipment, fire machines are reaching out in order for us as a joint effort to deal with the phenomena. That would be my response on Honourable Shapwa's questions and issues raised and I want to thank her for the support for the Vote.

I also want to thank *Honourable Mahoto* for the appreciation that she has expressed for the efforts of the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. You referred to page 8. I agree with you. You also referred to the fact that the villagers are not able to move because of the water situation, but I will share with you the efforts of your Government when it comes to how do we plan to deal with the phenomena of rain and flood water when it comes to the possible harvesting thereof.

Now the Ministry in consultation with various stakeholders, has developed a Harambee comprehensively coordinated and integrated agriculture development program. We refer to it as HACCIADEP, with the view to give practical and tangible and visible meaning to policy interventions of our Government as articulated in our policy document for instance Vision 2030, NDP5, and the self-theme Harambee Prosperity Plan, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry strategic plan. Now this HACCIADEP has three schemes as I alluded to yesterday.

Now I will focus on floods in areas around our perennial rivers occurring mainly because of natural water channels which normally accommodate water overflows from the rivers during good rainy seasons, are currently filled with sand. Under this scheme the natural water channels that is now the HCCIADPEP scheme will be deepened and widened to accommodate the overflow of would-be flood water. Now this scheme will only be implemented, and I do not want you to think Honourable, that it is the usual song, It is not the usual song, but funds is inevitable in order for us to be able to address the flood situation over and above the possible likelihood of harvesting the water, the readily to be embarked upon

strategy is to deepen the sand areas and when you deepen, there is more room for the water to be under deepened area instead of freely flowing and by so flowing interfere with the likelihoods of the citizens of that particular area of our country.

Although the harvesting of flood water in Namibia central north can be harvested, it is also equally important to develop an understanding that water flows to the Etosha is very important for the sustenance. You know people come to Namibia, they do not come to Namibia because they overly love Namibia, it might also be the case but they come to experience the fauna and flora that we are able to offer and in order for us to have that advantage, we should not unduly interfere with the natural cause of the water flow. It also contributes to the bio diversity in Etosha.

Now we will have to be able to create the balance Honourable Members. We will have to be able to create the balance. Harvesting of water can happen. I have quite recently I think it was the third quarter of last year where a particular community in the Omusati Region, I think it was Otamanzi if I am not wrong, who embarked through assistance from visionaries, individuals to deepen the earth dams. Now it then just taught us that it is doable but it cost efforts, and we must also remember that it is flood areas.

The water is as it were for the lack of a better word, having free rein to flow wherever it wants, so we have to just suppose the harvesting of water with the natural habitat Etosha that everybody is so keen to visit, and the colleagues in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism rightly are proud that they have that competitive advantage. We must be able to create the balance so that in our efforts to deal with the free flowing water, we should not kill the natural attractive nature of the Etosha. That would be my response Honourable.

Now when we come to livestock farming as well as horticulture products from that particular area of our country and you are not being tribalist. You are simply stating the facts as you are observing it. I think we should

as leaders move away from. (*Intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

No, we do recognise that.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

I probably have some cropped up issues. (*Interjection*) Not here the platform will come one day.

Now when it comes to livestock farming in that particular area. You know there are efforts that your Government has embarked upon with regard to marketing of livestock products in this case beef in the northern communal areas. I know that we are faced with challenges in terms of getting the abattoirs up and running. I know it is a challenge but it does not mean that we have decided to sit idle and wait for better days to come. There are efforts with the assistance of I think it is the European Union, to find a way to mitigate the harsh conditions that farmers in the northern communal areas have to deal with.

Now particularly coming to the Zambezi Region, we all know it is common knowledge that because of the free roaming wildlife scenario, buffaloes that we are also viewing as a competitive advantage. People are coming from all over. It raises revenue through tourism, and eventually benefits accrued to the nation of Namibia. Now because of that reality we have a continuous presence of FMD that is Foot and Mouth Disease, and we have to deal with it as well because if we are not able to deal with it, it will have an impact on the overall attractiveness of our beef that we are reaching out to other avenues to also market. So when we look at all those aspects, we have to be able to manage the situation, and manage the situation we are doing. That is also applicable to the vegetables.

Honourable Ekandjo, Comrade ‘Jerra’ thank you for supporting the Vote. The effects of global warming is something that we really must learn to deal with as a nation. We do not have to start big. We start at our houses the way we are able to dispose with waste materials, the way we deal with water utilisation, and when you eventually add all those of so many households in Namibia, it has an effect that it depletes the scarce resources, so we must at all levels of us existing as citizens of the land of the brave be able to deal with. It sounds far but it is not far because we experience it. So we just have to be able, and I take hid of your advice Honourable Ekandjo.

I talked about the earth dams, people to be trained how to erect them. They do erect them. I just sighted an example of Otamanzi, how that community was able to deepen their reservoir or earth dam in order for them to be able to harvest water, so people are not just sitting and waiting for better days.

Desalination of water well, that is one of the major projects of our nation. Everybody was probably able to witness our President having had discussions with the former President of Botswana and following it up, when the new President came to our shores quite recently, and that there are talks about joint efforts in getting desalinated water for the benefit of the two sisterly countries. So I am sighting this example as a testimony, that efforts are well advanced, and even within the context of the sector, we through the efforts embarked upon, I think during 2016, there is a Committee on water security, I do not have the full title but there is a Committee under the office of His Excellency, served by a technical Committee that has the mandate of looking at all possible suggestions when it comes to water sustainability of Namibia, to listen to all presentations, digest it, look at it with a technical eye, and then advise the Ministerial segment of that Committee. We are from time to time looking at what they are proposing, and citizens of the land of the brave as innovative as they are, are inundating the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry with proposals that in their opinion, would help us to deal with the phenomena of desalination of sea water. So Honourable Comrade Ekandjo, it is all about some call it “*dinheiro*” (money), in my

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language I refer to it as “*marib*”, and “*geld*”, all about money and the availability thereof.

Now sourcing water from the Congo River. When I joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the very first official assignment that I was expected to participate in was to host the ZAMCOM. You know we have water courses. Now in order for us to conveniently and peacefully share the water courses that we are sharing with neighbouring countries, the countries have organised themselves in what they refer to as commissions. You would have the commission that deals with the Zambezi water course, equally, you would have the commission that deals with the Kunene water course and Orange River, so we are as per SADC Region organised along those lines. Why, it is because we are using common water courses and that is aiming at that its nation should get its fair share of the water.

Now the idea of sourcing water from the Congo, I think at some stage it was a SADC program. I do not know where it is now, it is probably my duty to find out where it is but, suffice me responding now that we are organised (*Interjection*) we are organised in a new fresh start, where you are able to deal with, and as you grow in confidence you will reach out. Eventually it might be. So that is my short response to that Honourable Ekandjo.

Honourable Nambahu I thought I am your uncle. You said to me my cousin. That is on a very lighter note. Thank you for the support. I know the Onankali area. The efforts of our Government when we deal with the issue of forestry, when so many people have realised that over and above livestock farming and agronomy, you could also make a living from your area that you have ownership over by harvesting charcoal through de-bushing. Now the primary objective of de bushing our forest is to gain in grazing land. That is an ongoing effort of our Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, and also, they are involved in the process of planting trees.

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Only yesterday during my motivation I mentioned that more than or at least half a million seedlings, are being worked at in order for us to be able to respond to the need of planting trees. So Honourable Nambahu you seem to have insight knowledge and that effort is continuing.

I thank you for your support and I equally through you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee want to thank the Members of Parliament for the support that they have rendered to the Vote of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. This is our Vote. We drink water, we eat food, and everything that human beings take for granted in order to be alive is from this Vote.

I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Should we ring the bell? It is a common knowledge that we do not have the required quorum (*Interjections*) it is okay. It is only that yesterday somebody raised a question to say although you know, we should go through the procedure. I should think that we do not have a required quorum, (*Interjections*) can we count then? Meme Lucia just a minute, we are 42. Currently, we are 42. (*Interjections*) Should we ring the bell again? On that, we take note of the discussions and the response to Vote 20. It will be adopted on Monday due to the lack of required quorum.

I now put Vote 21 – “**JUDICIARY**”. Any discussions? How can you do like that without, I do not see it. These things you want to talk and you hide the things, Honourable Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote. I just have a question or

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two and maybe a comment. When Honourable Van Der Walt motivated the Vote for National Planning Commission, he said that because the National Planning Commission is a constitutional Office, therefore the separate Vote.

Honourable Minister I would like to find out, **the Office of the Ombudsman** for example is also a constitutional Office. It still depends on the Ministry of Justice for its resources and budgeting, so I would like to find out as some other constitutional Offices like Anti-Corruption Commission and some others that you have a separate Vote. So when will we see the Office of the Ombudsman having its own Vote, and then also Honourable Minister we know that Reports and Papers from the Ombudsman's Office is also tabled in the House, but I am of the opinion that we do not do justice when those Reports are submitted or tabled. What is your opinion, and what plans do you have to effectively discuss the Reports of the Office of the Ombudsman.

Then Honourable Minister on page 4 of your motivation you talked about **the speed to finalise cases** and we really appreciate the efforts made, but there is still room for improvement and I believe that we need to work on that. As I said I support the Vote.

Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good. Now I recognise Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I really want to support the Vote of the Judiciary and I only want to raise two issues.

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Comrade Minister you know some of the issues that we used to discuss about but they are still outstanding. One of the issues in **the assessors**. Assessors in the maintenance court or in the maintenance law. These people are supposed to be, there was a heated Debate here on people who are supposed to be paying maintenance, but they are claiming that they do not have the resources. Although these people are driving most of the expensive cars, and they are living luxury lives just because we do not have people to go and assess the circumstances and their wealth and all that, so that they can be brought into the threshold, they are getting away with it but the law makes provision. I do not know whether these assessors have now been appointed.

One thing probably while you are there at the helm Comrade Minister, is really to adopt a different **drafting style**. Drafting style we are too conservative sometimes when you know only of one jurisdiction. You think that is the best and you cannot think of any other thing, and you become so defensive or something because you are not exposed to something else. The fact of the matter that we allowed laws to be drafted and they do not have an implementation plan behind, is not that it is not done anywhere else. Where you have to point out what kind of personnel that are going to be needed, and people to already go planning and actually anticipating and budgeting for this kind of personnel and all other structures that are anticipated by that law, so we are caught by surprise because these things are not clearly pointed out and who is responsible for that. It is done in some other jurisdiction and I think best practices can be copied.

Assessors should be in my view also go and assess the circumstances in which the kids, all those children that are being supported are in. We cannot just have a situation where you just demand for money to be brought, to be paid, and when the money is paid that day that person calls the other people I do not want to say what title they are, and go and have a celebration somewhere while the poor kids in whose name the money is paid is really not benefiting. If we are for children and responsible not taking part, then I think we should really look into those kind of things.

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I am happy in some laws now I think it is the Pension Fund, the orphans you see that these people even the elders or our elderly, they are called to be verified if they are there. Why are we not doing the same thing with the children for whom the maintenance is to be paid?

My last point is really this **Magistrate boundaries**. If we are travelling between Oshakati and Ondangwa, there is no single demarcation that tells you where the Magistrates District of Oshakati ends and where the other one starts. Those jurisdictions, it has those kinds of connotations, and it is almost the same situation when you go into the communal areas.

So when you come this side of the red line these things are clearly demarcated, but when you go into these areas, these Magistrate boundaries or jurisdictions are not clearly demarcated, and that I am not intending to open a Pandora box, but if someone wants to play funny with this kind of between Okahao and Outapi, where do I if I say I am not with it, I prefer (*Indistinct*), what do you say? These are the kind of things that I would like you to look into while you are at the helm and probably would be able to have it solved.

Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good. Next is Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to make a few observations maybe one or two. I support the very important Vote and I support the dictum as enunciated by Sir Edward Coke about the ‘speedily without delay’ principle of law and by starting with Coke is observation about law, I want to start with the fundamental question that Judges are people that have to do research and read a lot, because the work of a Judge is to read, to read precedents,

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to establish precedents, to read judgements of various case of various jurisdictions in order to find a middle ground on how to adjudicate on a case, but I have seen in other jurisdiction and it is a matter that (*Indistinct*) have been discussing on the peripherals of our lives, but I see in other jurisdictions that Judges have personal assistants in order to help them finding the necessary legal instruments, laws on time, and it is a complaint with some of our Judges that they do not have the necessary support tools. How does this Budget speak to that support tool, in order for us to effect the speediness' of the implementation of the justice system?

Lastly, I am also aware this is a sensitive one that Judges salaries is one of the salaries in the country that has never come under microscope, and I want to know from you that whether how many scales of the salaries do we have? Are all Judges from the Deputy Chief Justice earning the same, or are we having separate categories. Judges that are assigned to the Supreme Court are they at another level, Judges that are in the High Court? What are those levels but at the opportune time, I will also bring a Motion to discuss substantively on the remuneration of the Judiciary that is very quiet? (*Interjection*) We can talk about their salaries.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: In the absence of any other, I shall now give the opportunity to the line Minister to reply.

Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: First of all thank you for the support for the Vote, and thank you for the important questions that have been asked. I think all the questions have been very pertinent and I will try to shed some light on some of the questions asked. Some of the issues asked will require further elaboration, but I will try and be short and sweet.

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First of all, Honourable Member is correct. The Office of the Ombudsman is a constitutional Office. Unfortunately, he is not here to receive the answer. Not only is it a constitutional Office, it is an Office which also has to adhere to certain norms that are set internationally. The genesis would be the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

To that effect the United Nations has a United Nations Office of the High Commission for Human Rights and every year, and ever frequently the Global Alliance of Human Rights Institutions under it has a Committee on accreditation which investigates the norms and standards of institutions. The Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Namibia is under scrutiny that if by June we have not made certain improvements, we are going to be downgraded and that downgrading, this is how it works. Get circulated and including financial institutions that we borrow from look at whether our human rights regime is at par so funding becomes a problem suddenly, wherever you go your rating is an issue.

One of the issues they have raised since December 2016, and we have been given an extension until 14th July 2017. The last extension we have is in June this year. They said the following, the SCA emphasises that to function effectively and NHRI the National Human Rights Institution, must be provided with an appropriate level of funding in order to guarantee its independence and its ability to freely determine its priorities and activities. It must also have the power to allocate funding according to its priorities. Government funding should be allocated to a certain Budget line applicable only to the national human rights institution. Such funding should be regularly released and in a manner that does not impact adversely on its function, day to day management and retention of staff. The SCA encourages the Ombudsman to advocate for appropriate Amendments to its Amendment law, in order ensure the adequacy of the Ombudsman funding and safeguard its financial independence.

So what you are saying is what is being said by the world, and really how do we as Namibians want to gain say? How do you want to gain say that? It does not mean necessarily that they may have a different Permanent Secretary. It is a situation we have with the office of the Attorney

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General. They have their Budget line and since then, those bodies to which the Prosecutor General and Attorney General go to and people are commenting are quiet because those institutions augment the rule of law the same with the Ombudsman. I have prepared the Bill. It will be discussed in Cabinet and shortly brought here for discussion and consideration. That is on the Ombudsman.

On the Ombudsman's Report I agree. What I have done is I found the Report that he has prepared, and I have had a meeting with the Ombudsman, we are going through. He has made some recommendations and we are acting upon the recommendations before I even bring it here, so that where it is trite that you need to act, you need to act. Why must I first bring it here to be told go and act so those are coming.

Some of them are specific. Investigation Reports which do not need to come here, and that call for specific action on particular issues and some of them are actually being worked upon as we speak. The Attorney General is aware of some of the environmental issues for instance at the coast which he is also aware of and being engaged in. Maybe what could help is that it would be fruitful if a Report is tabled, and a relevant Committee for example Constitution Affairs takes it and can engage with the Ombudsman directly. I think it may produce some, not only good rapport, but also good feedback from the Parliamentary Committee and then it can report back as to what has happened in the process. It should be maybe the same with other Reports just a suggestion.

Speed, yes we do have quite a lot to do but we have tremendously worked on the speed. I would like to just give you some information because these are issues that impact speed. We have a backlog of criminal cases, but the Chief Justice has set up a criminal justice taskforce to address the challenges faced by the criminal justice system, which includes the backlog. Working groups were established and they need to identify the core issues and come up with proper solutions and those working Committees involve the legal profession, they involve Judges, they involve Prosecutors, they involve quite a number of administrators and they are working. The Deputy Chief Justice is heading this post.

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So the speed at which we can come to those resolution of matters will also assist. Then we have particular issues such as traffic offences which are quite a number. If you look at the accidents they are also mirrored by the number of traffic offences. A new traffic court will commence in 2018 particularly in the central region at the corner of Sam Nujoma and Bismarck Street. There would dedicated Magistrates, Prosecutors and court staff just for traffic offences so that is also to move those issues out of the main court and to allow for speedy dealing of these matters.

Remember we have 34 courts across the country, nine (9) regional courts and 36 periodical courts, and they have to be filled from this Budget, operational. The functions unfortunately, just so you understand from 2017 to 2018, 105 792 criminal cases were dealt with by 84 Magistrates. This is an average of a 1260 cases per Magistrate, which means a Magistrate on average deals with 5 criminal cases per day, and if they do not finalise them, they just build onto the backlog. This now affects the speedy delivery of justice. Then what happens, the Prosecutor postpones because the witness is not available or the accused requests for a postponement. They will not be available. The Magistrate is sick etcetera, and the defence is not available because they have not been paid. Legal Aid maybe did not get money to pay, and then it just keeps going and going so quite a number of issues.

Then the Magistrates have a lot of functions. You have the civil cases, you have maintenance, you have domestic violence, you have adoptions, you have the children's court, you have the solemnisation of marriages, you have inquest, you have liquor licenses and the liquor Board duties. You have Municipal valuation courts, you have the immigration Board, veteran's appeals, community court appeals, quite a lot of functions happening at the court. That is why I say these people are the unsung heroes of modern day.

Just take one person out of one of those courts and the chaos. Let me give you an example. Even the community courts, just disturb one community court, you flood the system. We have seen an increase of cases for example at Ondangwa, just because of the debacle going on there that

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Ondangwa smaller than Oshakati registered 700 cases from the beginning of the year while Oshakati only 403, because the community court direct coloration. So the justice system really has a challenge in that the backlog is influenced by factors beyond its own making sometimes, and when we legislate, we give them functions so it is really something that we have to look at.

Then you go to these matters because I told you about the jurisdiction is only 25 000. Then they go to the superior courts. You have 20 Judges for both the High Court and the Supreme Court. We have created new positions but we have not funded for them, and they would be staggered over a period of time because of the financial situation in which we are in. So at the High Court including the Deputy Chief Justice, who is both the Deputy Chief Justice and the Judge President and the Deputy Judge President, we have 40 additional Judges of which three are at the northern division Oshakati, and 11 at the main division Windhoek. The bulk is here, but the bulk is also growing there, because it also has civil jurisdiction now. So with five Judges dedicated to criminal cases, and then 6 Judges dedicated to civil cases.

In Oshakati two to criminal, one to civil cases. At any given time we need one to three Judges to assist at Oshakati, so realistically we are looking at six Judges needed permanently at Oshakati but we only have three.

The Supreme Court has five full time Justices. The Chief Justice plus three permanent Judges of appeal, and the other position which would be brought in from time to time the visiting Judge.

Now we have 23 legal clerks including Registrars and researchers at the High Court main division Windhoek, and four for Oshakati to assist with that research that can be done so that the Judges can move quicker, trying to find this case because advocates will stand, lawyers will stand up My Lord according to this case sometimes they may have misquoted a case or they have missed the point in the case and they need to make sure that these are the issues.

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The court connected mediation is a system (*Indistinct*). Let me give an example. In December, from July 2017 to 8th December last year 104 mediations were done saving in the hands of Government the amount of N\$437 424, because of what it would have cost to hold regular court. 684 mediations amounted to an expense in the hands of the Government in the amount of N\$1.6 Million the total that were done, but the saving on litigation cost is approximately N\$40 Million, and the saving in court trial days of 1620 days. We have a way in which we can calculate and come up with these statistics.

So let me just summarise to say unavailability of Legal Practitioners, Legal Aid Counsel Appointments, hiring and firing of Counsel by accused person they do this as a trick. You know today they come with this lawyer. Tomorrow they do not come with the lawyer, transcriptions not ready on date for continuation of trials, non-availability of funds to pay Counsel in private briefs, workload too much for the available Judges and the other factors, these costs. The laboratory tests are in Canada. We do not have DNA proof because you must prove beyond a reasonable doubt.

We also check performance of Judges, and the E-Justice that we mentioned here *Honourable Bezuidenhout* it works, as I was trying to tell you it works. I will prove to you. I will show you how you can just go on there and see although I know we do not have yet the law that *Honourable Simataa* wants to bring to the House to protect the nature of information that is electronic. We are trying as an effort to make things move. Now we are thinking, and I must say to you there may be a need for another division of the High Court somewhere in this country because we want to cut the distance where people travel to the High Court.

If I had the money I would build two High Courts. One in Katima Mulilo, one in Keetmanshoop. I do not have that money. I can hardly even fix the Ondangwa Court that I am talking about, but if we can do that and satellite it the way and have the Supreme Court as the apex court only receiving appeals from there, it may assist but that backlog will retain for a while due to structural issues in the system and the nature of our country as we are.

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May I also now just let you know that the number of warrants of arrest issued by Clerks of Courts were 53 917. That is a lot of warrants of arrest. Cases of review to the High Court 2751, civil summons issued 9025, number of active maintenance cases *Honourable Nambahu* maintenance cases 31,104 active, number of domestic cases registered 1239, number of liquor applications received 1160, number of estates registered below one hundred thousand, 1570, number of legal aid applications, people who want to be given assistance for trial 5415. So I am just giving you all this information to understand what impacts the delay in finalising.

I must also say to you in addition of functions which takes time from the functions of the courts, is functions done for other Ministries. Ministry of Home Affairs is a recipient of services of the courts. Registration of births and deaths at Oranjemund, Bethanie, Aranos and Maltahohe, receiving of money for passport applications, duplicate births and deaths, marriage certificates at a number of courts. Solemnisation of marriages then the Ministry of Finance receiving of all taxes, medical aid contributions, stamp duties and fees. Ministry of Land Reform to collect their taxes at a number of offices.

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry as it was then. Meat export permits, import of household pets, and various other permits. Ministry of Health and Social Services renewal of fitness certificates. Ministry of Education examination fees are received at Oranjemund and Khorixas. Ministry of Labour pension applications, disability grants at Maltahohe. Ministry of Works, Ministry of Gender application for children court and guardianship.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Which questions are we dealing with now Honourable Minister? Can we respond to the specific questions?

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: This is the delay yes because we are talking about the delay in rendering services, and I am trying to tell you the enormity and hence made the point that I said adenosine that this institution is very important. It is important for us to know. This is the one opportunity where you have no option but to listen. (*Interjection*) That will also be made and I will continue, as I said I will continue making it adenosine.

Now on the assessors of maintenance when you have 31 000 cases of maintenance and let me give you an example at the Ondangwa Magistrates Court. You have got one Clerk for maintenance. When that person and the lady in Ondangwa was pregnant and had to go on maternity leave, can you imagine the impact that that has to that community.

We need social workers. If fathers were responsible and mothers who receive the money do not go and buy lipstick and russians and eating chips, I am just saying. What I am saying is it is not fair to say. (*Interjections*)(*Intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Order please, allow him to respond.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: It is not fair to say that fathers are irresponsible, because there are responsible fathers, and there are irresponsible fathers, but there are irresponsible mothers and there are responsible mothers. So all I am saying is that if everybody lived up to their functions, then we would not be talking about this issue now with the courts, but we are delegating our parental duties to institutions of State. Your kid must be educated, the State must educate. Even to dress your child the State must also now come in with maintenance orders to compel you to make sure your child is dressed.

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Now we are saying we need assessors to go and make sure that that money reaches that child so we are dispensing slowly but we are also having difficulty in ensuring that that money reaches the intended beneficiary.

Honourable Nambahu the drafting style I agree with you fully. The one thing that I have a problem and as policy set up of justice this is my view. I do not like these Amendments more than seven Amendments to one law that is Amended already, I believe let us come up with a new law first of all. Then you cite the wrong one, people who do not read. I really think we should clean up our law books. Again, you may not like it. It is my view and I will keep saying it day in day out. I do not like the way our law books stand.

If you look at the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development their Act reading it, income tax or some other statutes they are so littered with Amendments. Yes, some legislation are Amended 40 times, and maybe we should adopt what other people are doing, and you are very correct. In the schedules there the regulations there, we should be able to provide for what this law will do practically, it is done, but we need to just find a way to agree that this is how we will learn. We only look to South Africa, but the Commonwealth is wide and larger with examples.

Then the Magisterial Districts Comrade Nambahu, they are gazetted and the gazetting of them is done in a way to reflect the districts, the town, the town zones sometimes and beyond, so those for example district of Windhoek goes as far as sometimes the border of Omaheke there, because there is no other Magisterial District available. Hardap there, that side of Erongo it is a difficulty, but the challenge we have is either we create other courts in between, so let sleeping dogs lie for now while we try and get there, but the point is made.

Yes, *Honourable Venaani* in your absence research assistants have been appointed as I have indicated.

On the salary of Judges, look this issue is something that the Constitution confers upon the first citizen and the Judicial Service Commission, and

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they are gazetted once approved, so they are available. I do not know why we must be able to have a discussion here now. It is not necessary, and remember what I quoted for you yesterday, that we need to protect the integrity and independence of the judiciary, but for your ease of comfort I will tell you that Judges have been the least paid for the longest time. In fact civil servants, politicians even industry were getting salary increments and they have been stagnant for close to twelve (12) years, until a study was done to benchmark according to other SADC standards, and there is a tierification with the new set up.

So there is a scale for the Chief Justice. There is a scale for the Deputy Chief Justice. There is a scale for the Deputy Judges President. There is a scale for Judges who are placed outside of Windhoek. There is a scale for Judges in Windhoek High Court, Supreme Court is different, ordinary Judges. There is a scale for the Magistrates at the Regional court. There is a scale for Magistrates at District Courts etcetera so there is a tierification. It is not just “*nje*” (because).

It is done I think it was an auditing firm PWC, which was able to do the benchmarking, and it has been adopted but because of the money situation we are in, we can only give the benefits over a period of time and eventually they will catch up, but the backlog has been there. That is why many professionals do not want to leave practice to become Judges. They say why must I punish my family? Why must I punish myself? The backlog is a lot for these small Judges, so very few end up wanting to be Judges. It is a very lonely and very hard and very demanding position of Judge.

With these remarks I want to thank you, and I want to remind you that I will be coming again with the Ministerial Statements, and I will be making this song. You will hear time and again please do not starve the Judiciary and these institutions of justice with funding. Otherwise, this project called democracy can be shut down.

I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Minister so with those responses that Vote will also stand over until we have the required quorum.

Now I put Vote 22 – **“FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES”**.
Any discussion? Honourable Nauyoma.

HON NAUYOMA: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for this opportunity. I have really tiny questions to my Honourable Minister.

My question is on **the promotion program** page 12. I have noted that this program of the inland aqua culture is like it is moving on a slow pace, because I thought this project could be all over the place to add value to our nutrition and business opportunity for our people, but it looks like there is not really I think a serious effort that is put into this project to be all over the country, because when you look at the numbers that I have here, so far they are only five, in addition to the new one that is constructed I think in Aminus, or Leonardville in Omaheke. I think they would now be six. Comrade Minister why is this program moving so slow to popularise itself in the country? That is one.

Two, I have an issue of the **Fish consumption promotion trust**. I think I have talked about this thing at several occasions, but still when I visit these places I still detect lines at these facilities. Why are these facilities not extended to maybe smaller localities so that these people do not travel all the way from Omungwelume to come and buy fish in Oshakati where people are queueing up for this.

Three, on the same thing is **the quality of fish** that is sold at these facilities. In most places you only find massbanker or horse mackerel. I do not know massbanker or horse mackerel one of the two, and the quality you look at these are small ugly fish, which I do not think it is the only fish that we can provide to our communities from our sea.

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HON KLAZEN

Why are we only provided with this type of fish Comrade Minister, because I do not know whether it is worked on cost, maybe you presumed that these are the only products that our local people can afford, or what could be the reasoning behind this provision. With this Comrade Minister, I support our fish Vote.

I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Now I recognise Honourable Klazen.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House, Honourable Members. I just have three issues I want to talk about and it is not just to support the Ministry of Fisheries.

First and foremost, thank you Comrade Minister for the way you handled the pilchards' crisis let me call it a crisis. I know in the past there were outcries to put moratorium on the catching of these small pelagic, but you stood your ground, and you awarded quotas because this is a very important sector for our people. They are creating a lot of employment. Many people are relying on this small pelagic, but last year at your awarding of the quotas we were very happy. You award the whole quota and we were hoping the fish will come back, because pilchards is relying very much on the temperatures of the water, and it is seasonal. Sometimes it comes and when the quota is awarded is the time the fish is not there. Then we hope the fish will come back, so it did not happen and that is why there was no choice for you Minister to put this moratorium currently. I just want to put my support for you for the decision that you took.

Secondly, hailing from a fishing town I want to talk about empowerment of the work force. There are fishermen that works their whole life on the sea, and then they have nothing to prove. These people are going out. They are facing these dangers of the waters, unknown waters. Some have lost their lives in these waters. We have the people that go out on a daily basis with small boats. Then we have those that goes out for seven (7) days, those are the white fish hake and so on. There are some that go out for fourteen (14) days and others that go out for even thirty (30) on sea to spend 30 to 40 days on sea. As we know those are mostly the large pelagic like tuna, shark and so on which they catch. I also learned that for the crab they are also staying out very long on sea and they are really giving their all for this industry.

We know that quotas, the allocation for rights was closed for a very long time, and I am happy to learn that you say some right holders came to an after to 20 years and so on. These people I must mention also that these people have invested, these right holders had rights for such a long time have invested in factories and they have really invested big in the industry, and it will be futile to just throw them aside also, but what I have said in the beginning about these fishermen risking their lives, even the factory workers that are working in factories, all the workers in this industry. I think the time has come that these people need to benefit from this industry as well.

They need to benefit and it is not to say all of them must receive rights, because you can only award so many rights because there is only so much fish, everybody now heard about rights opening now everybody wants to have fishing rights and that is impossible Comrade Minister.

That is why other sectors like the Mining and those things also need to open so that people can benefit the whole country, so that is why I am saying this Comrade Minister, and our workforce people that have really contributed a lot in the energy and life in this industry, I think the time has come that somewhere somehow they must also start benefiting from this fishing industry.

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HON EKANDJO

Lastly, Comrade Minister I just want to applaud you for the score cards that you are going to introduce. At least these score cards will be a clear guideline on how quotas can be awarded etcetera, because many exactly receive quotas and they sold it off like that, and then they receive the money but now with these score cards, a lot of issues can be taken into consideration and for that I applaud you. With these remarks Comrade Minister, I am supporting this Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good. Now lastly I recognise Honourable Ekandjo.

HON EKANDJO: Thank you Comrade Chairperson. I wholeheartedly support Vote 22. I have only got a tiny thing to say. It does not need an answer now.

It is only that phosphate mining in the world was never undertaken anywhere in the world, and you must not allow Namibia to be an experimental laboratory in the world to see whether phosphate mining is feasible or not. Those who want to experiment here like Israel and others, they have a sea, and fisheries, craw fish, rock lobsters are the only everlasting renewable inheritance of the Namibian nation, so we must not make a mistake Comrade Minister, for those in the world, three quarters of the whole globe is a sea, those who want to come and test in our sea.

One we destroy it from the time even before AD, people have been using fish. It is the only renewable energy, and we must never make a mistake not ever. If the time comes for those who want to phosphate, let there be a referendum in the whole Namibia to see whether it is possible. We must never. They can go to Israel, they have a sea. Let them test there. So Comrade Minister I support your Vote. We must now allow Namibia to be an experimental laboratory of those in the world who want to undertake phosphate mining. I support the Vote Comrade Minister.

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HON ESAU

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes, now the Floor is over to you Honourable Minister to reply.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
Thank you very much Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

Let me also thank the three Comrades who took up the Floor in support of Vote 22, and also those ones who are supporting the Vote in silence. I want to thank them all.

Getting to the issue of program 4 with special reference to inland fisheries why the slow movement of developing aqua culture. Aqua culture is a very complicated subsector in fisheries. It is complicated because Namibia, we do not have permanent water bodies that is why. Number two, when we have at least water where we can exercise aqua culture, we are faced with a situation of drought as well. It is another issue that really is a challenge to us. When there is drought, then we do not have the fish feed to produce. Then we have to buy fish feed and aqua culture becomes a real challenge.

Aqua culture as you know it is capital intensive as well. You need to dig your ponds. You need to have at least people with the capacity to know how to farm with fish, but nevertheless of those challenges we are still determined to advance the development of aqua culture inland fisheries. In the same vein also Mari-culture because Mari-culture is also part of aqua culture. You have seen that there is a lot of entrepreneurs now in the Omusati region who have started these aqua culture projects especially with the “*efundja*” (Flood) that is coming all the way from Angola.

So people have started their farms. I have said that is more than fifty (50) new farmers who have started with aqua culture projects, and we would like also to encourage the once along the Kavango Rivers, the Zambezi River to start with aqua culture and we will support them

with extension services, we will extend our support. I know my Colleague the Minister of Gender she is also having an aqua culture farm there up in the Zambezi Region. She has invited me to witness the harvesting of fish, so I want to invite as well the Comrades in the House really to embark on aqua culture and we are available. Our officials are available to assist when it comes to aqua culture. We do take cognisance of the challenges, fish feed challenges we are faced with, the drought challenges that we are faced with, but nevertheless, we are committed and determined to advance that *Comrade Nauyoma* so you are most welcome to come to our offices on aqua culture and we will give you more information, whether here in Windhoek or in the northern Regions or southern Regions, with the establishments of those demonstration farms.

Getting to the fish promotion trust long lines. Yes, the demand of fish has increased. Everybody wants to buy fish or to do business with fish. It is not unaffordable because the fish consumption trust that trust, is trying to sell the fish at cost not making any profits. They are selling it at cost so the lines are long because there is a demand. It is telling you already that everybody wants fish, and in the same vein that the demand of fish has increased, we also request those right holders, those fishing right holding companies to embark on the marketing of fish in Namibia. We have taken a deliberate decision at Ministerial level that if you distribute fish or sell fish in Namibia not only horse mackerel, not only that ugly one but also the other species like the hake or lobster or any other one, we will incentivise you by way of giving you a little bit more quota, this is what we said and we did that.

I was on air in fact, whereby I have also mentioned that if you take 30% of your quota allocated and sell it in Namibia, and also in the process help Government to develop the Small and Medium Entrepreneurs, I think we need to award you for that. Some companies took up that challenge like the Erongo Marine Enterprises, they have started with fish for business small outlets, and they are complementing our efforts in the distribution of fish because we know the lines are long, that tells us the demand is there. There is a domestic demand for fish.

Quality of fish only horse mackerel sold. You know we want to diversify.

We do not want only to sell horse mackerel. The “*Kanguru*” that one is also a by catch which they are selling, so all the “*Kashushu*” and even there is Zambezi bream from the inland. Now I am talking now, so that is what I can say in terms of fish promotion program 4 on inland fisheries, and the issue of the long lines and the variety of fish that is sold to our domestic market.

Comrade Klazen, I also want to say thank you for the support on the pilchards’ issue on our intervention on the pilchards. Yes, the pilchards is on a moratorium because the biomass, the stocks of pilchards has drastically reduced. We do not know why. We are still investigating. We are carrying out surveys, research on this very fisheries, in order to establish what is the reason that this very fish is disappearing? You know we are faced with the challenge of climate change. We are faced with explosion of the population of seals. We do not know what is happening there, and we are looking from all aspects. Our scientists they are also here. They are working on those matters.

Now getting to the empowerment of the workers or the sea fearers or their dependants. We are for it as Government, that everybody should not feel left out. So you have seen recently in the newspapers, or in the social media that there was a group of women from Narraville who have more than 30-40% shares in a company which we are trying you know the Hiker case. So they are trying to get that very quota, and we know it was on the strength of their support of their participation that that right was given to that very company as well, and we are working on that and we will like to see that at least when people are applying that they include the workers through workers trust.

That is one of the criteria within when we allocated rights or give quotas that there must be workers participation in equity ownership, in equity participation. Not only there, they must also at least be empowered through management. Management of the company, ownership in the vessels, ownership in the management of those vessels, so it goes down even in corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs of companies we want to see to it that at least the dependants of those workers, their kids

are also benefiting from bursaries and scholarships of the income generated from that resources, not only Walvis Bay but the whole Namibia because Article 100 of our Constitution is very clear when it talks to the ownership of resources, and we want to give meaning to that very Article of our association through this resource that is fishing.

Granting of rights, investment in the industry we do take cognisance of that and again, when it comes to the granting of rights or the allocation of quotas there is a criteria that says that at least if they have invested, we cannot ignore your investments whether it is in a vessel, in a factory or in the product itself especially value addition as well. At least we should not ignore the investments you have made on that score. So we are not ignoring that. It is captured. It is there. It will be the criteria, the basis on which we will evaluate the right, it is the basis on which we will also evaluate your application for a quota if you are the right holder so that is not in fact left out.

Score card, I thank you very much for support on the score card. The score card is with us Cabinet now. It must be finalised now. It will be finalised. When the new season starts of fishing, we want to apply, we want to use the score card, because the score card will help us in making or realise making sure that Vision 2030 is also helped by the score card. NDP5 is also given meaning through the score card, and Harambee Prosperity Plan will also be given meaning through the score card in terms of the way we will use this resource so this resource is very critical and very important.

Having said that on the phosphate mining within our EEZ, I take note of what *Comrade Jerry* has said here. We are taking note of that. All what I can say is that this matter is sub-judicare. Presently we know the courts are still discussing, I have not heard any judgement on that. I do not want to talk too much but we take cognisance and take note of what was said on phosphate and I have made my statement as well in this House.

I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good, thank you Honourable Minister for those response. The same Rule will apply on that Vote.

We proceed to Vote 25 – **“LAND REFORM”**. Any discussions?
Honourable Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I do have a few questions.

Honourable Minister on page 2 of your motivation you said that the Ministry has a mandate to acquire **about 5 Million hectares of land by 2020**. I just would like to find out how far are we in acquiring that number of hectares.

Then on page 3 of your motivation you talked about the **court case that is currently in the High Court**. I would just like to find out is the Ministry still approving applications for waivers? I used to receive some taxes from a certain person, and it seems that their land transactions is going on, so I just want to find out what is the situation there.

Then Honourable Minister on the Budget, Development Budget page 541 I noticed there, I do not know this is maybe because of this copy paste that when you look at the target constituencies in the MTEF, it said all Karas, all Karas, all Omusati, all Omusati I think it is just a copy paste thing.

Honourable Minister I want to find out about the **loans granted** as indicated N\$55 Million for loans. I would like to find out Honourable Minister from the 2017/2018 Financial Year, an amount of N\$82 Million was allocated. What was the output of that N\$82 Million?

If the Minister can also maybe just explain to us how one needs to apply for that kind of loan, because if you go to the project description, it says

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HON NUJOMA

that it is for recruitment of graduates to pay labourers at farms. So if the Minister can just maybe give more information on that.

Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good, Honourable Minister it is over to you.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you *Honourable Van Wyk* for your questions and for the support to Vote 25.

I must say that the mandate, the Land Conference that was in 1991, decided that at least we should acquire 5 million hectares of land by the year 2020. I can tell you now that so far we have acquired around 3.1 million. My Colleagues will give me the correct figures, but we are there but you must also remember that our Budget has consistently been going down and as a result we cannot acquire as I stated in my statement. We have for the last Financial Year, we have only managed to acquire 28 farms and we have resettled 28 families, this is just because of the budgetary constraints.

Now with regard to the court case, yes, it is farmers who took us court. They did not agree with the valuation of the court, and as a result, they were disputing the assessments. So there is already a court case going on but with these valuations, they did not agree and they went to the High Court for an urgent interdict so that the first case could be resolved, could be attended to by the High Court, and as a result we got the interdict. Now that interdict has serious consequences.

We cannot continue with the assessments because the assessments are based on the previous valuation roll, and therefore our hands are stuck now, and as a result, we cannot even issue waivers. It is an unfortunate

situation. Everybody wants to transact and they want to buy farms, they want waivers. Right now because of our Budget constraints we cannot buy the farms. In the absence of that, we are forced in terms of the *Agricultural Commercial Reform Act* to give waivers if we are not interested. So this is the dilemma we are facing but we are now in the process with the Agribank because it is also affecting the normal operations of Agribank, because they must buy and sell, give loans unfortunately, but we are attending to that.

We are trying to see whether we can approach the court to reverse that interdict so that the normal transactions can continue. You know agriculture as the Minister was saying there, is the backbone is what we eat, is what we sell and it will affect the economy which is already constrained by other factors, so unfortunately, that is the situation.

Now with regard to the other question of the Development Budget *Honourable Van Wyk* we do not grant grants. We only assist, post settlement support, we resettle and we provide post settlement support. What loans are you talking about? *(Interjection)* You said page what, 514 which one now the medium term expenditure, *(Interjection)*

HON VAN WYK: Development Budget.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Development Budget. Page which one *(Laughter)* 541? Well, *Honourable Van Wyk* what I can really tell you there are errors in this book, and you said 541 grants. You are talking of external grants. These are external grants which has nothing to do with our own core Budget. These are external funds with our development partners. Is that clear? *(Interjections)* It must be an error there because definitely this is, only Agribank gives loans. Loans normally have a zero allocation that is what I can explain. *(Interjections)*

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ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

I will check, and my officials are cross checking. Over a cup of tea I can lecture you then further.

Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Very good, on that note this Vote will also stand over. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again. Honourable Speaker I report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Speaker, I report progress and ask leave to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We have come a long way and we are absolutely on time. All that is left for me is to request the Prime Minister to adjourn the House so that we can allow you to continue with other commitments beyond the Chamber.

RT HON DR PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker I Move that the House adjourns until Monday 14:30.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The House stands adjourn until Monday 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 12:25 UNTIL 2018.05.23 AT 14:30
