

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

**DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Ms D Sioka

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

(21 March 2005 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Dr L Amathila (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister of Veterans Affairs)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential)</i>
Mr P Tsheehama	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Works, Transport and Communication)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Defence)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice and Attorney-General)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr J Pandeni	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

DEPUTY MINISTERS

(21 March 2005 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Mr G Shihepo	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Youth, National Service and Culture)</i>
Mr P Smit	<i>(Agriculture, Water and Forestry)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Finance)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr R Dinyando	<i>(Information and Broadcasting)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

SECRETARY

Mr S N Goabab

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Ms E Dienda	
R K Gertze	
Mr T Gurirab	<i>(Deputy Whip)</i>
Ms N Schimming-Chase	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr B Ulenga	<i>(Party Leader)</i>

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr J De Waal	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr K Kaura	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr P Moongo	
Mr M Venaani	<i>(Deputy Whip)</i>

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

Mr J Viljoen *(Chief Whip)*

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

Mr A Mbai
Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*
Mr A Tjihuiiko *(Chief Whip)*

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr H Mudge *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Mr B Amathila *(Government Chief Whip)*
Dr L Amathila (Ms) *(Deputy Prime Minister)*
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)
Mr N Angola *(Prime Minister)*
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)
Ms L Basson
Mr H Boois *(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House
Committee)*

Ms H Christian
Mr Dinyando *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr J Ekandjo *(Minister)*
Mr B Esau *(Deputy Minister)*
Dr H Geingob (Mr)
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr) *(Speaker)*
Ms P Haingura *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr H Hamutenya
Mr M Hausiku *(Minister)*
Mr P Ilonga *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms P Iivula-Ithana *(Minister)*
Dr A Iyambo (Mr) *(Minister)*
Dr N Iyambo (Mr) *(Minister)*
Mr L Jooste *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr J Kaapanda *(Minister)*
Mr Kaiyamo
Mr R Kamwi *(Minister)*
Ms L Kasingo
Mr I Katali *(Deputy Minister)*
Dr A Kawana (Mr) *(Minister)*
Mr K Kazenambo *(Deputy Minister)*
Rev W Konjore (Mr) *(Minister)*
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila *(Minister)*

Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	
Mr J Nambinga	
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Pandeni	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr G Shihepo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Tsheehama	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr J //Garöeb	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr M Goreseb	
Ms G Tjombe	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT IN TERMS OF ARTICLE 32(5)(c) OF THE CONSTITUTION

Mr R Diergaardt	
Ms I Hoffmann	
Ms A Manombe-Ncube	
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Smit	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
23 APRIL 2007
WINDHOEK

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Agriculture.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Mr Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Technical Information Document to accompany the Budget speech of 2007/08 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in order to enable the Honourable Members to get detailed information which will not be included in my speech.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the information? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions?

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 13, 15, 17, 22, 25, 26 and 27 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 94 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION
OF COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported on Friday, 20 April 2007, Votes 01, 11, 14, 16, 21, 28, 30 and 31 had been agreed to and Votes 13, 22, and 26 have been introduced.

Vote 15 – “MINES AND ENERGY”, N\$96,439,000 put for introduction.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members. I am honoured and privileged to present to this House Vote 15, Ministry of Mines and Energy, as the custodian of Namibia’s rich endowment of mineral, geological and energy resources. This Ministry facilitates and regulates the responsible development and sustainable utilisation of these resources for the benefit of all Namibians.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy has set itself the following strategic objectives, as contained in its Strategic Plan:

- To promote investment in the mineral and energy sector.
- To ensure sustainable contribution of geological and energy resources to the socio-economic development of Namibia.
- To create a conducive environment for the mineral and energy sectors.
- To regulate and monitor the exploration and exploitation of mineral and energy resources.
- To minimise the impact of exploitation of mineral and energy resources on the environment.
- To provide professional and customer focused service.

In carrying out its work, the Ministry addresses a number of strategic issues as outlined in the SWAPO Manifesto. A strategic focus of the Ministry is to create and consolidate beneficiation of our minerals. This extends to our diamond resources. For example, we recently just concluded our agreements with our partner De Beers whereby we agreed to supply diamonds to our factories in order that we can grow and establish a diamond cutting and polishing hub in Namibia.

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Even though we were told before that we should not dare go into diamond manufacturing because we could not compete with countries such as China and India with their low labour costs, we have been encouraged by the idea that with our unique high quality diamonds we can produce premium quality cut diamonds for niche markets. Namibia is on the verge of taking up its rightful place in the international diamond fraternity. We will not stop there. Our strategy is to go as further downstream as possible into jewellery manufacturing and into branding of Namibian diamonds and share in the value addition throughout the pipeline. At the same time, we will continue to do whatever it takes to protect our diamond patrimony and the image of our diamonds – which represent love, beauty and commitment – from the threats of smugglers, unscrupulous elements and conflict diamonds.

With regards to value addition towards manufacturing, my Ministry shall continue to investigate and engage the industry in an effort to realise increased copper smelting capacity and eventual refining towards manufacture of copper products such as wires, tubes, rods, plates, etcetera. In addition, further investment in the marble and granite-processing factory needs to be investigated. These, I believe will create further employment activities and advance Namibia to be a developing Nation with a strong manufacturing base.

I should further indicate here that the Ministry strives to ensure that humanity uses the earth's riches without wasting resources that cannot be replenished, and without upsetting the dynamic equilibrium of the Earth System that sustains all living creatures on our land. To develop Namibia's mineral resources, while ensuring practices that are not detrimental to the environment, and that guarantee sustainability for the benefit of future generations of Namibians, it is therefore of utmost strategic importance that we conduct mapping and airborne geophysical surveys to help find mineral deposits, as well as groundwater, and promote investment in the Namibian mineral sector.

The claim for the extension of the Namibian continental shelf currently prepared under the auspices of the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation is another strategic issue for Namibia, in which my geologists play a leading role.

On the international front, we contribute to strategic issues such as the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by way of geophysical monitoring, and our research data are used in the ever more important discussion on climate change, to name but two examples. With a reputation of one of the best Geological Surveys on the continent, we are thus placed in a pivotal place to participate in international debates concerning sustainable development while ensuring prosperity for our own people.

The principal energy sources driving Namibia's economy are petroleum products and electricity. The current supply situation is that our country depends on oil for

100% of the oil and 50% of the electricity, on average.

The Ministry's key strategic focus areas with respect to oil include:

- Extensively supporting exploration and production activities enhance Namibia's chances of relying on own internal resources.
- Diversifying the external supply sources to minimise the risk of relying on a single source.
- Upgrading infrastructure to improve the reliability and handling capacity of commercial storage facilities at Walvis Bay.
- Investing in strategic storage facilities and commercial storage facilities and reduce 100 percent dependence on facilities of privately owned oil companies.

With regards to electricity, the strategic focus areas include:

- Investing in diversified electricity generation and supply options both from within and from the regional partners.
- Opening up the market to allow diversified Independent Power Producers (IPPs).
- Continuing restructuring of the electricity Supply improve efficiency in service delivery.
- Mobilizing additional funds to increase the electrification in line with Vision 2030.

Deducing from the above, My Ministry is now in pursuit of the following programmes that are geared towards achieving the aforementioned strategic objectives as well as key strategic focuses:

- That the output of mineral and energy production is optimised for the benefit of Namibia in the long term;
- That the nation is provided with an adequate supply of energy;
- That the negative impact of mineral and energy resource exploitation on the environment is minimized;
- That the understanding of the geo-environment is enhanced.

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As a strategy to promote the above objectives, our main emphasis will be placed on the implementation of the Ministry's Strategic Plan 2007-2012, which is in line with all the National Planning Tools including Vision 2030.

Honourable Chairperson, the N\$96,439,000 that I request this House to appropriate to my Ministry, is to ensure that the above five objectives are realised during this Financial Year.

Optimisation of Output of Mineral Production

In an effort to optimise the output of mineral and energy production, we have budgeted an amount of N\$31,591,000 to carry out the following activities:

We shall continue with the geological mapping programme and will undertake the largest high-resolution airborne geophysical survey since the inception of the programme in 1994, to ensure total coverage of the country by the year 2009. These are indispensable tools for the mining and exploration sector, which during 2006 has dramatically increased its contribution to Namibia's GDP and tax income. Mapping and geophysics are also used for infrastructural development and the search for underground water.

The interpretation of remote sensing and geophysical data are likewise utilized for that task, and it is therefore important that the Ministry continues with its acquisition of these data. The minerals database will constantly be updated as new data is acquired, and so will be the special database for dimension stones.

A number of new reports in the mineral information series are nearing completion. The project on geological and technological studies on quartz raw materials for the manufacturing of glass in Namibia is expected to produce a pre-feasibility study. Airborne and ground geophysical surveys are continuously carried out to provide comprehensive and detailed data sets for use in mineral exploration, as well as the search for underground water and environmental research.

I must reiterate that Namibia continues to attract reasonable levels of mineral exploration expenditure by the private sector. Gold exploration in Grootfontein - Kombat - Otavi - Otjiwarongo areas is at an advanced stage and the second open cast gold mine in Namibia is likely to commence production within one or two years. Copper and gold explorations in Otavi and Outjo districts are progressing well. Diamond exploration in Kavango and Tsumkwe areas continues. NAMDEB has been awarded Exclusive Prospecting Licences (BPLs) covering the areas that stretch from Divundu to Kongola in the Caprivi Region to search for diamonds.

The sinking of an exploration shaft at Asis far west near Kombat Copper-Lead Mine and the subsequent exploration to find more ore bodies is completed. Unfortunately no economic deposits could be found. The Matchless Copper Mine

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was re-opened in May 2005 and continues to supply ore concentrate for the Tsumeb Smelter.

With respect to uranium, the stakeholders approved the extension of the life span of Rössing Uranium Mine beyond 2030. Assessments covering environmental impact, socio-economic benefits, stakeholder involvement, and additional employment of about two hundred people have been completed, and the stripping of overburden waste has commenced.

The second uranium mine in Namibia, the Langer Heinrich Mine commenced production of uranium oxide in September 2006. His Excellency, the President of the Republic officially opened the Mine on 15 March 2007. More than two hundred people are currently employed at the mine.

Intensive exploration programme at Trekkopje Uranium Deposit near Arandis as well as at Valencia is at an advanced stage. It is expected that these deposits will advance to mining operations in the next two years, placing Namibia amongst the top four producers of uranium in the world.

The outlook of the uranium industry is promising. The Uranium price continues to improve and the world demand for uranium oxide currently exceeds supply. This situation has created good opportunities for Namibia to become a major producer of primary uranium in Africa. Due to the exponential rush in the acquisition of nuclear fuel mineral licences, and in order to realign the Ministry's administrative functions with the concept of sustainable development, I have temporarily suspended the application and subsequent issuing of uranium licences. My Ministry will work on policies and other regulatory instruments to ensure that mineral rights are issued to the deserving, who will contribute positively to the development of the industry and Namibia at large.

In the last Financial Year, we issued eleven exclusive reconnaissance licences, 430 non-exclusive prospecting licences, 176 exclusive prospecting licences and 133 mining claims. Both local and international companies participated in the application and acquisition of the said mineral licences and rights. No mining licence was issued in the last Financial Year, however, a number of applications have been lodged and are under consideration.

Honourable Chairperson, with the current high international oil prices and our own efforts, Namibia has attracted a lot of interest from international oil companies for exploration opportunities. Last year in my Budget speech I told this august House that I was expecting to issue six new petroleum exploration licenses and one production licence. I am happy to report that we managed to negotiate and issued nine exploration licenses and one production license in the last Financial Year. This year we expect to license the remaining areas with the potential of oil and gas. It is believed that there is oil somewhere in Namibia and with increasing oil

and gas exploration activities in our country we are moving a step closer to finding it.

Ensuring that Mineral and Energy Production Benefits the nation:

An amount of N\$16,291,000 has been budgeted to pursue the activities below:

We have a moral responsibility to ensure that mineral and energy production benefits the Nation. Black Economic Empowerment is a noble tool in this endeavour. It aims at addressing the economic imbalances of the past, by seeking to fairly transfer and confer ownership, management and control of Namibia's oil, gas and minerals to previously disadvantaged Namibians. By the end of this Financial Year, we envisage to have Black Economic Empowerment Charters for the electricity, petroleum and the mining sectors.

In the award of both consultancy and contractors' work for the rural electrification programme over the last few years, we continued to place emphasis on Black Economic Empowerment credentials as one of the selection criteria. In addition, the contracts for the wiring of schools, clinics, police stations and other Government buildings in rural areas are exclusively awarded to small and medium enterprises or contractors residing in those areas that amounted to about N\$3.6 million in the last Financial Year. These measures are meant to enhance our Black Economic Empowerment Programme.

Honourable Chairperson, a large number of previously disadvantaged Namibians make their livelihood through mining on a small scale. We have a responsibility to ensure that they are assisted, both technically and financially. In the last Financial Year the Small Scale Mining Sector has re-organised themselves and a regional body of small-scale miners of Erongo Small Scale Miners Association (ERSMA) has been formed. Support from the Ministry to ensure that these people mine in a safer and sustainable way will continue, and has been very successful in the past year. The Minerals Development Fund has been able to provide limited financial assistance to medium-scale miners who were able to provide viable business plans and security for their projects.

In the course of this Financial Year, we shall continue to increase resource allocation from the Minerals Development Fund to small miners. However, I must reiterate that additional funds are required to expedite the development of this sector. Structurally, we have made a submission to the Office of the Prime Minister to create a division within the Directorate of Mines, with specific emphasis on assisting the small-scale miners as well as the overall development of this industry.

Ensuring safety in mining activities continues to be a core function of this Ministry. In the past year, reportable accidents represented a downward trend

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from previous years. However, this month alone we have unfortunately experienced two fatalities, bringing the total for this 2007 year to three. We shall continue to visit, investigate and monitor mining sites on a regular basis to ensure that the mines operate under the statutory instruments of safety, health and environmental regulations.

Diamonds remain a key component of the Namibian economy as diamonds continue to disproportionately contribute towards the GDP and state revenue generation, regardless of the unfavourable and persistent exchange rates.

The strategic importance of diamonds to the country's economy cannot be overstated. It is against that background that diamond security, continued stability, and the growth of the diamond industry in Namibia are of paramount importance to my Ministry.

The onshore diamond resources are progressively depleting, which requires more capital investment in technology to continue mining at economical levels. Offshore mining is, on the other hand, increasing. Thanks to technological innovations, offshore production exceeded land production with over one million carats of diamonds produced in 2006. In general, diamond production during 2006 exceeded any other volume known in the history of the diamond industry in Namibia, with over two million carats of diamonds produced.

As diamond exploration activities continue mushrooming across the country from the North East to the Skeleton Coast, coupled with increased downstream activity, the threats from illegal diamond dealings, diamond smuggling and conflict diamonds will present a major challenge to the Ministry's capacity and ability to monitor and regulate the industry.

There are currently three established logistical offices namely Lüderitz, Oranjemund and Swakopmund to cater for increased diamond mining and prospecting across Namibia.

The progressive support of infrastructure, logistics and manpower is critical to ensure that the handling, transportation, trade, manufacturing, import and export of a strategic commodity that has the highest concentration of value than any other, and that is easy to conceal and smuggle, is monitored and regulated efficiently and effectively. In that regard, I am pleased to announce that at the Annual Plenary Meeting of the Kimberley Process, Namibia was specially commended for a clean bill of health and lauded as a model within the fraternity of diamond producing and manufacturing countries. These observations were made by the Kimberley Process International Certification Scheme for rough diamonds who visited Namibia to audit and evaluate Namibia's system of internal controls.

Again, a large portion of this year's allocation will go towards activities geared

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primarily for the monitoring and regulation of the industry and promotion of growth, diversification and stability of our diamond industry.

The negotiations between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and De Beers that started during the year 2005 to review Shareholding, Marketing and Sales Agreement between the two parties were concluded successfully. One of the most remarkable aspects of the negotiations has been the persistent determination by the Government of the Republic of Namibia to support to a large extent the overall development of the diamond industry in Namibia, including the newly developed down-streams of the diamond industry. The Namibian Government realised that it is through developing and maximising its natural resources that a sustainable future for Namibia and its people can be secured. In this context, and as a result of the said negotiation, Namibia Diamond Trading Company was born, and its formation resulted in the amount of N\$90,000,000 accruing to state coffers in the year 2006.

Honourable Chairperson, value addition to Namibia's mineral commodities is a clear policy position of the Namibian Government, which is in line with the promises made in the SWAPO Manifesto. Nowhere is this objective's potential more likely to be promptly attainable and successful than in our diamond industry today. Already seven new cutting and polishing factories have been established and commissioned since the promulgation of the Diamond Act in the year 2000 which was instrumental in making, for the first time in our history, provisions for cutting and polishing licenses and as well as creating a levelled playing field in an otherwise monopolistic environment.

My Ministry would work overtime to ensure that this infant manufacturing industry is nurtured and provided with all the tools necessary to ensure its future viability and sustainability.

Provision of Adequate Supply of Energy to the Nation:

An amount of N\$32,118,000 is required for the activities stated below:

In our quest to address security of supply by exploiting internally available oil and gas resources, focus on exploration and production activities continued. Exploration and supporting activities, such as licensing, attracted huge investments, resulting in substantial revenue for the state. My Ministry is proud to announce that great interest is being shown in Namibia as a potential petroleum producing country. This can be observed through the thirteen exploration licenses and one production license awarded to major international oil companies. The activities undertaken by these companies have added value to our continental shelf through geological work, giving us great proximities to more discoveries. We are indeed already benefiting from our petroleum activities through revenues generated from rental fees, approximately N\$20 million annually, and the training

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commitments made by these companies enable us to build our human capacity.

Honourable Chairperson, Namibia depends 100% on the import of petroleum products procured and processed in foreign countries, mainly South Africa. More than 90% of crude oil imported by South Africa comes from Saudi Arabia, Iran and Nigeria. Namibia has no refining capacity of its own. An oil refinery is required if Namibia wants to meet and secure its local demand and that of its landlocked neighbours. The Namibian market, albeit small, is growing at an accelerated rate and it will, therefore, be costly to import all the necessary fuel requirements in the near future. Currently the daily consumption is estimated to be at about 16,000 barrels. Therefore, initiatives to construct a refinery with a regional focus should be encouraged.

An extensive strategic stock study was undertaken in 2004, which was to be used as a basis for developing a comprehensive strategic stock policy. The process is still ongoing. Presently the oil companies ensure that they carry a fifteen-day contingency stockpile in their tanks. The present capacity of tanks makes provision for about 30 days of stock for strategic purposes - on condition that these tanks have been filled to maximum capacity. In the long-term, the Ministry will also ensure the security of supply by enforcing mandatory stockholding levels and making sure the country has enough, ninety days ideal stock, reserves.

Honourable Chairperson, my Ministry shall continue with rural electrification and will give priority to connecting to the grid all localities which were electrified but not yet energised in twelve Regions of the country. The Khomas Region will be the only exception, as there does not seem to be a locality that needs to be electrified. During the 2006/2007 Financial Year, about 45 villages have benefited during the said Financial Year all over the country.

The Ministry has also through Konga Investment, the solar revolving fund administrator, sold about 200 solar systems through a low interest commercial delivery mode.

Honourable Chairperson, three out of the five Regional Electricity Distributors initially envisaged, NORED, Erongo RED and CENORED are fully operational. The Southern RED and Central RED are expected to be operational before the end of 2007. Inefficiencies in the industry will be minimised once the rationalisation process is completed.

I must state here that Regional Electricity Distribution (REDs) is relatively a new concept in Namibia, which I can describe as a classic form of electricity power decentralisation into the hands of the country's regional based stakeholders. Main actors and equity holders in the REDs, with the exception of NamPower, are regional and local authorities. This concept was introduced to reform and improve

electricity distribution network in the country. This reform is also accompanied by the creation of a conducive condition for the establishment and operations of Independent Power Producers (IPP) to set up and operate electricity power generating facilities and in order to sell electricity. Our experience indicates that, in areas in which REDs are already operational, member local authorities are no longer struggling with their electricity account payments to the same extent to those located in areas where REDs are not yet formed. Benefits that accrue to local authorities joining REDs include:

- Efficiency in attending to electricity black-outs,
- Ability to meet electricity bill payments,
- Lessened surcharge problems, and
- Increased prospect of sources of power emanating from existence of Independent Power Producers.

Other benefits include job creation for those who will be employed in REDs structures, which is the goal of the Government, possible low electricity cost resulting from creation of generation capacity and elimination of disparities in the electricity power sourcing, as their capabilities will be standardised and modernised through this joint ventures.

Nevertheless, it is now common knowledge that the Region is facing a power shortage in terms of electricity generation capacity and if no steps are taken to redress the situation, the SADC countries, including Namibia, will run out of generation surplus capacity. Although the negotiations between the various role players in the Kudu Gas to Power project have not yet yielded the desired outcomes due to various reasons, my Ministry has urged the developers to progress with developing this project.

The negotiations through Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTC) between Angola and Namibia to develop Baynes Hydro Scheme are progressing well. The Cunene Consortium was appointed to conduct a full feasibility study. Our reliance on cheap imported electricity from South Africa has put us in a vulnerable position and it might be necessary for us to make some tough choices in future in order to ensure adequacy, reliability and security of power supply to the country.

Minimising of the negative Impact of Mineral/Energy Resource Exploitation to the Nation.

We have set aside an amount of N\$8,115,000 for the following efforts:

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We have a responsibility to monitor the environmental impact of mining and exploration to ensure a healthy environment for the generations to come. The Ministry also so that assists town developments in mining areas are done in an environmentally safe way, as has been shown by the recent investigations done on behalf of the Tsumeb Town Council. A database of the many abandoned mining sites in the country is constantly updated, and the formulation of measures for rehabilitation is an important programme of my Ministry.

Therefore, investigation of the many abandoned mine sites in the country and the formulation of measures for their rehabilitation will continue this year.

In the amendment of Minerals Act, the enforcement of compulsory funds from the mining companies for environmental clear-ups upon mining closures is an important step in the right direction.

Enhancement of the Understanding of the Geo-Environment

An amount of N\$8,325,000 will cover efforts to enhance the understanding of the geo-environment.

Our Ministry will continue with environmental geology investigations. Geological studies for urban and rural development, land use planning as well as geo-chemical surveys; are conducted in order to provide data to ensure Namibia's sustainable development. The geological aspects of new infrastructure developments, existing and new waste disposal sites, coastal zone changes – so important for the current climate change debate – and natural hazards are monitored on a regular basis.

Further projects include the application for the extension of the Namibian continental shelf in accordance with the international law of the sea, the co-management of the Benguela Large Marine Eco-System, where we are now serving on the Interim Benguela Current Commission, the influence of geological processes to climate changes, the utilisation of geological resources and biodiversity and the international cultural aspects of our natural heritage with respect to the World Heritage Convention, the UNESCO Convention and the International Year of Planet Earth. We are proud to be associated with Namibia's first nomination for a World Heritage site, which will be discussed by UNESCO during 2007.

The potential for “*geo-tourism*” will be further promoted with the introduction of a new minerals book, and the first geo-park in Africa can become a reality once the relevant legislation is passed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, with whom we are in constant contact. We are therefore also supporting the tourism sector, which is so important for the Namibian economy. Information on

geological matters is continuously provided through the Ministry's museum and library, which attract scientists, tourists and Namibians alike. We, therefore, also fulfil our role in earth science education.

Honourable Chairperson, the application of earth sciences in supporting wealth creation, quality of life, and laying the foundations for a sustainable future is of ever-increasing importance to civil society. Geological research data plays a crucial role in both geo-scientific research and its application, to achieve the goals, which are enshrined in NDP2 and Vision 2030.

Budget per Programme	N\$
Optimisation of the Output of Mineral and Energy Production	31,591,000
Ensuring that Mineral Production benefits the Nation	16,293,000
Provision of adequate Supply of Energy to the Nation	32,118,000
Minimisation of the negative impact of Mineral/Energy Resource Exploitation on the Environment	8,115,000
Enhancement of the Understanding of the Geo-Environment	8,325,000
Total	96,439,000

Honourable Chairperson, in conclusion, I would also like to thank the Minister of Finance, her Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary and staff for a well-constructed *pro-poor* Budget.

I would also like to assure Members of this House that the funds I request for appropriation to the Ministry of Mines and Energy will be utilised prudently. I am further convinced that these funds will go a long way in improving the quality of life in Namibia. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister.

Vote 22 – “REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT”, N\$518,285 000 put for introduction.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION - VOTE 22
HON PANDENI**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House.

I am happy to stand here before you today in this august House to share with you the flagship programmes and development targets for the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development as highlighted in the Medium Term Plans for 2007/08 — 2009/10.

Before I motivate the Budget for our Ministry, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary and staff for tabling a truly *pro-poor* and a pro-growth Budget. I am specifically proud to note that the Honourable Minister of Finance has realised a surplus Budget for the second consecutive year with a marginal growth of the GDP.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development has five major programmes namely Housing Delivery, Regional and Local Government, Traditional Authorities Coordination, Decentralisation Coordination and Rural Development Coordination. In my introduction of every programme I will brief this august House on the outcome of the Financial Year Budget implementation and what we intend to do in the 2007/2008 Financial Year.

Programme 1: Housing Delivery for 2007/2008 Financial Year – N\$79,792,000.

Housing is a basic need and crucial to the realisation of Vision 2030, NDP3 and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Improving the living conditions of urban dwellers especially those living in informal settlements by improving housing, security of tenure and access to water and sanitation will automatically have a positive impact on the attainment of most goals and targets of the MDGs. In this respect, our Ministry would like to express its commitment and determination to achieve the primary goal of creating conducive environment for all role players in order to facilitate the process of shelter for all Namibians,

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HON PANDENI**

particularly the rural and urban poor. In this regard, a White Paper on housing was developed which has been formulated in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. It is expected that the Draft White Paper will be finalised during 2007/08 Financial Year.

National Housing Programme:

During 2006/07 officials of the Regions and towns were trained on the administration, finance and technical aspects of the Build-Together Programme. The training process is expected to continue in the next Financial Year in order to build the capacity and empower the sub-national institutions to manage the decentralised Build-Together Programme effectively.

Furthermore, our Ministry continues to support the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia with an annual grant of N\$1,000,000 with a view to address the housing needs of our poor communities.

Community participation under the umbrella of Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia has led to the projects to be completed on time and promote the concept of ownership.

I can report that the programme encourages women participation and about 52% of the beneficiaries are women. The programme constructed 1,270 houses in nine Regions; and provided basic services to 4,852 households. It will continue where, in total, an estimated 4,800 houses will be built within the next three years.

I wish also to report to this august House that in the course of 2006/07 Financial Year, Cabinet directed our Ministry, through the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) to construct 47 houses for the 48 war veterans in various Regions of the country to the tune of N\$5,000,000. As a gesture to inaugurate these houses is when the completed house was given to the owner by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba. This project continues for the next three Financial Years for the total amount of N\$3 million per year.

Infrastructure Development: In most of our towns in the country infrastructure, especially in the form of roads, water supply and sanitation, telecommunication facilities and housing, are in relative sub-standards. The absence of these developmental attributes make many of our local authorities less competitive and not attractive when it comes to local, regional and foreign investors, thereby resulting into the stagnation of economic development and growth. It is our view that infrastructure development projects hold promise for more job opportunities and poverty reduction among our people.

On the sanitation front, the Ministry has successfully replaced the inhumane

bucket system at Gibeon, while the process is underway in Stampriet, Kalkrand and Aroab in the course of 2007/08 Financial Year to the tune of N\$30,000,000. This process is expected to continue for the next three years until the whole bucket system in the country is replaced with vacuum and water borne systems. The Ministry is also exploring ways of extending modern toilet facilities to rural areas in partnership with the Otjiwarongo-based Otji-toilet technology.

I also wish to report to this august House that the relocation of Sand Hotel residents at Lüderitz is progressing well. The construction of services under the project named Lüderitz Project, which is co-funded by the European Union, our Ministry together with the Lüderitz Town Council has been completed. Moreover, the design and tender documents on construction of houses is expected to commence during April/May of 2007/08. The beneficiaries of this housing project are those who were moved from the Sand Hotel and its surroundings.

In bringing Government closer to the people, we wish also to report to this august House that in the Financial Year 2006/07, the Ministry completed the construction of thirteen constituency offices. This brings the total amount of 84 Constituency Offices so far completed in the country. Two Regional office assemblies for Omusati and Kavango Regions were constructed, while the construction of two Town Council Offices is underway at Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region and Nkurenkuru in the Kavango Region. The Ministry expects that the construction of the remaining twenty-three constituency offices will be completed within the next three Financial Years.

**Programme 2: Regional and Local Government Coordination 2007/08
Financial Year – N\$398,423,000.**

In line with Vision 2030 and the Ministry's strategic objectives, the Programme Regional and Local Government is aimed at facilitating the establishment and development of effective Regional and Local Governments that bring Government closer to the people and capable of delivering services to the satisfaction of all communities through the process of decentralisation. The programme strives to achieve the following sector goals:

To complete the creation of enabling, regulatory and legal environment in which all sub-national levels of Government will be able to maximize their governing, development and service delivery mandate.

To improve the delivery capacity of regional, local and traditional Authorities and expand client-service relationships and commitment to greater levels.

Proclamation of new Local Authorities: Consistent with Cabinet Decision regarding the proclamation of new Local Authorities in thirteen Regions of our

country, it was specifically decided that for those Regions that have only one local authority, the Ministry must ensure that in such Regions a second Local Authority must be proclaimed in order to address imbalances in access to municipal services in all Regions of our country.

This august House may recall that in the 2005/06 Financial Year, Ruacana, Oshikuku and Okahao were proclaimed as local authorities. I wish to report therefore that during the 2006/07 Financial Year, Nkurenkuru was proclaimed as a Local Authority area where the Ministry is currently assisting with the establishment of the administrative structure of the council and the provision of relevant resources to the new Town Council.

On the other hand, Otjinene in the Omaheke Region and Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region will be proclaimed as Local Authority areas during the course of the 2007/08 Financial Year. To this end, the Ministry is currently busy with the provision of urban infrastructure in these two settlement areas.

Furthermore, Bukalo in Caprivi Region, Divundu in Kavango Region, Oranjemund and Aussenkehr in the Karas Region are also being prepared for proclamation in the near future. I must also report that the discussions on the proclamation of Rosh Pinah is progressing well.

Regional Governments: Although considerable progress has been recorded in terms of staffing at the Regional Councils, there remains a daunting task of building the capacity of staff for the Regional Councils in order for them to be able to perform to the expected standards of the Public Service.

In this regard, the Ministry will continue to mobilise resources for training and capacity building activities for both the elected political office-bearers and appointed staff. More importantly, special focus will be made on building regional capacity to provide services in the declared settlement areas on cost recovery principle to ensure the balancing of their operational income and expenditure.

Local Governments: It is a well-known fact that poverty and high unemployment rates in most Local Authority areas remain a major challenge in our collective efforts to uplift the standard of living of our people. In this regard, the following areas are of paramount importance:

- Many Local Authorities, particularly the villages, some towns and some Part II municipalities are experiencing difficulties in mobilising resources within their local communities and hence they are unable to meet their financial obligations.
- In an effort to stabilise the financial position and broaden the economic base of the weak Local Authorities, the Ministry has embarked upon a wide range of

initiatives, including the following:

- A comprehensive assessment of financial, operational and infrastructure status.
- Training of staff, formulation of a new subsidy policy and revamping of dilapidated infrastructure in these areas.

In striving to ensure sustainable local economic development, the Ministry has embarked upon the process of formulating the policy on Local and Regional Economic Development. This local economic development White Paper will be finalized during 2007/08 Financial Year and serve as a guiding document to facilitate the implementation of community based income generating and employment creation activities.

Based on the Cabinet decision to undertake Local Authorities Reform in the country, aimed at streamlining and standardising effective service delivery by the Local Authorities, the Local Authorities Reform Committee was established to spearhead the consultative process with all stakeholders. Apart from the consultation in the country, the Committee also undertook comparative studies to South Africa and Botswana. The Committee has produced a Local Authorities Reform Position Paper that will, when approved, serve as the basis for the amendment of the Local Authorities Act, 1992, its relevant policies and regulations.

Trust Fund for Regional and Development and Equity Provision:

The Honourable Members may recall that in the year 2000, the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision was established by Act of Parliament to fund regional development and promote equity thereof. On an annual basis an amount of N\$30 million is appropriated for the Trust Fund. I am aware of the various concerns that Members of this august House have raised in relation to the operations of the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision.

As a line Ministry responsible, for the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision, we wish to confirm to this august House that currently the Board of Trustees are busy reviewing certain provisions of the enabling Act to effectively operationalise the Trust Fund.

Notwithstanding the limitations contained in the Act, I wish to report to this august House that the Trust Fund has been funding major capital projects, in rehabilitating the municipal infrastructures such as sewerage systems, oxidation ponds, construction of municipal roads and other services aimed at promoting municipal services in local authorities and settlements. During the 2006/2007 Financial Year, the Trust Fund has funded the construction of the Warmbad Tourist Centre at the Karas Region and the rehabilitation of the Ondangwa

sewerage system at the Oshana Region to the tune of N\$32,000,000.

The Ministry expects that after review of the enabling legislation, the Trust Fund shall continue to disburse funds to various projects on equitable basis.

Programme 3: Traditional Authorities Coordination 2007/08 – N\$16,612,000:

The Government, through this Ministry, continues to create a conducive environment for Traditional Authorities to perform their statutory responsibilities by ensuring observance of customary laws, allocation and administration of communal land and maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the country.

During the 2006/07 Financial Year, the Ministry has allocated funds for the construction of two Traditional Authority offices, namely Ondonga Traditional Authority and Vaalgras Traditional Authority, respectively. The Ministry has also installed computer hardware and software at thirty-five recognized Traditional Authority offices and appropriate training will be provided to the Traditional Authorities' secretaries during the 2007/08 Financial Year. Efforts are being made to procure computers for the remaining seven Traditional Authority offices.

Traditional Leaders Allowances:

The Ministry implemented Cabinet decision by making budgetary provision for entertainment allowances to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders. With effect from the 2007/08 Financial Year, monthly allowances for Traditional Leaders and their support staff will be increased by 20%. This was necessitated by the need to improve the conditions of service for our Traditional Leaders to serve our communities effectively.

Traditional Authorities Disputes:

Dispute resolution among traditional communities continues to remain one of the challenges facing both the Ministry and Council of Traditional Leaders. Most of the disputes relates to jurisdiction over communal areas and about leadership in regards to who should be recognised as a traditional leader of a particular community.

In accordance with the provisions of the Traditional Authorities Act (Act. 25 of 2000), dispute over the leadership of the Gobanin Traditional Community in the Omaheke Region was investigated by a ministerial investigation committee. The committee produced a report on its findings and made recommendations. In addition, the Ministry has intervened in the dispute over the area of jurisdiction in Caprivi Region and will continue to engage all parties to the dispute in order to reach an amicable solution. The leadership dispute of the Kakurukouje Traditional

Community in the Kunene Region is currently being investigated by the Ministry.

Applications for Recognition:

The Ministry continues to receive applications for recognition from various un-recognised traditional communities. During the period under review, two applications for recognition from the Ovaherero Traditional Authority at Aminuis in the Omaheke Region and the Ombandi Royal House at Ovitoto in the Otjozondjupa Region have been referred by His Excellency the President to the Council of Traditional Leaders for further investigation. The applications were then tabled before the Council of Traditional Leaders during its last meeting held in October 2006, and have been referred to the investigating committee for further investigation. I am sure the findings of that committee will definitely bring us closer to the finalisation of this application.

The application from Simon Kooper Traditional Community at Amper Bo in the Hardap Region and the Khwe community in Eastern Kavango and Western Caprivi were investigated and the report was tabled before the Council. The Council made its recommendations, which will be referred to the Office of the President.

Meanwhile the Dâure-Daman Traditional Authority and //Aodamn Traditional Authority are in the process of being referred to the President for recognition in accordance with the Traditional Authorities Act, as recommended by the Council of Traditional Leaders.

Programme 4: Decentralisation Coordination for 2007/08 Financial Year – N\$6,328,000:

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members of this august House, the Ministry has been tasked to ensure effective and efficient implementation of decentralised system of governance. The sector goals for decentralization are:

- To extend, enhance and guarantee participatory democracy and quality governance;
- To ensure and safeguard rapid sustainable development;
- To transfer power to the Regional Councils and Local Authorities based on national ideas and values; and
- To improve capacity of Regional and Local Government Councils to implement, manage and monitor delivery of services for their constituents.

A number of programmes and activities are earmarked with the financial resources

provided by our Government and other development partners, such as, Finnish and French Support Projects for decentralisation.

The goals for the year 2007/08 and beyond is to continue to provide technical assistance so that preparations for the delegation phase of decentralisation have advanced to the stage where actual delegation of Ministerial functions identified in the national policy can be effected.

It is expected that the function of Rural Water Supply will be delegated during the course of the 2007/08 Financial Year, while the Ministries of Works, Transport and Communication, Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation and the Ministry of Education are expected to delegate many functions by 2008/09 Financial Year.

Programme 4: Rural Development 2007/08 Financial Year – N\$1,786,000:

Regional consultative meetings on rural development in all thirteen Regions have been completed and the comprehensive report covering all key issues raised by the key players is being compiled and circulated to the stakeholders. The regional consultative meetings were necessary to map out regional development agenda with all stakeholders at the grassroots level.

Following the completion of Regional consultative meetings on rural development in all thirteen Regions, the Ministry is in the process of organising a National Conference on Rural Development during the 2007/08 Financial Year. The National Conference would culminate in the drafting of the White Paper on rural development, which will serve as rural development policy strategy document.

Current Sub-Programme for Rural Development has been concentrating on:

- Food Security and Nutrition
- Empowerment of the San Community for Household Food Security.
- Food/Cash for Work Programme.
- Upliftment of Rural Development Centres.

We would also like to report that the Ongwediva Rural Development Centre has been transferred to Oshana Regional Council; Okashana Rural Development Centre has been transferred to the Oshikoto Regional Council and the Ben-Hur Rural Development Centre has been transferred to Omaheke Regional Council for administrative purposes.

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HON KATALI**

It is imperative to point out that these sub-programmes are intended to benefit the rural poor and a true manifestation of engaging the rural communities to participate in Government sponsored projects. In this respect, the programme funding is mainly to be used to cover expenditures for the Food For Work Programme, the Food Security and Nutrition programme and various sectoral consultative workshops/meetings, beneficiaries and consultancies at national and Regional level and the preparation of the rural development policy strategy and for the input costs in the researches and development activities of rural development centres.

Before I conclude, I want to thank the Permanent Secretary and his staff of our Ministry for having really assisted the Ministry to execute the task that we have set for ourselves.

In conclusion, based on the motivation provided above, I hereby request this august House to approve the Budget allocation for Vote 17, the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development for the total amount of N\$518,285,000 of which N\$103,921,000 is for the Development Budget for the 2007/08 Financial Year. It is my expectation and sincere hope that the Honourable Members will support us in this endeavour to improve the quality of the poor.

I thank you for your support.

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

Vote 25 – “LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT” – N\$140,045,000 put for introduction.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, land is a cardinal factor of production, and if optimally and sustainably utilised, it can be an effective means to eradicate poverty.

The dispossession of a large section of our population from land represents an element of deprivation, which cannot merely be expressed in terms of loss of production, but which also translates into deprivation of dignity. Reversing the unequal distribution of land remains the cardinal objective of our land reform efforts.

In pursuing social and economic equity through land reform, we are obliged to do

it in a manner that is socially and politically appropriate and, at the same time, in a way that promotes optimal and sustainable use of the land. Our call is to ensure that Namibians have equitable access to land, and that land as a productive resource is effectively and efficiently used.

Creating an ideal balance between social and economic imperatives of land reform, integrating land reform, with other Government support programmes, together with our recent initiative to improve beneficiary selection and screening through decentralised selection processes, will continue to be important focal areas during the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, before I present the 2007–2010 Medium Term Expenditure Framework, allow me to congratulate Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her team, for producing a balanced Budget in terms of stimulating economic growth and adequately providing for social spending, on the one hand, and matching revenue to expenditure, on the other. It is an example that we all need to emulate in our respective sectors.

I would equally like to congratulate the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, Comrade Helmut Angula, for the tremendous role his office and himself have played in the preparation of the Capital Budget for 2007/08.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, I now have the pleasure to present the 2007–2010 Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, together with the highlights of achievements through expenditure in 2006/07 and priorities for the Financial Year 2007/08.

For the 3 year Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, up to 2010, an amount of N\$435,520,000 has been allocated for land and resettlement functions.

Of this amount, N\$140,045,000 have been budgeted for the 2007/08 Financial Year. This represents an 11% increase on the 2006/07 allocation:

In line with our objective, we shall carry out the following programmes.

Programme 1: Geo-Spatial Information

Information that identifies the location of people, events and activities are essential in every day life. In addition, for development to take place in a sustainable manner, we need to have information with spatial characteristics integrated with other socio-economic data. Geographic information provides a common platform to establish relationships and balance between economic, environmental and social interventions in order to improve the lives of our people.

During the last Financial Year, we completed the map revision at 1:250 000 scale of the Karas Region, and a part of Hardap Region that was left out from the previous exercise. This means that as at today, we have a complete revised coverage of the whole country at this scale. All these map data are available in computer readable format. Our intention in the very near future, is to make it possible for the public to access and purchase the data over the Internet.

For this fiscal year, we shall commence with the revision of the 1:50 000 topographic maps of Kavango and Khomas Regions.

Last year we reported on plans to carry out aerial photography of all areas north of 20 degrees latitude. This activity will be carried out this year with financial support from our development partner, the EU. The imagery acquired during this aerial photography project will be used for improved land management of the northern communal areas.

Programme 2: Title Security and Tenure

We are entrusted with the maintenance of the geodetic network, maintenance of the deeds records, the delineation of the Continental Shelf, the demarcation of boundaries between Namibia and its neighbours and the surveying of new townships and state lands, including resettlement farms.

With regard to the extension of Namibia's Continental shelf, we reported last year on our plans to analyse and interpret the shelf data. This has been carried out as planned. The data indicates that Namibia has a claim to an extended continental shelf. We shall submit Namibia's claim to the UN this calendar year, and we will possibly be accorded an opportunity to defend it in 2008 before the deadline for extended shelf submission in May 2009.

In the last Financial Year we managed to survey sixteen resettlement farms. In this exercise, boundaries for the resettlement allotment units were established so that each beneficiary knows exactly the limits of their farming units. We plan to accelerate this exercise to keep up with increased pace of farm purchases.

We recorded significant progress in creating a cadastral information system. The system development is now complete and testing is currently being done. Computerised Cadastral System will not only improve the processing of general plans and diagrams, it will also cater for the growing demand from the public for cadastral information in a digital format.

We have planned to increase geodetic control points and to determine coordinates for the newly established first order stations this year. The new coordinates will be established in a system that enables use of satellite surveying equipment.

Our regular activities in this programme entail the registration of land titles and mortgage bonds as well as the daily examination and approval of survey diagrams.

Programme 3: Resettlement

In our Budget speech of 2006, we shared with this Honourable House the tremendous improvements we had recorded with the acquisition of farms. We reported the 19 farms, valued at N\$21 million with a total hectarage of 144,630 that we acquired in the 2005/06 Financial Year. This was double the number of farms we acquired in 2004/05.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am pleased to inform you that during the Financial Year 2006/07, we managed to significantly increase farm purchases from the nineteen recorded in 2005/06 to 54, representing 319,073 hectares at a cost of N\$72 million. 5 of the farms were acquired through the expropriation method.

The following table represents a breakdown of the farm purchases, per Region, during the last Financial Year:

Erongo Region	-	5 farms
Hardap Region	-	7 farms
Karas Region	-	13 farms
Khomas Region	-	0
Kunene Region	-	3 farms
Omaheke Region	-	14 farms
Oshikoto Region	-	1 farm
Otjozondjupa	-	11 farms.

On the resettlement side, we managed to resettle 72 families on 35 farms measuring 379,921 hectares.

During our presentation of the 2006/07 Lands and Resettlement Budget, on 25 April last year, we stated that land redistribution and resettlement would in itself not reduce poverty and promote economic growth. Resettled beneficiaries require knowledge, skills and resources to exploit the land in a productive and sustainable manner. In the same speech, we further reiterated the call we had made earlier, for Governmental Line Ministries and other institutions to play a role in the post-resettlement support of beneficiaries.

Our current focus on resettlement is to enhance capacity among resettled beneficiaries and to improve support programmes to ensure sustainability. We want them to contribute to overall agricultural production. During the last Financial Year, we commissioned studies on the economics of land uses in

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HON KATALI**

resettlement. We shall carefully assess the results before we come up with suggestions for improvement.

We have already decentralised our selection process to all Regions. A process to review the beneficiary selection criteria is underway. We trust that these measures will enhance the resettlement success rate.

In an effort to accelerate support efforts to the San communities, we built fourteen houses at resettlement projects of Okongo and Tsintsabis during the last Financial Year. 10 houses are under construction at Eendobe project. In addition, efforts are underway to resettle the Hai//om group around Etosha.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, commercial agricultural land tax collection continues to benefit the resettlement programme. During the 2006/07 Financial Year, we collected N\$29 million. These funds augment the N\$50 million that is appropriated for land purchase and infrastructural improvements annually. We are currently developing a new reconciliation system that would enable speedy and accurate processing of the payments.

Our land valuation activities not only support the land purchase programme, but the entire Government's estate management activities continue to benefit from our valuations.

Programme 4: Communal Land Usage

This programme entails the development and implementation of the National Land Use Policy and the management of the Communal Land.

We remain committed to improved management of communal areas. We are looking at ways of accelerating the registration of customary land rights and leases in communal land. The acquisition of aerial photography of all areas north of 20 degrees latitude during this Financial Year is expected to accelerate the processing of these rights.

I am pleased to report that we have signed a 5.29 million Euro agreement with KfW for the improvement of infrastructure on small-scale farms in communal areas. Activities under this programme will start during the first half of this year. This funding provides a much-needed boost to improve farming in communal areas. A Cost Plan of Action on how to spend the available funds is currently underway and it is expected to be completed in due course. I will therefore, once again, take this opportunity to thank the Government and the people of the Federal Republic of Germany for this generous and valuable support.

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HON MUTORWA**

For the land to remain in continuous production, the issue to which it is put and it's quality must be managed carefully. This entails proper assessment of the capability and sustainability of the land and the integration of farmers' needs and aspirations as well as conservation measures. Towards this end we have earmarked funds for the production of land-use plans for Hardap and Karas Region during this Financial Year.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, Namibia has enough land for all of us and I am confident that if all stakeholders of our society support the Government to bring those who have been excluded from land ownership in yesteryears to use the land sustainably and contribute to the gross domestic product can ultimately be achieved.

Permit me to conclude my submission by acknowledging the contributions by the EU, the Kingdom of Spain and the Cuban Government to our land management and land reform programme during this Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The contribution by our development partners augment financial resources from the central revenue fund in the execution of the above programme.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I seek approval from this House to spend N\$140,045,000 for the Lands and Resettlement activities as outlined above. I thank you sincerely.

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

Vote 27 – “YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE”,
N\$205,869,000 put for introduction.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the Namibian National Assembly, it is my honour and pleasant duty to introduce to this august House Vote 27 of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture for the 2007/08 Financial Year. First of all, allow me to congratulate my Colleague, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her entire team for having managed to allocate resources to programmes to stimulate economic growth as well as to those that benefit the poor segments of our society.

This Ministry is responsible to empower, encourage and support the full, effective participation of youth in the process of national development and also to encourage and enable all Namibians to participate in the sport of their choice and

to raise the international profile of Namibia in all sporting arenas.

Through Arts and Culture this Ministry is tasked with the responsibility to promote unity in diversity, to give all Namibians a sense of identity and pride in their own creative talents and to improve the quality of life. The Ministry is also tasked with the responsibility of safeguarding, extending and promoting of the physical linguistic and spiritual heritage of the Namibian people.

The proposed Budget allocation for 2007/08 amounts to N\$205,869,000. This amount represents N\$173,191,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$32,678,000 for the Development Budget.

The proposed allocation represents an overall increase of 8.41% on the allocations of the previous Financial Year. The Operational Budget increased from N\$157,879,000 in 2006/07 Financial Year to N\$173,191,000 for this Financial Year.

The Development Budget increased from N\$32,030,000 to N\$32,678,000 for this Financial Year under discussion.

OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND PRIORITIES

The objectives, targets and priorities for our Ministry are summarised on Page 529 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2007/08 to 2009/10.

PROGRAMMES

The Budget of our Ministry, as expressed in the Medium Term Plan, comprises of four programmes and I will elaborate on them one by one focusing on activities, achievements and proposed allocations as follows:

PROGRAMME 1: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The main purpose of this programme is to empower, encourage and support the full and effective constructive participation of youth in the process of national development and decision-making and to ensure that youth concerns, needs and aspirations are integrated into the mainstream of all Government policies, activities and actions.

In order to achieve the desired goal, various programmes and activities have been put in place and are being carried out by programme coordinators at Head Office in conjunction with Youth Officers at Regional level.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Youth Volunteerism

This activity offers temporary employment to unemployed youth both in urban and rural areas. During 2006/07, 25 youth volunteers were employed at Berg Aukas to assist with de-bushing of 355 hectares of an agricultural farm, while thirty-four additional volunteers were spread all over the 13 Regions of our country to do volunteer work. The outcome of the volunteer programme has been that most were able to generate some money of which they are currently utilising for self-employment.

Youth Health

The Youth health programme held several workshops and training seminars and offered refresher training programme for all Youth Officers at Regional Offices in counselling, treatment to young people such as friendly reproductive health clinics, family planning, HIV testing, pre-testing and post-testing counselling, reproductive and mental health and distribution of condoms.

Juvenile/Child Justice

Juvenile/Child Justice Programme developed a unified planning matrix with Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) to ensure programme implementation at regional level. A merge is in place with the University of Namibia into partnership for establishment of internships for social work students in the facilitation of Life Skills. The negotiation of the terms of implementation of the Journey Programme with other Government stakeholders is ongoing.

Environmental Education

The Environmental Education in conjunction with Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Cheetah Conservation held workshops and training seminars aimed at creating awareness, knowledge and skills in environmental education and conservation, including training of youth in the sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

Youth Gender

The review of the Gender Programme was conducted in 2006. It was designed to ensure that on periodic basis the design and the quality of implementation of the programme remain appropriate to the needs and expectations of the clientele of the Directorate of Youth and adhere to institutional regulations on policies, national benchmarks and relevant to industry demands. This particular programme has

embarked on a series of activities with Grade 10, 11, and 12 learners.

These activities take place every second Friday and are based on gender issues that are life skills based that affect mostly the young girls.

Rural Youth:

The Rural Youth Programme in collaboration with FAO, the Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry under their “*support urban and peri-urban horticulture project*” funded by the Government of Belgium established a training centre called ‘*Garden of Hope*’. The Centre also offers training to unemployed youth at Frans Dimbare in the Mukwe Constituency in the Kavango Region, Windhoek Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre here in Khomas, Uutapi Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre in Omusati Region and Eenhana Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre in horticulture in the Ohangwena Region for purposes of empowering rural and peri-urban youth.

Training and Employment

This Youth Credit Initiative programme has trained 732 unemployed youth since its inception in March 2005. A total number of 820 youth received loans and the current repayment rate stands at 88%. Give them a round of applause.

An amount of N\$650,000 has been disbursed as small loans to the recipients. The loan recipients in turn created employment for between 1,500 and 1,800 unemployed youth in the piloted Regions of Oshana, Omusati, Oshikoto and Ohangwena.

The total number of businesses equate to 379, of which 130 are cuca shops and 115 retail/food shops. The other vary from tailoring/dressmaking, hawkers and mahangu millers.

The programme is to be replicated in Kavango, Kunene and Caprivi Regions with effect from the current Financial Year. We hope that we will secure adequate funding from stakeholders. We acknowledge the immense contribution towards the pilot phase from the Social Security Commission of Namibia and the Commonwealth Youth Programme. Looking at the magnitude of this programme, we hope that other organisations both in the public and private sector will follow suit.

Capacity Building

As part of capacity building, youth officers at Regional level were offered training

which provided them with necessary skills, experience and knowledge to enhance their competence.

Youth Exchange

The youth exchange unit dealt with exchange programmes through utilisation of our youth hostels, camp volunteering services and educational projects for the youth to acquire practical skills in areas like conservation, environmental awareness and leadership. The utilisation of youth hostels in Namibia by international youth alone have netted the Ministry of Finance revenue to the tune of N\$990,337,000. Here I must also encourage Ministries, Members of Parliament that in different Regions we do have youth hostels with some facilities for conferences and accommodation and where you are conducting a workshop in a particular Region, let go to some youth hostels and training facilities instead of going to the hotel. Please make use of these facilities and support them.

A total number of 1,800 jobs were created by youth entrepreneurs who were trained and accessed loans through the Youth Credit Initiative. With regard to the Development Budget, the construction of Multi-Purpose Centres is carried out in phases over a number of years. 11 Centres are currently functional while the construction of additional Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres in Caprivi, Hardap and Kavango Regions, as well as the upgrading, renovations and improvements on the existing Centres will go a long way in enhancing the work of youth officers in the Regions and improve access to these facilities by young people.

Contracts were awarded for the construction of a shed and ablution blocks at the crop farm, renovation of office blocks, accommodation facilities and the dining hall at Berg Aukas, which is the headquarters of the National Youth Service.

The focus during the Financial Year 2007/08 will be on strengthening capacity building of youth officers to enhance micro-economic development activities at Regional level.

The second programme that we do have is about youth opportunities, to provide opportunities to our young people.

The main purpose of the programme is to inculcate and promote the spirit of volunteerism, internship and entrepreneurship among the youth so as to enable them to acquire the necessary and marketable skills, exposure and experience that will enable them to access job opportunities and self-employment.

The provision of opportunities for the youth to participate in business innovations and entrepreneurship, especially in agriculture, fish farming, aquaculture, and

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capacity building has made it possible for most youth to secure jobs and here I must thank my colleagues in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and my brother, the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources for the good collaboration that we have to implement this important programme.

What are the main activities and achievements that we could report to the Nation under this programme?

The establishment of crop and animal husbandry projects at Berg Aukas, Vungu Vungu, Chinchimane, Noordoewer and Kangongo.

Acquisition and transfer of agricultural land through donations from municipalities and traditional authorities to the National Youth Service (NYS) for purposes of youth empowerment.

The continuous voluntary service of National Youth Service recruits in projects of national importance, especially the Northern Railway Extension Project.

Twenty-eight percent out of the current 500 trainees at Berg Aukas have been recruited into the Namibian Defence Force, Namibian Police, aquaculture programmes, tourism and studies in Cuba.

Two hundred and fifty recruits are currently engaged in the construction of the Northern Railway Extension Project under the employment of Brandberg Construction for a period not exceeding one year.

Establishment of a livestock-breeding centre at Berg Aukas.

Feasibility studies to develop the agricultural land that was availed to us at Henties Bay, Noordoewer and Kangongo.

Establishment of Fish Ponds and training of Aquaculture students.

Establishment of a piggery at Berg Aukas.

Fourteen students are currently under training at Mashare in Kavango for the Green Scheme project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

The total Budget requested for this programme is N\$27,759,000.

PROGRAMME 3: SPORT

The main purpose of this programme is to encourage and enable all Namibians in

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all Regions to participate in the sport of their choice for leisure or even competitive sports, to expand participation in sporting events and to raise the international profile of Namibia in all sporting areas and to establish friendship, understanding between our Nation and other nations in the world.

The programme is responsible for; provision and maintenance of basic sports facilities in all 13 Regions with sufficient population densities to justify the establishment of such facilities, sports equipment, transport to facilitate attendance of Namibians in sports events at all levels.

I must add here, that providing modern sport infrastructures and facilities of quality is an extremely expensive business. The same applies to the provision of quality training and the maintenance of those sport facilities. Hence we shall always state what I am now going to state and that is that budgetary allocations from Government sources alone cannot and will thus never be sufficient, therefore I urge the private sector, donor agencies and other stakeholders to assist in this regard and invest in sports. Talking about sport facilities, some of us have that narrow appreciation that sport facilities are only for sports people. Especially us sitting in this House hold our rallies not in rooms, but at the sport stadiums. Sport stadiums, therefore, have a multi-purpose and we need to support that. Our rallies, our cultural activities, musical performance, Independence celebrations, all the big events. Therefore please, when we talk about sports, we must get away from this narrow appreciation that sport facilities are only for those who participate in sports. Sports has got a social, even a political facet.

Let me highlight a few of the activities under this programme that we have carried out during the past Financial Year that would justify the allocation that we are requesting the Honourable Members to approve.

Through the participation of our national teams in the various sport codes abroad, we enhance the image of our country internationally positively. It will take a politician maybe a day in a conference to explain where is Namibia, but for people like Frank Fredericks it is eight seconds and then everybody will know where Namibia is.

That is where the power of sports lies.

We successfully hosted the Supreme Council of Sports in Africa Zone VI Under 20 Youth Games here in our capital during 2006/07. It was a very good opportunity for the young people of SADC to interact and to establish friendships and contact. In this Financial Year Namibia will participate in the 9th All Africa Games in Algeria in July.

Boxing

I must report to the nation, through this Honourable House, that this was one of the more successful sport codes during the 2006/07 Financial Year. The following boxers performed outstandingly:

Ali Nuumbembe – Commonwealth champion

Paulus “*Hitman*” Moses, the current Pan African WBA lightweight champion and intercontinental lightweight champion.

Jason Naule who is the Pan African champion

Jafet Uutoni who is the Commonwealth champion.

During the Zone VI Under 20 Youth Games boxing was awarded a gold medal. Talking about boxing, I must publicly also express our appreciation and gratitude to our Colleagues in the Ministry of Defence and in the Ministry of Safety and Security, because most of the boxers are either soldiers or policemen.

Rugby

The National rugby team qualified for the World Cup that will take place in September 2007 in France. Many of us, when we send our men and women to participate, only look at what is the final outcome, but let me tell you, simply to qualify for this major international event is already an achievement. People are not just invited to go and participate in the All Africa Games or the Commonwealth Games or the Olympics because you are from Namibia, you have to satisfy the qualifying criteria. Some of the countries that got Independence before us have never qualified and we must appreciate this. Even if they do not win in Paris, we must be proud of them.

Inline Hockey

The National inline hockey team also qualified for the World Cup that will take place this year.

Football

Through the bilateral agreement with Westphalia, a Region in the Federal Republic of Germany and Namibia, we have managed to upgrade 21 teachers as football coaches to the level of B License with the blessing of the Namibia Football Association.

Shooting

Mr. Friedheim Sack received a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Australia last year.

Then let me look at the development of sport from grassroots level up to the elite level.

With the provision of financial assistance to the Namibia Sport Commission, that is approved through this House, Tertiary Institutions of Sport Association in Namibia (TISAN), Namibia National Schools Sport Union (NNSU), Namibia Women in Sport (NAWISA) and the Namibia Football Association (NFA), the Ministry is striving to develop sport from grassroots level up to the elite level. Obviously the Directorate cannot accomplish this mammoth task on its own; this is why these stakeholders are financed through the Directorate of Sport to assist with the above-mentioned noble objectives.

Provision of sport facilities countrywide

During the 2006/07 Financial Year the fifth phase of the construction of the Swakopmund Sport Complex was completed which include the following:

An artificial 8 lane athletic track;
Tennis, netball, volleyball and basketball courts
International level floodlights
Paved parking area

The construction of Swakopmund Sport Stadium will be completed during the 2007/08 Financial Year and it will become one of the 3 stadiums of international standard. During the current Financial Year budgetary provision has been made to construct a security fence around the tartan track and another pavilion on the opposite side of the field to accommodate more spectators at the stadium. It is very beautiful and if you go to Swakopmund, just make a turn.

Our responsibility is also provide basic sport facilities in all Regions. Thus far we are now left with two Regions, Ohangwena Region and Omusati Region. In all the other Regions there are some basic facilities.

Although the feasibility study for the Eenhana Sport Complex was completed during the 2000/01 Financial Year, phase one of the construction could not commence due to the late awarding of the tender. I have already taken this up with my Colleague from Works and we have promised the people of Ohangwena Region and everything will be done this Financial Year to get that sports complex

in Eenhana established. Construction will commence during this current Financial Year at an estimated cost of N\$9,120,000.

The establishment of Regional Sport Offices countrywide is done incrementally from year to year as per the provision of the Budget. We already established 20 offices throughout the country and anticipate to establish 4 Regional Sport Offices at the following places:

Walvis Bay
Eenhana
Rehoboth
Omuthiya

PROGRAMME 4: ARTS AND CULTURE

The main purpose of this programme is to identify, develop and promote the creative talents and artistic skills of Namibians for the purpose of income generation, employment, innovation, design and the nurturing of national pride and identity.

This program also works towards nation building, social cohesion and reconciliation, the establishment of international cultural links, the protection and promotion of Namibian culture and heritage, education of Namibians to know their culture and heritage.

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THIS PROGRAMME ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The College of the Arts is engaged in teaching programmes of high standard at the three main campuses and thirteen Regional centres.

New applied arts diploma courses were introduced in the fields of African Performing Arts and Contemporary music in addition to the existing diploma courses in media and visual arts.

The National Theatre of Namibia (NTN) and National Art Gallery of Namibia also administered Performing Arts scholarships of which five students out of twenty-eight are studying at the University of Namibia (UNAM) while twenty-three are studying at tertiary institutions in South Africa.

Employment and career prospects for graduates in arts education have improved, where about 75% of graduates depending on their specialisation field have found employment particularly in local media and associated industries. This means in

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practical terms about 15 jobs created or filled per youth.

The National Arts Council of Namibia's office became functional for the first time with the appointment of an Office Administrator.

College of the Arts students and choral network members held a number of excellent festivals, shows and exhibitions in each of the thirteen Regions during the months of June to October 2006.

The National Theatre of Namibia played an important role in the development of regional networks for the performing arts and for the presentation of festival programmes in collaboration with local partners such as Bank Windhoek, the City of Windhoek during the //Ae Gams Festival, etcetera.

The National Arts Gallery of Namibia has had a very successful year and actively promoted Namibian Arts and Artists through exhibitions, educational programmes and workshops.

Assistance is also given to individual arts initiatives; organisations and institutions with regard to development, implementation, monitoring and assessment of projects.

There is greater involvement of local authorities and private sector in the arts, especially through presentation of arts exhibitions, festivals, trade fairs, career festivals.

The main focus of the Directorate National Heritage and Culture Programmes is to promote unity in diversity, dignity and reconciliation.

Emphasis was also put on developing culture programmes in order to establish an economic basis - especially in relation to culture industries. Our role is also to contribute to statehood as well as mitigating social challenges like HIV and Aids. Namibia has a rich heritage in museums and monuments and these needs to be preserved, curated, displayed and developed. Because of our past we need to constantly reaffirm our identity as full citizens and programmes as such were developed.

Between June and December each year festivals are held in all thirteen Regions on circuit, zonal, district, Regional and National levels. More than six hundred cultural groups participated. This represents about 9,000 traditional performing artists. About 75,000 spectators attended these events.

We developed and used the Maria Mwingere Culture Centre to promote and

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develop culture events. Another centre will be constructed at Omuthiya since the local authority has now made land available. A Multi-Purpose Culture Centre was established in Lüderitz in the Karas Region.

We will start a process to initiate feasibility studies to speed up the establishment of Culture Centres and Villages in the remaining ten Regions.

More than five hundred school culture clubs for development have been established in all 13 Regions. This enabled our youth to build confidence in our cultures, to enhance quality of life and building a knowledge-based society. Major activities take place around traditions in music, dance, traditional medicines, performances and research into beliefs and lifestyles.

Organizing events at State occasions and National days

Successful performances were developed around all State visits as well as on Heroes Day, Opening of Parliament and during Independence Celebrations.

Training officials in HIV/AIDS research and involving experts to train teachers and culture leaders to develop theatre plays to fight the pandemic Officials started doing research into HIV/AIDS and experts were identified to start to intensify the project on a National level. Culture can play a major role in slowing down the prevalence of the disease and preventing our young workforce from succumbing to the disease, thereby negatively affecting our Economic development.

Seven master trainers have been identified to train 30 trainers in forum-connected theatre in 30 towns to begin addressing HIV/AIDS in all thirteen Regions with 300 actors before October this year. This project is done in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, Global Fund and UNESCO.

We engaged an expert to develop a dossier in order to declare Twyfelfontein as a World Heritage Site. The World Heritage Council will soon inform us whether we are successful. Such a nomination will contribute to bring more tourists and revenue to Namibia.

Schools are assisting us to identify new monuments that will also enhance cultural tourism in Namibia and contribute towards poverty alleviation. This project is under the direction of the Museums Association of Namibia.

Culture Exchange Programmes

We participated in Governmental Joint Commissions in discussions with Zambia, Germany, Zimbabwe, China, Botswana and Angola. We are sure these

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relationships will increase cultural exchange and also open up possibilities in trade in cultural goods and services.

We also work together with the Museum Association of Namibia (MAN) to curate, train, educate and assist more than 30 Museums in smaller towns countrywide. Legislation was promulgated for the National Heritage Council of Namibia in order to maintain all monuments and to develop new ones. The Pan African Centre of Namibia receives a grant-in-aid in order to help develop pride and respect for African Heritage.

We are busy in SADC context to develop a program of conducting cultural impact assessment studies for planning to encourage Africanisation of our architecture, infrastructure and other development systems.

The total Budget requested for this programme is N\$62,331,000.

Permit me to conclude my submission by requesting approval and support of this august House, for an amount of N\$205,869,000 and I hope I have sufficiently motivated this Budget to justify the approval of this amount.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. **Vote 13 – “HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES”** put for discussion.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to make a small contribution to the Budget Vote 13 - Ministry of Health and Social Services.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Ministry for the activities of training network of the Ministry and just to ask whether the students are drawn from all over Namibia. That is Page 2 of the Minister’s motivation.

On Page 3 of his motivation, the Minister has stated that we have done very well and that we are close to the Abuja target of 15% of the National Budget to be allocated to Health. We are at 10.12%.

I want to ask the Minister whether this allocation this time around will narrow the gap so that it contribute to reaching the 15% goal within the period set at the Abuja meeting.

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Thirdly, Honourable Minister, I think that the SWAPO-led Government is doing a lot with regard to the treatment of AIDS, especially also with regard to providing the information necessary, so that people who have sex without condoms know what they are looking for. However, Honourable Minister, I would like to share a concern. I do not see in the paper and maybe I read too fast, because we have so many papers, I do not see how much we hope to use for research, because what is being talked about is actually mostly prevention and at the end, if we look at the ARVs and how many people are receiving treatment. I think with the disease like HIV/AIDS we should really also look into what we can do in terms of research to find a cure.

I feel more strongly about this, Honourable Minister, because I had an occasion with the SADC Parliamentary Forum AIDS Committee to visit Botswana where they had an exceptionally useful conference between Members of Parliament, that is the Executive as well as the Legislature, with specialists in health and researchers and with NGOs and I was really impressed when I visited the laboratory in Gaborone to see how far Botswana, with the same population size and possibly a similar size of incidents of HIV/AIDS, how much money has been invested in a research institute where you have at least five hundred blood samples tested every day from all over the country. Moreover, the tests are repeated so regularly that if somebody in little village has a new blood sample sent in and shows a resistance to the treatment that he or she is receiving, the computer immediately takes note of that and instructs the treatment to be changed. This is, of course, done as a combined project between the University of Harvard and the Government of Botswana.

When I discussed this with them and subsequently also with the Minister, I found out that such or a similar offer was made to Namibia. Do we intend taking it up? Especially, Honourable Minister, when I can tell you that more than 50% of the staff at this institution are Botswana and they are constantly being trained. I am of the opinion that it is very much a question of political will and if the political will would be there, maybe we can also participate.

One lesson I learnt that made me have more faith in the African people, is that the world is constantly told that the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS is in the SADC Region and many people would have thought that maybe this is the case because we are extra promiscuous or we do not listen or we do not condomise, but what I found out there is that the virus that affects us in the SADC Region is not attached to the blood cells, it is attached to the DNA and it is much more difficult to isolate and to treat than the rest of the world. But the research that we saw showed us that we are well on the way to finding a cure. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Did I hear you clearly saying that the HIV/AIDS in SADC is DNA, meaning it can be inherited?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Let me explain again. The AIDS virus attacks the human being. The virus in itself has different strains and the reason why the incidence is so high here is because the strain that affects the people in the SADC Region, settles in the DNA whereas otherwise it settles in the blood and to isolate the virus from the DNA is much more dangerous because it can actually destroy the DNA. That is what we were told by the specialists in Botswana. I am not a specialist. I am repeating what we were told. (Interjections).

HON MUNGUNDA: Where is the DNA?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Chairperson, on a Point of Information. I think the Honourable Member made it clear that she is not a scientist, a natural scientist. I think it will be a very important message for this House not to spread something that is absolutely not true. It is not possible. I do not blame you for anything, not at all, but it could be that you did not listen very well or they explained it differently, but DNA is an inherited material, genetic material. If that were to be the case, please let people not write that.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Medical Doctor, Minister of something else, I said and I repeat, this is what we were told and I am not saying it is the case. Note well, this is what we were told and I can bring the documentation in which it was said. I will do that gladly. I am not saying it is the case.

To continue, on Page 5 of the Minister's statement the Minister spells out the amount of money that is being required for the activities of the Windhoek Central Hospital, an amount being budgeted for institutional patient care, for bulk provision of pharmaceuticals, amongst others. I welcome this amount and I hope that the patient-care that is at that hospital will improve with the new allocation and that the pharmaceuticals will be available, because I have experience of taking somebody to the hospital and being told, go and buy the medication at the chemist.

I hope that this has changed.

I am very happy to see over N\$9 million being budgeted for staff training and development as well as supervision. I hope that this training includes public

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relations, because if you go to some of these hospitals, the way people are treated leaves a lot to be desired.

On Page 8 of the Minister's statement an amount of N\$3.2 million is budgeted for reviewing social welfare legislation and policy formulation. I would just like to ask the Minister, why is the review of legislation so expensive? It looks a lot of money to me.

And then finally on Page 10 of the Minister's statement, the Ministry must be congratulated over and over again for the exceptionally good way in which it handled the polio nationwide campaign last year. It is an indication, I believe, that we as Namibians can do what needs to be done and that we can say, where there is a will, there is a way because it was a massive but highly successful campaign.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. In the first place I would like to commend the Minister when looking at both the Medium Term Expenditure Framework as well as the development projects document. One can really see that the Ministry is trying its level best to address health issues in the country.

Last year I had an opportunity, through Committee work, to visit some Regions and I have a few observations that I think the Minister may take into consideration. But otherwise he is doing relatively well.

In Kavango Region there is this Nankudhu Hospital and Nkurenkuru Hospital, Nkurenkuru being a health centre and Nankudhu being a district hospital. I was looking at the development project document, hoping to find something for renovation and upgrading for Nankudhu especially because the buildings are now worn-out and I think the Minister may consider including that in the development projects next time. Or one has a choice, looking at the population that comes at Nkurenkuru and Nankudhu, because people from Angola are coming to Nkurenkuru Hospital. One might also upgrade Nkurenkuru Health Centre to the level of a hospital. Either way the Minister will know how to go about it.

The other problem that we encountered was a problem of ambulances, especially in Omaheke Region. I guess if we have to treat the Ministry of Health and this goes to the Minister of Finance, we have to treat the question of transport problem with the Ministry of Health as we do for example with the Ministry of Safety and Security, to start prioritising and targeting this, I think it will solve a lot of problems. It is not only in Omaheke Region, it is also in other Regions that we noticed there is a problem when it comes to ambulances. Patients have to wait for a long time, one ambulance serves a number of clinics, to take them to

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a bigger hospital and sometimes lives are lost when a remedy could have been found.

Coming to training, I want to say something. We are told that most of the nursing staff that deal with the day-to-day activities, in direct contact with the patients, are not attending the training. Training is more attended by the senior staff, matrons and others, who are not directly involved in the day-to-day contact with patients and the Ministry should really address this, because almost in every hospital people complain that *“we are the ones who are dealing with these things and when workshops and training come, it addresses the day-to-day activities that we deal with, but our senior colleagues attend the training and they are not the ones dealing with these activities.”* Perhaps it is a question of people running for S&T. I feel the Minister should also address that. I thank you.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, first of all, allow me to congratulate the Minister for the money allocated on the Budget for renovation of many hospitals and clinics. We are really grateful for this project. When I pass the Central Hospital I see the grounds at the hospital are becoming greener, which is really impressive.

On Pages 5 and 6 it refers to outpatients and inpatients and I had complaints by patients who are affected by HIV/AIDS and come to pick up drugs, who have no money for transportation and here transportation is included in one of the items here. I would like to know whether it could include those outpatients who come and collect drugs, because they do not have transportation and they live in the far remote areas and their health does not allow them to walk. Would the Minister maybe consider this aspect?

I was looking at Page 8 to find out if there is an allocation for overtime of nurses. I thought it would be included to cater for the problem of overtime for nurses, staff nurses and cleaners who are very underpaid. Is there no allocation included to solve this problem before it becomes worse?

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I support the Vote although I am not happy that 15% target has not been reached. I would also like to congratulate the Minister for the way he is attending to issues which I bring to his attention. Thank you and I will always support you. Honourable Chairperson, I support him although I have some queries.

The first one is on Page 175 of Medium Term Expenditure Framework. It is about the projects on blindness prevention programmes, national tuberculosis control programmes, Namibia HIV/AIDS Response Programmes, scaling up the fight against HIV/AIDS and a lot of other programmes.

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Honourable Chairperson, I really like the idea of these programmes, but I want to know whether the Minister is aware that we are now fighting another disease in our country and this disease is called cancer.

Cancer is something that we as blacks did not have information about, it was only there, far away from us. However so many people are dying these days of cancer and we have the Cancer Association, we have the Bank Windhoek Apple Project. There are so many NGOs and private companies which are doing so much for cancer, but we as a Government are so silent on cancer issues, we are not really active in prevention programmes as we are doing with HIV/AIDS and all the other programmes.

I want to encourage the Minister to look into cancer, because it is so expensive for people who are on cancer treatment and the medical aid does not cover all the expenses. I would want the Minister to handle the cancer treatment the same way as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria, so that people would not, at the end of the day, worry about where they will get the payments.

I was at the Dr Bernard May Centre this morning. The people with cancer sitting there were more than at the STD clinic, so I was really worried about the way cancer is now increasing in Namibia.

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, there is really a time to come and a time to go. Therefore, I would urge the Minister of Health to one day visit the Katutura Hospital at three, just after they have received their lunch and you will find all the food standing there because nobody wants to eat the food. Maybe it is time to say farewell and goodbye to the caterers responsible for food at our hospitals. You will find them receiving one pie and carrots for dinner. It is not enough for them, in the first place. Secondly, it is really a pie and just the smell already makes me sick. We must maybe look at that.

Honourable Chairperson, my question is about the shortages of nurses. Honourable Chairperson, I really appreciate all the clinics and hospitals that the Minister plans to build in our country, but I was wondering, we would sit with all these beautiful buildings, but no staff at the end of the day. Therefore it would just be white elephants. It is time for us to do more and more training. It is already a problem with the staff shortages, but at the end of the day it will be worse when we will have all these hospitals.

My last question is on the social programmes on the Minister's speech, Page 8, about social protection, old-aged homes and welfare organisations.

Honourable Chairperson, most of us have now reached the age of being sent to the old-aged homes, because today's kids do not have time for old people, they are

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sending us to old-aged homes. I appreciate this N\$5 million that is allocated to old-aged homes and welfare organisation, but Honourable Chairperson, I am actually glad that the old-aged home in Gobabis is closed, because there was not even enough bedding and everything for that old-aged home. If we give money for these services, we have to follow up to see how our money is being spent and the taxpayers money is being spent correctly. Just go to the Katutura old-aged home and you will find the people do not even have bedding, they do not have soap to wash themselves.

We are giving N\$5 million, their pension moneys are also being taken as a contribution, but the status of the old-aged homes is not good and we really have to look into it.

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I want to congratulate the Minister of Health and Social Services under the SWAPO Government on the way he dealt with the new disease cholera in the north of the country, from Kunene to Kaoko to Caprivi. The Ministry did well but we need more.

Today I am going to take the Honourable Moongo's words and I am going to talk about mortuaries. We have 2 mortuaries in Opuwo, one at the State Hospital and one at the Police Station, but we do not have a doctor. Some people passed away far away from Opuwo and the body has to be taken 200 kilometres to Opuwo and then taken to Oshakati where a doctor will be found. We need a doctor in Opuwo, because it is not healthy to take the body from Opuwo to Oshakati and then take it back again.

Comrade Minister, we have a problem in Kaoko. Our brother there was complaining about condoms, because they were talking about condoms taking their energy (Laughter). Please make another condom for the energy for the men.

On that note I support the Vote.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I was saying that I am really sorry that because of the way in which we have conducted the Budget Debate 17 years, I am not aware that at any time the discussion in the House has increased the amount that has been allocated to a Vote. But this time, Honourable Minister, I am really very sorry that that is not the case, because I would have pleaded that the Vote for your Ministry be increased, because the health of our people is perhaps the most crucial next to

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education. If the money remains too little and we cannot treat all, yet we are only two million.

And finally I just repeat what I said, I did not say that the virus invades and becomes part of the DNA. I said it attaches itself and, therefore, they are conducting research on how to isolate it without destroying the DNA. I have no qualms that the Honourable Minister, who is specialised in the Natural Sciences, can give clarity on the whole issue. The thing that is furthest from my mind is to provide wrong information. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I revert the Floor to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I wish to thank the Honourable Members for the keen interest in matters related to the health of the Nation. I will attempt to give information to the Honourable Members on the questions raised.

Honourable Schimming-Chase, the 10.12% mentioned which we stated is very close to the target of Abuja, I said this amount constitutes 10.12% of the National Budget and compares favourably to the Abuja target of 15%. What I tried to highlight there is that we are on course. We are working towards the 15%. If you compare to last year, last year we were at 10% and here we are talking about 10.12%. There is an increase. Thus, we are working towards that.

The students are drawn from all 13 Regions, yes indeed, we do our best that we get our students from all the 13 Regions for both the nursing services and, indeed, for the medical students. In fact, for the medical students we make it a point that every Region is allocated at least two students plus three for Khomas Region.

I share your sentiments on the need for research. I cannot elaborate more. You will recall that you and I discussed outside and I share your sentiments on this. There is a need for us as a Ministry to work hard on this. However just for your information, we are not just sitting idly, two months ago I launched a collaborative initiative with the University of Namibia, the Polytechnic of Namibia and the Ministry of Health and Social Services to see to it that we work towards research in the field of HIV/AIDS.

I cannot agree with you more in the sense that in July last year in Toronto we were seen to be topping Africa, for instance in the area of paediatric medication but we ourselves on the ground did not have much information and so many researchers were asking us and appealing to us that there is a need that we join them in

research. Harvard University is one of such institutions and we are working towards that. Hopefully in the near future we will report progress in that area.

The political will cannot be questioned in this country. The mere fact that in the whole of Africa we, according to the United Nations Secretary General's Report, are one of the top three countries in the area of ARVs and in fact, we are ahead of our targets, suggests clearly that there is a political will in place.

The Windhoek Central Hospital pharmaceutical hopefully quality cares. *Honourable Chase*, you will recall that towards the end of last year you congratulated me outside, telling me that you had your sister admitted in Katutura Hospital and that for the first time you have seen some improvement. Our intended objective is to see to it that we improve on our quality health care services in the whole country. It is a process and we are doing our best to see to it that we improve on the quality of health care services. There is an ongoing training in this area. We have our quality assurance division now in place, just addressing this issue of quality health care. We do think that now that we have resources at our disposal we may go a long way in addressing this area. I must admit that personally I am not happy, we are working towards the betterment of the quality of health care delivery services.

Reviewing social welfare legislation – I was checking with my Colleague and I think there is a need that I look at this once again. I cannot give you an appropriate answer for now.

Honourable Peya Mushelenga asked for Nkurenkuru to be upgraded to a hospital. Not for now. This distance from Nankudhu Hospital is about 7 kilometres and we have a policy in place which guides us where to establish a hospital, certainly not for Nkurenkuru. It is a health centre belonging to the Lutheran Medical Services. We are giving them a 100% subsidy. As for Nankudhu, yes it deserves renovation. The matter is being addressed. You are likely to see that in the next Budget.

I cannot thank you more for your concern about ambulances and support.

Training workshops for only nursing managers: I am not too sure on this one, but as you are saying, your advice is that there is a need that we will look at this one. We will do our best to follow up whether this is indeed what is happening. I cannot support it if it is what is happening.

Honourable Moongo, thank you. I must admit that transport for elderly patients is not possible for now, for the Ministry of Health and Social Services to provide transport for elderly patients. They are scattered all over the 13 Regions of the country. We are working towards rolling out our ARV programmes to health

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centres and clinics. However again, that calls for more resources and skilled nurses. We are on course, we are working towards that.

Honourable Dienda, thank you for your support. You asked whether I am aware of cancer. Yes indeed, I am aware that there is cancer in this country and, in fact, it is for this reason that we have the May Cancer Care Unit and I am indeed aware of the fact that there are challenges, especially relating to the two major areas, namely radiation therapy. The machines are extremely expensive, but I am grateful to mention here that the International Atomic Agency is supporting us. In fact, there is something in the pipeline.

I share your concern on the catering service. We are not entirely happy with the catering which is in place. I have called there personally on many occasions to go and see what the patients are eating and the management has been advised that they test the food on the ground and the contracts of those catering institutions which are not up to agreement would not be renewed. On that you can rest assured. In fact, some of them are breaching the contract.

Shortage of nurses: If you read on Page 2 of my introductory remarks, 293 enrolled nurses and midwives graduated and we also have a programme in place where we will be training 180 enrolled nurses per year for the next five years and that by 2010 we will be talking of training 200. In fact, by 2010 we do hope that we would have trained up to 930. For the enrolled nurses our target is 400 per year and again, we feel we are on course. It is just that it is not all the quotas which are filled, this field of study demands, amongst others, mathematics and science, and many times the quotas are not filled as a result of shortage of students with the necessary skills. Again, we are talking to the Ministry of Education and they are hard at work. We are seeing a glimmer of hope in that area.

Comrade Muharukua, social protection and follow-up to see whether funds are well spent. We will do that. Just above you I can see my efficient and able Director of Social Services. We will follow up on the question.

Comrade Muharukua, I want to thank you for the compliments given to the entire staff members. The message will be delivered. I am surprised by your concern about the mortuary in Opuwo. I do know that in Opuwo State Hospital we have Dr Akpabio who is a chief medical officer and we also have a principal medical officer, a Zimbabwean medical doctor who is highly skilled and educated. When you have a chief medical officer in a hospital, you expect that they would be in a position to perform post mortems. You spoke to me outside and I called Dr Vorster who made a follow-up and we were informed that they are in a position to conduct post mortems. I am wondering why there is such a concern, but we will make a follow-up.

Condoms with energy – I am wondering, is this not Viagra?

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: We did not get the question of Honourable Muharukua. Let her explain a bit to us.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I would be most grateful.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Maybe she can be allowed to say it in Otjiherero what she meant. When I was listening to her, she perhaps said that there are problems of men using condoms, because they are saying that once they use condoms, they do not have proper natural feeling. I think that is what she is saying, so that we can encourage the men to use condoms. We need to educate them in using condoms. I think that is what she meant.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: No, I am not going to speak in Otjiherero. Comrade Chairperson, I said the men are complaining about condoms. When they put the condom there, at the *Tatekulus* there (Laughter). Now you understand what I am saying. They say they need new condoms which are not going to make them tired.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Comrade Chairperson, we take note.

Honourable Chase, your last remark was just a compliment, the way I see it, the funds not being sufficient. I wish we could have more. Thank you very much indeed for the support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, there was another question by Honourable Moongo on overtime of nurses which was not answered. We are going to reopen the Debate, because I am seeing three hands again.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Chairperson, through you, the overtime funds are in place, it is budgeted for. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection?
Agreed to.

Vote 22 – “FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES” put for discussion.

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like, first and foremost, to congratulate the Minister of Fisheries, for the progress that is being made within the fishing industry. There is somehow good progress.

While I am fully supporting this important Vote, I would like to look at three issues and the first is on Page 6 on aquaculture sector development which I think is a very good sector. What I would like to see is the flooding of the freshwater fish within our markets. We have not seen that much yet and I would like to see that.

Then, what I would really like to talk about is that aquaculture is developing very well, but I think it perhaps requires expertise. There are a lot of people outside there who would like to see little ponds within their family environment, even in their own yards. Perhaps something must be done to really look into that area and funds must be found to be allocated for that particular sector. A lot of people really have that energy to want to gain from that kind of sector.

Secondly is the issue of marketing on Page 9, especially the marketing of aquaculture products is very crucial. I think it is necessary for us to look at the cultural way of doing preservation. We used to eat dry freshwater fish. Last year I spoke about this same issue, but I think there is a need to look at the storage, how we are going to store this? How are we going to develop the process of drying the fish? Perhaps we could look at how we could access them in the market because I would want to eat freshwater fish. This is something that we perhaps need to look at and I do not know whether that has been budgeted for.

Lastly – and I am speaking under correction – the need for regulatory frameworks on the development of oxidation ponds in towns. Recently, not too long ago, there was this problem of oxidation pond water or sewerage water that goes along into the oshanas and this is affecting the health of the people. It is very dangerous but I do not know whether it is the Ministry of Fisheries that would come up with policies or the Ministry of Health, I have no idea. Nevertheless I think that this is something that needs to be looked into, because the fish that are from oxidation ponds are mixing with the flood fish and that is really going to be ugly as far as I am concerned. I support the Vote.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Let me congratulate the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources for trying hard to

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keep the chin above the water. I have one question to the Honourable DR Abraham Iyambo and it is on Page 6, 2.4.

On Page 6 it is stated that: *“While an increase of aquaculture programme is welcomed, particularly on the operational expenditure, additional financial resources will be required for capital expenditure to adequately address the need of this sector across the breadth and length of the Land of the Brave.”*

If one looks at this statement, I get the impression that this programme has started some time back and it is indeed an ongoing programme. But I have seen in the Report of the National Planning Commission where it is indicated that the National Planning Commission is busy and let me quote again from Page 2: *“The National Planning Commission also undertook a feasibility study on assessment of the market of Namibian aquaculture products and setting up of cold storage facilities as well as opportunity to increase value addition and improve marketing of Namibian line of fish products. The findings of the Report will assist Government to design appropriate strategies and improve economic viability of this fishing sub-sector.”*

Therefore, on the one hand Government is busy trying to determine the viability of this sector. On the other hand the Line Ministry is busy implementing the programme. My question is, how did the Ministry of Fisheries come to the point of implementing the programme before the viability and sustainability of that project has been determined?

With that question, I support the Vote.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me start by supporting Vote 22. I only have one small question. I also appreciate that the marine inspectors are targeted to go and assist the inland fishing inspectors in the rural areas in order to improve the situation, which is a very commendable job and task and we appreciate the Ministry’s commitment on that.

The small question is just whether these inspectors are going to rural areas on application, on request, or are they given this assignment to various areas in the rural communities? Thank you, I support Vote 22.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a few questions to the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

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Honourable Minister, I think immediately after Independence the SWAPO-led Government...(Interjections). I am getting mixed up, we are on the one hand told SWAPO Government, on the other hand SWAPO-led. But I know Government is not only the Executive, but that is not important, I want to use my time properly.

I think the first thing that happened which was highly welcomed by the Nation was the fact that previously disadvantaged people got fishing quotas and could start investing in fishing companies. A specific question and I am not talking about the permanently previously disadvantaged, I am talking about those who are really disadvantaged. I really want to know why are the dividends from some of these fishing companies conspicuous by their absence, especially where the poor people have invested? I am asking this also in the light of the fact that fish is getting more and more expensive, so expensive that the poor, the real previously disadvantaged, cannot afford to buy fish. What is happening there?

My further question is, I think the Minister and his Ministry must really be congratulated on the introduction of aquaculture. I specifically want to know, have any of these aquaculture plants which belong to the poor, started bringing in a profit? Have they established a market that will bring in a profit and a livelihood for the poor? Because as the Minister rightfully says, this is one avenue that could alleviate poverty. Therefore maybe that part is *pro-poor*.

Finally, I would just like to ask the Minister, do we not have any lobster anymore? Why is the promised lobster not delivered? I support the Vote.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have only one or two questions.

First of all, who is in charge of the Sea Fisheries Fund and secondly, what is the money in that Fund used for? Let me stop there. Thank you.

HON NAMBINGA: Honourable Chairperson, I support the Vote of the Honourable Minister. We are a fish producing country but there is no fish in Namibia. What is happening? I thank you.

HON MOONGO: I had a similar question, but in Namibia the small businesses want to buy tinned fish, but you do not find it anymore. What happened, Honourable Minister? We used to have so much tinned fish in Namibia, but when SWAPO came it disappeared. What happened?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is on Page 5 under the programme, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Fishing Activities.

I wholeheartedly support the Vote. I have a question on control mechanisms. I would like to know what control measures does the Ministry have in place to control the behaviour of the holders of fish quotas, especially those that are dealing with communities, because there are some companies in this country who, when applying for fish quotas, approach communities like the San, people living with disabilities and the vulnerable Himba women and children and other organisation, and once they have received their fishing quotas, you see them driving expensive cars, dividends are not declared and these communities are just used. What control measures are there to make sure that these companies live up to their promises for the communities to benefit from these natural resources? I thank you.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I just want to ask the Minister, the National Fishing Corporation of Namibia Ltd., I do not know what the losses were over the last five years, but surely in 2005 that Government company made a loss of N\$42 million and in 2006 it made a loss of N\$41 million. Is there any prospect that it has improved in 2007 and if not, how long can Government continue to waste money on this company?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I support Vote 22 of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. I see that the aquaculture projects are developing very fast all over Namibia, but I want to know whether the Ministry is also looking into the aspect of fish feed for fingerlings, whether there are plans to develop this food locally, because I understand it is extremely expensive to import it.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I revert the Floor to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I thank the Colleagues for questions, comments and proposals that were put forward.

I would like to start with *Honourable Chief Ankama*. His first question is about the market for freshwater fish in particular. I will cover that together with some of the questions that were raised that were linked to the market.

Marketing of any product is very, very important and for the aquaculture products it is even more important as we are dealing with a new type of initiative. That is why we decided, together with our colleagues from the National Planning Commission, to conduct a few studies. One is the marketing of the freshwater fish in Namibia and the establishment of cold storage facilities. Why it is mentioned in the two documents, Fisheries and the National Planning Commission, is because it is national development. All these issues of development are more under the National Planning Commission and the funds were given by the National Planning Commission, meaning the National Planning Commission is funding this study on the marketing and cold storage of freshwater fish.

The market is big for either tilapia or catfish or the other products from our rivers and dams. We have tried to test the market particularly at Omahenene. We caught tons of fish and sometimes we are overwhelmed by the communities who come and buy fish. Some of them will buy one, some two, some buy tons and they go with those big trucks. So the market is really there, it is not an issue that we should find out whether the market is there or not. But it is more which specie is more acceptable in different parts of the country.

Where is catfish accepted, where is tilapia accepted, but the market is definitely there.

While we are conducting this, we want to ensure that we have cold storage facilities across the length and breadth of the country, so that when the communities are producing the fish, they should immediately be put in cold storage and people can go and buy there. The people can buy cooling trucks, so that when they harvest at their ponds, they can take these fish to the market. That is why we have this study on the marketing and the cold storage.

On the issue of the need for expertise, I do believe that this is one of our key deficit as a country in terms of sufficient manpower in the country in this very important area. Our country is quite big and at the moment we have experts from Cuba, from Malawi and we intend to get some from Vietnam, in particular, through South-South cooperation that we are working on. But that is the problem. In the communities, for example the four hundred people in the Caprivi, Kavango,

Oshikoto, Omusati, Oshana-Namahanana Regions, we do not have sufficient expertise to go and assist the communities with the design and to see whether the fish are growing well. That is one thing that we are concentrating on. That is why we are very happy that very soon ten Namibians are going to China and extension officers and biologists who just received scholarships on that. We just received a few experts who went to Singapore, a few went to Egypt, a few have been to Malawi. Therefore, training is critical, particularly of the rural communities.

Oxidation ponds or the sewerage system is a very important point in terms of health. About one year ago around Oshana-Namahanana this was an issue, people catching fish from these ponds, particular catfish and it is very dangerous. You know what goes into a sewerage pond, from all angles you know what goes in there and that is just not good. I hope the municipalities under which many of these facilities are, together with my brother Honourable Kamwi, would look at this before it is too late. It is a very important point that you have raised.

Honourable Tjihuiko, I have indirectly answered to your question why the marketing, the cold storage and the value addition are funded through the National Planning Commission. That is why they are also quoted under the National Planning Commission.

Comrade Pandeni, the marine inspectors that were assigned to the Caprivi and Kunene Regions were taken from Walvis Bay to go and assist the new inspectors there. These are highly experienced inspectors and we thought we should share their knowledge with the colleagues who have just started in the Caprivi and Kunene Regions. But the communities do not have to request the Ministry for them to be sent there. Our long term plan is that wherever there are water bodies these inspectors should be there, funds permitting. But if people at a river think that there are a lot of transgressions, etcetera, they can surely come to do the inspection.

We have recently appointed honorary inspectors to carry out that responsibility. Those are the people from communities who know the area.

Honourable Schimming-Chase, about the issue of whether this is a SWAPO-led Government or SWAPO Government, it is a SWAPO Government, it is a SWAPO-led Government. You are 100% correct, it is all the same.

About the disadvantaged Namibians, and I also want to cover the question by *Honourable Kazenambo*, whether the previously disadvantaged Namibians are used and whether they are benefiting from the proceeds. Many of them have not been benefiting. There has been quite a lot of greed in some people, the people have become much more clever than the people they are supposed to assist.

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Some have benefited, but there has been a big number of people who have not really benefited. People have used mainly the marginalised, the Himba community, the San community, etcetera, but some of them have not really given them their dues. But there are a few companies that have done an exceptional job.

In terms of monitoring and control, last year we called all those who have fishing rights expiring at the beginning of this year and in December. Before the extension of their rights all of them had to indicate how they accommodated and assisted these poor communities. We found that some of them have not done so. It is an issue that has been a problem to us as well.

With respect to the fish being expensive – and it was also raised last year – the Government has tried, we have put up five thousand metric tons of mackerel for the consumption of local communities. I convinced the industry but they argue differently. They tell us they take the fish there, there is no one who wants to buy our fish. Even two years ago we took 22 tons of fish from Walvis Bay to Oshakati and Omusati Region and the communities only bought two tons and we requested the prices to go down. They were 50% of the actual price, but the people did not buy the fish and it had to be taken back to Walvis Bay. Therefore, the issue of fish being expensive is true.

I went on an unannounced type of trip to some of these shops and they are selling at exorbitant prices compared to what is in Walvis Bay, even here in Windhoek. The question is, how do you control the market in this capitalist type of environment? How do you control the price? I agree that people are really putting up the prices of fish. Of course there are technical issues why they argue the fish is expensive, but I also think that fish is quite expensive.

With respect to whether people have started with aquaculture and whether there is a profit, *Honourable Schimming-Chase*, I hate to theorise, I prefer to see things. I would have loved if one day you could go to Epalela just to see for yourself, because if I tell you I may even confuse you, or to Onavivi and just see what is there and then we can link that to profitability. Where we have not had sufficient profits was where we had intermittent floods, particularly in the Caprivi and the Kavango. But money has been generated, communities have been given this money.

We had a very bad experience, particularly in the Kavango Region last year. My Deputy went there for harvesting a lot of fish and the money then had to be given back to the communities. I do not know what is wrong with Namibians, I went there close to December and they just got all the money and went home and left all the nets and everything closed. We decided to get our own staff from the Ministry as well as colleagues from the National Youth Service who are now based there.

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Some of these farms are now run by the Youth Service and our own staff. But they got a lot of fish, a lot of money and when we went there, there were no people and we had to take over. Therefore, we still need a lot of learning and teaching.

With respect to the lobster, the lobster is there. I can amplify but I do not want to bog you down with technical issues.

Honourable De Waal, with regard to who is in charge of the Sea Fisheries Fund and what is it used for? The Sea Fisheries Fund is a Fund that is under the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. It is mainly meant for training and funding all the research aspects, in particular, in the Ministry. The way it is structured is meant for the members of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. If you are studying fisheries, we will fund you. (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: I am asking a serious question, I want to know who is in charge of that Fund. Is it the Permanent Secretary, is it the Minister or is it somebody else? Who is responsible for the money in that Fund?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: In line with Government structure, of course this is under the Accounting Officer. But of course, the Minister as the head of the Ministry is also responsible for that Fund. The Permanent Secretary, myself and all the staff are all responsible for that Fund.

At the moment we have a lot to do following the Committee chaired by Comrade De Waal – are you a comrade still or have you changed now? The new Comrade De Waal, the question you asked 3 years ago about the auditing and the books, we had to commission somebody to do that and the work is now being finalised and all the books of all those years are now being finalised.

Comrade Nambinga asked why there are no fish in Namibia. I do not think so, maybe not sufficient and maybe too expensive, because if I walk from here and go to Tré, I am sure I will find quite a lot of fish there and you will find a lot of fish in the markets in the North, but maybe it is the variety. (Intervention)

HON NAMBINGA: When it comes to canned fish we have a problem. (Interjections).

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much. I was giving a chance to the Colleagues to finish the fight. If you say it is canned fish, I will understand. If you say hake or something, I will understand. There are so many species. The canned fish is pilchard.

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We have had for the last three years problems with the allocation in terms of pilchard. We have been giving too little, hence there has not been too much in the market. That is more in terms of biological reasons why it is quite low.

Whether FISHCOR is a waste of money or not, FISHCOR went through a turbulence, not just because they wanted to do so. You will recall five years ago they used to work with our colleagues from Iceland. Our colleagues from Iceland departed and when they left they had to sell their shares in FISHCOR and they bought those shares at N\$75 million. The N\$75 million were not in instalments, it was paid cash.

From then, although they had difficulties, that also worsened the problem and many of them were expecting the situation to improve. That was the time when they were experiencing the oil crisis and all of them were making losses. If you look at their books now, they were telling me that they are making some profit. How big I do not know, but I met the Chief Executive Officer two weeks ago and he was saying that.

But the reality on the ground is that this is one of the companies that we have not assisted much in terms of resources. We have been assisting them more in terms of giving fish, either unfrozen or so. But looking at the future, I think they have hope but they need a proper strategy to turn around the company, because those losses that Comrade De Waal mentioned are quite high.

Finally, there was something from *Comrade Nujoma*, aquaculture development and about the fish feed. The fish feed, that has again been our weakness as a country. Last year I told you that we are producing more than 100,000 metric tons of fish-meal and we are sending this to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi and China and in South Africa they add something and then re-export it to us. Together with the Government of Spain we are going to build a fish-meal plant at Onavivi and I hope that the colleagues who are dealing with omahangu, we are going to need quite a lot of tons annually to be able to sustain this centre. We have tested the mahangu and we think it is the best product we could use to produce fish feed in Namibia. But our concern is whether we are going to have sufficient supply of mahangu. Now you say you have mahangu, but when we set up the plant, you will say there is no mahangu. I hope you are going to assist us to get mahangu and produce sufficient fish feed for the country. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE: Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 26 – “NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION” put for discussion.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Before I make my comments, I just wanted to verify whether the document that I have is the right one. The Budget speech by Honourable Dr Albert Kawana, Member of Parliament and Minister of Presidential Affairs, National Planning Commission, is that the right one? If this is the right one then I am happy.

I have a few questions. I wanted to know what is the actual core function of the National Planning Commission? If one goes through this paper, the name says "*National Planning Commission*". A person will tend to think that this is main centre of the national planning of this country. If you go through this paper, then I do not know. Let us look at Page 1, point 2. It reads: "*The National Planning Commission will implement three major programmes, namely development planning, development cooperation and production of statistics.*" These are the key functions of the main planning centre of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. These are the three.

If we are saying that we would expect to see development in the Regions, at the municipal level, one would hope to see the National Planning Commission playing the leading role in the national development of this country. That way it is a National Planning Commission.

Then the Minister of Presidential Affairs went on: "*In my Budget presentation last year I informed this august House that the formulation of national plans will be preceded by Vision 2030 implementation strategy that would serve as a road map to all implementers.*" Again I am getting the impression that Vision 2030 does not have ...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I put a question to the Honourable Member? Honourable Tjihuike, where is the *Ombara Otjitambi*?

HON TJIHUIKO: The "*Ombara Otjitambi*." is the people's paramount Chief always sitting here.

"I am pleased to inform the Honourable Members that a draft implementation strategy for Vision 2030 is now in place." For the last how many years that we have been talking about Vision 2030 there was no implementation strategy at all. This is the first thing that the National Planning Commission should have done. Really, it can only happen in this country. Why do you do things without strategies?

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HON KAZENAMBO**

Honourable Chairperson, I am running because of the time. On Page 2, point 4: *“Output realized under this Programme during the 2006/2007 Financial Year include the conducting of the Participatory Poverty Assessment for ten Regions.”* I know that the National Planning Commission must have forgotten that we have thirteen Regions. Only ten Regions.

“This exercise culminated in the draft Regional Poverty Profiles which will be finalised and disseminated during the current Financial Year. The Profiles contain information on the poverty situation in each Region and recommendations for poverty reduction.” Three of the Regions, I would love to know which are the three Regions that have been excluded from this study and what are the reasons. Honourable Kawana, please just give the names of those three, I want to know why.

Honourable Chairperson, looking at this paper, I believe that if this is what is the core functions of the National Planning Commission, headed by the Director General at the level of a Minister, with all the perks, then I do not think that we are serious about development. My recommendation, Honourable Kawana, is that if these are the core functions of the National Planning Commission, I recommend that the National Planning Commission should become a division either at the Office of the Prime Minister or the Ministry of Finance, headed by the Deputy Director. He or she will be able to implement these functions, not a party member. Otherwise this cannot be justified.

I thank you and I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support wholeheartedly the vote of the National Planning Commission and I would like to wholeheartedly support their programme on Regional Poverty Profiles. This is really a good effort and I attended a few of their workshops last year. That one really tells the situation on the ground and those who have not yet read those profiles should read them as they are telling us what work was done.

My question is on the issue of external trade statistics for the last year. It shows that Namibia’s principal trading partners in terms of export include the United Kingdom, South Africa, Italy, Angola, Germany and the United States of America. In terms of imports the major trading partners include South Africa, Germany, the United States of America, Spain and Zimbabwe. Namibia’s main imports in terms of products were vehicles, parts and accessories with a value of N\$2.8 billion, machinery and mechanical appliances with a value of N\$2.3 billion, electrical machinery and equipment with a value of N\$1.5 billion, iron and steel with a value of N\$856 million, pharmaceutical products with a value of N\$629 million,

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HON NAMBAHU**

beverages with a value of N\$550 million, plastics and articles with a value of N\$530 million, aircraft and parts with a value of N\$488 million, mineral fuels, oils and products with a value of N\$467 million and paper and paperboard with a value of N\$408 million – even paperboard and paper are running into millions.

We often talk of the industrialisation drive and I would like to know what plans do we have in place to produce even paperboards and paper. Maybe somebody will come with the issue of water and timber, but what plans do we have to produce something which we can use for the country, even to cut the cost of house constructions. What plans do we have? Even Nigeria have attempted to manufacture their own cars. What plans do we have to manufacture something in the next few years to cut these costs of trade export, if any, in order to contribute to the reduction of poverty, because these materials are costly and their impact on the poor is inexplicable. I thank you.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support the vote of the National Planning Commission, but before that I have two questions and some observations to make based on the main activities outlined in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, Page 157.

The first one is with regard to the Central Bureau of Statistics. I recognise and I commend the effort to restructure this section of the National Planning Commission, as it is recognised here, to meet the need for the demand of the data which is not yet there. It is very important in the sense that some of the role players in our development endeavour quote their statistics from the Central Bureau of Statistics and they reproduce them as are. In Namibia we have a problem of countries not being willing to give us least developed country status because of the statistics that portray us as a middle income country. Can it also be expected of the Central Bureau of Statistics to produce data that is tabulated, for us to know, for example, if Namibia grew by 4.2%, how much of that was, for example, Walvis Bay or Usakos or Ondangwa, so that we are in a position to know how we are growing not only regionally. I know it is costly, but it is also done in some countries, to know what was the growth of Omuthiya. Resources will always influence but the development will be different, but it will give us an indication as to how we are going per given area or per given basket.

I also join the other Colleagues in congratulating the National Planning Commission for this Regional Poverty Profiles. That is a step in the right direction. It gives you exactly what is the situation on the ground. If these reports could be available and we urge the private sector to use them in planning, it would be very much useful.

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HON IILONGA

Sometimes you find a company donating computers to a school which does not have electricity. Instead of saying I will provide you with solar panels and the next time I will support you with computers, if there are statistics in this direction it could be helpful.

The last one is that it states here that priority number four is to develop a civic organisation database. This need was identified ten years ago. When some of us were in the National Planning Commission – and I am sure Honourable Kuugongelwa could bear me out – there was a recognition for the registration of civic organisations so that we could have cooperating strategies with them. (Interjection). No, Honourable Katali, maybe you could just allow me to develop my thinking. It is saying “to develop”. Is it to be updated or it has been developing since then? What is it that is happening? There is a need for this. After Independence these organisations flocked into the country, they came asking us to accept the import of certain materials and we say “*we do not know you, are you here? Since when? What do you do? For us to assist you we need to know where you are and what you do.*” It is only now that I am spotting this and I think we need some clarity as to why it has taken so long when it was so critical at that time.

With those remarks I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 26. This is our centre of planning. I just wanted to look at two issues.

We are now currently finalising NDP III and I want us to look at this. Let us not look at Vision 2030 as a parallel to NDP III. Vision 2030 is a goal, a destination this country wants to reach. What we want to see under the NDPs is how we reach there. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? The Honourable Deputy Minister was talking about NDP3. Can you inform this House how far has the NDP II been implemented? What are the difficulties that we have identified in the process of implementation and when is a report on the successful implementation of NDP II going to be presented to this House?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: What I wanted to say is that what we want to see through the NDPs is a recording of the skills we have in Namibia, rather than theory. Let us be practical, we do not need

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theory. Theory is only for the thesis which we write as a degree. The major cause should be to know how many skills we have in Namibia and after we have reached that, we now have to see what are the shortfalls we have in Namibia, so that we can now concentrate on what we do not have.

We have people who do practical work here, but because they are not recognised, we do not know their capacity. We only know them through the De Waal's and those companies. They enrich themselves through those skills.

I want to appeal that our main centre must not make this feasibility study for nothing. Let them concentrate and find those hidden skills and give them recognition for when you need their work. They are scrubbing your house but you do not recognise them. That is what I want the National Planning Commission to do.

This issue of a feasibility study on a market for fish, is really something we do not need. We already heard from those who participated during the Fisheries vote that there are no fish in our shops. Let them do the tinning plus the fresh fish in the form Aquaculture. Last year with the harvest at Onavivi, how much fish was caught? It was a lot. Even those who have hotels bought thousands. Therefore, we do not need a feasibility study for markets, we must implement the practical reality. Bring the fish, we will buy. Advertise it, bring it, we will come and buy those fish. Do not waste our money on feasibility studies.

With those few words I support Vote 26.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on Page 8 of the paper under the Development Corporation Programme I have a question on the issue of implementation of capital projects and money. The National Planning Commission, in my ignorance, is supposed to be the overall coordinator, but you find that the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication is also responsible for overseeing the implementation of these capital projects. The concern is that the preparation of these tenders sometimes takes too long for the implementation of these capital projects and the money goes back. In the process some people are frustrated and you find that concerns are being expressed by even the development partners. If a mechanism could be put in place so that the National Planning Commission could be empowered to make sure that the line Ministries, not only the Ministry of Works, those that are implementing ... (Intervention)

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HON DR KAWANA**

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a tiny question? Honourable Deputy Minister, I have seen that you are now busy responding. Have the Ministries been reshuffled, have you now taken over from where Kawana left off or are you just responding and Honourable Kawana will also come and respond again?

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** He is promoting me, he is ambitious and power-hungry.

I was speaking on the implementation of the capital projects so that the money cannot go back. I do not know what mechanism can be developed in order to smoothen this and also monitoring and evaluating these things with line Ministries and whether these consultants preparing tenders and terms of reference could at least expedite the process. That was my question.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I revert the Floor to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson. Let me, first and foremost, thank all the Honourable Members who have contributed positively and those who have done so in silence.

Allow me to thank *Honourable Tjihuiko* for the questions. I would like to refer the Honourable Member to Article 129 of the Namibian Constitution which says: “*The National Planning Commission is established in the Office of the President.*” Unless the Constitution is amended, it can definitely not become a department in another office because this is a constitutional office.

In addition to that, I would like to refer the Honourable Member also to Article 36(3) of the Namibian Constitution, which says that entity is to be headed by a Director General and therefore it cannot be headed by a Deputy Director, because it is a constitutional issue, unless the Constitution is amended.

Regarding the function of the National Planning Commission, definitely this office has been doing an exceptional job since its inception. It has published a number of studies and statistics. Our business community and the donor community rely on the statistics that are published by the National Planning Commission.

Honourable Tjihuiko, for your information, the National Planning Commission has not forgotten that there are thirteen Regions in this country. On the contrary, it is

the Honourable Member who is not aware that the very first report of the Poverty Profile was published by the National Planning Commission as far back as 2003 and that was the Ohangwena Region. Then in 2004 Omaheke Region and the Caprivi Region were also completed. That is why now in the current Financial Year there are ten Regions to follow. Therefore, the National Planning Commission has not forgotten, contrary to what the Honourable Member is alleging.

Honourable Kazenambo, thank you very much for your support. With regard to external trade statistics, indeed this is really information that is given to our Nation so that people who are interested in business can see which business entities they can involve themselves in, in order to substitute some of these imports as per the statistics that were published by the National Planning Commission and as per the motivation speech. If you want to put up a paper factory, you would know that you are going to make money because we are importing paper worth hundreds of millions, which to me is most unfortunate but that is the reality on the ground. But this information is very useful for the information those entrepreneurs who want to involve themselves in some of these activities.

Honourable Nambahu, thank you very much. Regarding the statistics I certainly concur with you that it is very, very important and they should also maybe in the future indicate the areas or the towns. I agree with you, but because of lack of capacity, particularly in human power and additional resources, it may not be possible now, but it is definitely something which may be considered in the near future.

Honourable Ilonga, thank you very much. With regard to NDP III, in fact most of the entities, offices, ministries and agencies will be contacted by the Director General to make sure that the National Development Plan III takes off the ground and this project will start during the current Financial Year. There will be lead ministries, divided into specialisation of industries, like for example economic ministries will be lumped together, social ministries will be lumped together and then the cooperatives together with our corporation social partners and also civic organisation to involve also our Regions. This is really a joint venture, not only a project of the National Planning Commission but all entities, including Offices, Ministries and Agencies, civic organisation, social partners, Regional Councils will all be involved in the finalisation of NDP3. I am also happy to inform Comrade Ilonga that one of the issues which should be reflected in NDP3 is the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and also the recommendations of the Cabinet Retreat, as I have stated in my speech.

With these few remarks I move that this Honourable House supports and approves the Budget of National Planning Commission. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection?
Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon, 24
April 2007 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 19:47 UNTIL 2007.04.24 AT 14:30

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
24 APRIL 2007
WINDHOEK

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I lay upon the Table the Ministerial Annual Report for the year 2005 of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Any other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, 25th April 2007, I shall Move that this Assembly –Ratifies the Accession to the Association of African Diamond Producers (ADPA).

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions?

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, I move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 27 and 29 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 94 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION - VOTE 18
HON KONJORE**

**RESUMPTION
OF COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01 to 11, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, 26, 28, 30 and 31 had been agreed to and Votes 15, 17, 25 and 27 have been introduced.

Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM”, N\$299 917 000 put for introduction.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, it is my honour to introduce to this august House Vote 18 of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the 2007/08 Financial Year. I wish to reiterate my support for the Budget presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance earlier in this House, and I also thank her for the proposed allocation to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. We will do our best to use this allocation to meet the demands for greater service delivery and efficiency.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism oversees a wide range of sectors, including:

- The tourism sector, which is one of the fastest growing economic sectors;
- The environment sector, which faces challenges such as climate change, pollution and diminishing resources;
- The management of our protected areas;
- The sound management of Namibia’s wildlife resources, with the challenges

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related to community-based natural resource management and the regulation of sustainable use and the recovery of wildlife species under pressure, as well as the difficult issue of human-wildlife conflict management; and

- The regulation of gambling and lotteries.

I firmly believe that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has a great deal to contribute to the national development goals, and the protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

Comrade Chairperson Honourable Members, this now brings me to the budgetary allocations for the current Financial Year.

The Ministry has been allocated a total of N\$299,917,000 for the 2007/08 Financial Year. This amount represents:

- N\$197,610,000 for the Operational Budget; and
- N\$102,307,000 for the Development Budget.

This overall amount represents an increase of 98.4 percent on the allocations of the previous Financial Year. This increase represents an increase in the Operational Budget from N\$139,846,000 during the 2006/07 Financial Year to N\$197,610,000 for 2007/08 Financial Year, thus an increase of 41.3% in the Budget for recurrent costs. However, most of this increase is in the form of a once-off contribution of N\$50 million to Namibia Wildlife Resorts Ltd, as part of the turnaround strategy and new business plan of Namibia Wildlife Resorts, as agreed by Cabinet.

Furthermore, an increase in the development Budget from N\$11,303,000 in 2006/07 to N\$102,307,000 for the 2007/08 Financial Year. This results in an increase of 905.1% for capital and development projects.

We are particularly grateful for the substantial increase in the development Budget to help meet long-standing infrastructure development backlogs in office and staff accommodation in particular. I am grateful to be able to mention that the refurbishment of the Troskie Building has commenced in the last Financial Year to become the new headquarters of my Ministry, and is well on track to be completed through this Budget allocation, thereby also restoring an unused Government asset to full use. The remaining substantial increase is due to a N\$75 million allocation for special development projects aimed at employment creation through tourism.

The Budget of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, currently consists of six programmes.

Programme 1: Protected area management

Protected areas include all the National Parks and Game Parks of Namibia that are proclaimed through legislation and managed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on behalf of the State.

The programme aims to improve the efficiency of protecting and managing the network of protected areas, including providing and maintaining essential infrastructure, law enforcement, patrolling and monitoring, water provisioning and problem animal management. The Ministry is systematically developing management and tourism development plans for each protected area, to maximize revenue generation and increasing the importance of protected areas in regional economies and rural development, whilst maintaining the qualities that attract tourist to these destinations.

The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$90,612,000 for the 2007/08 Financial Year.

Our national parks are the main draw-cards for tourism to Namibia and are visited by more than half of all tourists that come to Namibia. Our investment in them as a Government is relatively small compared to their total economic value, which has recently been estimated at between N\$1 and 2 billion per year.

Programme 2: Protection of key species and natural resources

The purpose of this programme is to improve the efficiency of protecting and managing key species and natural resources. Namibia is already internationally recognised for conservation successes, especially regarding what are considered as globally threatened or endangered species. In this respect, for example, Namibia holds approximately one-third of the global black rhinoceros population, and other populations of importance such as the largest population of cheetah in the world.

This Ministry has undertaken a long-term programme of restocking communal conservancies with wildlife species that originally occurred there, in order to provide a resource base from which to develop a sustainable wildlife and tourism industry. In addition, the new Wildlife Breeding Stock Loan Scheme, which is aimed at facilitating the entry of formerly disadvantaged Namibians into the game farming industry also falls in this programme.

This programme also includes the issue of the management of human-wildlife conflict which presents serious problems to the Ministry. The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$13,930,000 for the 2007/08 Financial Year.

Programme 3: Community-based natural resource management and tourism

One of Namibia's most significant achievements in the sector of sustainable natural resource management is its growing, community-based natural resource management programme in rural areas. The purpose of this programme is to strengthen the conservancy system on communal lands by improving the natural resource base for economic development; the management of natural resources through such programmes, and enhancing job creation and livelihood improvement through enterprise development.

The budgeted cost of this programme amounts to N\$53,563,000 for the 2007/08 Financial Year, and this amount is supplemented by development partner funding.

Programme 4: Regulation of environmental protection and sustainable resource management.

The purpose of this programme is to ensure that environmental quality and ecological processes are suitably protected to safeguard the well-being of the Namibian people now and in future, and to further promote sustainable development and equitable access to natural resources and to protect biological diversity and promote its sustainable use.

The Ministry oversees the consumptive utilisation of wildlife resources, through a permitting system, primarily aimed at ensuring the sustainable use of the wildlife resource. The challenge lies in the Ministry to implement a system that is efficient and effective and does not unnecessarily burden the resource user with bureaucracy and high transaction costs.

The budgeted cost for this programme amounts to N\$10,994,000 for the 2007/08 Financial Year.

I wish to inform the Honourable Members that the Environmental Management and Assessment Bill, which will considerably strengthen the legal foundation for environmental protection in Namibia, has been finalised and will be tabled in this august House as soon as practically possible.

Programme 5: Tourism development

The purpose of this programme is to support environmentally and socio-economically beneficial tourism development and the further growth of the third largest and fastest growing economic sector in Namibia. This sector holds considerable further growth potential and the creation of new jobs. It is often said in Southern Africa that one new job is created for every additional twelve new tourist arrivals. It is therefore in Namibia's interest to expand tourism arrivals and ensure that the socio-economic benefits from this industry are more widely distributed.

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The budgeted cost for this programme amounts to N\$ 117,244,000 for the 2007/08 Financial Year.

Of this amount, the allocation to the Namibian Tourism Board is N\$24,800,000. The Namibian Tourism Board is expected to raise a further N\$10,000,000 through levies and registration fees, which will therefore bring their resources to nearly N\$35,000,000.

There is great potential for expanding tourism through international marketing within the traditional source markets of Europe to other parts of the world, as many Members also stated during the discussions of the previous Budget on Vote 18.

This programme also includes gambling and lotteries. State revenue from the gambling industry is in the order of N\$20,000,000 per year.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, it is well-known that Namibia Wildlife Resorts, the state-owned company responsible for the management of most state-owned tourism resorts, has experienced considerable difficulties in the past. I am happy to inform this august House that the turn-around strategy spearheaded by my Ministry is well on track and that there are positive signs of growth within Namibian Wildlife Resorts. As mentioned previously, a once-off contribution of N\$50 million to Namibia Wildlife Resorts is also provided for in this programme.

Programme 6: Improving the economic value of natural resources and protected areas under MET's jurisdiction

The purpose of this programme is to improve the Ministry's contribution to the State revenue and to improve the understanding of the value of the assets that the Ministry is responsible for and the costs of maintaining them. The wildlife industry contributes significantly towards the livelihoods of rural Namibians. The wildlife industry should not be seen as being in competition with agriculture, but rather as an important form of diversification in utilising natural resources. An integrated approach to land management is important, as it helps to maximise outputs and optimise land use to ensure long-term sustainability.

The budgeted cost of this small but important programme amounts to N\$13,574,000 for the 2007/08 Financial Year.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, when I introduced Vote 18 last Financial Year, I emphasised the importance of the tourism sector and its growth potential, and gave some statistics in this regard. A very important element that must get the attention of everyone is that tourism by its nature is a sector that

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HON NGATJIZEKO**

involves everyone, all agencies of Government, and the entire service sector of the economy.

More than any other economic sector, it is the total package of what a country offers that counts in tourism. It is the sum of our policies, regulations, services, infrastructure, international image and our natural attractions and environment that will determine our success. This will be a challenge for all of us, but a strategic necessity for Namibia as this industry could be more sustainable and less vulnerable to uncertain climatic conditions, and strong and sometimes unfair global competition in other sectors, such as manufacturing and trade. In this year we will commence the development of a tourism growth strategy for Namibia, and we will need the participation of everyone in order to make the most of this strategic opportunity.

In conclusion, I thank the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Director General of the National Planning Commission and their staff for allocating the budgeted amount to Vote 18.

Let me also use this opportunity to thank my Colleague, the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the entire staff of my Ministry for their kind support and cooperation.

It is with these few remarks that I ask the Honourable Members of this august House to support the Budget vote for my Ministry for the meager amount that we are requesting and I thank you for your kind attention.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister.

Vote 19 – “TRADE AND INDUSTRY”, N\$126,452,000 put for introduction.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to introduce Vote 19 – Ministry of Trade and Industry. Before doing that I wish to first elaborate on some of the main priority areas which the Ministry and areas which I find to be important in promoting accelerated economic growth. I would like to thank the Minister of Finance and her Deputy as well as the Director General of the National Planning Commission for the preparation and tabling of the 2007/08 Budget and I want to thank them for the proposed allocation to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Vote 19.

During the year under review, resource-based areas with growth potential have

been identified for development in sectors such as agro-based processing, hospitality industry, handicrafts, leather and leather products, gemstones cutting and polishing, etcetera. Preparation for sectoral studies is underway to conduct in-depth sector-specific feasibility studies to determine financial, economic and technical viability of such resources and identified development opportunity areas for exploitation. It is hoped that the studies will yield sectoral profiles with appropriate information for efficient and speedy decision-making by existing and prospective investors as well as development planners at both central and regional Government levels.

The following projects: Pharmaceutical, Cotton Ginnery, Cement, Steel, Footwear and Gemstones have been identified as projects of significant national strategic and economic importance. Hence a decision was made to categorize them as Special Industrialization Project and approved by Cabinet. The PPP policy, that is Private-Public Partnership Policy to facilitate pulling together national resources to accelerate the development of strategic projects that have wider economic and social impact in the economy would be finalized soon.

The Industrial Statistics database, which is fully functional, is updated and maintained continuously to ensure relevance, as it provides specific information on industrial statistics upon inquiry by the public as well as by other data consumers. The database is also a useful tool in informing our negotiating strategy. In addition, data on companies recommended to the Ministry of Finance for manufacturing status approval, which is an ongoing process, is also stored in this database. Plans are at an advance stage to conduct the first ever business establishment census to enable an insight understanding of the industry for better planning and development facilitation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on industrial infrastructure and entrepreneur development and promotion. This is a Government strategy to achieve industrialization process, economic diversification activities, balanced regional development and value addition. The Ministry consider economic infrastructural development as essential and critical to entrepreneurs and investors who want to set up businesses in Namibia. The Ministry of Trade and Industry has since 1997 constructed 34 business premises at 24 localities at a total capital investment of N\$172 238 557. These projects provide 432 leased out units. The programme has managed to create 3 265 direct jobs and 6 260 temporary jobs were created during the construction phase.

The construction of SME Business Parks at Nkurenkuru is completed while Oshikuku and Katwitwi are at an advanced stage. Civil work for the Agro Food Processing centre at Oshakati has started, and SME Business parks at Okalongo, Okongo, Omaruru and Outjo are also underway.

One of the compounding problems experienced by the SME operators is lack of access to finance. The feasibility study and business plan to transform the Small Business Credit Guarantee Trust into a licensed financial institution is almost completed.

Since 2001, over 700 entrepreneurs were provided guarantee cover to access loans through financial institutions and over 4,700 permanent jobs were created.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Ministry has also finalised the formulation of the Private Sector Development Policy, which is a new approach on the part of the Namibian Government. This Policy presents a single policy framework encompassing industrial development, trade and SME's in order to guide all private sector development activities. The Policy focuses on improving the business environment to make it more supportive of private sector investment and growth. The policy also advocates strategic intervention in promotion of industrial development, small medium enterprises and both domestic and external trade.

During the year under review, the Ministry has made an analysis of products procured by Government, expenditure patterns and the potential of local business to manufacture not only for Government but also for the larger private sector. The Ministry, in collaboration with Central Bureau of Statistics, is envisaging carrying out Census of Enterprises in Namibia in 2007 in order to establish a valid data base for the System of National Accounts and planning analysis purposes.

Investment Promotion:

During the 2006/07 Financial Year the Ministry received sixteen inward investment promotion missions. These missions came from South Africa, China, Malaysia, Pakistan, Germany, Brazil, Botswana and Singapore. Their main interests were in manufacturing of medical equipment, production of bio-diesel, tertiary education, poultry and construction.

During the same period the Ministry also organized four outward investment promotion missions to Asia, USA, Europe and South America. These missions comprised of Namibian business people from sectors such as mining, fishing, manufacturing, tourism, construction, services, etcetera.

Attraction & Retention of Investments:

With regard to actions to be taken in order to deal with impediments affecting attraction and retention of investments, the Ministry has started with the implementation of the recommendations made in the Investor Roadmap. The Ministry has also started with the process of reviewing the current incentives, the

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Foreign Investment Act as well as the drafting of new admission guidelines for new investments.

For the 2007/08 Budget year, the envisaged core activities are the organization of inward and outward investment promotion missions, coupled with an intensive advertising campaign aimed at holistic marketing of Namibia as an investment destination; the establishment of investment promotion offices in strategic global centers and organization of the International Investor Conference for 30 October this year for marketing of profiled projects; the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral investment promotion and protection agreements; the review and amendment of existing investment incentives and legal framework; and review of the current institutional arrangements to ensure efficient and effective investment promotion.

On International Trade, there is good progress in setting up the Namibia Board of Trade, in line with Article 14 of the 2002 SACU Agreement to be responsible for tariff changes, investigation of unfair trade practices, like dumping and subsidies; continuously investigate and determine tariff impacts on the economy, as well as deal with other related SACU issues. This body would further liaise with the SACU Secretariat and work with the SACU Tariff Board to be established at SACU level in accordance with Article 11 of the same Agreement.

Tariff, if appropriately applied, is an important tool of industrialization, which Namibia has not been able to make use of due to lack of institutional capacity. With the establishment of the Namibia Board of Trade, it hoped that Namibia would have strong influence on the structure of the SACU tariff to better suit and serve the need of the local industries.

The local industries have for long been crying foul of unfair trade practices by established and more competitive South African industries. The Namibia Board of Trade would be able to respond effectively to these cries through the application of trade remedies and infant industry protection measures. This will not only ensure sustainability of the existing industries, but would encourage new industries to come up under the assurance that they will not be disadvantaged by the South African industries, as is the case in the prevailing business environment.

The Namibia Board of Trade would further be complementary to the overall performance of the Ministry in terms of implementation of the SACU decisions and conducting of analysis for participation in trade negotiations. The Board shall be operational within the next five months.

The Namibia Trade Forum was created in 2005, as a non-profit company, to enhance public-private sector consultation on trade issues, and give the private sector, as the engine of the economy, a platform to inputs in national trade and

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investment policies and negotiating positions. The forum shall also assist the Government in promoting export in making use of the available market access.

The establishment of the Secretariat for the SADC National Committee, as provided for under the Article 16A of the SADC Treaty, is overdue and necessary to ensure effective and efficient functioning of the SADC National Committee for Namibia's effective participation in SADC affairs, especially in terms of influencing and shaping the regional integration agenda so as to derive maximum benefits from regional programmes and projects.

It is through the SADC National Committee that all socio-economic sectors of the country would be harnessed to drive the regional integration agenda in unison. This would mean that the SADC decisions would take into account Namibia's interest, with grassroots participation, and such decisions would be appreciated at operational level in the country, thereby able to achieve a high rate of implementation.

Promotion of Trade:

Trade Promotion is aimed at expanding opportunities for sourcing of industrial and consumer goods on competitive basis, promotion of Namibian products and services in the international market, improving national production and export competitiveness, and diversifies national export products and markets.

Namibia, through the National Negotiating Team being coordinated by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, continues to engage trading partners around the world, bilaterally and through various regional and multilateral trade fora.

On the bilateral trade agenda, during the course of the previous Financial Year, there have been concerted efforts to acquire market access into China, the fastest growing markets and one of the top ten major markets in the world. Equally, the Chinese Government is encouraging and supporting its enterprises to source products from Namibia. The recent engagement was during the Namibia-China Joint Trade and Economic Commission that took place in 2nd April 2007 here in Windhoek, where

several business deals were sealed. In 2005, trade with China has grown by 41% from around N\$390 million to about N\$545 million with preliminary figures indicating that trade might surpass N\$1 billion mark in 2006.

As part of SACU, Namibia has signed the Free Trade Agreement between SACU and EFTA (the four countries of the European Free Trade Association) in July 2006. I will soon table this Agreement before Parliament for ratification, and thereafter it will be ready for implementation. The last round of talks between

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SACU and MERCOSUR, which are the South American countries, is planned to be held sometime in August 2007 in order to finalize the Agreement. I also intend to table that Agreement before Parliament for ratification before the end of this year.

Other engagements in the context of SACU are with USA and India.

SACU is discussing with the USA to reach an understanding how the two trading partners can enhance trade and investment between them. We envision concluding a trade and investment cooperation agreement instead of the Free Trade Agreement whose negotiations have been put on hold until the environment is conducive.

For India, another major market in Asia, a Framework Agreement is on the table for consideration and conclusion to pave way for negotiations for SACU-India Preferential Trade Agreement.

Within SADC, markets are continuing to gradually open and we expect that 85% of export within the Region will attract zero customs duties as from January 2008, when a SADC Free Trade Area will be declared as achieved. We are also actively participating in discussion aimed at deepening market integration in the form a SADC Customs Union, whose establishment is expected to be put in motion as from 2010.

The World Trade Organization Doha Round of negotiations is slowly coming out of hibernation, from its suspension in July 2006.

The SADC-EC negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) have intensified as from February 2007, from a response of the European Commission to the SADC proposal tabled in March 2006. The target is to conclude these negotiations by December 2007 to pave way for implementation in the course of 2008. Our ultimate goal is to have a single trade regime in the Region conforming to our regional integration agenda.

Domestic market competitiveness.

This programme is designed to create the enabling environment for the functioning and operation of businesses in the country.

This entails the provision of services, such as registry of companies, trademarks, patents and design, traditional knowledge, folklore, standards and quality infrastructures, the framework for estate agency management and consumer protection.

Local market competitiveness requires that the Government ensures that its laws

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for the protection of intellectual property rights, such as patents, industrial designs, trademarks, traditional knowledge, folklore and other instruments, are in place and conform to international standards. Moreover, the development of science and technology, e-commerce and information and communication technology requires that researchers, designers, innovators and inventors are encouraged and rewarded through protection.

The impact of this programme is to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of the Namibia enterprises in both the domestic and external markets, and thus improving Namibia's global competitive ranking and ability to attract investments needed for expansion of business activities and employment creation.

A total of 2,683 new close corporations and 521 companies were registered during the Financial Year 2006/07 compared to the 3,660 new close corporations and 734 companies were registered during the course of 2005/06.

With regard to the protection of intellectual property rights in Namibia, 16 patent applications were received and 10 were registered while 10 designs were received and 2 registered.

Additionally, 6,150 trade marks were registered during the year and the total amount generated for the national Treasury by intellectual property rights protection during the Financial Year was N\$296,809 for trade marks and N\$1,269 for patents and designs.

In the 2006/07 Financial Year, 224 international and national standards from other countries were sold by the Ministry to the value of N\$87,175 compared to the total of 308 that were sold for N\$97,980 in the previous Financial Year.

Thus, the total revenue generated by Government during the period under review as a direct result of the legislation administered by the Ministry to facilitate commerce is N\$9,596,322.

As I have noted in my speech during the 2006/07 Financial Year, the Ministry's responsibilities continue to rapidly expand as a result of new mandates from the country's legislative process and international commitments and obligations emanating from the treaties and conventions to which Namibia is a State Party.

It is for that reason that I am glad to report that the Office of the Prime Minister's Public Service Commission has positively responded to the Ministry's pleas and approved a new structure for the Ministry that will improve the Ministry's performance in both quantitative and qualitative terms.

Institutions envisaged under the Competition Act, 2003, Companies Act, 2004,

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Standards Act, 2005 Metrology Amendment Act, 2005 and the 2002 SACU Agreement, are being established with a view to promoting investment, trade and industrial development.

The delays that were caused by budgetary constraints have been obviated and the Namibian Competition Commission, the Namibia Standards Institution and the Namibia Board of Trade are to become operational in the course of this Financial Year.

Let me come to the programmes of the Ministry of Trade and Industry during 2007/08.

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Members, having given a holistic view of the Ministry, let me now dwell on the programmes managed by the Ministry. The 6 programmes of the Ministry of Trade and Industry encompasses the following:

- (i) Trade promotion and facilitation,
- (ii) Entrepreneurship and SME development,
- (iii) Industrial infrastructure and private sector development,
- (iv) Domestic market competitiveness,
- (v) Domestic and foreign direct investment and
- (vi) Corporate governance.

The Budget allocation to the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the Financial Year 2007/08 amounts to N\$126,462,000.

This represents an increase of N\$18,469,000 or 17.1% from the 2006/07 allocation.

This amount is made of N\$101,537,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$24,925,000.

On Trade Promotion and Facilitation an amount of N\$26,772,000 has been requested.

One arm of the mandate of the Ministry is to promote and facilitate trade. This programme is designed to manage the import and export regime, to engage in trade negotiations and implementation of agreements thereof. This programme supports the private sector in penetrating international markets, in sourcing industrial and consumer goods on competitive basis and ensuring that the trade and economic interests of Namibia are properly safeguarded at bilateral, regional and multilateral trading environments.

The programme's expected output and impact will be in the areas of diversified export markets and products. This will lead to increased exports and foreign

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exchange earnings, employment creation, increased state revenue base, and increased contribution of the export sector to the GDP.

In our programme Entrepreneurship and SME Development we request N\$22,707,000.

This programme is in place to provide the necessary support services to big and small and medium enterprises. It supports the expansion and turn-around of the existing enterprises that are experiencing difficulties as a result of competition arising out of trade liberalization. In addition, the programme aims at increasing value addition, job creation, income generation, transfer of technology and franchising.

The impact of this programme is that it will inculcate the culture of business in the minds of our people and thus raise or heighten economic activities especially in the SME's sector. It will also empower the previously disadvantaged and formalize business activities, the diversification of economic activities, generation of jobs and income. It is intended to address the supply constraints experienced in the country so that most of the products can be supplied from within.

Another programme is Industrial Infrastructure and Private Sector Development for which we request N\$14,320,000.

The purpose of this programme is to create industrial premises, SME modules and technology demonstration centers for utilization by especially the emerging entrepreneurs so as to reduce the cost of doing business in Namibia. It targets the declining towns, villages and settlements by increasing economic activities in those areas. Since the priority of the Government is manufacturing and value addition, most of these infrastructures are primarily meant for manufacturing operators in order to reduce domination of retail activities.

The impact of this programme is the stimulation of business activities to small towns, villages and settlements, promotion of forward and backward linkages between rural and urban economy and the increased contribution of manufacturing to GDP.

For Domestic Market Competitiveness we have requested N\$17,415,000.

This programme is designed to create the enabling environment for the functioning and operation of businesses. It covers the provision of services such as registry of companies, trademarks, patents and design, traditional knowledge, folklore, standards and quality infrastructures, the framework for estate agency management and consumer protection.

It is imperative that the Namibian Government puts in place laws for the

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protection of intellectual property rights such as patents, industrial designs, trademarks, traditional knowledge, folklore and other instruments to conform to international standards.

It is challenging to note that the competitiveness of our economy has been dropping in rank for the past two consecutive years. This situation therefore calls for concerted efforts by the ministry and other stakeholders to make sure that we revert to our original ranking within two years.

Another programme is **Domestic and Foreign Direct Investment Promotion** for which we request N\$ 27,799,000.

This programme is designed at promoting domestic and foreign direct investment in the country by creating an enabling investment climate. Secondly, it is to promote Namibia as an investment destination and lastly, to analyze and promote investment projects.

Its expected impact is that both domestic and foreign investments shall increase, resulting in the expansion of the economy. Investments create jobs, transfers technology, skills develops technology and foreign exchange earnings to the country. The ultimate goal of this will be an expanded and diversified economy.

The last programme is Corporate Governance for which we request N\$17,449,000.

This programme ensures the efficient and effective functioning of the Ministry, through proper management of its human, financial and other resources. I am happy to announce that the Public Service Commission has approved the new structure of the Ministry and we hope that its impact will facilitate the implementation of the Ministry's core businesses.

In conclusion, I have narrated to present to this House the developments that have taken place in the trade and industry sector during 2006/07 Financial Year. I have also highlighted the programmes my Ministry shall undertake during the coming Financial Year within the limited financial resources. These are a number of requests and legitimate expectation for the state intervention to promote business activities. However, I can only be able to do that within the limit of available resources.

Allow me to invite Members of this august House and all other stakeholders to join my Ministry in our quest to realize the Nation's vision of becoming an industrialized state by 2030. To realize that vision, our economy will have to grow by double digit figures for not less than 15 years. It will require personal commitments and tough decisions on resource allocation.

It is now my honour to request this House to consider and approve Vote 19:

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Ministry of Trade and Industry to the amount of N\$126,462,000.

I thank you.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:14 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 20 –
“AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY”, N\$652,766,000 put for
introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank
you very much, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members.

In motivating for Vote 20, which is the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, I will highlight major achievements in the agriculture, water and forestry sectors over the past Financial Year and indicate key activities, which we intend to implement during the 2007/08 Financial Year. I would like to urge the Honourable Members to refer to the Technical Information Document that has been made available to you yesterday, for more details about Vote 20.

Before I go for that, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance, her Deputy, the entire staff for a well-balanced Budget presented in this House.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I am motivating for a total Budget of N\$652,766,000 for my Ministry for the Financial Year 2007/08. Of this total, 80% will be for the operational Budget while the remaining 20% will be allocated to the Development Budget. I must emphasize that N\$41.7 million of the total Budget is funded by the European Union.

Honourable Chairperson, my Ministry is implementing seven programmes, of which four are specific to the agriculture sector, two are in the water sector and one in the forestry sector. Allow me to elaborate on the abovementioned programmes as follows:

Programme 1: Agricultural Advice:

My Ministry continued to provide extension services in agriculture training, information and advisory services, encouraging the adoption of improved farming technologies and practices. In addition, we adopted a Farming Systems Research

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and Extension approach. This is a participatory approach which places the responsibility to lead the development process firmly in the hands of rural communities.

Under this programme, a total of 360 on-farm trials and demonstrations on various crops and livestock were carried out in all the Regions. 7,616 farmers received information on animal health, livestock marketing, supplementary feeding, mahangu marketing, mushroom production, goat development scheme, combating of bush encroachment, bio-gas, vegetable production, draft animal power and HIV/AIDS awareness.

Support to Emerging, Resettled and Affirmative Action farmers remain a high priority on the development agenda of the Ministry. Amid budgetary constraints the Ministry managed to provide technical assistance to 1 010 newly resettled farmers in Khomas, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Hardap and Karas Regions.

On legislation, I am pleased to report that the Ministry has revised the Pest Act of 1973 with FAO assistance. Furthermore, the new Plant Health Bill, the Agro-Chemicals Act (Act 36 of 1947) and the Livestock Improvement Act of 1993 are ready for tabling in the National Assembly during 2007/08.

The Ministry continues to promote the exports of Namibian products. As a result of these efforts, the final rule from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, allowing access for Namibian table grapes to enter the American Market, has become effective from October 23, 2006. Namibia, however still needs to comply with adjustments and certain conditions on pre-cooling, inspections and certification – which is not a problem at all. The challenge is for the Namibian producers to make themselves ready to produce horticulture for the American market.

I am pleased to report that the country remained free of major animal diseases, which would negatively affect trade in livestock and livestock products. The favourable animal health status of the country has allowed the continued export of beef, mutton and venison to South Africa, the European Union and other parts of the world.

Namibia participated in the control efforts to eradicate tsetse fly in the Kwando/Zambezi tsetse belt which it shares with Angola, Botswana and Zambia; an area covering 20,000 square kilometres. As a result, Namibia was awarded a trophy for the job well done.

The national livestock identification and traceability system has facilitated the rapid and accurate trace-back and trace-forward of livestock and livestock products and Namibia is recognised as a market leader within the Region.

Programme 2: Poverty and Food Security:

The primary mission of this programme is to collect, analyse, and disseminate highly useful agricultural production information for timely food interventions.

The implementation of the Green Scheme Programme is ongoing and the Ministry continues to monitor the management of irrigation schemes at Kalimbeza, Shadikongoro, Vungu-Vungu, Etunda, Hardap and Aussenkehr.

In addition, construction of silos for purposes of food reserves and food security has been completed at Rundu and is ongoing at Okongo in the Ohangwena Region. Next would be the Caprivi Region, Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati.

Mashare Irrigation Training Centre will be developed as a modern training centre for small-scale farmers. The renovation of the living quarters and installation of an irrigation system was successfully completed last year. Training of the first 35 students started in October 2006 for a period of one year.

Once they have completed their training they will be allocated plots at Vungu-Vungu, Ndonga-Linena and Etunda and Shadikongoro by around September, October this year.

Programme 3: Agricultural Infrastructure:

Renovation and upgrading of auction kraal facilities and the handing over to communities to manage is ongoing. Mechanisms have been put in place to ensure effective sharing and coordination of resources amongst all stakeholders.

The feasibility study for the joint irrigation project between Namibia and Zambia Agricultural Production Joint Venture has commenced and will be continued during 2007/08 Financial Year. Suitable high value crops which can be processed and exported to other markets are being investigated and that will be consolidated once the feasibility study is completed.

Programme 4: Integrated Water Resource Management.

My Ministry will continue to coordinate, manage and monitor developments in the water sector to ensure that the Namibian population has equitable and reasonable access to clean and safe water resources.

The Lower Orange River Management Study, aimed at securing long-term supply of water for domestic, irrigation and industrial use between South Africa and Namibia is ongoing and is at an advanced stage.

Three basin management committees are currently operational, namely the Kuiseb

Basin Management Committee, the Iishana Sub-Basin Committee and the Karst Water Management Body, while the Omaruru River Basin Management Committee is in the process of being established.

The rehabilitation of Hydrological River Gauging Stations which is desirable for flood monitoring and management and which is useful for better data quality was completed at Zambezi River and this was the reason why this year when the floods came into Caprivi Region, information to that effect was made available well in advance.

Programme 5: Rural Water Supply:

During 2006/07, 169 new water points on pipelines and 68 new water points were constructed. Another 99 existing borehole water points and 135 pipeline off-take water points were rehabilitated. A total length of 345 kilometres of pipeline was laid. In the Otjozondjupa Region, 138 community water points were converted into 750 private consumer off-takes at the cost of N\$73 million.

During 2007/08 Financial Year, Phase 2 of the Tsandi South will be completed in the Omusati Regional while Phase 3 of the Onambutu Pipeline Schemes will commence in the Ohangwena Region. The upgrading of Waterberg-Okakarara and Ogongo-Oshakati rural water supply schemes will be considered this year. The total pipelines construction cost for the year is estimated at N\$40 million. An amount of N\$16 million is secured for the community-based water management programme.

Programme 6: Forestry:

Forestry will continue to play the environmental roles in terms of soil conservation, biological diversity and carbon sequestration.

Forest inventories will be compiled in different areas particularly in immersing community forests and the Ministry has entered into an agreement with the community conservancy management at //Huab in the Khorixas district. Community forest facilities were supported at Ncaute, Mile 20 in the Kavango Region, and Bukalo in the Caprivi Region and Mkata in the Otjozondjupa Region.

In order to protect the country's natural vegetation against wild fires, the Ministry continuous to strengthen its efforts in awareness creation among the population.

In our efforts to curb desertification and deforestation, about 30,000 trees, covering 78.5 hectares, were planted countrywide.

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Programme 7: Agricultural Training.

Capacity-building through long term training and improvement of staff, continues to be a priority in the Ministry. Since 2005/06 we have put a tremendous amount of effort in training our staff in critical technical areas specifically for the Ministry's needs. As for now, 50 Namibians are benefiting from this initiative.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to point out that at Independence, Agriculture was declared as one of the priority sectors of our economy alongside Education, Health and Housing. Today, 18 years down the line, I stand here as the sixth Minister of Agriculture but to my knowledge the Ministry is still to receive a fair share of the national cake as far as its priority rating is concerned. Honourable Members, this has nothing to do with Honourable Saara, not at all. Honourable Saara is doing everything possible, but we must make a point and say it. I would, therefore, like to request that the coming NDP3 should now allocate sufficient funds for agriculture development.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to all stakeholders and development partners who supported our efforts by investing in Agriculture, Water and Forestry Sector.

I now humbly call upon this House to approve the Budget for Vote 20 for the Financial Year 2007/08 and I thank you all for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. **Vote 29 – “INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING”**, N\$154,204,000 put for introduction.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. It is with a sense of responsibility that I stand here today to account for the money allocated to Vote 29 for the Financial Year 2006/07 and to justify the monies being requested for the Financial Year 2007/08 for the operations of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The information age dictates that the survival of countries depends on access to information and the ability to use that information to benefit individuals and the Nation as a whole. Unless we in Namibia recognise the importance of information and that information sharing should be at the heart of all programmes and projects we embark upon, the impact of our efforts will not have the desired results.

Technology is at the centre of helping humanity to communicate and share information. Citizens of Namibia with capacity are called upon to invest in ICT to

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assist the less privileged to also have access to information. In Namibia we have 801 schools in rural areas that have access to electricity and if every company in the country with an annual turnover of more than N\$200,000 can donate at least one computer annually to rural schools every year, no doubt by the year 2030 many learners in rural schools will have access to computers and possibly to the internet. Similarly, scholarships to enable young Namibians to specialise in different disciplines of Information Communication Technology will go a long way to help Namibia to benefit from the fast growing communication technologies.

In my Budget contribution last year, I argued the power of Information and Communication Technologies and what it can do in sharing information and bringing about development. I still believe in ICTs and its different disciplines as tools to change the way in which we have been doing business. However, due to a lack of skills and equipment, access to ICTs is still beyond the reach of a major portion of our population.

In developing countries, including Namibia, the radio is still one of the most powerful sources of information sharing and the majority of our population continues to use this medium. Hence, the role an institution such as NBC can play in the realisation of Vision 2030 cannot be over-emphasised. Similarly, the print media continues to play a central role in the sense that it can inform, contribute to peoples' love for reading and serves as a quick referral material.

It is unfortunate that due to human nature, we may have some journalists who may not act in accordance with the journalistic ethics of being objective and balanced, but it is a fact that the media has a great role to play in development, hence the need to look for synergies between the media, the Government, politicians and of course the general public. When we had the polio outbreak, the power of the media, both print and electronic were felt during the polio immunisation campaign. We need to understand the media in order to help them in their operations.

Last year, in responding to a Budget question put to me in this House on the need for a second mobile operator, I informed you that the process would be in motion for the second mobile operator to get into the Namibian market. Subsequently, on the 19th of March 2007, Cell One, a market name for PowerCom, opened its doors to the public.

Comrade Chairperson, let me briefly, before I go to the programmes of the Ministry, just summarise some of the achievements of the Ministry during the 2007/08 Financial Year.

In the previous Financial Year, the Ministry, through the Education, Audiovisual Network Consolidation programme, has acquired and provided modern information communication technology equipment to schools and communities in the Kavango, Kunene and Omaheke Regions. The equipment included computers, solar equipment for areas without electricity, plasma screen television sets and multi-media projectors that will enable the centres and schools to regularly screen videos for information, education and entertainment.

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Following Cabinet decision 13/04.07.06/002, taken in June 2006, the Ministry published three *Government Information Bulletins* to bring the work of Government to the attention of citizens.

A total of 25,000 copies are printed per edition and distributed as an insert in the New Era newspaper and through the Ministry's regional offices to reach all corners of the country. The Namibian missions abroad, as well as foreign missions in Namibia also receive copies of the *Government Information Bulletin*.

The *Government Information Bulletin*, distributed at no cost, is seen as an avenue to inform and educate especially marginalised communities on the Government's efforts to improve their living conditions and create a knowledge-based society.

The Ministry conducted 36 information and education video shows in the Hardap, Erongo, Oshana, Ohangwena and Omusati Regions during the year under review. It also conducted more than 103 video shows on HIV/AIDS in the Caprivi, Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena, Otjozondjupa, Khomas and Erongo Regions, reaching more than 24,000 people. The Ministry availed its public address system for several functions, including national day celebrations.

In the 2006/07 Financial Year, the Ministry prepared and disseminated 24 releases on Cabinet decisions. Another 104 media releases were sent out for other Government institutions and 33 on behalf of the SADC Secretariat in Botswana. Seven advertisements were published to commemorate specific national days and special events.

Following the appointment of an information officer to take care of the *Government News Button* on the Internet, a total of 155 articles were published since the end of September 2006 on the official Government website.

In the previous Financial Year, the Ministry took the Namibian HIV/AIDS Media Campaign, under the slogan ***Take Control***, to new heights. Through a strongly focused multi-sectoral and collaborative approach, the campaign addressed the issue of alcohol as a contributing factor in the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The Ministry is involving the youth in the development of its campaigns and annually five youth from each of Namibia's thirteen Regions are brought together to review past material and influence the next material. The youth are also trained on communication initiatives that they can use in their own communities. This programme is assisted by UNICEF and the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. During the past Financial Year, 25 and 32 community media practitioners were trained in the Caprivi and Karas Regions respectively. Each of the groups prepared a community newspaper of which 2,000 copies were printed and distributed.

The Namibia Film Commission experienced yet another year of increased activities in terms of foreign film productions in Namibia. A total of 82 documentaries, at a cost of N\$2,460 million were produced by foreign nationals using Namibian locations and resources. Two foreign feature films and 20 television commercials were also produced. The total amount spent in Namibia on

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these productions was approximately N\$170 million. An amount of N\$200,000 was generated from the payment of work permits for filmmakers. A total of 97 Namibians were attached to a major Hollywood production, entitled "*Gallow Walker*" that just ended in December 2006.

In my previous Budget statement, I requested additional funds towards the completion of the feature film, "*Nujoma, Where Others Wavered.*" It gives me great pleasure to inform this august House that, during 2006, the Namibia Film Commission oversaw the finalisation of this film, the biggest ever local feature film to be produced entirely in Namibia. "*Nujoma: Where Others Wavered*" will be premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in France in May this year and we are really accepting that it will make an impact.

The Namibia Film Commission joined the Association of Film Commissions International and through this secured the production of a major General Motors commercial for their *Humvee* vehicle in Namibia, shooting has already started in February this year.

Last year, I informed this august House about the planned national consultative conference with role players in the film industry. I am glad to report that the national consultative conference took place and a number of recommendations were made to further ensure the growth of a film industry in Namibia and the Ministry is working on this very seriously.

During the year under review, the Namibian Communication Commission received two applications for radio broadcasting licenses. However, none has been issued due to lack of frequencies in Windhoek and at the coastal areas. As I mentioned in the introduction, the Namibia Communication Commission has issued a second cellular license to PowerCom (Pty) Ltd, operating as Cell One. An amount of N\$9,172,161 was collected with the issuing of telecommunication operators licences, the renewal of broadcasting service licences and other licences.

The Namibia Communications Commission, with the help of a consultant, worked on the ICT Bill. This Bill has not yet been finalised as the fast moving technology continues to interfere. However, I am happy to inform this Honourable House that Cabinet has set up a Task Force composed of the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting; Works, Transport and Communication; Justice and the Namibian Communications Commission to finalise the Bill. It has to be understood that the absence of the Information Communication Law has a serious negative impact on the usage of ICT in the country and makes the work of the Commission difficult. Once enacted, the Bill will result in the transformation of the Namibian Communications Commission into an autonomous body, which will necessitate a review of its structure.

It has also to be realised that it was only in 2005 that Cabinet, by Cabinet decision No 10/14.06.06/007 declared ICT as one of the national priorities. Against that background, it must be clear that lack of necessary skills, for example information technology engineers and technicians, as well as ICT lawyers is a challenge in Namibia.

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Comrade Chairperson, it is with a sense of gratitude that I am able to inform this Honourable House that though under a difficult financial situation, the NBC radio and TV reach 94 % and 64 % of the population respectively. The Corporation has news crews in seven of the thirteen Regions of the country, namely in Khomas, Erongo, Otjozondjupa, Oshana, Karas, Kavango and Caprivi and 15 cameras for the whole country, of which only nine are for news and six for programmes. It must be realised that more than fifteen events take place in a day and apart from one another.

As part of its mandate to educate, the NBC has been party to important campaigns during the period under review. Those include a short film for the hearing and speech impaired people produced in South Africa, an AIDS awareness project called "*Acceptance Series*" done in conjunction with the Polytechnic of Namibia, the campaign for immunisation against Polio, the broadcasting of the Institute of Open Learning educational programme, targeting teachers and learners, the production and broadcasting of the road safety song entitled *Xupifa Eemwenyo*, the latter done in association with the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund.

Due to the confidence the sports fraternity has in the NBC, the Corporation obtained the rights to broadcast the FIFA World Cup in June and July 2006, as well as the Commonwealth Games in March 2006. The Corporation has also allowed its viewers the opportunity to see the bidding process for the 2010 African Cup of Nations held in Egypt and won by our neighbours, Angola. We are hoping to benefit from that.

May I also inform this Honourable House that the forensic audit conducted at the NBC is finalised. I received the report from the Auditor General, which I have passed on to the NBC Board of Directors for their perusal.

At this stage, I seek the understanding of this House that I give a chance to the NBC Board to deal with the report in the manner they find most appropriate to enable the Board to find the best way of putting the NBC back on track, both financially and administratively. On 5 March 2007, the Board has decided to suspend the former NBC General Manager for Administration and Human Resources, who was also responsible for the NBC Finance Department.

Under its Expansion of Transmitter Network Programme, the NBC was able to complete work at Okongo, Gam, Windhoek, Mariental, Keetmanshoop, Buitepos, Aus, Aranos, Rundu, and Oshakati, while the Oshiwambo and Otjiherero language services have been expanded to Mariental.

The Corporation also concluded contracts for the manufacturing of radio transmitters and TV decoders, as well as the construction of the Klein Windhoek access road. Contracts have also been concluded for feasibility studies for Gam, Kamanjab and three additional language services at Namibia's coastal towns and at Keetmanshoop.

Under the Upgrading of the NBC Studios, the NBC digitalised its news and current affairs and installed a digitalised computer network for integration to the

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digital broadcast network. Furthermore, the Otjiwarongo and Keetmanshoop contribution centres have been digitalised, while the Afrikaans, Damara>Nama, German, Tswana and Otjiherero language services at the Windhoek radio studios were also digitalised. Three outside broadcast vans have been designed and installed and one TV outside broadcast van was upgraded.

Comrade Chairperson, the New Era newspaper has established itself in the Namibian media sector as a daily publication to be reckoned with.

New Era increased its revenue by 56% from N\$7,562,339 in the 2005/06 Financial Year to N\$11,825,832 in the 2006/07 Financial Year. This is attributed to the newspaper's increase in popularity, the appointment of a marketing manager and additional sales staff and a price increase on the selling price of the newspaper. Furthermore, newspaper sales increased by 84%, while its advertising income increased by 52% from N\$6,194,373 in 2005/06 to N\$9,427,589 in 2006/07.

Under its joint venture with Zim Papers, the New Era Publications Corporation continued to publish the Sunday newspaper, The Southern Times. This paper was re-capitalised on the basis of a four year business plan running from 2006/07 Financial Year to the 2009/10 Financial Year.

Since the appointment of a General Manager 7 months ago, the monthly revenues increased from N\$12,000 to N\$144,000 per month. The printing of the regional newspaper has been relocated from Zimbabwe to Namibia. It also secured a contract with the SADC Parliamentary Forum to dedicate a Page to their programmes in the Region and it also reached an agreement for the publication of a glossy quarterly newspaper with the Regional Electricity Regulators Association. Four Windhoek-based advertising agencies will also start placing their clients' advertisements in the Southern Times.

The paper appointed a Deputy Editor and filled all other vacancies in the previous Financial Year and correspondents have been appointed in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa, while bureaus were opened in Botswana and Zimbabwe.

During the 2006/07 Financial Year, the Southern Times signed a contract with Air Namibia and Air Zimbabwe to circulate the newspaper on board their international flights. Negotiations are also underway to print 30,000 copies of the newspaper in South Africa and to distribute some on the international flights of South African Airways.

Comrade Chairperson, the Namibia Press Agency (NAMPA) has become an important training hub for journalists from various media institutions in Namibia and the SADC Region who are keen to upgrade their professional reporting and writing skills. During the year under review, five journalists from the UDF News in Malawi; 8 journalists from different newspapers in Zimbabwe; one journalist from Dikgang Publishing in Lesotho, 7 journalists from four different newspapers in Zambia, two journalists from the Swaziland Times and the Nation Magazine in Swaziland and 6 journalists from four newspapers in Tanzania attended training at

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NAMPA. One internship journalist from the University of Jyväskylä in Finland was attached to NAMPA, while two students from the Polytechnic of Namibia and one from the University of Namibia were also attached to NAMPA. NAMPA, furthermore, trained 3 journalists from Keetmanshoop under the Keetmanshoop Municipality Assisted Training Programme, as well as two local school-leavers.

Its achievements in the field of Information Technology has won it praise in the SADC Region in providing cost-effective IT solutions for processing and disseminating media products, especially for news agencies. In June 2006, the Agency developed and installed electronic media systems at the Botswana Press Agency (BOPA) and the Mozambican News Agency, and as we are speaking, they have visitors from Zambia who are exploring the possibility for the same system to be installed in their country.

Through its information dissemination, NAMPA continued to empower the Namibian population and to market the country abroad, especially as a tourist destination.

For more than 10 years, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been scattered all over town, which makes proper control, coordination and management very difficult. The staff of the Ministry are hosted in five different buildings in Windhoek. The staff turnover of the Ministry also remains a matter of serious concern. The Ministry appoints staff and puts them through in-house training. Once they have gained enough experience, they leave the public service for the private sectors for offers that are often double what they received in the public sector. It remains almost impossible to attract senior staff to the ranks of the Ministry. For example, the editor of Namibia Review is vacant, we advertise but people are just not applying.

We hope that the current decision to re-grade the public service will help us in this serious problem.

Lack of transport is another serious constraint that hampers the Ministry's operations. As a result our regional officers are not able to show videos and distribute other information materials to rural communities and schools as planned. However, we want to thank the Ministry of Finance that in the coming Budget an amount of N\$2 million is budgeted for transport and we hope that would slightly improve the situation.

If Namibia is to benefit from the film industry, additional funds would be required for the Namibia Film Commission. May I also inform this Honourable House that ever since Cabinet approved the transformation of NAMPA into a fully-fledged parastatal in 2000, not enough money was made available for that purpose. Nevertheless, this year the Agency got an increase of N\$2.7 million to enable it to kick-start its transformation process.

Comrade Chairperson, an amount of N\$62.6 million is being allocated to Namibia Broadcasting Corporation for its operational expenses and as you can see in the book, this is a decrease of N\$200,000. This allocation will not enable the Corporation to fully realise its goals, especially the improvement of quality

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programmes and implementation of the long overdue salary increase of 9% of the staff below management, which is already outstanding for three years.

Because of this difficult financial position, the NBC may not be able to screen, update programmes, movies, comedies and soaps. The Corporation will soon be forced to rely on archive materials which are no longer the subject of copyright. It should not come as a surprise if one day NBC could not cover live events of national importance due to costs which they have to incur. For example, it has cost NBC N\$51 899,50c for the live coverage of the introduction of the Budget 2007/08 and this was very short. This demonstrates how expensive information and communication is.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, the NBC has an operational debt of N\$32.2 million and currently about N\$7.4 million is spent annually on interest alone to serve this debt. In addition to the operational debts, the NBC has a long-term accumulated debt of N\$206,886,005. Revenue raised from the cost-saving measures, such as cutting down on broadcasting hours and closing some regional distribution centres could not help much as they only made a small reduction on the Corporation's operational deficit.

Since September 2006, NBC took over the collection of TV licence fees from Penduka and amnesty to pay was given. During that period the Corporation was able to raise an amount of N\$22 million that was used to serve the Corporation's historical debts.

Another sad reality is that the Corporation is losing many of its professional staff. Therefore, unless some measures are taken to relieve the NBC of its debt, for example increase the Government subsidy to enable debt servicing or Government to take over and ring-fence the debt, we should not expect the Corporation to effectively fulfil its national mandate.

Comrade Chairperson, may I now turn to the four programmes of the Ministry.

Free flow of information and ensuring that the media is accessible to all Namibians.

Under this programme, the Ministry will continue to provide ICT equipment to communities and schools through the Education, Audiovisual Network Consolidation Programme. Our plan is to cater for three Regions in each Financial Year. For 2007/8 Financial Year, the Hardap, Omusati and Otjozondjupa Regions will benefit. Following the adoption of Honourable Ankama's motion on Parliament Assess Centres, the Ministry will work closely with Parliament on this programme.

The Ministry plans to publish monthly the *Government Information Bulletin* and to update the Information Policy. We also plan to assess the population's views on information and media.

The NBC transmitter network will be expanded and studios will be upgraded. Both activities are to be done in phases. Under the Transmitter Network, medium

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power stations will be set up at Kongola and Omega, while the power station at Kamanjab will be upgraded to a high power station. Ruacana will get radio and television stations, while the Windhoek station will be upgraded. Various language services are to be upgraded to allow for their reception in areas other than where they are traditionally broadcasted.

Gam will be equipped with solar power supply, while the solar power supply at Erongo and the batteries at Paresis will be replaced.

Under the Upgrading of NBC Studios, digital equipment will be installed at Oshakati, while the Otjiwarongo and Keetmanshoop contribution centres will be upgraded. The NBC will also embark on the second phase of the upgrading of television studios. The Corporation plans to have cameras in all 13 Regions by 2008. The renovations and upgrading of the Windhoek studios will continue. The NBC will also upgrade and revamp the TV outside broadcast van.

For this programme, an amount of N\$50.591 million is allocated.

To improve the understanding of Government programmes and policies.

Under this programme, the Ministry will continue to serve as a link between the Government, the media both local and international and of course the general public, to ensure that national policies and programmes are made known to enable institutions and individuals play their role. The GRN News button on the internet will be kept alive. Visas for foreign journalist will be facilitated in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs to enable them to cover events in Namibia.

We plan to produce two video documentaries for Hardap and Erongo Regions, as a joint project with the two regional councils. Under this programme, videos on HIV/AIDS, OVC, national days and other events of national interest will be produced. More than 150 video shows will be taken to different rural areas.

The Ministry will strive to produce at least six copies of Namibia Review, as well as other printed material as the need arises for information dissemination.

For this programme, an amount of N\$12,909 000 is allocated.

To ensure access to information, education and communication material.

Under this programme, the Ministry will continue to develop educational materials to target specific areas of great concern. In the coming year, in addition to HIV/AIDS, we shall focus on the campaign on nationhood and national pride, including vandalism, sanitation and hygiene.

For this programme, an amount of N\$7,849,000 has been allocated.

To ensure that the media sector benefits the Namibian economy.

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Under this programme, the NBC, New Era, Nampa, the Namibian Communication Commission and the Namibian Filming Commission will continue to fulfil its statutory obligations.

The Namibia Film Commission, in collaboration with the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation plans to produce a local TV series that will showcase the Namibian life style and cultures to the continent and the world.

Furthermore, to encourage people to be innovative and creative, the Ministry through the subdivision Copyright Services will continue to educate the Nation on the economic benefit of protecting intellectual property rights. Due to fast developing technology, we are working on the amendment of the Namibia Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Protection Act, (Act No 6 of 1994). The legal drafters have already gone through our proposed amendments and scrutinised them and soon I may take them to the relevant Cabinet Committee for processing to Cabinet.

Under this programme, the Namibian Communication Commission will continue its regulatory functions of the information communication sector.

New Era plans to increase its revenue by almost 22% to N\$14.4 million in 2007/08 Financial Year. Expenditure is expected to increase by 15% to N\$17.5 million and regional offices will be established at Walvis Bay, Katima Mulilo and Keetmanshoop. The target is to have offices in all 13 Regions by 2009/10 Financial Year. In 2007/08 Financial Year, the NamZim joint venture will strive to implement its four-year plan with a view to increase its revenue. We know it is just a further plan that is going to be funded.

Coming to NAMPA, in addition to collecting, producing and disseminating information locally and internationally, the Agency will strengthen and develop its capacity and invest in ICT to diversify its commercial operations to reduce dependency on Government funding.

For this programme, an amount of N\$80,555,000 is allocated.

To increase the beneficial use of information communication technology.

To enhance the use of ICT in the country and to reap its benefits, the Ministry will review the ICT Policy, the Telecommunication Policy and Regulatory Framework and work on a broadcasting policy. The Ministry will also develop instruments for implementation for ICT policies and laws. Furthermore, a consultative conference to identify a national common approach to ICT will take place in the course of the year.

For this programme, an amount of N\$2.3 million is allocated.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, before I take my seat, let me thank and congratulate the Minister of Finance and

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HON DR N IYAMBO

the Director General of the National Planning Commission for the Budget presented this year, which continues to be a strong building block toward our realisation of Vision 2030.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Minister, Comrade Dinyando, the Special Advisor, Comrade Ya Nangolo, the Permanent Secretary and staff of the Ministry as well as the heads of parastatals and commissions for their commitment and dedication to the work assigned to them.

May I now formally request this Honourable House to approve an amount of N\$154,204,000 for Vote 29 to enable the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to fulfil its obligations in the 2007/08 Financial Year and to facilitate the operations of the parastatals under this Vote. I thank you.

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

Vote 15 – “MINES AND ENERGY” put for discussion. Honourable Minister Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Chairperson, the need for energy in our country has become more urgent than ever before and I want to ask the Honourable Minister a question through the Chair.

Honourable Minister, on Page 13 you mentioned villages and places that have been electrified but not yet energised. My question is on the situation in Caprivi Region, on the availability of electricity, because I remember very well that there were various villages in Caprivi Region that were electrified but not energised. Maybe you could shed some light on what is the position on those villages in Caprivi Region.

My concern is also compounded by the fact that the 200 megawatt supply of electricity from Zambia into the Caprivi Region was supposed to elevate the power shortage in that Region. I was reading some information that Zambia, where we are getting this 200 megawatt from, itself is in need of electricity because their current need is 1,600 megawatt, but by 2010 the need for electricity in Zambia would be 4,500, which would imply that it might be difficult for Zambia to supply the 200 megawatt that are allocated to Namibia. I am trying to find out what are the Ministry's contingent plans to make sure that we do not experience a shortage of electricity in Namibia. You can also couple that to the situation of the electricity that we are currently getting from South Africa. Honourable Minister, would it be possible to shed light on some of those issues? I support the Vote.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA/HON VENAANI**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 15 – Mines and Energy. However, my support is conditional to the way the Minister is going to answer my questions.

The first question pertains to the transformers. Comrade Minister, the Nation continues to cry. All of us continue to cry for so many years. This question remains pending and unanswered to date. What is the problem that the REDs that are now running our lives continue to insist that community members must buy transformers and then the REDs will continue to make money from these transformers? This issue, Comrade Minister, is hurtful, is unconstitutional, and is unlawful. Really, if this issue is not going to be addressed soon, we will challenge it in the court of law so that an interpretation is given as to the legality of reverting the resources of the individuals to the parastatals.

That is my concern number one.

Comrade Minister, last night on the news it was announced that diamond mining onshore will very soon come to an end and many companies are now concentrating on offshore mining. My question is, how sure are we that the number of diamonds being mined offshore is truly the number that this company is declaring?

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, knowing very well that human beings are just what they are, have fishery inspectors on all the ships so ensure that it is truly the number of metric tons of fish declared. Are we doing the same things with diamonds or are we only depending on the mercy of Debmarine to tell us how much they have mined?

Comrade Minister, if you could answer those two questions to my satisfaction, then I will support Vote 17.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote under discussion and to raise a couple of issues that I think are very pertinent to be raised.

The former speaker has taken some of my points that I wanted to raise, but be that as it may, let me start off with the energy crisis that Southern Africa is approaching. Many of our countries, Zambia, Namibia, South Africa are experiencing serious shortages of energy and of course, our economies are growing and when we grow our economies, we should commensurate it with the

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supply of energy.

But one thing that is very unclear to me and probably to the country is what it is we want to do to address the energy crisis that is looming. We are hearing about the Kudu Gas Project, we have already extended US\$40 million to Zimbabwe to get electricity and to fix some generators that are there. We are talking about the most expensive project, Epupa Hydro-power Project. Baynes and Epupa are so intertwined that you have to explain it very clearly to know the difference, but be that as it may, we are also talking about nuclear power, that in ten years we want nuclear power and the wind energy of the Dutch.

These are options that are there, but we must also target certain areas. What is it that we want to do to address the crisis within the next 10, 15 years? We cannot do all of them. They are unaffordable if we want to do them on one go.

I am really worried by the fact that we appropriated N\$250 million last year to the Kudu Gas Project, but I was informed by the Minister during the debate that the feasibility study of the Kudu Gas Project has not been completed. How do people come to Cabinet and ask for money to embark on a project whereas the feasibility study of the project has not been completed? (Interjections). That is my way of talking and I shall do that for as long as I am here. The Minister should raise them in an appropriate way.

The other issue that I want to raise is the question of the NamPower extension lines to farms. I do not believe that we are giving the farmers a fair deal, charging a person N\$230,000 for 6 kilometres just to get a line. To get a line over 9 kilometres to your farm, you must pay N\$250,000 and the monthly bill for a weekend farmer is N\$2,000 and more. How do we want to continue servicing NamPower which has surpluses and they want us to continue paying these high sums of money? Really, I want the Minister to apply his mind on these questions.

The other issue is on the municipalities, especially the Windhoek Municipality and the increase on electricity. The problem that we are encountering is that we have old people and poor citizens of our towns and cities that want to change to the prepaid meter system and an old person will be told, *“you owe us N\$2,000, first pay the N\$2,000 and get the prepaid.”* Why is that practice still happening in our country? Are we not aware that we have poor people in this country?

I want to turn my attention to mining. The Colleague has mentioned that we are seeing a decline in onshore diamond availability, but yet our Government is talking about Benjamin or Josef Black Economic Empowerment or whatever you call it, Josef or Ben, it does not matter. But the Ministry is allocating EPLs to mine diamonds onshore to Namibian citizens, while giving the priority offshore to many foreign conglomerates to mine there. If you give me an EPL on an item that is already exhausted, I will be able to get maybe 400 carats of diamonds in two

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years, how are you empowering our people? Are we just saying we want to empower them, but we cannot empower them? We should really address the issue of onshore mining and the EPLs that we are giving.

I want to congratulate you for trying to help the small miners, especially in terms of safety, but of course the question of financing remains a problem and you also raised it.

The De Beers-Namibia deal, there I thank you for having produced something different. But when you look at the amount of carats that we want to polish here at home, due to the longitivity of this deal, that this deal is signed for 10 years, I am not sure we will sign the best of deals for our companies here at home, because my fear is that we are polishing fewer diamonds than we ought to do. But of course, perhaps there would be improvements.

With these few thoughts I support the Vote under discussion. Thank you.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, my point has been taken by the Colleague there, but I would like to challenge the Minister on this issue of transformers. The people are tired of being exploited by NORED. We have been exploited for many years and we are sick and tired and we want to challenge the Minister to see to it that the people's problems are attended to.

During the minority regime of South Africa there were rumours of oil in Etosha, whether paraffin or petrol. Is it a true story? We understood South Africa did not want to use its money and the Minister is also silent on this and behaving like the other regime.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Venaani largely touched on some of the issues that I wanted to raise, therefore I will not repeat them.

I want to come to the issue of the assets. Honourable Minister, people complain on the transformer issue and the farmer issue. The problem is that people are asked to pay for the installation of these assets, but then these assets do not become yours. They belong to NamPower. Now you pay for the service you receive, but what do you get in return? There were problems in some areas, people were saying, "I bought a transformer, it benefits everybody, but it is expensive to bring electricity to my place, everybody else gets it cheaper because

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the transformer was already there.” Honourable Minister, you must really look at this. People are complaining and it is a genuine complaint.

In 2000/01 there was a rural electrification master plan and I want to know how far that master plan has been pursued. Has it now been completed or did we divert from the master plan? I want to know how far we are with that.

Then I also want to emphasise the generation of electricity. I really think that we need a coordinated approach. I would not want to apportion blame, that this and that has taken long, because I know stalemates were being reached during some of the negotiations and I would want everybody to be part of the problem, but I really think that we need to work hard on the problem of the electricity generation in the country. Thank you.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much. I just want to draw the Minister’s attention to Page 9 of his speech, paragraph 3, with regard to the incidents and accidents happening in the mining area.

Comrade Minister, I would just like to share some experience with you as I am an expert in that area. I have experienced in many institutions about the shortage of inspectors, not only in Namibia but also in other countries, in order to conduct annual inspections or follow up inspections efficiently and effectively when it is needed.

Comrade Minister, if you experience the same problem, I want to share my experience with you, because I understand that in 1991/92 there was a study in Namibia, conducted according to the branches of the economy. We know that the first industry where the incident actually happened was at Transport, followed by Fisheries and the third is Mines. This study concluded that sometimes it is human error, sometimes it is as a result of shortage of inspectors.

I understand that we have the same problem in our country and maybe you experience the same problem in your Ministry. Maybe we could put our resources together and push it forward. I am thinking of the inspectorate from the Ministry of Mines, from the Ministry of Labour and from the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Those are the resources we have. We can put them together, then they can conduct joint inspections from time to time. The main aim is to reduce the hazards and accidents in the mining area. That can be done because it also happened in other countries.

My final point is the training of inspectors from time to time. I thank you and I fully support Vote 15.

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HON BOOYS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 15. First and foremost I must thank the Minister for electrifying Otjikondo village school and some others. I think those two were the only which still did not have electricity, but now they have. I only have one question to the Minister.

Comrade Minister, there was a project, run by your Ministry, for the DC current mostly used by farmers, Konga Investment. What happened to that programme? Is the programme still on? DC stands for “*direct current*” and you get it from a solar system. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me from the onset register my support for my neighbour’s Vote, no doubt about that, but I have one or two questions to pose.

The first one was already touched upon and this is the rural electrification. One would like to know how this programme is prioritised and by whom? Is it done centrally or in the Regions and how does it work?

My reason for this question is that there are so many locations that one sees that could most probably qualify for electrification which up to now have been left out, year after year. I can just give one example from the area I come from and this is a place known as Komnarib which also previously had a school. In the beginning it was said that locations with schools will be a priority. Unfortunately the school in that village closed and I was told the electricity meant for Komnarib was then taken to Kainachas. It is still my reasoning that there is a relative community there with other institutions, so why can they not also enjoy electrification as soon as possible?

The other question I have is, what about providing our rural communities with solar power, for example, if the electricity is so expensive? Is it not possible to assist them to get solar power in our rural communities?

My third and last question, Comrade Minister, is on the issue of electric lines passing through commercial farms, but then the commercial farmers are not allowed to tap from this electricity passing through their own land. I believe they are also contributing even grazing areas by allowing these lines passing through. Why can they not be assisted to tap from these lines passing through their private land? Is it not possible?

With these questions and humble request on behalf of those people suffering down there in the rural communities, I support the Vote.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 15
HON IILONGA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to make my contribution on Vote 15 and I fully support the Vote.

Comrade Chairperson, I have three points, one on the REDs, secondly on the transformers and the third and last on the nuclear plant.

On Page 13 of the Minister's speech he indicated that the REDs are new. We discover many new things and we know how new things can be accepted, but we want something new to be clear and to be understood very easily. We are already having problems with the REDs. It is said that it is owned by municipalities, the local authorities and NamPower and they share equally. NamPower is the bulk distributor and they capture almost 30 or 40%. Those who know everything can give the right percentage NamPower owns. The REDs make profits and really, maybe the idea is good. If the idea is to correct the effort together, it is not how it is implemented. The implementation is just to enrich individuals through salaries, although they say it is Government. However the people are getting everything and they leave you bankrupt. Later Government will be asked to pay those debts. It is so bad and we need to go slow.

If the intention is to assist municipalities who cannot afford, let us start with those small ones. You cannot take Windhoek and dump it in the RED and expect dividends at the end of the year. What is difficult here is that the mother or the father of the electricity is again the shareholder and this needs to be looked at very seriously.

How are we really going to let people understand these REDs? Is there any monthly contribution to the municipalities to use their development or are they waiting for the end of the year to get dividends, if there is a profit? I think before we rush into these REDs, we need a sort of awareness campaign with the stakeholders and the shareholders and why NamPower wants to have everything. They are in the bulk and now they are in the REDs. We really need to look into this. Comrade Minister, I want to get that explanation.

On Page 13 of your speech it is said: *"This reform is also accompanied by the creation of a conducive condition for the establishment and operations of Independent Power Producers."* Is this Independent Power Producer going to be another bulk supplier or is it going to have a certain generator and who is going to buy from this Independent Power Producer? You should indicate whether it will be private or not. It means that the municipalities are going to die a natural death, because these people are no longer going to buy from the Government. Who gave us this idea? We say privatisation and capitalism is a good thing, and yet we suffer.

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HON KAAPANDA/HON DR GEINGOB**

Let our officials tell us the truth, let them tell us the truth, how is this individual, Independent Power Producer, going to sell this and to whom and how are they going to relate to NamPower and the REDs? That is one thing I wanted to know.

Secondly on the transformers. I was thinking that the Bill which is now on the Table would really address this issue, but in Section 42 of the Bill which will repeal the Act of 2000 it is said that it is still enforcing Section 37 of the current Act of the year 2000. They say it is going to remain and you will still pay for the transformer and here in Windhoek and big towns we do not buy transformers. Why are they building the infrastructure at such a high cost?

Finally, Comrade Chairperson, last year I was asking you and the answer was not really positive and this year you have already said what I said, that Namibia should have a nuclear plant and we must put up a nuclear peaceful plant to generate electricity and then we do away with the REDs. I thank you and I support the Vote.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to support Vote 15, however I want to express my concern, like the other speakers, with regard to the cost of transformers.

I am wondering whether the price of transformers remains the same or it escalates every year.

Secondly, I would also like to know, like my neighbour here, the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism, the determination in prioritising where electricity will be installed, when an area to be electrified has to be identified. The reason why I am asking this is that I have seen, just like the Honourable Minister here, NamPower power lines running close to a school – less than a hundred metres, but that school is not electrified. However all the cuca shops on the way are electrified. I do not know why there is that trend. I rest my case.

HON DR GEINGOB: I rise to support the very important Vote, but in regard to the sections dealing with NamPower, I want to mention the following:

Some of us bought farms as new farmers and then tried to apply for electricity. I was given a quotation that I had to pay, since I had to get connection from someone to bring it to my farm. The quotation amount was close to N\$150,000 for the connection. After a short while the other farmers apparently were going to be given Government supplied electricity and then I was approached by NamPower to provide power from my farm to the other farms, about 10 or 15

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HON DR NGATJIZEKO/HON PANDENI

farms. I thought that since my farm has been cut up I will at least be relieved of that amount or save part of it that I was supposed to pay, because I would have thought all the other farmers were to be charged something. I was however still asked to pay the same amount as before.

We had a deadlock with NamPower, they threatened to cut off my electricity and I said over my dead body. Because of that we still have a stalemate. I thought the situation was very unfair, because I paid to bring the electricity to my farm and now about ten farms qualified to be supplied by NamPower this new subsidised energy and I should at least get something out of it. Could the Honourable Minister please follow up on that issue? I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 15. However, I have a question that might be echoing some of the Colleagues who have taken the Floor. It is a question on the rural electrification programme.

I appreciated this programme very much because I thought the goal of the programme was to empower rural communities and as we know, poverty is more entrenched in the rural communities. My understanding was that priority would be given to places with schools, businesses and churches and so on. I have a question about a specific place somewhere in the Daures constituency, Erongo Region, where infrastructure has been in place for more than three years now, to the extent that as I am speaking now some of the wires are lying on the ground. Infrastructure has even been put in the houses, but there is no electricity.

Now that place might even be forgotten I am asking whether the rural electrification programme, the master plan, is still being followed and if it is, when is this place called Otjohorong in the Daures Constituency going to have its electricity?

My concern is that the infrastructure that is in place has been paid for, money has been spent and we are not recovering anything from it now. It is going to be vandalised, but yet the community that was supposed to have benefited are not benefiting. The Government that has spent the money is not benefiting because no return is coming their way. When is this place going to be energised? Thank you very much.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to echo the sentiments of the previous speakers by supporting Vote 15.

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HON DIENDA**

I believe this is one of the Votes which has the intention to improve the living conditions particularly of the rural poor. Comrade Minister, I just have a few queries and maybe some suggestions here.

One is that in the implementation of rural electrification the Khomas Region is left out and the explanation given is that it appears as if it does not have rural communities, since this is rural electrification. But if my memory serves me well, I was coming from the other office in the Khomas Region and we had a master plan. We had pockets of areas where rural communities need assistance. I can mention some of them, like Hatsamas, Bloukrans, those areas there and I think if Khomas continues to be left out, it would possibly disadvantage those communities there. I am just raising this point.

My second point is on that period when the Regional Electricity Distribution (RED) was being discussed, there was a very strong assurance that the Regional Councils, the Local Authorities would not be worse off, but what we are hearing is that these Councils are now saying they are worse off than before. I just want to find out whether there are plans to restore this confidence, because it appears now even the confidence is gone and the people were really assured that you will not be worse off, it will not affect you negatively. Comrade Minister, how can we reassure them and move forward?

The third issue is also related to what I am saying and maybe it is linking up with what Hon Ilonga was saying. Was this concept extensively discussed? Maybe people do not have a proper understanding and maybe there may be a need to intensely discuss it for people to have a proper understanding. For every new thing that is coming there is immediate benefit, there is benefit in the long term. But these benefits and this period are not defined. Possibly they must alleviate the fears within the Regional and Local Authorities.

I would just like to find out whether in this whole electricity distribution we have a regulator, a body that regulates all these activities so that we are not taken advantage of, that there is something which is really protecting the recipients? If these people are failing to comply, are there some mechanisms that they can rely on? These are the few points I wanted to make and I support Vote 15. I thank you very much.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Chairperson, just three questions. The first one is, a few months ago we read in the newspapers about Windhoek residents being overcharged by the municipality for electricity. I want to know from the Minister whether our accounts will be credited or whether we will get free electricity for that amount that was overcharged.

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HON KATALI/HON NGHIMTINA**

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, the distribution of prepaid electricity throughout the country – one has to run from one place to the other just to look for electricity, especially the people who have prepaid meters. The municipal offices close at 5 o'clock and when you come home you will realise that there is no electricity and you have to run around from one place to the other just to look for electricity. I want to know what is the possibility that this prepaid electricity be available at all the filling stations so that we could have access to it.

Thirdly, the electricity distribution was one of the main sources of income of our village councils, our towns, etcetera and in most of these small towns and villages only the teachers are employed and all the other residents are unemployed. Therefore it has become a problem for our Councillors and this is one of the reasons why they are always experiencing problems.

I will end with my former NAPWU trainee who trained me, to talk about the issues concerning privatisation and I feel we really have to look into this thoroughly. I support the Vote and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 15. I have only one question and that is with regard to the master plan of rural electrification. It was a very good plan with dates for every place in Namibia. Comrade Minister, my question is only whether that plan has now been abandoned, is it being followed, is there a backlog? If there is a backlog, how big is the backlog and how is it going to be rectified? If it is a very big backlog, is it not possible maybe to readjust so that the dates that are now in those books are changed to be in line with the new situation. I am saying this because you find that a school or place that was supposed to get electricity in 2003 did not yet get that electricity and the booklets are still with the people.

Comrade Minister, what could be done to this plan? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I revert the Floor to the Minister.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: *Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo*, thank you very much for your support. The shortage of energy is a problem of the whole SADC Region, not only Namibia and the problem we inherited is that the growth of the economy of the whole country as well as the population is 3% per year, but we only established some generators at Ruacana, Van Eck and Paratus at Walvis Bay in the 1970's. All along we have relied too

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much on the import of electricity from South Africa and we believed that South Africa would not one of the days also have a shortage of electricity and it was very cheap, for that matter.

Now it has come up that South Africa is also faced with a shortage of electricity as their nuclear reactor at Koeberg is not functioning and they have plans to construct 6 new nuclear reactors. But the shortage will be there until they have done something.

What about Namibia itself? Are we to wait for South Africa to solve the problem and then we get energy from South Africa? I want to give the information of what we wanted, but I was very disappointed to read in today's newspapers that Zambia also has a shortage of electricity and we were planning to get electricity from Zambia to Namibia. Zambia had sufficient electricity, but due to the high demand for mining in their country, they now automatically do not have any surplus electricity which they can give to other countries.

There was a conference in Botswana where people were discussing the Inga hydro-power station and to the detriment of SADC, those big people with money want to connect from Inga to other countries there and it is a big competition. They might have money and they connect quickly. While we are talking about the western corridor, trying to find money here and there and then we fail, we might find that Inga does not have sufficient surplus of electricity to be connected to SADC, if we are not very careful.

We have a problem with the rural electrification programme. A lot of places have been wired, but are not energised. In the last year I informed this august House that the money we got was supposed to be used for energising those localities which were already wired. Another problem in this programme is also that we are getting less money for the rural electrification programme. The country is big and the people in the rural areas are scattered, far from each other and money is getting less all the time. N\$30 million per year is peanuts. If it could go up to approximately N\$150 million, a lot could be done. N\$30 million is peanuts.

Yes, Dr Iyambo, some communities in the rural areas of Caprivi were also wired but there is no connection. The issue is that the electricity we are using in Caprivi is from Zambia and I think you have seen three, four weeks ago when there was an outcry that there was not sufficient electricity in Katima Mulilo. That is a problem. We have two lines, the first one was a small one and then we built a big one which was supposed to be connected, that one of 220 megawatts, but unfortunately the information is now disappointing.

Zambia is saying that up to now they have 1,600 megawatts capacity, but they need to build up a lot of hydro-power stations to reach 4,500 megawatts. That one

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is already indicating that we as Namibians should take electricity generation very seriously if we want to develop in this country. Relying on somebody else's electricity is not going to help us too much – a little bit but not for long term programmes. We have to do it for ourselves and if we do it soon, we could also export electricity to other parts of SADC countries.

We have two ongoing contingent plans. I was informed that next month they will start drilling at Kudu Gas and once they drill we might find gas. It is still going to take time, because the power station has up to now, not been constructed for which we have allocated some money. However we are now pushing so that everything can be done, so that once gas has been found, the power station is already there. We plan that the electricity plant should be multi-purpose, either for ethanol or gas, which means the time you do not have gas, you can use ethanol, because we do not want to have a white elephant, we want it to be ongoing.

We will be getting support from South Africa, but they are also experiencing problems in their own country, not only because of the power stations but the population and industry growth in their country. They are relying mostly on the gas from Mozambique as well as Kaborabassa hydro-power station.

Conditional support and transformers: When I came to the Ministry this was the first issue which I asked about and honestly speaking, NamPower was robbing the people, because people were told to buy transformers and later were told that the transformers did not belong to them. I also bought my transformer, but to be told that it is not mine at Edundja where I come from. A lot of people are connected to that transformer and I did not get any blue cent for that. Nobody is even consulting me when connecting to my transformer. You find that everybody in the village has electricity.

The proposal we have is that the transformers belong to NamPower, but let NamPower or the REDs reimburse us. The only issue which they need to work out is how to reimburse us. I cannot say how they are going to do it, but maybe one of the ways is that when I pay my bill, which for example is N\$1,000, I will only pay half of that for ten years to come.

That is one of the proposals and also the proof of a receipt. I will definitely push that something could be done in this line. If they do not want to adhere to this, the power of Parliament cannot be ignored by anybody in this country.

The depletion of the diamonds onshore is true, mostly in the area of Oranjemund where we have NAMDEB. We also have exploration going on in other parts of Namibia which are showing possibilities for us to discover kimberlite and once it is discovered, let it also contain diamonds. The history in the world is that more than five hundred kimberlite deposits were discovered, but only four of them contained diamonds.

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HON NGHIMTINA**

We are next to Botswana with three kimberlite pipes which have diamonds and I do not think that there were borders when this world was created. It is only an issue of working hard to find out where we can find a kimberlite pipe. The theory is being contested of saying that all diamonds came from Kimberley through the Orange River. Maybe yes, but the discoveries are indicating that there is a possibility that there are other sources of diamonds. Of course, if it were alluvial diamonds which came to Namibia, it was supposed to be small, but we find big diamonds in the sea and even onshore. That is already indicating that that diamond was not transported a long distance, there should be a source somewhere, either in the sea or somewhere else.

Those stories in the past are now being contested. Even along the coast at Toscanini you can find diamonds and big ones as well. I visited the area and you will find 11 carat diamonds there. It is impossible that those diamonds travelled from the Orange River, coming up to Toscanini. There is a source somewhere and we will discover it one day.

Depletion can be at Oranjemund, but we may find others somewhere in Namibia, next to Botswana which has a lot of diamonds.

We have diamond security officers who are inspecting what is happening on the vessels all the time and I can tell you, one time when a vessel was to be repaired in Cape Town, they found some diamonds in the system.

Those who were there said, "*let us check*" and they found 9 diamonds somewhere there. It was not hidden, it was only in the system, but they checked and found them and said the diamonds should go back to the country.

Honourable Venaani, thank you very much for your support. I have mentioned the energy crisis and also the growth. Our economic growth is 3% annually, but energy generation has been left behind. There are maybe many, many years to be covered if we want to be where the growth is.

I said what we are doing now is Kudu and Baynes. They are saying Kudu will be ready in 2011 or 2012 because it was delayed. But they got some money from SADC partners, it was also in the newspapers that they got US\$84 million which enabled them to start with drilling. Then we have Baynes.

Baynes is a joint project with Angola, fifty-fifty, and in working together you make sure you understand each other. The feasibility study was completed and what they are doing now is only costing of the project itself. Once the cost has been decided upon, we will find out where we can get money so that we can start constructing the hydro-power station at Baynes. The ideal spot was Epupa, and everybody knows that international NGOs were up in arms and said it cannot be done at Epupa.

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HON NGHIMTINA**

The issue of nuclear energy is not an issue of today, it can take ten years before we do something, but we have to prepare. France has 173 nuclear reactors, therefore they are developing their country effectively.

No problem, every year they add. Nuclear energy is friendly energy, it is not like coal or the other means we are using, and neither like hydro. The problem of hydro-power is that when there is no rain you will automatically be affected. But with nuclear energy you only need a little bit and then a huge amount of energy is being generated. We should not be afraid of that, other countries are doing it. We only need to prepare thoroughly through the International Atomic Energy Agencies. They have a checklist to find out that you are doing it correctly and we can do it.

Our scientists need to be trained, waste management needs to be properly arranged that nothing is going to affect our people. But without energy you cannot develop, never, ever. With a lantern or a candle you will never develop. You cannot construct engines, nothing, you do not have anything. However, God has given us that resource and we have to look into that. There is nothing wrong with nuclear energy, there is no need to fear. We will prepare properly and thoroughly.

You said the feasibility study of the Kudu Project was not done. It was done, my brother. There are only two issues, down or upstream, which means the drilling in the sea, drawings were done where the pipe is going to pass. We should remember it is a Diamond Area, you cannot come and do anything that you want. You must make sure, as the Attorney-General said here, our diamonds were secure. That was done, the drawings and everything is there. That is one part. Downstream is the power station at Univlei. The place has already been identified and what we need to do is to start doing something. We already have money and we have to push them to work very hard.

Connection fees on farms of N\$250,000 are another problem. We have to look into these issues.

Prepaid Meters: We thought about it because the problem of the Municipalities is that there are those people who are paying monthly and there are others who are not paying at all. Now they punish the whole town of Karibib and say no more electricity. We came up with the idea and said we should have prepaid meters, so that if you need electricity you buy and you are connected. If you do not want it, no problem. However those who are not using prepaid meters always have electricity, there is no problem. We are even punishing innocent people.

Let us have two options. Those who can afford to pay monthly payments can have an open line. Those who cannot do it can only buy the card when they want electricity and remove it when they go to work. That is how we came up with these proposals. I think that was the best way, not to punish everybody but for

everybody to make his own choice, that he wants electricity in his house and get it.

On mining fees: the issue is that God has given us all the resources, but one time ***Honourable Venaani*** mentioned that we in Namibia do not have a culture of saving and then you talked about buying a house. Once you buy a house it is automatically your investment. You can sell it or you can mortgage it for money.

However what I want to say is that we are not proactive in the resources of our country whatsoever. Foreigners are the ones coming, they apply here, you refuse, they take you to court. The court may come and say let that person get it, but you are not coming. Come to the Ministry, see what is available, then you apply and you will get it. Go to the bank and start. List your licence on the stock exchange, because you cannot mine alone, even if you are a billionaire. You might lose all your money at once, but you can list it on the stock exchange and then you start mining.

We are facing problems with the small miners. The problems are sales, marketing and manufacturing. We are fighting with my brother Ngatjizeko who is dealing with manufacturing. We want those small miners to manufacture, but I cannot do it without working together with him. He will say, “*now you are in my area, who told you to do that.*” But we want to assist them, so that they can manufacture and sell properly so that our people can also get employment.

Will 16% of Government and De Beers be enough? We have to start somewhere. We cannot start everything at 100% and it is not ten years, I think it is only six years and then people will be renegotiating. We have put in a clause for annual review of what we did last year, so that once we find something, we can move a little bit. I think these negotiations are more friendly because we understand each other now. However it was very tough, they were not even willing to talk about local supply. That is why it has taken a long time to conclude.

Honourable Moongo on the information on the areas, there is a company which is now checking. As I said, we have thirteen international companies which are checking for oil in our country, but we have one company which is checking in those areas you mentioned, including Etosha and if there is something, the information will come. Nowadays people are flying over an area to know whether there is oil under the ground, but it is a very expensive exercise.

Ministers are not doing it like in the apartheid regime, nowadays we are friendlier and we are telling you what is happening. We know you are the legislators who have to say we have to go ahead or not.

Honourable Mushelenga, I already said we are going to do something about the transformers and the connection of electricity in commercial farms.

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HON NGHIMTINA**

The master plan of the rural electrification programme is there and we probably need to update it. You were also with NamPower and the challenge we have is the shortage of sufficient electricity. Once we start connecting all the villages, I am telling you, we do not have sufficient electricity now, but we are moving. First we have to energise a lot of localities and for the rest we will start moving bit by bit.

We have to take generation seriously and the Government has allocated some funds to NamPower.

Honourable Amweelo, the idea is very good and we will look into that one, whether we can combine so that we tackle the issue of accidents together. However we also have our mining inspectors who are inspecting the mines and all accidents that happened.

Honourable Booys, thank you very much for your support. I understand only two villages have been electrified so far, but we will look into that.

If we could have sufficient funds we could move quickly on solar energy, because we could have solar villages and the schools could even be connected with computers as well as farms. Even the relay stations of cellular phones are using solar systems and it is working very well. We need to look into that. Solar has now been upgraded, it is not like in the past, it can be used in the rural areas.

Reverend Konjore, thank you very much for your support. You asked who is doing the rural electrification programme. We are working together with Regional Councillors. They are the ones to tell us where and how. I was once in the Omaheke Region to see and it was disappointing. You find one connected to even a chicken den and I do not know what it means. There is nobody there, but it is connected and it was very bad. You mentioned certain areas, I have the names and we will look into that as well.

The national grid passes through farms, but some farms are in darkness. It is an issue of applying and then you will be connected. However I do not know if the N\$250,000 is still going to be applicable. Thank you very much for your support.

Honourable Ilonga, thank you for your support. You had three problems, REDs, transformers and nuclear energy. I have dealt with nuclear energy and transformers.

It must be clear that the REDs are owned by the Municipalities, the Regional Councils and NamPower. They are the owners. It is not owned by individuals as we are saying. There are no private individuals in between, they are the only ones, sharing equally – 33% Nampower, 33% local authorities, 33% Regional Councils, 1% to a trust to assist when there are some problems. We only need to understand it properly.

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HON NGHIMTINA**

In electricity there are four branches: generation, transmission, distribution and marketing, but now it was felt that NamPower does not have the capacity to go all over the country to connect, but the REDs do because they are also Local and Regional Governments. It is not far away from the Government. It is only to understand it properly and they did very well in the areas where the REDs are established, the problems are mostly in the areas where the REDs are not established. The others are trying, but a human is a human and you find some people who cannot understand properly or who takes it as his own property.

IPP is another concept, but this concept is only for generation capacity. What people are talking about is competition. We have solar energy, but you cannot tell NamPower to go for solar energy, they will not do it, it is not their line of function even though it is generation. You cannot say take wind energy. If you say take biomass, they cannot take it. However if you want to take it, you can take it and then you can sell your electricity to anyone else. You can have a contract with my company, using NamPower's lines and also paying NamPower and I pay you. It can be done. It is popular in Europe, there is no problem, you can do it. It is not as if the IPP is taking over NamPower – never.

Transformers; we are going to look into that when we pass the Bill. We can amend the Bill so that it would be clear.

Honourable Kaapanda, thank you very much for your support. I have dealt with transformers and rural electrification.

Honourable Hage Geingob, thank you very much for your support. I do not know whether I have to join you in your fight with NamPower, because you are saying there is now a stalemate. I only took note of that, because I cannot go to court because of that.

Honourable Ngatjizeko, thank you very much for your support. Energising is the only challenge, we will look into that so that we can speed up in energising all the areas which were already wired.

Honourable Pandeni, I thank you very much for your support, but I think what you mentioned that is different is that there are some pockets of rural areas in Khomas Region which need to be looked into. I need their names, so that we can also check how we can proceed.

On the issue that the Municipalities will not be worse off, I think the problem was the sub-charges which were not correct, but it is now put correctly in the Bill that it could be checked, so that they could also be given a chance to adjust it here and there for their own benefit. However we have a regulator who is checking that all

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HON SHIMMING-CHASE**

the tariffs are in line and that nobody is being forced to pay too much and the other one less.

Honourable Dienda, thank you very much for your support. You said Windhoek Municipality was overcharging people. Yes, they did it, but they were saying that they will fight it in a court of law. Later on they withdrew the case and they now want to negotiate. We will see what the outcome is, because the ECB have given them what the tariff should be, but they added theirs. At the beginning they were refusing to acknowledge that, but afterwards they said they will negotiate. That is Government to Government and we will find an amicable solution and if possible, they need to reimburse the customers.

You said prepaid electricity should be available at filling stations, etcetera. We will take the message.

Honourable Katali, thank you for your support. I have already mentioned the master plan and I think we could update it, no problem, but we do not have sufficient money and efficient electricity to do it fast. Solar electricity is one we can consider. Support the Ministry.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection?
Agreed to.

Vote 17 “REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING” put for discussion. Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to contribute to the Debate on this Vote in keeping with my promise to test the relevant Votes with the aim to establish how *pro-poor and pro-development* the various Votes are.

We have in the past asked pertinent questions with regard to the trust fund of this Ministry without receiving replies. Honourable Gurirab, for example, asked why this Fund could not be used to strengthen poor Local Authorities. After all, provision for this Fund is made in the Budget for this Ministry to, amongst others, assist Local Authorities to build capacity. Since no report on this Fund has, to my knowledge, been tabled in this House for the past 5 to 6 years, it means in fact that every year when we discuss the Budget, we continue to authorise expenditure without having oversight with regard to the stewardship of those moneys. I will,

therefore use this opportunity, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, to put relevant questions to the Honourable Minister.

Firstly, can the Honourable Minister please supply this august House with the regional breakdown of how this Fund has worked? There is information regarding this, but in the absence of any reports I would prefer to be fair to the Honourable Minister and wait for him to provide this information before I provide mine.

On Page 9 of the motivation the Honourable Minister states, *inter alia*, that “currently the Board of Trustees are reviewing certain provisions of the enabling Act to effectively operationalise the Trust Fund.” What provisions are being reviewed and who are serving on the Board doing this review? Is it true that the Fund is given to one company, namely the preferred management company which decides how the money is expended? Who is the CEO of this company and what are the criteria for handing out funds and how are the poor informed so that they can apply? In other words, how is it advertised? Which companies, Honourable Minister, have thus far benefited and how much money did they receive? Is it true that savings have been made from the Operational Budget? How much was saved and which Regions benefited and how much per Region?

Can the Honourable Minister also inform us how the N\$32 million – that is on Page 9 – were distributed? The Minister says it was funded for the construction of the Warmbad Tourist Centre in the Karas Region and the rehabilitation of the Ondangwa sewerage system. How was it divided, how much went towards the Warmbad Tourist Centre and how much went to the Ondangwa sewerage system?

Finally, is it true that the preferred management company or any other company having received such moneys have been building two-bedroom houses on land that was given to them for free and are selling these houses for N\$500,000 each, whereas other companies in the building sector charge N\$100,000 for similar houses? With so many Namibian builders who are poor and unemployed, can this situation be explained to be *pro-poor*? Because if it is *pro-poor*, is the money going to these poor builders or is it going to the big companies that have been receiving these funds, as we are told?

Before we can express ourselves on whether we support the Budget or not, we would seriously like to hear answers to these questions, failing which we will invoke Clause 69 and ask that our objection be recorded in the Minutes. I thank you.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I have always been reminded that Rome was not built in one day; I am speaking as a resident staying in Wanaheda and not in Rome. After noticing that areas that came after Wanaheda are being honoured with tarred roads. For 20 years the people of Wanaheda are

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paying municipal rates, so we would like to know whether the municipality can take our contributions, our municipal rates for the past 20 years and please honour us with tarred roads. Otherwise I think there is no need for us to contribute anymore.

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, housing is a basic need, but people who have been staying for twenty years and longer in these old Municipality houses, are being evicted from their houses because of municipal debts such as water and electricity. In the first place, how were people allowed to incur debts to the tune of N\$10,000? If they were not in a position to pay N\$200, how will they be in a position to pay N\$10,000? What will the Minister do to protect these old citizens who are being evicted from their houses?

Thirdly, Honourable Chairperson, the NHE housing scheme is not *pro-poor*, it is too expensive. The poor people cannot benefit from this National Housing Enterprise loan scheme. The Build-Together Programme is even in a mess. In some Regions moneys are being put in special accounts for savings while the people are sitting without accommodation. I would like to hear from the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Housing what is the possibility that his Ministry could take back the provision of housing to the low income people.

Fourthly, Honourable Chairperson, mistakes are being made by the municipalities when they are issuing us with accounts, as was said. They are working on estimates and they do not go out to verify the correct figures. At the end of the day your water and electricity are being disconnected and you have to pay a fee of N\$300. After realising that it was their mistake, they will not rectify our accounts by crediting it with the N\$300 reconnection fee.

Honourable Chairperson, I would really like to know whether the charging of N\$300 for connecting is really fair. People cannot even afford N\$100, how will they be able to afford the N\$300 for connecting.

Honourable Chairperson, with this I support the Vote, but I am waiting for what democrat Nora Schimming-Chase was saying. Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Vote 17 and I would like to refer to Page 3 where the Minister has alluded that for a number of years the Ministry has been contributing N\$1 million to the Shack Dwellers Housing Scheme Programme. Of course, this organisation has been prudent and honest in utilising the money. In other words, the money has always

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been used for the purpose intended. I, therefore, would like to request the Honourable Minister whether this is not timely to consider increasing the amount to the Shack Dwellers. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Let me join my Colleagues who supported Vote 17. Comrade Minister, through the Chair, as I forewarned you, there is one issue which worries me and this is the issue of Municipalities acquiring residential houses of our poor disadvantaged citizens who are unable to pay municipal dues. This issue, Comrade Minister, as I told you beforehand, is really worrying and contrary to the aims and objectives of our SWAPO Party Government and, indeed, the Party, because we cannot penalise the poor by dispossessing their houses by virtue of non-payment of municipal bills.

I also fail to understand why the Municipalities wait until the bill is so high before they take action, and Comrade Minister, I propose that this unacceptable practice of Municipalities should be stopped and I propose that legislation be passed through this august House to prevent any repossession of immovable properties, such as houses, because people are unable to pay municipal bills. They are unnecessarily punished because of economic factors.

Indeed, I think the Municipalities are also to blame, because why should they leave these bills until they have accumulated to such an amount that an entire poor family should lose their house because of the negligence and maybe even incompetence of these Municipalities? I think the time has come for us as Government to address this issue. Otherwise, I support Vote 17.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I have one or two questions I want to ask. On Page 4 of the Honourable Minister's motivation, the second paragraph reads as follows and I want the Minister to help me here: *"I wish also to report to this august House that in the course of 2006/07 Financial Year Cabinet had directed our Ministry, through the National Housing Enterprise to construct 47 houses for the 48 war veterans in the various Regions of the country to the tune of N\$5 million."* Honourable Minister, I just wanted to find out whether the number of war veterans has been determined as only 48 or how did we come to the figure of 48? I am saying this against the background of the lively discussion that we had when we were discussing the Ministry of Veterans Affairs.

We do not have a system in place, we do not even know how many war veterans are there, but in your Ministry it seems as if you know. Can you just help us to understand this, based on the ground that there is no system in place, no work has been done, but at least you are far ahead of the rest of us sitting in this House.

The second question that I wanted to ask is on Page 10 under Programme 3, Traditional Authority Coordination. Honourable Minister, we all know that since time immemorial traditional leaders have been a source of encouragement, it has been a source of unity, uniting our people, people from various traditional backgrounds and communities. Even during the time when they were fighting, the Nama fighting the Hereros, you could see that they had their own system for reconciling and solving their own problems.

How is it possible in an Independent Namibia that hatred among the various traditional communities has increased, to the extent that lives are being lost because of tribal or traditional conflicts? How is it possible that today, after 17 years, we are still seeing communities hate one another just like in the time of the *boers*, where they had the purpose of dividing our people so that they can rule us? What is the system of recognition? Who is recognising the traditional leaders? Is it the communities? Honourable Minister, I want you to be specific on this one. Who recognises the traditional leaders? What are the mechanisms that are being used to identify and recommend to the Ministry? On what basis are these people being recognised?

Honourable Minister, I am asking this question, on the basis that I am fully aware of the fact that some of the Traditional Authorities that have not been recognised is because staff from your Ministry does not want to recognise them, simply because they do not like the names of those Traditional Authorities.

If you want me to name the Herero Traditional Authority and the reason why they had not been recognised, it is stated that the moment they change their name from the Ovaherero Traditional Authority to Paramount Chief Riruako Traditional Authority or Aminuis Traditional Authority they will be recognised. The problem is the name. That is why I am asking the question, who decides that your name should be Johannes but not Petrus? Is it the Ministry or the people themselves?

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister for having taken Honourable Moongo's advice that the salaries of the traditional leaders must be adjusted. Congratulations for a job well done.

The other point that I wanted to touch on by way of a question is rural development. I am aware of the fact that in your Budget document there is a certain amount of money that has been budgeted for rural development and if you look at that, some is budgeted for Food-for-Work, some is budgeted to buy food for the San community. Some is to upgrade the technology in the various technical schools. How do you define what is the core function of rural development? What is rural development according to the definition of your Ministry?

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I am afraid that if we are not careful, we should not misuse our power to the extent that we are developing certain communities to be ever-dependent on Government. When you develop a community you should teach somebody to catch fish but not to eat fish, because the moment you are going to provide fish, that person is not going to eat. What is it that you are trying to do? Is there something behind it? Is there a programme to go back to this community and say, "*if you do not want to work for me, then I am not going to give you food?*" Is that the programme that you have, Honourable Minister? I think you need to answer some of these questions.

I think this is crucially important, because if you look at our communities, they are poor and the reason is simply because there is nothing going on there, there is no development. Make a distinction between development and income generating activities. Income generating activities are something different from development and what you are busy with is trying to keep people to be dependent for ever on the Government because you have created this little thing today, this is not going to be there tomorrow.

With those few words I support the Vote.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I shall be very brief. First and foremost I rise to support the Vote under discussion.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to address the question of housing and, of course, it is a fact that our country is proving to have expensive building materials. To build a two-bedroom house or a one-bedroom house in this country is very expensive.

I once travelled to a particular country to address some of these issues as a business person and I remember coming to a country where they could erect a three-storey block in ten days with concrete blocks and coupled to these cheaper materials is how we use our urban space. We have a culture of building flatly; every person must have an erf. If you look at the way Windhoek is now rapidly expanding, after ten years nobody would have erven available to build a house and I do not know why our Municipality is concentrating so much on this system of just building flatly. Why do they not put up blocks of flats? What is the Minister doing to address the question of importing cheaper materials for building purposes? I can tell you that five houses can share one roof and those families would have something, but we continue to perpetuate escalating costs by the way we are building.

The other issue that I want to thank Government for half-heartedly is the bucket system. The bucket system has not been properly addressed. Uhuru, the freedom that we spoke about, every African wanted freedom. 17 Years after Independence,

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whether you have money or no money, for someone who urged freedom to use the bucket system is just unacceptable by any standard and I really want to advise our Ministry to make a special effort, not to try to complete this old project in three years, so that we really urge the Ministry of Finance to allocate at least enough money to address the question of bucket system, because waiting for three years is just not fair to our citizenry and I think we could do really better by providing better toilet facilities to our citizens. I do not want us to have the same situation as in Kenya where, if you want to get married to somebody's daughter, you are asked, "*can you provide her with a flush toilet?*" That is the only big demand in Kenya now and we should not be that slow and we should address that issue.

Honourable Tjihuiiko raised the issue of rural development and I have said it in various interventions in this House that is a difficult task to govern people. Being the governing party is a very difficult task. Not everybody would ever be satisfied. I think what is lacking is coherent policies.

You are saying you are going to call a rural development conference that is going to address all facets of rural development, but I do not think that we need to spend money on a conference on rural development. Why do we not address poverty? Every Minister under Government would know what their role is in addressing poverty, because now rural development would have a conference addressing poverty alleviation in rural development, the other department in urban areas would address urban poverty. I think we should start synchronising some of these issues, so that a country is a country with a clear poverty policy that is geared at reducing poverty in our country, rather than just calling these piecemeal conferences.

Lastly the question of decentralisation. At Independence there was a political agreement in this country that we need to have a stronger Executive for the country to function because our people are divided along tribal lines, regionalism and so forth.

Today it is a political question that we have to ask ourselves and I raised it during the couple of years that I have been here; are we really serious in decentralising powers? Currently our Ministry is just building Regional offices for Regional Councillors, but do the Regional Councillors have powers and take decisions as elected political office-bearers of the country, or are we just holding power and decentralising services to them while they cannot take decisions? I think the whole issue of decentralisation should be interrogated very seriously, whether we are decentralising or just giving services to people. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Venaani, you are doing well, in fact you are doing extremely well. The question of decentralising powers to the Regions politically will give Independence to those

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Regions. Do you not think that there is no political will by those who are supposed to have decentralised and have given the powers to the Regions? There is a total lack of political will to do that.

HON VENAANI: I do not want to apportion blame, but if I was in a lecture I would have said that. The country has decided as to which powers they want to be decentralised. We have adopted a policy of decentralisation without clearly ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Through you, I think Venaani speaks a nice language. I think he should take that language to the people, especially to Kaoko. He went there and misused my people. Go and talk the nice language that people will accept decentralisation.

HON VENAANI: I am addressing programmes. Decentralisation is a programme here, housing is a programme here, the bucket system is a programme here, all the issues that I have raised.

In conclusion, Honourable Muharukua, your people are my people and our country is the country of all of us. You do not have your own people and I have my own people. Saying that I am misusing them, the reason that you defeated me and being in a governing position as a Minister does not mean you are the best, but because the people decided that you are the best for now, I have accepted it. Therefore, accept when others defeat you that we are the best for now.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Nambahu. We should try to come to questions. We dwell too much on giving examples and answering ourselves. Let us come to questions.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to give my support to this very important Vote, but I have one suggestion to make to the comrades who are in charge of the Minister and it is based on Page 6 of the Minister's speech, point 2.1. I will read the paragraph:

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“Proclamation of new Local Authorities: Consistent with Cabinet Decision regarding the proclamation of new Local Authorities in thirteen Regions of our country, it was specifically decided that for those Regions that have only one Local Authority, the Ministry must ensure that in such Regions a second Local Authority must be proclaimed in order to address imbalances in access to municipal services in all Regions of our country”.

I have not seen this specific Cabinet decision, but I am familiar with the decentralisation policy since its inception and I would only wish that another dimension is added to the reason as to why the proclamation of Local Authorities should be done. I can really say that because there are developmental aspects to it, there are organisational aspects to it. In this area there are also issues of capital. We talk of infrastructure, but the other name could be capital.

In some of these areas that are not proclaimed, you cannot talk of mortgage. You cannot mortgage your property. We in this Chamber were all invited to the Ernando De Soto book. Most of us of yesteryears have read *Das Kapital*, and all these books.

Honourable Members, we cannot fight poverty if we cannot unlock that capital that is in these areas that are not proclaimed and it is very, very important for those who are proclaiming to add this dimension, looking at it from that perspective of bringing life into this dead capital that is there. It is very important to read that book, it is also very important to read Celeste Nyamu, the UK-based Kenyan who did a critique of that work, so that we know exactly what formula the Namibian ... (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Colleague a question? I am converted like yourself on the issue of property rights, but you have added another dimension that I wonder whether you are entirely correct. You are saying we should proclaim towns to unlock wealth and I agree, but should we only proclaim to unlock? Can we not unlock while we are having rural areas? For example, in Britain you have rural counties, it is rural, not municipal areas, but yet those properties can be used as collateral. For example, if you have a big house in Odibo or wherever, you do not need to unlock. Is it only unlock through proclaiming villages into towns or can you unlock during the current rural areas?

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Venaani, I am not married to any specific ways of doing it. What I am trying to say is that we must find a formula, a *Namibianised* formula of unlocking this capital. There is even another dimension to it, if we do not do it timely and come up with a formula to address this, the development that is taking place there is very chaotic and I must emphasise that. It is very chaotic, to the extent that when we proclaim now and try to move people,

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to tell them to go and compensate them is a headache, and I think many Honourable Members will agree with me. It is causing a lot of discontent, ill-blood. Those of us who were voted for by the masses know how disgusted the masses become when they are being moved, but when we allow them to develop without being guided...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I put a question? You say you are not married to a specific way of unlocking, but what would you suggest? One cannot develop a village without having some of the communities removed from there. Unless you say, leave the village as it is and you do it directly. It does not matter whether married or not married, how are you going to make sure that you develop a town if you do not proclaim and then start identifying areas where you can move the people. There I cannot understand you or maybe you want to suggest that.

HON NAMBAHU: Maybe some of my minutes can be deducted from the time of the Comrades when they take the Floor.

What I am trying to say, Comrade Iilonga, is that I am not married to a specific prescription as it comes in the books that we are recommending, but the proclamation, be it for a settlement, be it for what, in order for us to find and ring-fence that area that we can deal with, I am not married to one, is leaving room for us to develop our own formula of getting to that.

What I was trying to say is that if we do not move and there are quarrels, there are all kinds of problems, people setting up sewerage in the middle of settlements and local traditional leaders having a hand in allocating plots and all these kinds of things, these are sometimes really bringing conflicts between the dwellers in these areas. Maybe the sooner we step in, the less money we will be required to put in to correct chaotic situation that is developing.

In a way this is the only suggestion I have to give to the Comrades, so that it is really looked at with these dimensional aspects – developmental, organisational capital injection, reviving of that capital that we are actually sitting on a gold mine and to use that as a strategy to combat poverty.

With these remarks, I support the Vote.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. First of all allow me to congratulate our Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development for the attempt at solving the traditional leaders' issues. Why I say

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“*attempt*” is because of the decision by the Cabinet and now I am talking of the decision of the Opposition and I will make a proposal.

If the decision of the Cabinet is saying only two, the Chairperson of Traditional Council and the Deputy, how on earth could only the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker have entertainment allowances and all other Members do not get anything? It is really embarrassing. Therefore, I request the Minister to revisit this issue.

The proposal of the Opposition is to revisit, because all are Members of the Council and Article 23 of the Namibian Constitution prevents discrimination. It is unfair to pay the two at the top and the rest are denied. This is not fair. On that point I gave a suggestion.

Again, I appreciate the computers which will be given to many offices and I am disappointed that only two offices will be built, the one of Ondonga and the other one for Vaalgras. This is really disappointing.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo, do not create the impression that you have a Cabinet.

HON MOONGO: We have a shadow Cabinet. On the point of offices, we know the problem is money. Why can the Ministry of Works not have an input? Why do they not build traditional courts and offices? Regional offices are built all over the country but traditional courts are nowhere to be found. This is really disappointing. Why can the Ministry of Works not build? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, my question is; why are the traditional leaders not trying to build their own structures? We have been to countries such as Botswana and they have just built huts. Why is there this dependency that Government must do everything for you? We are just lazy. We do not want to cut wood and build traditional structures. These are the real courts. Why do you want Government to build for you? For what? This is a community court, the people sit outside or they sit under the tree. That is the real tradition.

HON MOONGO: I do not want to respond to the Colleague. The Colleague is talking of traditional structures. We are talking of a proper, professional traditional court to serve our community. We are talking of other countries, but we are Namibians, we need proper facilities. It is disappointing if this is the attitude of the youth. I thought he is a youth but he is old, he is very old, he talks old. He has

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an outdated fashion of talking. I am younger than him. That is the youth of SWAPO, he is already older than me.

I propose a modern court to be built. Let the Ministry of Works try to assist and build courts countrywide and let the Ministry of Transport assist with providing transportation to the community courts, because people are travelling to courts from far away. Let us share if we really mean unity, because the local offices are built, the Regional offices are built, but what is wrong with traditional leaders structures?

Again on the allowances, if you are earning between N\$800 and N\$1,400 and you give him 20%, it is only N\$100 something. This is against the *pro-poor* Budget, this is vice versa. If it is *pro-poor*, then those earning N\$800 or N\$1,000 should receive 70% and those who earn N\$5,000 or N\$10,000 should get 10 or 20%. There is no money, there is no money.

With this I support the Vote.

HON NAMBINGA: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson I have only a few points.

Comrade Minister, first of all, I support Vote 17. My questions are based on the fact that our Budget is a *pro-poor* Budget. Some Colleagues here were blaming NamPower for the transformers, but when you have electricity and water installed by the Municipality, you will keep on paying for the usage and for the basic. Is it not perhaps high time that the Municipality should review its laws, so that at least the people can pay the basic up to forty years and thereafter just keep on paying for the water they have used?

The second issue is the new trend which Municipalities seem to have adopted and that is that when you make some improvements on a house, you are again penalised for that because you have to pay. Is this really encouraging people to improve their houses or is it discouraging them? I thought it is good for us as people to keep on improving our houses, but then when you do, you are going to pay additionally.

The third point is on shebeens. In order to address the problem of accommodation, I thought it would have been better if plots could be cheaper or affordable, so that we do not only address the issue of accommodation but we also encourage the new emerging business people to buy plots and to develop them. However to buy a plot here is done by auction and it is only the very rich people who are able to buy those plots. I just thought perhaps the municipality must review some of its rules so that it could accommodate the poor people. I thank you.

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HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am rising to support my Colleague and friend, John Pandeni, who has the portfolio which touches everybody. Whether you live in town or live in a village, you live in rural areas, he is there.

I would like to attract your attention to some of my favourite places or the places I have visited recently. The town of Rehoboth which is cited here. For the first time, I think in a long time, three streets are being tarred and we think that is a very good way. At least three streets in one year being tarred give a facelift to the town and we should continue to do that.

Then my regional capital town, Opuwo. We are really hoping that something will be done with the water and sewerage system. We must replace those pipes and it will also give our town a facelift.

Then there are special places which do not want to be the second town in the Region, but they are just ideal places for development. One of them is Ruacana, next to the water, very nice terrain in the town and if we can work together with others, Trade and Industries to really identify certain places where we can establish an industry. First it is a border town, people from Angola can come and buy there which would be good.

Then we have places like Omakange, a crossing point from Oshakati to Opuwo and from Kamanjab to Ruacana. If those roads get tarred, you will find all kinds of business people establishing themselves there and, therefore, those communities and those villages will need to be guided, will need to be supported with basic necessities like clinics and schools.

In short, I just wanted to give you examples, but you have been doing well and you should continue to govern us properly. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Comrade Nambinga already touched on my last point, the improvement and I am not going to say anything on that.

I want to thank the Ministry for the attempt to improve the allowances of our traditional leaders and Honourable Moongo must learn to say thank you.

Secondly, Comrade Minister, I am really surprised and I deliberately did not discuss this with you, because I have seen that when I speak to some Ministers they prepare an answer on paper before I have even asked my question.

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Are these single quarters only bad when it is owned by the Government, but not bad if it is owned by individuals, the owners of these mushrooming single quarters in the form of flats? I do not see the difference, honestly speaking. We say single quarters are bad, but we have flats. Go to the old Soweto bus stop and there is a new nest now and many other nests which are traps for our children. They are just trapped there and I want us as the Government to take action. Instead of improving on it and making it our home, we destroy it. Here we have individuals building flats with only entrance and all your good things and whatever are condoned in there. The first month after our children have started working, they do not want to stay at home because they do not want to be advised and given direction. They prefer to pay up to N\$2,000 for those flats. Some of those who are not working are in those flats, but who pays for this? Are these flats really safe in this era of AIDS?

We say it is an investment, but it has really become a nest of spreading this disease because you find all our youngsters in these flats which are mushrooming in the whole Windhoek. I really want us to look at that. I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise in support of Vote 17 – Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

I only wanted to emphasise the point made by Dr Kawana and also Honourable Nambinga when he talked about the plots being auctioned in the low density areas. Honourable Minister, I think it is now high time that we should start to think in terms of allocating quotas for the previously disadvantaged or for the permanently disadvantaged people, so that they could have the opportunity to buy plots in these residential areas.

I remember that Walvis Bay Municipality attempted to allocate some erven to the poor people and also to the emerging black entrepreneurs, but this was stopped by the High Court. They were taken to the court on the basis of Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution. I think as legislators we must take this thing seriously, because if you look at Windhoek, who owns Windhoek? Really, we must be frank and fair, who owns Windhoek? Nobody, only a few black people who own a few houses, but to whom does the whole city belong? When are we really going to empower our people?

Maybe we should start to seriously look at this in the TESEF programme, because my problem is, and Dr Kawana mentioned here, that our people have been paying for these houses for over 20 years and suddenly these houses are auctioned and the worst thing is that the people who buy those houses are the previously empowered people who have more money. They can afford to buy these houses. If you say

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these houses can be bought by the Shack Dwellers Association I will be very happy, but people from town are now entering Katutura. They can afford to pay high prices and it is high time that we start to think in terms of allocating quotas and even if we need to legislate, we must do that. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I revert the Floor to the Minister to respond now.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Allow me to first thank all those Honourable Members who made very constructive contributions to the discussion of Vote 17. I really thank you collectively and those who have not been able to take the Floor, I thank you and I know you will be supporting our Vote. This is our Vote.

Thank you, *Honourable Schimming-Chase*. The question of the trust fund, as I have mentioned in my motivation, has been asked time and again. At one stage I recall we were asked to come with a list how this trust fund is supporting our Villages and Local Authorities over a certain period of time. We came here, we gave it and then again it was misinterpreted to mean that only those Villages, what about the other Regions? I think I agree with you that there is also a lack of information, possibly exacerbated by the fact that the trust fund has not really been in a position to give annual reports, so that you can go back to the report and read about it and inform yourself about that. We are working on that and very soon this situation will change. There is nothing that is being hidden in the trust fund.

The Board of Directors, that I have just mentioned, are the various Governors, various Permanent Secretaries. We do not have a problem, we can bring the names here for you to see who are sitting on this Board, but the Board had a problem. When you look at the Act, the Act simply says the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is the Chair and then the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance should take the record and then there is no staff complement, there is absolutely nothing. Of course, the Ministry has tried to use the staff complement that is in the Ministry to assist, but again you are faced with the question of capacity, whether these people really have the capacity. But I agree, there is a lot of information that we need to distribute here in order to clear the myth of people who possibly think there are some dark actions perpetrated in this trust fund.

Yes, the trust fund was created with an obvious and very good intention to support the Local Authorities in the Regions in order to arrive at equity, so that they are

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able to see that we have equitable development in the whole country and not just like you found this area before Independence.

It was Windhoek, everything was just for Windhoek and there was nothing in the rural areas, so our people were left out without any infrastructure to provide services.

I believe even the questions that you are asking to bring the regional breakdown can be brought here for you to see. These things will not be in the head of a person. I have always been saying I should be able to say off the cuff right here, but I can bring it back, no problem about that.

I should also mention that there are various programmes of the trust fund that I should just possibly mention as I am going along answering your questions, and these are that the trust fund has also assisted the Local Authorities, particularly those who are struggling with the rehabilitation of their sewerage systems. I am here talking about Henties Bay, an amount of N\$10 million was utilised on that. We are talking about N\$3 million for Ohangwena basin for the construction of the reservoir. We are talking about the Oshana oxydation ponds and we are also talking about N\$3 million. We are talking about assistance to Karibib to pay third party. Some of these Local Authorities have not been able to pay third parties and when it was then found, they had to be assisted in that system also. We are talking of various projects in addition to what I have indicated in the motivation about Warmbad and Ondangwa.

You would like to see who are these people who are reviewing the provisions. As I have indicated, the Board of Directors and other stakeholders are part of these institutions.

The breakdown in terms of Warmbad and Ondangwa, again it is not a problem, we could provide that information, the information is available.

You referred to the preferred company. The preferred company is a consultant that is assisting to fast-track the servicing. The other time when I reported to this august House that we have fast-tracked the infrastructure in Oshakati to overhaul the whole sewerage system and water reticulation as these have been built a long time ago and they were meant to cater for a few people. We talked about Uutapi where the same thing has happened, and we also talked about Ohangwena. This is the company that was assisting the Government in order to fast-track the construction of services and the rehabilitation of the ailing infrastructure. As I have just mentioned, they were constructed a long time ago and they are losing more water now than anything else and the water that is supplied to the community is no longer getting to the community in the amount that it was supplied.

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It was also against this report that the preferred company was appointed to implement the fast-track programme in the towns that I have just mentioned. The appointment of contractors were left to the Regions themselves, they are the ones who are appointing these contractors, because we also wanted to empower the new emerging entrepreneurs that are in the Regions as we would not like things to come from Windhoek.

These are appointed by the Local Authorities or Regional Councils themselves.

Honourable Dienda, thank you very much for your support. You mentioned Wanaheda, but we are saying this place is now Samora Machel. I thought being a resident there you would have picked up this name. Nevertheless, this is the new name now, no longer Wanaheda because Wanaheda is **Wambo, Nama, Herero, Damara** and it is not just a question of politics, as a resident you were supposed to know. Thank you very much for the support.

Areas that came after Wanaheda have been tarred and I took note of that. I believe the tarring of streets is of course the responsibility of the City of Windhoek and they are following a programme in order to provide these services. Possibly we should look into why it is that some places are tarred. Let me also tell you that they now have a new system. If you look at how they develop new suburbs, they do not just start constructing. They will start with the tarring of roads, the provision of the infrastructure, the services and it is a progressive way of doing things, unlike in the past. Maybe the area you are referring to was built some time and now you are comparing it to those that are new. (Interjection) Can we avoid the dialogue? I am just trying to assist you I am not fighting with you, but we will look into that.

I fully agree that it is really not fair that just because the residents that have been in houses for 20 to 30 and more years find themselves in a predicament they should vacate. Nowadays it is not easy to find a house. When you have those houses it is better to improve on them, rather than to lose them. I also intervened, as I have indicated to you. We are now expecting to come together in order to map out what it is that should be done, but I have intervened.

What also happened is that once the Municipality realises the person is not forthcoming, then they think the easiest way to enable this person to come is to hand over this case to the lawyers, but you and me know that the lawyers are working for money and when they get the case, they will definitely not look at the humanitarian issues, the human face.

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I must just indicate that I can attest that many of the Local Authorities have this system of warning and particularly in the City of Windhoek they communicate to the people to come in so that there is a formal agreement on how to pay back, etcetera.

I also know that there have been a lot of reports in the newspaper, saying that the Municipality of Windhoek was evicting pensioners. When I read about it I confronted them and I called in the Governor, the Mayor and what I found is not really a question of pensioners who were evicted, because they could prove that these people are not pensioners, but it was a question of affordability. I think it is high time that we possibly should think of what the percentages are when it comes to water possibly that our people can be allowed that in order to receive these services instead of taking steps against them, penalising them for the non-payment of these services. I however agree we will take up this matter in earnest.

You are saying NHE houses are not *pro-poor*. I think many of the poor have raised this question. We are also looking into that. We say with this amount we build maybe just one big room and the owner himself or herself has then to partition this house and these things are not really very helpful. However we have also realised that the group to be targeted by NHE were not really the very, very poor, it was the middle-income people. That is why we have the Shack Dwellers Federation, that is why we have the Build-Together Programmes and so on. We have also been saying that the poorest of the poor are not covered by the NHE.

Honourable Dienda, Build-Together should really be commended. There were a lot of problems in the past, but there are quite a lot of improvements and let us also give credit where it is due. Of course, you are entitled to your feelings and to your perceptions, but we will also look into that one.

You were saying the housing should come back to the Ministry. Housing, apart from that it is a very important aspect to improve the living conditions of a person, we are also saying it could assist the Local Authorities or Regional Councils in order to address unemployment in the rural areas. If everything is to be done through Windhoek, then we are also missing the point of decentralisation. Where are we going? I think we should also give the people an opportunity to manage some of the issues, so that they are also able to grow and be able to deliver the services efficiently and in an affordable manner.

There were houses here that were built by the Municipality a long time ago and at a certain stage we decided to let this go to companies that would venture into business and so on and they take care of other service provision.

The reconnection fee of N\$300 is an issue that is also linked to the City of Windhoek. We are saying Windhoek is becoming more and more expensive. If you go to other areas the connection fee is not that much and it is a valid question

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that we should look into, as many people will really be left out. Thank you very much for your support of the Vote.

Comrade Kaapanda, thank you very much for your support. I have taken note of the proposal to improve the contribution to the Shack Dwellers Federation and thank you very much for the proposal.

Honourable Dr Kawana, thank you very much for your support to the Vote. I have partly answered the question that you have raised with regard to the eviction. You proposed that a law should be brought here in order to prevent this from happening. I am sure when we are evaluating and assessing these things, it could happen. Let us see how we will be able to assist our people. I fully agree that people need to be protected as well.

Honourable Tjihuiko, thank you very much for your support. I agree that some of these things could be confusing, 47 houses for 48 beneficiaries. This programme is not part of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, it is a programme which was entrusted to our Ministry to execute during the 2006/07 Financial Year. Like I said N\$5 million was allocated and most of these houses have been completed. Therefore it is a different programme. The programme of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, the Minister himself has informed this august House that you should give him time so that he will come back with the strategies and also to involve you to make proposals how to go about addressing the plight of the veterans.

I fully agree that the Traditional Authorities are also the uniting force of our people and they have this very important function to ensure that are customary laws, traditions and customs are well protected.

I think we are equally concerned, just like yourself, that they are still fighting each other, because we believe in a free and independent Namibia there is definitely no valid reason why we should fight each other. Why can we not sit down and talk about the problems that we have?

However I disagree with you when you are saying the staff complement in our Ministry is the one who do not want people to be recognised. No, that is not the case. The issue of the designation of these Traditional Authorities is the issue of the traditional communities.

Then there are the procedures and laws and when you have met these criteria, there is no reason why you cannot be recognised. It is a question of making that recommendation to the Office of His Excellency the President and that is it. I said it so many times there is nobody who is asked to change the name. After all, the name has nothing to do with the Ministry. It is the Traditional Authority itself, the community themselves that are selecting these names and they would like to be known under those names. Therefore, I do not think it is the Ministry.

Honourable Tjihuiko, you continued to congratulate me on the salary increases, thank you very much, but I just want to correct the situation. Maybe Honourable Moongo has received some information and he quickly came to this august House to propose a Motion in this regard. This is a programme that is in the Ministry and it has been there. It is not because of Moongo's question. I also want to clear the myth that the Honourable Member of this House thought that it is only the improvement of the allowances of the Chairperson and the Deputy. That is not the case, all of them are having this improvement. We should start somewhere. You want us now to give more and definitely if we get more money, we will also look after them. However if there are limitations, I think we should live with those limitations.

Thank you very much for the support, Honourable Tjihuiko. You have asked about the rural development in the rural communities and you also indicated that you feel rural development is confused with income generation. This is not the case; we are quite aware what we meant when we talked about rural development. We also want to indicate to this House that rural development is a cross-cutting issue and, therefore, it can only be realised when we sit down and talk and you bring the good ideas you have for us to improve the concept of rural development.

The other time you castigated the various Ministries for doing things and you are saying possibly this policy and that policy is not there, but when the Ministry is working towards realising policy, you again seem to be having a problem. I think you must also be consistent.

Honourable Venaani, thank you very much for your support. I fully agree on the expensive building materials. That is why we just completed the Habitat Research Centre and the idea is exactly to look into the local materials we have, in order to lessen the cost of housing construction and building construction. We are working towards that. Please feel free to approach the Ministry if you have wonderful ideas that could assist us in order to improve the situation. You were asking why we do not also build flats as opposed to building on a flat area. There is a lot of logic in what you are saying. Firstly, some of our people that are working might not need a big house. They are here to work and they would like to have appropriate accommodation and they only need two or three bedrooms and they can have it in a flat. I am aware that *Honourable Ilonga* this side is saying these flats are becoming closer to the single quarters. No, the single quarters are well-known and the ugliness cannot really be compared to the flats that are being constructed. The logic is really that we must also build storey houses in order to create more space.

I fully agree that the bucket system is unacceptable and I do not have more comments on that. If the money is available, I should thank the Minister of Finance who has now given for each Financial Year N\$13 million to assist us to do away with the bucket system.

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Honourable Nambahu, thank you very much for supporting the Vote. The proclamation of new Local Authorities, you have said it so nicely that I thought I should not really repeat. It is a question of infrastructural development. We are talking about unemployment in the rural areas and the urban areas. How are these people going to be employed unless we also build houses, tar the roads? Then they are standing a chance of work opportunities.

When you have the necessary infrastructures, then the investors, whether local or foreign, will also see their way clear to come and support the development in a particular urban area. We still have the tendency that goes way back to before Independence where people were denied to come this side of the cordon fence and now that the country is free the people are coming to towns. When they are there they are building perceptions, some saying, “*you prevented us*”, but it is really creating a chaotic situation and we need to look into that one.

You said we must find a Namibian formula. The Ministry is open to these suggestions so that we are able to improve on the situation.

Honourable Moongo thank you for your support. I have already corrected your statement, saying it is only the Chairperson and the Deputy. Honourable Moongo, you should also not confuse the public that we have a SWAPO Government Cabinet and then we have the Opposition Cabinet. Then this Cabinet should show what is it that they are doing, because there are serious discussions in Cabinet for things to be implemented. I do not think you are correct in comparing this Cabinet to your cabinet. If you have ideas, just come straight with your ideas. Thank you very much.

Then on the Ministry of Works, I am sure when my uncle will be responding, he will respond to some of the issues you asked, in terms of the assistance that we need to get from the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication.

Honourable Nambinga, thank you very much for your support and I think I have partly answered some of your questions. On the question of improvement, when you have a house and you improve on that house, you are actually adding value to that house. However when you add value to that house, the Municipality is assessing this value and use it in order to levy fees on it. These are the issues that are there. When you improve you are adding value, when you add value you are making it easier for the Municipality to come and value the house and charge you on the basis of that.

I think some of the things are closely linked to that understanding.

There was a question on the affordability of the erven. I fully agree. The Municipalities have this approach that there is prime land for those who are able to afford that and land in the middle for the middle-income and then there are areas

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for the very poor who need a place to stay. However sometimes you find that people who do not have the means to afford, might quarrel to come and settle on the prime land and the municipalities are deliberately using this system in order to place themselves in a better position in order to have an income so that they are able to provide more services. However they have different areas that they allocate in order to suit the people.

Honourable Mbumba, thank you for the compliments on Rehoboth. The replacement of the sewerage system of Opuwo: We tried several times, Comrade Minister, but because of the quality of the water in Opuwo, it is for sure that if today you replace the infrastructure, the next day they are blocked again and the water cannot go through because of the nature of the salty water. Now we are encouraging NamWater to improve on the water quality, because it is really their responsibility and we do not have a problem, we have even budgeted for replacing this infrastructure. However we need to cooperate and the Honourable Minister and me talked about it several times and we said we should coordinate in order to assist each other on doing that.

I agree on Ruacana and I do not even want to get into Omakange and so on.

Comrade Ilonga, thank you very much for your support on the improvement of the Traditional Authority leaders. I have already touched on single quarters. I misunderstood but now I understand what you meant.

Comrade Nujoma, thank you very much for supporting the Vote. I have already dealt with auctioning of houses and steps to prevent eviction of people. You also mentioned the quotas for formerly disadvantaged. He is not even here. It is important that the selling of our erven should also take care of the poor, because they are equally entitled to make a living.

With that, thank you once again for your support and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection?

OBJECTION

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. As I stated in the beginning, I will invoke Rule 69 and request that the position of my Party to the way in which these questions were not answered be recorded in the Minutes of the Proceedings. I thank you.

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HON BOOYS/HON DR GEINGOB**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Recording of Opposition is recorded, but there is no Objection. Any objection? Agreed to. **Vote 25 – “LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT”** put for discussion.

HON BOOYS: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 25 on Lands and Resettlement. Land is very important, whether it is farmland, whether it is Municipal land. It is very important for people who were previously disadvantaged to have land.

My question is whether the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is only responsible for farmland only or they are also responsible for land all over Namibia including the Municipal land. I thank you very much.

HON DR GEINGOB: I rise to support the Vote, it is a farmers' Vote, but I wanted to say two things. Some farmers are buying farms using commercial loans and some are using Affirmative Action Loans. Some farmers bought farms with commercial loans, that means you start to repay it from the following month. Now, whereas the Government never helped these farmers who are also nationals who ought to be resettled they help the Government by buying their own farms. Now what is worse is that on top of that, land tax is now being charged, you have to pay land tax. Those who are on Affirmative Action Loan may wait for three years and then only pay about 4% up to 14%. The commercial loan owners have to pay their loan back and at the same time pay tax. How do you really help us new farmers to make ends meet? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I would like to ask the Honourable Member a question. Would the Honourable Member agree and that it is not that that so called grace period given even to the full time farmers on the Affirmative Action Loan it is only capitalized. It is not that they are not paying, for example interest and even the 4%, is escalating. It is the first year that 4% and then it goes up almost to a commercial loan. Does the Honourable Member know about that?

HON DR GEINGOB: Yes, I know that you are an Affirmative Action Loan holder and I am a commercial loan holder so there is a difference. You have a grace period, I do not have it. The question I want to ask is, how does the Minister of Finance, just the other day increase the amount that the low-income person can earn without being taxed to N\$36,000? Similarly the person who is trying with the commercial loan must be given some help. I have always been proposing that, since we are all Namibians, that I should be entitled to a piece of land but with the understanding of saying 2,000, or 1,000 hectares, that, each one must be entitled to

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and thereafter you can pay tax. Now, tax is now paid on ownership of multiple or single farms and I was trying to argue that if somebody can have a farm of 10,000 hectares as one farm and then if somebody has two farms which are 3,000 each, he owns two farms. Therefore a person who may have 10,000 even if it is one farm may not pay taxes or will pay only the first rate, 0.7% but the person who has three smaller farms will pay more. We will have to see. We have to see how it works? That is the question.

On the resettlement plan, I want to propose or ask a question and I propose that settlement is not doing very well. It is an ideal programme but it is not doing very well, we all know it. I use to say that we should have created some kind of a management company and I went to the former Minister of Land, it is in my thesis too. A management company with former farmers white and black who are experienced. People who are resettled will join that company so to say theoretically, have shares in that company. They will be resettled and will be trained in all areas so that they are going to become independent farm unit owners. In carpentry, in ploughing, plumbing and so on, so that they are self-contained and after 10 to 20 years they take over. They can then own that farm, because they would have earned it because they have 10% shares in the management company. The experts will withdraw and those people can now be self sufficient, self-sustaining and will farm properly. As we are going on, taking very productive farms, like the latest we took, and cut it up in small businesses, it is not productive. What can we do about it? I was finished but you can ask me. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER AND LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Comrade Hage as we find people charged to pay land tax, is it not time to make wealth part of fundamental rights? Under Article 16, property is a fundamental right. The issue of paying when you get land through commercial means you are charged because it is a property. Is it not maybe time to de-link property from fundamental because I can be a millionaire today, tomorrow I am bankrupt, I am not a millionaire but life is still to be recognized. Is it not really time to see to it that wealth is put under fundamental rights?

HON DR GEINGOB: As you know, I am not a lawyer, I am a politician, let the lawyers answer that question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you very much. I rise to support the Vote and on the preamble of the Vote by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Lands. It speaks about the dispossession of large section of our population from land, represents what it is and my intervention will

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be based on the preamble and it will be based on the title of security and tenure and on those programmes.

I do support what the Ministry has been doing and is doing, to a certain extent, I also share the sentiments expressed by former Prime Minister, Comrade Hage Geingob and I want to add on that. In our land reform programme, we should also appreciate the emotional aspect of land reform in this country. We must appreciate the fact that there are people who were dispossessed of land in this country. There are people who were killed and murdered for land in this country. The places that we call commercial farms in this country were dispossessed from people through, we must appreciate that background. Comrade Minister, the emotional aspect of murder which we want to sweep away, it is known to some people. It is a question of discipline and loyalty and commitment to the policy of national reconciliation. Let us also be realistic. Land was dispossessed from people; it is occupied by the people. The Government is here trying to manage this situation of that background. Therefore, it takes two to tango. Those who dispossessed land from others must also be serious about land reform in this country. Less or else the situation that is in other countries will revisit this country at one point or the other. What I was saying is that, what we are seeing is certain situations. The situation, which happened prior to 1904 to 1907, which was presented to some of us through oral history manifests itself today in Independent Namibia as far as land reform is concerned. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, what did you hear that is missing here?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: What is missing here is a question (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: We need aspects missing here we should not talk of history and so on. That will sound to be second reading.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: The missing part is the question of land tenure security. Those who have got security of land today in an Independent Namibia are employing the same manoeuvres and tactics that were applied prior to possession of this land and let me quantify what I am saying. Today we have landlords who are sitting in Germany and elsewhere.

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HON DR AMWEELO**

Now there is a fashion here in this country where commercial farms are registered in 'cc', close corporation and when you are registered in close corporation, it means that anybody anywhere in the world can buy shares in these entities. And these entities are changing hands and as they are changing hands it means that myself because I cannot afford to buy a 'cc' I do not have money. I can compete with anybody in the world who could buy those shares. We should close these loopholes. This is all I am saying.

My proposal is that the issue of close corporation should be revisited. These loopholes must be closed because it gives gaps for people, I can buy a farm today or register, buy your shares in what, what and another person will buy shares from that company. What mechanism does the Ministry have in place to stop a 'cc' being bought? They are companies unless the Honourable Minister will tell us what stops those who can afford to buy 'cc's not to buy land here, as we are saying that there is reconciliation, and what else, for some people land has become a speculative commodity. If the Government is not offering that and there is nobody, a person will sit on that land, but there are some people outside there who are emotionally dispossessed, who are emotionally suffering. We should balance and understand these dynamics, they are there, can lead us somewhere.

Before I conclude, I remember when the Minister, the very Deputy Minister, referring to the situation in Zimbabwe, people ridiculed him, they called him but you are saying that Colleague, we are somewhere here, sometimes we heard from seeing things that we do not want for the convenience of today, we just do not want to see reality.

The other issue of virgin land in the rural area is also contained in here. The Ministry's approach that there is virgin land there. They must also be developed and deny these people who are speculating with land, let us go to the rural area, develop land and resettle our people. These guys, they see to it and make them to pay heavy tax on land and exempt the disadvantaged in the commercial areas like the former Prime Minister, but tax those ones heavily, they are crooks.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will be very brief. Firstly, I would like to say, Comrade Katali I am very happy with the very big progress made by your Ministry. With regard to the extension of Namibia's continental shore, this is very good. It is scientific work and we succeeded to carry out this scientific work where we need more knowledge. My question is; how many nautical miles 200, is it according to the law of the sea that each country including ours is allowed to extend this continental shelf? Thank you very much Comrade Katali, I support your Vote.

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HON DR KAWANA/HON NANDI-NDAITWAH

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much Comrade Chair. I rise to express my concern on the plight of the resettled farmers. In most cases when the Ministry resettles these farmers, that is the end of the story. There is no follow up to establish whether they are succeeding in the programme or not. At the end of the day, the land which was productive is turned into a desert. No productivity, nothing and I do not think this will really help our economy. What I propose is that the Ministry establishes a forum, as a focal point whereby there should be an interaction between the resettled farmers and the Ministry. In addition, there must be individual follow ups to assess the success or otherwise of the resettled farmers. They should get information as to how they can be assisted particularly in terms of infrastructure.

The second point is the time that it takes between purchasing the farms and resettling the people, and this really is a concern to me, because many a times, it happens that by the time the people are resettled, the farm is totally vandalized. All the infrastructure is destroyed. I think something must also be done to solve this problem. Otherwise, I support the Vote, thank you very much.

HON MINISTER OF INFOAMTION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Vote 25 with no reservation. I only have one or two concerns or questions and this is related to resettlement. The previous Comrades raised their concerns on how our resettlement is going. But I would specifically like to address the resettlement of the San community. I know this is one of the difficult programmes, and it has been dealt with over a long time even by the Churches, but I think in approaching it we also have to try to understand the environment in which resettlement is taking place. For example, one really appreciates that the Ministry when resettling the San people, also constructs some accommodation, which is really appreciated, but Comrade Deputy Minister, it is my hope that as time goes, the structure of this accommodation can be viewed differently, because if you find a family of 9 children and two parents and they are given that room, I did not measure the size when I visited some of the places, but it is really difficult for one to bring up people in that environment if you really want to bring them at a certain level. This is one.

Two is now on the question of production. In some cases, they are given even animals for ploughing. In the community where they live you find that during the ploughing time, the animals are so weak and they cannot plough. And even the community around are not using these animals instead, they are using tractors. However then because the Ministry has provided animals then say this time no tractor can be used in the field of the resettled San people. I think this one is now contributing to the non-productivity because in some communities now, animals are only used for weeding and not necessary for cultivation purpose. I thus suggest Comrade Minister, Deputy Minister that in the next seasons you look into

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this very seriously, because it is not encouraging the San people to be productive if they are told at the time when the animals are weak they cannot use tractors because they are provided with animals. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I just wanted to ask the Honourable Minister whether she is aware of, may be, can I ask your office number. I deliberately did not take the Floor but now. Is it not the responsibility of the Councillor, instead of phoning me here in Windhoek to say that there is a tractor here, but the Ministry or somebody is not allowing the San people to be helped with the tractor? I think if I am the Councillor and I have ploughed my land with the tractor, why should I phone Windhoek to say the tractor is standing, but I am not allowed to plough the land of the San. I think we should also not just blame the Ministry; we must be involved with the San people who are living with us and assist them. How can somebody phone me? I know what you are talking about. What does that mean?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you Comrade Deputy Prime Minister. What you are raising is a concern, may be that call was based on the instruction that because the San people are provided with animals for ploughing this season in their field, the tractor should not be used. They should use the animals that they are given and that is where the question is, at that time even animals are weak that they cannot plough. Therefore it is not something that, unless one can say why the Councillor cannot use his money to pay for that tractor which are in the community to plough that particular land. That is the issue that we went to see that is in the surrounding, if you really want to help the San people to be productive.

The last question Comrade Deputy Minister, but maybe this is Lands or maybe it is Agriculture, may be I have to wait. It is true, land is a human rights' property, we all need it, but then you now have the land that is no longer becoming productive. What are we trying to do to assist the community? Because people are cultivating, they no longer have animals for manure or whatever they use fertilizers and so on. You really find them, they are trying but literally nothing is coming out. That is why I said Deputy Minister, if I had to wait for Agriculture in turn, maybe I can ask it that time but it is part of the land usage. Otherwise, I support the Vote.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. In support of this very important Vote, permit me to pose three questions to my Colleague, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Lands and Resettlement. The first question is drawn from programme number two, titled Security and Tenure with specific

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reference to Page 5 of your statement. There is this sentence there that states that, *'the danger indicates that Namibia has a claim to an extended continental shelf.'* This, I will submit Namibia's claim to the United Nations this calendar year. Could you may be just clarify exactly what is meant in practical terms with this *'claim to an extended continental shelf'*.

Then Comrade Deputy Minister, on Page 518 of the Development Budget Document, there is a programme entitled Ongoing Resettlement Programme, I think an amount of N\$400,000 is budgeted for. If you may just be kind enough to provide the details of the activities that are to be sailed out under this programme.

Then finally on Page 9 of your statement, on the communal land usage and before I pose the questions, I would just like to premise it on resolution 12 of the consensus document of the National Conference on the land reform and the land question, which stated that *conference conclude that the communal areas should for the present be retained, developed and expanded where necessary.* The question is and I agree with what you are doing here, many people too.

The acceleration of the registration of customary land rights and the uses in communal land. Very good, but I would like the Honourable Deputy Minister to explain what is currently being done to accelerate that process and what are the envisaged measures that you will put in place to make sure that indeed the process is accelerated?

Lastly, we welcome, and when I say we, there are so many people who have also asked me to ask this question. We welcome your efforts to obtain this 5.29 million Euros for the improvement of infrastructure in communal areas and that we are saying that activities under this programme will start during the first half of this year. Again, here if you could just elaborate, what exactly are you envisaging because many people are very much awaiting this?

Otherwise, we do support this very important Vote and I thank you.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson. This is a people's Vote. I rise to wholeheartedly support Honourable Katali and his surrogates in the endeavour of addressing the question of land reform, but let me start off by saying the following.

I have a principal problem with the current loophole that exist on land transfer laws currently in the country. Let me start off by saying that the purposes of the fact that we might say that the Minister of Lands should be the person monitoring the selling and buying of land was for him to have technical information on the number of farms that are on sale, that are offered on sale and the ones that are being bought. However currently there is a loophole where some

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of our white and I must not say all of them, some of our white commercial farmers are selling these farms to another person through the 99-year leasehold. These people are just signing a leasehold that I am going to lease your farm for 99 years and, funny enough our banks are financing these farms because the loan is for 25 years and by the time that you reach the 99 years, you have already paid the loan. How does the Ministry envisage addressing this loophole? There are many farms that I wanted to buy that are currently in the hands of South African citizens. How they got them is through a 99-year leasehold and they got loans to buy these farms. That is one.

It is the way how we do business in this country. When one buys a farm, it takes you approximately a full year if not more, you have the money, you have the cattle, the Government wants to buy the farm, but the whole process takes a year before that farm becomes a Government farm or a private owner's farm. How can we expedite this process? When you go to the Deeds Office, an application would lie there at Deeds Office for two months. Apply for a waiver exemption, from January you will only get it in May. Why? Why should we do business that way and I bemoan that fact and I am sure the Government is also frustrating a lot of farmers who want to sell their farms to Government, and these people cannot wait for a year to sell their farms to our Government.

On the issue of the support that we got from our German Colleagues on a small-scale farm, it is a welcome thing. I however want to say it on record that the foreign countries should not try or attempt to divert the attention of the land reform only to communal land and not commercial land. Our Colleagues and especially our German counterparts and the Government of Germany should have a much greater understanding on this question of land, and if they think that they are going to give 5,6 million Euros for us to develop small scale farms to avert the attention of the country to communal land and leave the commercial land, they are mistaken and we have to really accelerate the negotiations on a fair package on how we can finance land reform in this country.

Lastly, on the question of resettlement, I think we have to revisit the purpose of resettlement, because when you give a farm to an individual for 99 years, you write a blank cheque to somebody. Mr Venaani, take this farm of 1,500 hectares for 99 years. Whether you are productive on that farm, whether you are optimising it productively, it does not matter, you will have it for 99 years for the mere fact that you had a good connection or you applied earlier, you got the farm.

One, I think we need to couple land reform with extending credit to the resettled farmers so that these people can acquire cattle and stock and give these people a timeframe that for five years we are going to help you, to give you 60 head of cattle, 40 goats or whatever the capacity of the land can take. We are going to give you 5 years. After 5 years, you should be in a position to buy your own land

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or buy a farm with somebody so that it becomes yours. Now, we have been writing these blank cheques to people.

I think my proposal is the extending of some few years that we must use these farms as incubation centres where you train as Honourable Geingob said. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Venaani are you aware that in some of these farms that you are talking about, some of them are inherited either legally or illegally to some people and the other guys continue living the way they used to live in the villages or wherever, poor.

HON VENAANI: Well, if you have read the book, the Mystery of Capital, you will understand how our people operate and how we sometimes operate. Fifty percent of these many countries are leased by richer people. I mean you have a farm but if you have a resettlement farm next to yours, you are going to lease, because people are not, there are no targets. One issue that was raised by the San Community that they are using animals. If you buy a commercial farm and you provide people with oxen to plough, that is out. It is out. You can no longer plough land with oxen unless you want to make a small, have an extra garden. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Venaani, are you aware that we use tractors to plough Mahangu fields first and then we till with donkeys, are you aware of that? We first plough with a tractor and then you weed with the donkey. Why can the San not do the same?

HON VENAANI: However, Honourable Iilonga, then the purpose is different. If you are saying that I must go plough with animals, it will be something different. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: When the rains come, we plough using a tractor. I will invite you in the next season then you come and see, we plough with a tractor first and then weeding, we just use a donkey or horse. Are you aware of that?

HON VENAANI: You are confirming that it must be a tractor not an animal. In conclusion, as a proposal, I want us to look at some income generating projects on the resettlement farms. For example Honourable Katali, you are aware that in good areas such as Grootfontein, Steinhausen and Hochfeld, when you open up a grassland and you plant Blue Buffalo grass, if you plant hundred hectares you can make an income of a hundred thousand. On a mere farm though where there is nothing happening if you just help these people to plant some of this grass for them to sell to Agra, they will make a hundred thousand. Biomass, trying to sell wood on the farms, to open up the farms because if you refer to these things as commitments that if you on this land do A, B, C, D then you can also help people to generate their own income. I think that is very important rather than just putting people without advising them what to do and what kind of income generation can do on their farm. With these few remarks, I support your Vote.

HON BOHITILE: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Allow me to rise in support of Vote 25 with a few comments, questions and proposals. My focus would be on Main Division 3, Resettlement and Regional Office. The Honourable Deputy Minister during his Speech on Page 7 rather leave post resettlement to the mercy of other Line Ministries and Institutions. In my humble opinion Chairperson that is not on, it is unfair and it actually does not make sense. Most of our people being resettled come from the poorest section of our community. My questions therefore are:

- How did the Ministry in this Budget answer to the call of a *pro-poor* Budget as requested by the Minister of Finance?
 - What if none of those supposed to be merciful Ministries and institutions pitch up, what happens then to these people?
 - Why does the Ministry, so to say, dump people on resettlement plots, turn their backs and never look back at them again.
 - Is the Honourable Deputy Minister aware that when hunger strikes on these resettlement plots, people invade neighbouring commercial farms to privatise small stock with the purpose of selling it or filling their tummies. (Intervention)
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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, I am sorry to disturb you. If it is a maiden speech, you should not be controversial, because I am trying to protect you. I understand what I mean myself. This is inviting people to be laughing and so on.

HON BOHITILE: Is the Honourable Deputy Minister also aware of fires breaking out on resettlement farms without a drop of water in the dams due to breakdown of water supply infrastructure and the lack of know how in terms of how to fix it.

My proposal for a solution to the Deputy Minister's Page 7, the Budget Document Page 319 is that the Ministry as a matter of urgency, either add a division to Main Division Three and call it Extension Division or reactivate the dormant Main Division Nine and call it Extension Services and it would consist of Agricultural Extension workers, technicians to attend to the resettlement groups in terms of water supply infrastructure, and that division could be headed by a Deputy Director and the purpose would be to train the resettled farmers, to guide them and ensure that they are productive.

Honourable Deputy Minister please do not tell me that it will be a duplication of what is happening in Agriculture, because Agriculture already have their hands full. If we do that we will not have the *Horomente, Horomente* issue and the *Outere Outere* issue. The Ministry of Agriculture also very clearly made it no secret that they have nothing to do whatsoever with water supply infrastructure on resettlement farms. They said it. They said that they have nothing to do with it and they do not do it. One other option, Comrade Chairperson is for the Ministry to approach Farmers Associations to assist with the training and guidance of resettled farmers in their respective areas wherever they are. There is a vast group of people full of knowledge out there that needs to be tapped and a willingness to assist.

Honourable Chairperson, it is not enough to say and I quote Page 7 of the Deputy Minister's speech, "*We managed to resettle 70 families*". We should rather say we managed to resettle 50 productive families under the guidance of extension services producing small patches of vegetables gardens, feeding themselves, doing animal husbandry on a small scale etcetera. That is the kind of result they should give us. That is because resettlement farms consist of productive farmland that cannot be left to fall apart 17 years after Independence.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I plead with the Honourable Deputy Minister to instruct his officials to go back to the drawing board, because beneficiaries of resettlement farms need training, training and once more training. They need guidance and guidance and once more, guidance.

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They need supervision and they need proper supervision. There should be no negotiations about it and it is not brain surgery. Comrade Chairperson, these things can be done.

I am referring to Page 6 of the Honourable Deputy Minister's Speech on farm purchases. I was wondering whether the Ministry is actually competing with would-be new commercial farmers for the same farm. Let me clarify. When a black person intends to buy a farm, he/she approaches a white farm owner, discussions are successful and now a waiver is sought. The officials in the Ministry now wants to grab this farm to buy. The officials should look for their own farms. They should not grab farms that black farmers are looking for, because what is the difference between this black farmer and that new black person to be resettled? They are equally black and they are equally previously disadvantaged.

One problem I have also seen in the Budget of the Ministry, and the reason why I am saying it is not *pro-poor*, is because the only components that I see in all Main Divisions is planners, in the staff components. Main Division 3 Developmental Planners, its about 35 of them, Main Division 5, planners and clerks maybe 15 of them, Main Division 8, Development Planners. Nowhere do you find trainers, technicians to assist these people on the resettlement farms.

As an afterthought, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I would like the Honourable Deputy Minister to look at the front Page of the New Era of today, that article on Omaheke about resettlement farms and take issues like that seriously and deal with them immediately. I pledge my support for this Vote and I thank you very much.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker. Train and train and train. Honourable Deputy Speaker, after having listened to the last speaker, I believe that one has to concentrate more on people, yes because she has said what needed to be said. It is only now for Honourable Katali whether he was listening or he was fast asleep, I do not know, but that was very important.

Honourable Katali, on Page 6 of your motivation you said and I quote, "*I am pleased to inform you that during the Financial Year 2006/07, we managed to significantly increase farm purchase from 19 recorded in 2005/06 to 45 during 2006/07.* If you go to Page 7, you break down the farms per Region, and if you look at the figure there is 54, I am not sure Honourable Katali. On Page 6 you were talking about 45 farms that you bought, on the next Page you are now talking about 54 farms, I just wanted to know, where did you get the 10?

Was it intentional, or was it probably a question of a lack of proper training? I remember that I was complaining about the 1,500 hectares that has been given to people. I have been saying that it is too small and uneconomic. If we are talking

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in terms of an economic unit at least there must be 2,500 hectares in a certain specific area as well. However looking at what you said here on the resettlement side we managed to resettle 70 families on 35 farms measuring 379,921 hectares. If you take those hectares and you divide it by 70 families, I get a figure of 5427,4 hectares per family. This is bigger than some of the farms that some of us are struggling to pay. It is true you have done well Comrade Katali, Honourable Katali. I just wanted to make a point that having listened to the Honourable Deputy Minister of Regional, Local Government and Housing and to some extent Honourable Venaani the land issue is very, very sensitive.

I think when we are talking about the resettlement programme we must take it serious. Trying to paint a rosy picture on the current resettlement programme that we have, we are committing a crime, because this resettlement programme that we have is a disaster, and we are the ones to be blamed later on, nobody else. We as blacks, ruling this country today are going to be answerable. Therefore we should take these programmes very, very seriously and we need to do a proper audit of resettlement farms that we have at the present moment. We need to do it now and we need to do it together, because this is our programme. It is for us for the generations to come. If we want to preserve peace in this country, we need to do it together, not tomorrow, but yesterday.

Before I conclude I also wanted to mention that point which was already mentioned, and it is what is stated on Page 8. You say *we have already decentralised our selection process to all Regions*, to all Regions, decentralised, it is a good thing, but what is going on in the Gobabis of the Omaheke Region is anarchy. If that anarchy is repeated in the Otjozondjupa Region, in Khomas Region, in all these Regions we are in trouble. We must act now. That is my advice to you. The last question, Honourable Katali can you tell us, these resettlement farms that are given to people including the resettlement on 20 hectares in the rural areas, can this land be used as collateral when you want to take a loan? Can the bank accept this resettlement farm as a collateral for one to get a loan in order for you either to develop the resettlement farm or these 20 hectares? Can you do that?

In conclusion I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I arise to support Vote 25. I just want to ask a question. Honourable Katali, nowadays if you read newspapers you find auctions of farms of these Affirmative Action farmers. They are becoming numerous now; I just wanted to ask; who are the people who buy these farms at the auctions? Are we not shooting ourselves in the foot? The other day I read in the newspaper that there was an auction in Omaheke, and this farm fetched almost N\$5,000,000. There must be somebody behind this. This is a young lady, apparently 19 years or

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27 years which means that somebody must have advanced money to her to buy this farm for her. We are getting concerned. What are the measures in place? I would have loved the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement to purchase these farms if they are on auction, but it seems to me that the highest bidder takes this farm not the previously disadvantaged Member of Parliament. It appears that we are shooting ourselves. Agribank puts these farms on auction and the people who have the money again buy them. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Nujoma, are you aware that the farm you are referring to, the person who went to buy the farm, apparently money was already arranged by the bank. Are you also aware that preparations are underway that that farm will be turned into a range to capture animals for the preparation for 2010? Honestly speaking, you and I, knowing ourselves, we know our background in this country. Are we in that position or is there something fishy?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I agree with you Honourable Kazenambo, and that is why I am asking this question because I am really concerned. At the moment Agribank is auctioning these farms to the highest bidder.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson on a Point of Information. I am in full agreement with what you are saying, but I do not think it is fair to the new buyer who bought that farm to be under the suspicion of this House on how she bought that farm, that we are starting to say that she is fronting or whatever. I do not think it is fair to discuss either her name or her intentions here. (Interjections) No you are mentioning it because it is one person who bought a farm that was in the paper. We should not do that. I am trying to invoke the laws of this House that we do not discuss. (Interjections)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Venaani, the name of the person was not mentioned. What we are asking Honourable Katali to explain is the procedure. The procedure is very suspicious and that is why we think the Ministry needs to look at this very seriously, because now again as I said this is now counter productive to the efforts of the Government to embark on land resettlement.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, can you not give the Honourable Member the chance to explain first, because some of us never read this newspaper that is why we are wondering.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: That is all Honourable Katali. That was my concern. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. The situation in this country about land reform is 17 years of Independence. This whole thing of reconciliation *bla, bla* is one sided. It is one sided. For your information we are saying that the procedure and the process how the land reform is done in this country is a dilly-dally issue. The farms are being auctioned and are bought by certain people. The procedure is a concern. They are repossessed from certain section. The 1907 scenario is repeating itself in another form, period; there are no two ways about it.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I thank Honourable Kazenambo and I rest my case.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now revert the Floor to the Honourable Deputy Minister to respond.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Thank you Honourable Colleagues. I am really very happy for your contributions, simply because many of you were using the word *we*; meaning you take land reform and resettlement as our collective responsibility. In the past it has not been like this, and I am happy for that. I would just like to also thank everybody who supported the Vote.

There has been a lot of comments. I do not think that I will go into the comments, and yes, we are going to look at some of them. On some others, there is a lack of information here and there and I would like to give that in brief. I think it is just indicating to me that maybe as a Ministry we are not doing enough to give information either to the public or to the Members here. Let me start with the first question of *Honourable Booy*s, whether the Ministry is responsible for farm lands and municipal lands. I think the Honourable Member knows that the Ministry is responsible for farm lands, but whenever land is proclaimed to be town or municipal land, then that is no longer our responsibility *per se*. However we

render services to them in terms of survey, valuation of houses in towns and all these things.

Honourable Geingob, just to indicate to you, land tax is paid by both Affirmative Action Loan candidates, as well as those who went to commercial banks as from day one when the farm was transferred in their names. There is no grace period on land tax, it is equal. Then when it comes to the percentage, the rate is 0.75 for a Namibian who owns one farm, but then the price is calculated on the hectares. It does not mean if you have a farm of 10,000 hectares and the other one has a farm of 1,000 hectares, because you also have one farm you will be charged the same price. It will be different, because the price is determined by the size of the land, but the rate remains the same. I think that is also cleared.

Yes, with resettlement not doing well, I cannot deny that. There are many challenges. Although we have made many strides here and there, there are still many challenges, meaning that we are being challenged as Government in our resettlement programme. As I was saying we are following the legislations that were passed here. We are following the policies that Government has set and therefore if we really want to change our policies that the Ministry of Lands is following, it is fair enough, just to give a very blanket statement is that, we are busy coming up with the amendments to address many of the concerns that have been raised here and have been raised at many other forum. Because we came with so many amendments here before we also want to consolidate the Agricultural Commercial Land Reform Act. That is why you saw me the other day when I was asking what are our lawyers doing, when they read these pieces of legislation to pass through the legal drafters without really advising and fine tuning them to say *here we are likely to have a problem*. Instead they let it go and most of you agree that it must be at the implementation point where these things must be detected. We have detected those and that is why most of the things that we are talking about, is because of our own law that we passed here. It gives us a lot of problems. It is so cumbersome, but I am happy that we are almost through with it but we will bring it here then we will debate, then we will tune it and then implement it.

Honourable Kazenambo you made very good comments, but you had one question and that is the closing of loopholes and this is actually what I am saying. We have in fact attempted to close the loopholes of the close corporations, but still this haunts us.

Now they are using the controlling interest. The controlling interest works like this, if a foreigner is buying a farm in Namibia and the foreigner has controlling interest in that company, then the Minister must be approached. What do they do? They make it 50/50, and when they make it 50/50 there is no controlling interest. That means now our law is just the paper, it does not say anything and these are the things that I am saying. I think our lawyers are doing the Government a

disservice, if they allow these things to happen, be it knowingly or unknowingly. The law is there, but the lawyers would say that there is no controlling interest here, therefore I am free to change this farm, these shares, the shares to another company which company has got no controlling interest. We are busy with that.

Honourable Doctor Amweelo the continental shelf, every country is allowed to go 200 nautical miles from the land, but then we conducted an investigation because we have what is called Walvis ridge, that means part of the sea is actually part of the land, because of that ridge that is emanating from the land. Therefore the study came up with about 6 scenarios, and we worked on those scenarios and there is one scenario that we think we can claim beyond 200 nautical miles that is allowed by any country. We can claim more land in the sea where maybe we can even get oil or gas. We are likely to claim more than the 200 that is allowed for any country that has a coast.

Honourable Kawana your request for support and follow-up as focal point is something that we must work towards, and with this money we will see how we are really going to improve. It is not just your concern; it has also been our concern in the Ministry.

With regard to the time to be resettled, yes it has been so because of the Act, what we did is we cut one step, instead of waiting for the Land Reform Advisory Commission to meet every month, now we are saying the valuers can actually do negotiations there, so that by the time they are going to present the farm to the Land Reform Advisory Commission, some of the ground work would already have been completed but still we are feeling that it is not enough and we are also trying to cut some of the bureaucratic procedures in the legislations, so that we might not need people to apply for every farm that is being advertised. Let us have people from the Regions recommended that they do qualify, and when a farm is bought, we just allocate taking from the list. That will probably also make the training possible, because we know there would be resettled farmers at the end of the day.

Honourable Ndaitwah one point of the accommodation for the San community being too small. We will look into that, and we maybe also look at the cheaper materials, because they are many, we want to cover as many as possible, but due to big families maybe we need to change our strategy there. Thank you very much indeed.

With regard to the people that are allowed to use tractors, I do not know, because we have tractors in Tsumkwe West and in Mangeti and also in Eendombe and Onamatadiva there, but we also provided these draft animals. Sometimes the tractors break down or there is no diesel or something, then people must also have something to lay their hands on to plough while the tractor is being repaired. It is additional to what they already have but there has been no instructions that I

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know of, that the tractors were removed from those people. If that has happened we have to find out and see why this did happen.

As *Comrade Ilonga* said, when I visited Onamatadiva, I found the weed was so much that they could not do it manually, because the land was so big and therefore we proposed now that we give them donkeys so that they can use them for weeding. That was actually the purpose of the Ministry to give the donkeys. The other thing is apparently that when they see the donkey they see meat. You are correct on the degradation of land. Honourable Nickey Iyambo will address that one.

The ongoing resettlement programme refers to the people that we have resettled and that we are constantly helping by giving them ploughing services, giving them seeds, giving them training all is referred to ongoing resettlement programme as opposed to new programmes that are being started.

As to what is being done to accelerate the programme of customary land allocation and lease hold, we are going to use the money that we got from Germany for communal land development, I think we will probably just indicate to the Land Boards, so that they can quickly allocate the units that has already been surveyed in communal areas.

Honourable Venaani it is true that the transfer of farms takes too long, we take note of that. The 99 years lease that is indefinite, we will look into that but we have been looking into that and we are not finding solutions, but we will continue to do that, because this seems to be a general kind of issue. What you are referring to is that somebody will lease the land to another person indefinitely, but, that one according to the law will not prevent Government from taking that land. We somehow call it usufruct, but I think our investigation indicates that once you are still alive you cannot put your farm on usufruct, it is illegal. But, yes farms are going through these illegal means.

The problem is with the registration of companies, with the Ministry of Trade and Industry. That is where the companies are registered and these companies own farms. When they transfer their shares or they sell their shares they are actually selling the farms, but we have very limited access to the Registrar of Companies, which are also not in the Ministry of Trade and Industry. It is apparently somewhere, in order to know that this company is owned by a foreigner. We are working towards that. As of last week a letter has gone to ask the Permanent Secretary to help us trace some of these farms and with the amendment of the law that is coming, we are going to address this, and we will debate it here.

The German money is strictly conditional that we should not buy farms with it, and there is nothing that we can do on that. It is only going for development. We have income generating programmes that is why there should be concerted effort,

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it cannot be that in the Ministry of Lands we buy the land, we give it to the people, we give them training, we give them schools, we given them everything, no. I think this should be a Government thing not the Ministry of Land and Resettlement. Comrade Bohitile, Land Reform should be a Government land reform and for that all the other Line Ministries should actually come in. There is no such a thing that land reform is only for the Ministry of Lands. I think that will be unfair and we do not want these people to continue under the Ministry of Lands. They must live like any other person in Namibia not only resettled forever, they have to be on their own one of the good days. That is where we are driving towards.

When we say indicate *pro-poor* Budget, the San people that we are talking about here, the people that we are resettling some of them are poor and all the customary land rights gets directed to the poor people so our Budget is really a *pro-poor* and *pro-growth* Budget. I think there are so many indication to that. Many of ***Honourable Bohitile*** suggestions were good. However, some of them like the farmers NAU and MNFU have a team that is helping the people. That is already addressed through the money from EU in order to address the training and monitoring of this. We have already started, and I was also a beneficiary. It is not only for resettled beneficiaries, but for every farmer. They call it emerging commercial farmers, but I am not happy with that term of emerging commercial farmers, because of my reason that just because I am black I am starting as an emerging commercial farmer. Even when my son takes over from me, he is an emerging commercial farmer, but my friend here's son is taking over as a commercial farmer why is that? It is just like when you find people like Frans Indongo for example, he is called a black businessman, but Pupkewitz is a businessman. Why is it like that? The programme is okay, but the nomenclature is what we need to change so that we are all at *par*.

The allegations levelled against the officials of the Ministry that once they buy a farm being bought by somebody who approached the farmer they want to grab it for themselves. I think that is correct, because nowadays, if not all, most of the farms that are offered to the Government already have somebody attached. We have now taken a stance that we have to strike a balance so that the two programmes of Government, Affirmative Action and Resettlement, must all benefit equally. Some we give, some we do not give, we buy for resettlement. Otherwise you will blame us here that we are not buying farms, but when the farms are offered, we only give to the Affirmative Action applicants, and then it will also need to be termed *pro-poor*, because the affirmative action people are not the poor people. Therefore, we have really to take some of the farms, unfortunately, because that is only the way that we can address the *pro-poor* that we are talking about.

Honourable Tjiuiko you were not listening, because I did not say 45. I said 54, but I apologise, because the table that I read from was corrected, but the earlier

version

where it is written 45 that is not corrected, but in my speech I read 54, because I detected it when the speech had already been distributed. My apology for that, but you did not listen otherwise you have listened 54 that I said. The number of hectares I cannot really say it is good, because we did not give an apology on the number of hectares. It is just maybe because of the farms in the South. People are allowed big farms because of the agro ecological zoning there, so you may find that 1,500 will still prevail in other areas.

With regard to the New Era issue, yes there is that person who is implicated who works in the Ministry of Lands, but that does not say it is the Ministry of Lands, that is an individual. An individual who through the Resettlement Committee in Omaheke was resettled and then abused the contract that he was given by subletting, and as Honourable Venaani said: our people are the ones actually that are letting us down. They are the ones that are actually doing these things so this issue we need to improve. The Anti-Corruption Commission is involved in it, our Ministry is involved in it at its level, but that is really purely an individual case and it could have happened to somebody who is not in the Ministry of Lands.

On the question of the use of the 20 hectares in communal area as collateral, that collateral will depend on the banks. We are very, very busy with them. We are engaging them. We are to have a meeting with the banks to see the issue of collateral. It is a thorny issue because they do not want, but we want them to indicate where we need to change in order for them to accept all that we have on our table.

Honourable Nujoma this is what I have indicated but in general. I am not going to a person as was quoted in the paper, but in general Namibians are really being used. It is true. We are being used by the formally advantaged in order for them to acquire these farms. We are being abused. One of them was actually abused and he was given a share of N\$50. I do know the company was worth N\$100, but it owned a farm and they owned the farm 50/50, but the clause was in German when he was signing he could not read German, he signed and it was saying he could actually be bought out by the owner and he agreed he signed. When the time came it was 50/50 he got his N\$50. It is true. It is not a made up story. It is true, because the person never contributed anything, he was given the money to buy this farm and develop it and work on it and therefore he was chased out. We are being used it is true through some of these transactions. The Affirmative Action is not under our mandate. Agribank that is auctioning these farms are not under our mandate. We are trying actually to convince them to say, if there is somebody who defaults, let them come to the Ministry and then we see if we can pay that amount and we put this farm to good use, to resettlement. Then there we are not reversing the situation as it was before.

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HON ANKAMA/HON MANOMBE-NCUBE

Comrade Deputy Speaker thank you very much and I thank you Honourable Colleagues.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any Objections?
Agreed to.

I put Vote 27, 'Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture'. Honourable Ankama.

HON DR ANKAMA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I must first state my whole-hearted support for this very important Vote. There is something I would like to question on Page 2 on the Youth Programme particularly on youth development. It is not out of ignorance, but I would want to find out because we certainly have a number of young people who might have completed either their Grade 10 or Grade 12 in the Regions there. A number of these young people are able bodied, they can produce a lot for this country if they are really assisted in a manner.

My question will go along the lines of recruitment. I know you have a limited Budget but at what rate does this Budget grow to recruit more youth? Perhaps this is a bit of advice we may think of creating groups projects in Regions. I do not want to see people from one Region working in that Region alone. It could be from different Regions, but what I want is a particular programme that would assist youth to do something. They could start from little and then develop their own programme and this programme could then eventually bring them income. What I am asking is, how do we assist mostly the rural youth in terms of projects and perhaps monitor them? That is my question. I would want to see how speedy we are going to address much of these rural youth to incorporate them into particular programmes in the Regions. I thank you.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I now know that the Vote is very straightforward, but I would just like to raise a small concern. Comrade Minister I am aware of how your Ministry is promoting disability sport, nationally and internationally. A lot has been done, and you are being commended for that. However, Honourable Minister the overall feeling and concern, is that the need for more promotion of cultural activities is to raise more public awareness of their abilities.

I am sure that the Honourable Minister will agree with me to a similar objective which is stipulated in the Plan of Action for African Decade of Persons with Disabilities. That was recently ratified by Cabinet. Having said that Honourable Minister, my question is could you promote more cultural activities for people with disabilities especially children to participate in different national events, like welcoming events of national leaders, or Head of States or any kind of very

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HON DIENDA**

important visitors who comes to our country. We also want to see them performing in these activities and I support the Vote wholeheartedly.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. I will start with Page 6 of the Minister's speech on Sport. Honourable Chairperson, Stadiums are very expensive and yesterday the Minister encouraged us to make use of these Stadiums. Schools just for an example cannot even make use of these facilities because it is too high. It is better to receive half a cut than nothing. I think the Honourable Minister must look into the rental prices of these facilities, so that it can be affordable for all of us. Secondly Honourable Chairperson, the development of these Stadiums remains a problem if it is not changed. Where does the responsibility and the empowerment of the local residents and the local authorities come in?

When will we take ownership for investments that the national Government and the development that start on grass root level and how are they empowered to play their role? We cannot really yet say that sports in Namibia is a profession, because people are doing sport as a part time job. The sportsmen and women have to take leave when they are representing our country for sport. The current Labour Bill under discussion, does not make provision for special leave. Meaning they have to take their annual leave and it is not really encouragement for them. When the leave has been exhausted they are forced to take unpaid leave, I want to know whether the Minister of Youth and Sport is aware of this situation that is currently, came up from this Labour Bill.

The inside fights within our sport chase potential sport women and men away. They do have the ability and everything, but they do not want to become part of these infightings. I think the Ministry must look into how we can address all the problems that are facing our sport. I want to talk about youth. Honourable Chairperson I want to know for the third time when will the National Youth Council Bill be brought to this house? For how long will we approve allocation of money without the enacted legislation.

Thirdly, on the National Youth Policy, what is done to make the content of the second National Youth Policy known to the youth? Do the youth know their needs could be addressed if they do not know the content of the second National Youth Policy?

On youth programmes Honourable Chairperson, are the programmes embarked on the true reflection of the needs of our youth today, and where are they? Where they amended to suit the objectives of the newly adopted youth policy. On Page 9, arts education and training what is the status of the College of the Arts? Can this not be an autonomous Centre like UNAM, the Polytechnic and the College of Education. Whether the qualifications office or the College of the Arts are

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HON NAMBAHU/HON NUJOMA

recognised and accredited by the Namibian Qualification Authorities. On the promotion of Culture, Page 11, establishing school culture clubs for development.

How can culture be translated to a foreign language in our formal education system. I also want to know on the same Page 11 what are the ways in which a true Namibian identity could be expressed economically in the wider world. I thank you. I support the Vote.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will be very brief and to the point. I rise to give my whole-hearted support to the Vote of the youth, and to congratulate the Minister for giving us a very elaborate and pact speech. My suggestion is just, given the big number of the clientele of the Ministry the difficulty will be how to reach out to all these clients of the Ministry. I would just suggest that because even some of the information that is here is new to most of them and the Ministry does not consider maybe a publication or soliciting some slots in order for it to be able to reach out to the different corners of the country so that these clients of the Ministry the youth that are in remote areas, may benefit from the information and the programmes that are actually being given here.

There used to be even those points like those days contracts some publication that used to come out even at International level. The problem the youth face in this country are not only peculiar to them but almost peculiar to many youth organisations of different countries and they are busy finding solutions and probably we could benefit from some of these experiences that we have in other countries and take from that. I am not going into details, but I would really want to suggest those kind of contact points and then for them to serve as a two way traffic. Maybe on the radio a person can write this programme a Minister or whatever spokesperson can appear just to disseminate information what is happening regarding the youths and sports and to engage them and disengage them from the unbecoming activities when they are lying idle. With these remarks I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to give my full and unconditional support to the Vote of the Youth, Sports and Culture. I just wanted to ask the Honourable Minister a small question. I just recently read that there was a delegation from FIFA. The delegation from FIFA visited our stadiums and they declared our stadiums unfit. I cannot just understand. We recently inaugurated the Sam Nujoma Stadium. We have the Independence Stadium and also in your speech you mentioned that very soon a new stadium is to be constructed in Eenhana and so many others. Now, I want to know why is it that all our stadiums are being declared unfit. I visited so many other countries and they are worse off than

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Namibia. Is there perhaps an agenda or is it true or what are we lacking. Thank you very much and with that question I support the Vote as I said earlier.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now revert the Floor to the Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you Comrade Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank the Honourable Members for their support and contributions to this Vote.

Honourable Chief Ankama the issue of recruitment and I take it to mean recruitment into employment. It is a very valid point that you are raising, and I agree with you. I would however like to expand on the question of recruitment of the young people by stating the following. The issue of recruiting young people into employment, must be accepted as a collective responsibility of both the public sector, all Government Ministries and agencies and offices and the private sector, Non-Governmental Organisations and individuals. If you look at the situation of the young people, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth, these are Ministries that are responsible for training, for empowering, for capacity building of these young people. Once they acquire some skills, knowledge, it must be the responsibility of all of us, as public institutions and private sector to employ them, but of course I agree the Ministries concerned, it must be our central responsibility. Those positions that could be occupied by young people let it be, let it be occupied by young people.

Honourable Ncube thank you very much for your support and I agree, there is still a lot of room for us to improve. On the issue of promoting sports and cultural activities for people with disabilities. In the sport for example, there is a first step, in the Namibian Sports Commission which is the umbrella organisation dealing with sports activities and sport bodies, there is a provision that somebody representing the federation of people with disabilities must sit on the Namibia Sports Commission as a first step to ensure that we include people with disabilities in our sports programmes.

The same goes for cultural activities. Again I agree with you that probably from now on we do not seem to have visible groups, active groups participating in our cultural activities and we must definitely pay attention to that aspect, but I know of schools, for example like the school in Ongwediva there, Eluwa school. There are a lot of activities, sports, cultural activities involving people with disabilities. We believe that people with disabilities are able to do almost everything that the so called abled people can do. I absolutely agree with what you have proposed here.

Honourable Dienda Yes, sports stadiums are expensive, but when you look at the sports facilities today, when schools make use of our sports stadiums, to the best of my knowledge those schools are not charged for the use of these sports facilities. The big clubs, yes, some amount of money, but not schools. Then of course we must probably emphasise that whosoever utilises the sports facility the responsibility of at least leaving that sports facility in a clean condition, must be the responsibility of the particular group of people that have utilised this sports facility. Because we know that whether it is a school or a soccer team or local team or even musicians using a stadium imagine thousands of people, hundreds of people and everybody leaves a can or bottle there. It becomes problematic. As you said the issue of maintenance will become expensive too.

With regard to the involvement of Local Authorities in the administration and running of sports stadiums and facilities in line with the policy of decentralisation, what we are doing and we are doing that currently once a sports stadium is constructed in a particular Local Authority for example, then we get in touch with the leaders of that Local Authority, and then we get into some kind of agreement in terms of how to manage the sports facility. That is why I was in Swakopmund last week. I was talking to the Mayor and Local Authority Councillors for Swakopmund in terms of how we are going to utilise the Swakopmund Sports Stadium because we cannot expect the people who are sitting in Windhoek will be responsible for the day to day upkeep and day to day administration and running of the sports facility. As far as possible we do involve Local Authorities and Regional Councils as well.

You raised a very important point on the issue of our sport people who are employed and who participate in sports competitions and who are forced by circumstances to utilise their own annual leave when representing the Nation in these activities. It is a valid issue, and you mentioned that even the labour law does not make provision for that.

Maybe there is something they need to look at. Already for example if you look at our boxers as I said when I was motivating. Almost all our boxers are either soldiers or policemen, but what are we doing in terms of representing Namibia it is a national duty. When the people representing the country, even a soccer or rugby player selected for a national team when they go they are on official duty, but then because we do not have provisions to regard them as if they are on official duty they are forced to take their annual leave. It is something really and I think we need to look at it very seriously collectively as Government. Some countries will second these national players just to do sports where they are employed in their respective Ministries.

Infighting as I said the other day, the politics in sports is sometimes more vicious than the politics we have here. It can become dangerous at times, I do not know why. It can be for the like of sports but still they fight for positions, but I think

there are still a lot of good people who are running our sports codes, our clubs and so on and who are in it for the love of sports. Therefore I can only encourage even in this House, there are a lot of us sitting here who have the expertise in the administration of certain sports codes and disciplines. Please avail yourself to assist those that are in charge of running our sports clubs and our sports disciplines. Do not be insulted by the so called in fighting actually it is just too much talking. Like our Chief Whip, he is always there, he is a patron of Football, and it is very good when we have national leaders also getting involved in these type of things at least they boost our players and our participants in our sports.

The National Youth Council Bill, we are now busy with a fifth draft. We will have what is maybe our last meeting where I called all the stakeholders to go through that draft Bill and our hope and our estimation is that we are not going to the sixth draft. However after we have accommodated the comments and the contributions of the stakeholders at the last meeting our intention is to proceed to table that thing to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation, and hopefully I cannot make a promise, hopefully maybe this year or next year but we are definitely working on it. My Colleague the Deputy Minister there is my witness. The National Youth Policy is known. You see when we talk about the youth, we must also consider that the young people that we are talking about, the majority of them, are the young people that Honourable Minister Mbumba is dealing with. These are the people that are in schools. Some of them are not in schools so we do distribute we have already done so, these particular National Youth Policy documents to different schools, different Regional offices, multipurpose youth centres, Government offices. It is a public document, and from our side we do hold meetings where the content is discussed and explained in different forum. Last week I was in Swakopmund again. I had a seminar there with young people and one of the issues that we always do is to look at the contents of the National Youth Policy and to encourage the young people to digest and understand the content and they are doing well in that score.

The status of the College of the Arts: I know that in 1999 one of the recommendation from the Presidential Commission on Education, Culture and Training, was to look at the possibility to make the policy of arts an autonomous body, but so far the straightforward answer is that the College of the Arts is still under the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture. I did not get very well the issue of the culture clubs at schools, and how to get that one.

Honourable Nambahu the issue of how to disseminate information you made very acceptable suggestions in the Ministry we do have a publication called *Youth Matters* where we try to disseminate some of the relevant information. The radio is also an instrument that we do use, meetings and so on, and then schools of course. Some of our programmes are disseminated through schools, Youth Council structures as the Youth Council gets to Head Office and Regional Youth Forums and Constituency Youth Forums. All these are avenues that we use which

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HON MUTORWA**

our clubs of course will obviously improve because communication and information is absolutely imperative and important. Honourable Members these were the comments and questions and I would like to thank you for your support.

Honourable Nujoma thank you very much that you have asked these questions. Yesterday I asked the same question at a FIFA workshop that is ongoing here and I am free to give the following information publicly. The gentleman who came, sent by FIFA to inspect our stadiums did not do a good job. In actual fact he is in trouble. I think if you imagine this I am sure the FIFA people that are here promised that they are going to make a statement because he did not prepare any report and then he went to the Media and just said whatever he said, but now FIFA decided to send another credible person later to come and look at our stadium, prepare a report and that report will be availed to us so that we can see what is it that we need to improve, but forget about whatever was said.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection?
Agreed to. Honourable Speaker Sir, I report progress and ask leave to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: Leave to sit again granted. The House shall rise until tomorrow 14H30.

THE HOUSE IS ADJOURNED AT 22H50 UNTIL 2007.04.25 AT 14H30

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
25 APRIL 2007
WINDHOEK

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of –

- The Village Council of Gibeon for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2003/04;
 - The Village Council of Berseba for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2003/04;
 - The Village Council of Leonardville for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2004/05; and
 - The Village Council of Leonardville for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2002/03.
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HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Reports? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Honourable Booy's.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 12, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 29 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 94 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWA**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. We indeed live in a very dynamic world. With 24 hours after I had told this Honourable House that the film, "*Where Others Wavered*" would be previewed in Cannes this year, I now have to be the bearer of bad news by informing you that this time around the film will not be shown. I must humbly apologise that you got the news from the media before I could break it to you this afternoon.

Comrade Speaker, I need to point out, that I am informed that of the seventy-six films selected for this year, which marks the 60th anniversary of the festival, not a single film came from Africa. I must also add that non-selection is not a reflection on the quality of the film, because history tells us that many films that were not selected for Cannes, ended up winning other awards. For instance, I heard the film of *Tsotsi* was also not selected for Cannes but it ended up winning an Academy Award last year.

Furthermore, I must hasten to add that there are major filming festivals that the film could be taken. For instance, the oldest film festival in the world is the Venice Film Festival in Italy and this will take place from 29 August to 08 September 2007. There will be also the Toronto Film Festival in Canada which will take place from the 06th to the 10th of September 2007. Other media film festivals, including the Berlin Festival in Germany and the Pan African Festival in San Francisco to take place in January and February 2008.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, what we have to do at this stage as Namibians is to continue to support this film wholeheartedly. It is a national heritage and it will go a long way to teach Namibians today and tomorrow and the world-at-large the history of Namibian liberation struggle. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope, all of you will respond positively when you receive an invitation to the screening of this masterpiece in Namibia. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for her statement. Any further Ministerial Statements?

The Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy. Does the Minister move the Motion? Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

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**AFRICAN DIAMOND PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
HON NGHIMTINA**

**RATIFICATION: AFRICAN DIAMOND
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

On the 4th of November 2006, duly representatives of respective Member States signed the Statutes of the Association of the African Diamond Producing Countries (ADPA) and the Declaration of Luanda.

The Namibian Cabinet has approved that these Statutes of the Association of African Diamond Producing Countries and the Declaration of Luanda are to be ratified in the National Assembly.

Namibia's accession to the Statutes of the Association of African Diamond Producers will position Namibia strategically as a key member of the African diamond fraternity in its implementation of short, medium and long term objectives to maximise benefits from our diamond resources through cooperation in exploration, mining and beneficiation of diamonds as well as through protecting the good image of our diamonds from the scourge of conflict and illicit diamonds.

The combined value of these merits far outweighs the cost of meeting financial obligations by way of contributions.

The African diamond producing countries, signatories in conforming to the ideals of the African Charter and the objectives of NEPAD have adopted the Statutes of the Association.

The Statutes under discussion set out the practical merits and benefits accruable to Member States, as well the responsibilities and obligations under Article IX which states Rights and Obligations of the Effective Members as follows:

The Rights of the Effective Members:

- (a) To attend and vote in the meetings of the Council of Ministers;
- (b) To enjoy all benefits provided by this statute in accordance with Article 5;
- (c) To present, in writing, to the Council of Ministers proposals that they deem fit to Association;
- (d) Examine the accounts and the registry of the Association, in accordance with the terms prescribed by the Council of Ministers;

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**AFRICAN DIAMOND PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
HON NGHIMTINA**

- (e) Request an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers, in accordance with the terms of the statutes;
- (f) Receive correspondence and publications of the Association; and
- (g) Subscribe lists of candidates to the organs of the Association.

The obligation of the Effective Members shall be to:

- (a) Promote in every way the good name and enhance the image of the Association and the efficiency of its action;
- (b) Perform diligently the duties of the positions to which you have been appointed;
- (c) Participating fully in Association activities and developing a spirit of cooperation amongst the Member States;
- (d) Comply with and enforce this Statute and the Regulations herein in the Statute;
- (e) Pay dues to the Association Budget under the terms of Article XXIV and article XXVI of the Statute;
- (f) Safeguard and put to good use the assets of the Association.

On this basis the National Assembly is, therefore, hereby requested to agree to the ratification in terms of Article 63(2)(e) of the Namibian Constitution.

I hope that I have adequately motivated and articulated reasons as to why it is important that this august House agrees that Namibia ratifies the Statutes of the Africa Diamond Producing Association of the 4th of November 2006. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for his motivation. Any further discussion? None. Does the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Members, for supporting this ratification in silence. Thank you very much.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 23
HON KAAPANDA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his reply. I now put the Question that the Accession be ratified. Any objections? None. Agreed to. The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE: APROPRIATION BILL

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01 to 11, 13 to 17, 21, 22, 25, 26 to 28, 30 and 31 had been agreed to and Votes 18, 19, 20 and 29 have been introduced.

Vote 23 – “WORKS”, N\$357,471,000 put for introduction.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce to this august House Vote 23 for the Department of Works for the Financial Year 2007/08.

Vote 23 caters for the provision of institutional facilities, office accommodation, housing, and is responsible for the feasibility studies and maintenance of Government properties. Under this Vote, the Department of Works renders essential services like implementation of Capital Projects, and is responsible for gardens infrastructure and equipment, just to mention but a few.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to highlight some of the activities, which my Ministry has undertaken to bring about improvement in the service delivery.

The Ministry has been incapacitated due to vacancies in professional positions. Initiative was taken to recruit professionals like architects, quantity surveyors and engineers from the SADC Region, after fruitless efforts to recruit them at home due to less attractive salary packages offered by the Public Service compared to

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what the private sector offers. Furthermore, capacity assessment to gauge the skills available in the Ministry was conducted with the help of GTZ in order to accordingly prepare in-service training programmes. These programmes are scheduled to start shortly.

The Department is currently also running a training course on contract management conducted by the Council of Architects and Quantity Surveyors.

During my Budget motivation speech last year, I informed this august House that measures have been taken to establish a reliable Fixed Asset Register to be able to manage Government properties efficiently and to stamp out the current illegal occupation of Government flats and houses. The Ministry enlisted the service of unemployed youth from all the thirteen Regions, and conducted a countrywide survey and compiled records on Government properties around the country.

The campaign was a resounding success and the information collected is being captured on computers. Furthermore, Cabinet has authorised my Ministry to enlist the service of an IT expert to set up the Asset Register System. It is anticipated that the system will be linked to the Ministry of Finance to monitor and control the deduction of rentals from civil servants occupying Government houses and flats.

The Tender Board has approved the exemption for my Ministry to purchase software, which will enable integration with other existing systems, based on the recommendation of the inter-Ministerial Committee comprising of IT experts from Office of the Prime Minister and Line Ministries.

As an effort to introduce management control measures of Government properties, progress has been made to introduce a refundable key deposit of N\$400 for single quarters and N\$600 for family quarters. My Ministry is in the process of introducing this new arrangement to both old and new occupants of Government official quarters to discourage and fight the deeply rooted habit of illegal transfer of keys between officials.

The rentals for Government quarters have also been reviewed and the following increased tariffs will be implemented during the course of this Financial Year:

- Single quarters (Bachelor or 1 Bedroom Flat) - 4% of salary
- Family quarters (2-3 Bedroom Flat or house) – 6% of salary
- Family quarters (4 and more Bedroom Houses) – 8% of salary

In the same token, tenant in Government flats will be required to enter into an agreement, which will hold them responsible to look after Government properties, failure of which will result in the removal of the tenants from the quarters.

Furthermore, my Ministry continues to record successes in recovering

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Government flats and houses from illegal occupants. Support has been received from the Judiciary that issued eviction orders and this has been successful. My Ministry will strictly continue using every possible means until all Government properties have been recovered from illegal hands.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the process of the Government Housing Alienation Scheme, as per Cabinet Directives, has to date yielded approximately N\$143 million. A total number of 570 houses were sold and the money raised will be used to construct Police accommodation to improve their living condition.

I would further like to highlight some of the important activities my Ministry has undertaken in the course of last year as follows:

- A Bill to set up a Council for the Construction Industry was prepared by the Ministry and forwarded to the legal drafters. This Bill will control and regulate the construction industry and set standards in all construction spheres in Namibia.
- A revised Bill for Namibia's Council for Architect and Quantity Surveyors professions has been finalised by the Ministry and was forwarded to the legal drafters. This Bill will now accommodate architectural technologists, technicians and drafts persons who have been hitherto unrecognised. This group of professionals is predominantly made up of the formally disadvantaged people. Therefore, the Bill in question will put an end to the exclusion and marginalisation of these professionals.
- To alleviate budgetary pressure on Government in the delivery of Government office accommodation through budgetary provision. Cabinet has authorised my Ministry to construct institutional headquarters through a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) System. The construction of Government headquarters through this system does not require Government to provide money upfront. Therefore, this system will accelerate the process of delivering Government headquarters and regional offices. This will be done in combination with financing from the Development Budget.

I must also admit that maintenance of Government properties is still a problem due to insufficient budgetary allocation to my Ministry. Government properties are worth N\$18.5 billion and to be able to maintain them properly, at least 2% of this value is required annually. However, what has been allocated to the Ministry up until now is far less.

Hence, my Ministry has set up an Inter-ministerial Committee to investigate and advise how best we should correct this problem.

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Tremendous improvement has been made towards the provision and maintenance of garden services at all Government institutions. The Ministry is busy reorganising and strengthening the administration of the Government nurseries. To this end, we have approached the Chinese Embassy to avail experts in horticulture to provide training to our staff responsible for Garden Services.

My Ministry has made further progress in expediting the process of decentralisation and the following functions are earmarked to be decentralised to the Regional Councils by 1 April 2008:

- Maintenance services,
- Technical services and;
- Garden services

I have great pleasure to announce that the Government Stores Trade Account showed an increase in turnover of 39 % from N\$53,000,000 during the 2005/06 Financial Year to N\$74,500,000 during the 2006/07 Financial Year. This increment exceeds expectations and is indicative of the increased utilisation of the services from the Government Stores by Offices, Ministries and Agencies. If this trend continues, it will be possible for this Ministry to commercialise Government Stores and transform it into a procurement agency for the Government within the next two years. We hope that it will operate profitably without requiring Government bail out.

In the same token, I wish to inform this august House that “*Operation Clean up*”, conducted under the auspices of Government Stores, with the view to get rid of redundant, abandoned, disused, worn-out, and damaged items and vehicles, is a resounding success. Approximately 70 auctions were conducted, and the total turnover already exceeded N\$25,000,000. This exercise will still continue for some time.

My Ministry, with the assistance from the Office of the Prime Minister, successfully completed its Strategic Plan for the period 2007-2011. The launching of the Strategic Plan will take place on 16 May 2007. My Ministry is currently working on the development of Management Plans of its respective departments for the purpose of implementing the overall Strategic Plan. The Ministry also has a programme on the rolling out of the Performance Management System geared towards empowering all staff to effectively and efficiently carry out the strategic objectives of the Ministry. The performance management system will be used to gauge and measure the performance of the staff and hold them responsible for their actions.

The Department of Works continues to strengthen the locally based Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) contractors and suppliers in the Region by:

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- Introducing a grading system for contractors and the categorising of contracts.
- The unbundling of major tenders and the decentralising of annual supply and services tenders to the Regions has facilitated many new contractors and suppliers to participate in projects on a competitive basis.
- A fair distribution of reserved work through annual tenders to SMEs. This initiative is a clear testimony of empowering our SMEs in the construction industry.

During the 2006/07 Financial Year, the Department of Works successfully managed a variety of ongoing capital projects on behalf of Line Ministries worth in excess of N\$630,000,000.

Some of the larger projects carried out are as follows:

Frans Dimbare Youth Centre Phase 5, Naval Base Phase 1; Bagani Fresh Water Research Institute Kamutjonga; Epalela Fish Farm; Omaruru Hospital Phase 2; Conversion of Steam Geysers to Electrical at Windhoek Central Hospital; Nationwide Classroom Construction Phase 1; Renovation and Replacement of Roofs at Eengendjo Senior Secondary School; Keetmanshoop Regional Revenue Office; Oshakati Regional Office for Ministry of Finance; Construction of a new theatre, pharmacy and dentistry at Okakarara Hospital.

The New State House Construction Project is progressing well. The construction of Office Accommodation, Guest Quarters, Guard Quarters and staff accommodation have been completed for the amount of N\$398,203,608. The construction of a heliport, landscaping, earthworks, upgrading of power supply and purchasing of furniture are still in process.

The construction of the Presidential residence, which will be financed by the Chinese Government, will start as soon as the contract agreement has been signed with the China Qingdao Construction Group Corporation.

My Ministry has also successfully commenced with the external renovations to the State House complex in Swakopmund, and will continue with the internal renovation work within the first quarter of this Financial Year. Renovations to the State House and Presidential Guest House in Oshakati will follow soon in order to retain their value and usefulness.

The total budgetary requirements for the Department of Works for the 2007/08 Financial Year is N\$357,471,000. Out of this amount, N\$337,759,000, which represents 94.5% of the total Budget, will go into operational activities; while the remaining N\$19,712,000, which represents 5.5% of the total Budget, will be spent on capital related investments.

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Allow me now to come to the individual programmes for which the allocation of N\$357,471,000 will be utilised.

PROGRAMME 1: CAPITAL PROJECT COMPLETION

The purpose of this programme is to plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over completed capital projects to Line Ministries. The programme also involves regulating, coordinating and initiating building quality and technical standards in the construction industry.

As a technical Ministry responsible for construction and building related Government projects, my Ministry implements all capital projects which are budgeted for by the line Ministries and oversees an average of 380 projects running concurrently during any given Financial Year. These projects are in all the 13 Regions, and they cut across all sectors such as Health, Education, Agriculture, Fisheries, Safety and Security, just to mention a few.

For these activities, I request an amount of N\$11,387,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 2: GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS INFRASTRUCTURE

The purpose of this programme is to ensure sustainable and reliable maintenance and rehabilitation of existing Government properties and related infrastructure to the best possible standards depending on the availability of funds and priorities set by the Government, such as the purchasing of land for development, property assessment, upgrading of regional offices, maintenance of water and electrical systems, design, construction and maintenance of oxidation ponds, in order to prevent surface and underground water pollution.

For these activities, I request an amount of N\$327,542,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 3: NATIONAL MONUMENT MUSEUM ESTABLISHMENT

The purpose of this programme is to construct the Independence Memorial Museum. This museum will display Namibian history in providing thematic and epic events involving Namibian heroes and heroines during the liberation struggle, which will inspire both current and future generations as well as tourists visiting our country. The museum will be a depository of information essential for historians and academics conducting researches on the Namibian history.

For this activity, I request an amount of N\$200,000 under this programme, mainly to prepare tender documentation.

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PROGRAMME 4: PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE GOVERNMENT

The purpose of this programme is to facilitate the provision of standard stock supplies to Ministries and provide printing services to all Government institutions.

For this activity, I request an amount of N\$18,342,000 under this programme.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, in light of the programmes outlined above, I now would like to humbly request this august House to approve the total expenditure of N\$357,471,000 for the Department of Works, Vote 23. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister.

Vote 12 – “GENDER AFFAIRS AND CHILD WELFARE”, N\$191 333 000
put for introduction.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER AFFAIRS AND CHILD WELFARE:
Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, this time again, grace and kindness for the poor is being reflected in this Budget. The supernatural achievements we accomplished are a clear witness that God’s Hand is always upon us and we grow from strength to strength and from success to success.

Yesterday we distributed the newsletter and the flyers for the national conference and I also tabled the Annual Report for the Ministry, 2005, I will be very brief in just highlighting the programmes.

Let me use this opportunity to congratulate Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amathila, the Deputy Minister and her entire team for the sterling National Budget that is aimed at reducing poverty and accelerating economic prosperity for our country and its people.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has made strides in ensuring that laws have been promulgated that are aimed at protecting the rights and dignity of the society.

We have to do everything possible so that Namibian children are not robbed of their parents due to violence by one partner. We should also not form an unholy alliance with the HIV/AIDS pandemic that mow down parents, thus leaving our children orphans at an early stage.

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Having made these introductory remarks, let me now take the House through the Budget allocations of the people's Ministry. The total Budget allocation requested for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is N\$183,877,000, while the Development Budget is requesting an allocation of N\$7,456,000. The following are allocations as per main programmes.

PROGRAMME 1:

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES DIRECTORATE:

This Division was upgraded to a Directorate in September 2006, to strengthen its effective service delivery with the escalating needs of increasing numbers of orphans and vulnerable children in the country. New staff members, especially social workers need to be recruited as they have the necessary training and understanding of issues such as foster care investigations and placement, thus in the process creating a database that will help in the distribution of grants. An additional amount of N\$2 million is being allocated for 2007/08, to cater for the new structure. The Ministry is thankful for this allocation.

To ensure that the rights of the children are upheld and protected, the Directorate has embarked on the following:

OVC Permanent Task Force:

In accordance with the National Policy on multi-sectoral approach in dealing with OVCs, the Ministry is continuing with the Permanent Task Force meetings that are held quarterly to look at the strategic national plan and share information on its implementation. The Ministry has established the OVCs Forum in all thirteen Regions.

The Ministry has held three regional OVC conferences in the following Regions: Caprivi, Kavango and Karas.

General Social and Community Work:

Social workers handle different cases of children, ranging from foster care placements, adoption, children with behavioural problems, child abuse and neglect, inheritance and property grabbing, disputes over custody for children, emergency food aid, school uniforms, requests for recommendations on school development fund and examination fees, amongst others.

National Database for Orphans and Vulnerable Children:

With the support of USAID the Ministry is on track in setting-up the National OVC database that is aimed at providing accurate information to stakeholders for

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proper planning and budgeting on programme activities aimed at addressing OVC issues.

Social Grants:

As part of the support services, the Ministry is giving child welfare grants to Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Out of 139,777 orphans registered by the Ministry, 64,777, which is 46% OVCs up to March 2007 benefiting from the grants at a cost of N\$10,572,000 per month compared to 45,540 children for the same period last year. However there are still more than 75 000 orphans who are not yet benefiting from the grants. This is a challenge to all of us, and the Ministry planned to transfer those orphans from the World Food Programme gradually to the grant system.

GRN/World Food Programme OVC Food Support Programme:

In response to the request by Government for assistance, the United Nations World Food Programme agreed to provide food aid to orphans and vulnerable children who are not yet in receipt of any assistance from Government, more especially the child welfare grants.

This year the second phase of this programme will implement the food support aimed at transferring ±40,000 of the food aid beneficiaries onto the GRN Grant System. With the required resource allocations and cooperation from all stakeholders, I am optimistic that we will reach our goals.

Special Protection for Vulnerable Children Programme

The Special Protection for Vulnerable Children is implemented by the Ministry with financial support from UNICEF in the following five Regions: Omaheke, Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena and Omusati. It is focusing on strengthening the capacity of communities to care for OVCs in their Regions. Just last week UNICEF donated computer software for this programme and will also donate three cars.

Namibia Children's Home and After School Centre:

The Ministry has a children's home in Eros, Windhoek, for children in need of care. It caters for 120 children by ensuring their daily maintenance and education. The After School Centre provides after-school activities to children at risk and street children. With the financial support from UNESCO, the centre offers computer classes and training on income generating activities to parents of those children who are involved in the programme.

The Ministry require N\$6,129,000 to maintain and educate these children for

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2007/08.

Residential Child Care:

In terms of the Children's Act (Act No. 33 of 1960) the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is also tasked to ensure that all facilities that are admitting and taking care of children are registered. Last year, the Ministry embarked on an awareness raising campaign to inform communities about this legal requirement. Thus far, 21 children's homes and places of safety are registered.

The total Budget amount needed for this programme is N\$157,441,000.

PROGRAMME 2:

DEVELOPMENT TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY:

The following are activities under this programme:

The National Gender Policy and the National Gender Plan of Action

The National Gender Policy sets out principles so that women and men are treated as equal development partners. The Ministry has embarked upon the process to review the National Gender Policy to meet the aspirations and needs of both men and women as well as to strengthen the institutional mechanisms for its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This exercise is earmarked for completion in the course of 2007.

We have the Gender Mainstreaming Programme and under it we have the Gender Sensitisation Awareness. We have the training of Gender Focal Points, the Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiatives and then we also have the Gender and Reproductive Life Programmes. Under them we have the Strengthening Response of Leadership to Gender, HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health and Poverty Issues.

Information sharing sessions were held to sensitise Parliamentarians on the linkages between gender, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence and poverty issues. 35 participants, composed of Members of Parliaments who are serving on the Parliamentary Committee on Human Resource, Social & Community Development of the National Assembly, the Women Parliamentary Caucus and Habitat and Gender, Youth and Information of the National Council attended the sessions. Thereafter some Members of Parliament, accompanied by journalists, undertook a trip to Oshikoto Region. The objective of the field trip was to provide an opportunity for Members of Parliament to learn from and interact with Government extension workers, communities and vulnerable households on challenges facing them, in relation to Gender Based Violence and poverty.

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We also had a Training of Journalists on Health, Gender Based Violence, Poverty and HIV/AIDS.

To increase reporting on gender issues by media, training was conducted for 16 journalists, including those from community and indigenous radio stations. The objective was to train the journalists on gender reporting in relation to HIV/AIDS. Gender-based violence, poverty and reproductive health. On 28 March 2007 the ministry hosted a Editors Forum Breakfast meeting, where editors and stakeholders were united under one roof to discuss and exchange experiences on how best the media can address gender-based violence challenges.

Training of Trainers (TOT) for Female Condom Promoters

Under this project the Ministry aims at raising awareness on Gender and HIV and AIDS with special focus on promotion of the female condom among communities.

PROGRAMMES ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Database on Gender Based Violence

The database was launched in Windhoek, on 8 March 2006 on the International Women's Day by Madam Pohamba. The statistics will also be useful in planning of interventions that might mitigate against this scourge.

The Ministry will hold a National Conference on Gender-based Violence scheduled for June 2007. An information flyer in this regard has been tabled by the Deputy Minister in Parliament yesterday.

LEGISLATION

Children's Status Act No. 6 of 2006

The objectives of this Act are to promote and protect the best interest of the child and to ensure that no child suffers any discrimination or will be disadvantaged because of the marital status of his or her parents. Under the Children Status Act, both parents have a right to custody.

Civic Rights Education Campaign and Dialogue for Evidence Based Decision-Making: A Project for the San Communities of Tsumkwe and Tsintsabis.

This is in line with the call by the Deputy Prime Minister that we include this in the main focus of our programme. The Ministry of Gender Equality in

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collaboration with UNDP has embarked upon a civil rights education campaign and dialogue for evidence based decision-making for the San Community in Tsumkwe and Tsintsabis. Selected community members from Tsumkwe and Tsintsabis were trained on computer literacy to enable them to facilitate the dialogue. Equipments were purchased to establish the on-line dialogue; translation of videos and radio series on domestic violence in the San language was done and follow-up activities will be conducted to ensure full implementation of the project. It was done through NAMCOL and the Deputy Prime Minister also did the handing over ceremony.

Implementation of the CEDAW

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare on behalf of the Namibian Government attended the 37th Session of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in New York from 15-19 January 2007 and successfully defended the Namibia report to CEDAW Committee.

Legal Literacy Training Workshops

Ongoing workshops are conducted in Regions to educate citizens on existing laws, such as Combating of the Rape Act, Combating of Domestic Violence, Maintenance Act, Married Persons Equality Act and Will Writing.

Capacity Building

This allocation is aimed at training the staff members of the National Gender Machinery and Gender Focal Points in different Ministries, Parastatals, NGOs on gender issues.

For this programme the Ministry needs at least N\$9,293,000.

Development Budget:

The Ministry is in need of N\$7,456,000 to carry out the following activities:

- Feasibility studies, Design and Supervision: N\$1,005,000 which is earmarked for the following projects: (Okongo Craft Centre, Caprivi Recreation Centre and Aminuis Community Centre).
- Construction, Renovation and Improvement: N\$6,051,000. Construction of Okongo Craft Centre, Caprivi Recreation Centre and Aminuis Community which are expected to start and some other projects that will be completed in
- Financial Year ending March 2008.

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- Furniture and office equipment: N\$400,000, which is earmarked for After School Centre, Ondangwa Regional Offices and Opuwo Community Centre

Achievements on Development Budget:

During the last Financial Year, the following projects were completed successfully, i.e. Rundu Recreation Centre construction, Kalkrand Recreation centre, the construction and renovation of Opuwo Community centre.

Craft and Community centres are constructed in remote areas to enable rural men and women in those disadvantaged places have access to places where they can carry out business activities and be part of the main stream of the economy.

Recreation centres are constructed for disadvantaged children, especially orphans and vulnerable children to enable them to come together and interact with each other and to involve themselves in activities that stimulate their physical and mental development. These centres are also being used as places where OVC access services such as grants and emergency assistance especially to child-headed households. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: On that note the House stands adjourned for refreshments.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:11 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:
Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Programme 3 is on Community and Early Childhood Development:

This programme has a prime responsibility to assist both rural and disadvantaged urban communities, to sensitise, mobilise and activate them with a view to improve their living standards.

The following are the activities for the Community Development programme:

Community Mobilisation and Organisation:

In line with the programme mandate, the Ministry is committed to make a contribution to the alleviation of poverty hence community mobilisation and sensitisation is an ongoing activity. In the past Financial Year, 191 mobilisation meetings were held in all thirteen Regions, reaching a total number of 4 770

people.

The Ministry has, as a result of these meetings, received 958 project proposals seeking financial support from the Ministry, which is a significant increase compared to previous years.

Income Generating Activities:

Another area of priority of the Ministry is the provision of small grants to support community initiatives and innovative ideas of generating income at community levels. A fair and transparent process of assessment of the project proposals is first conducted by Regional Assessment Teams before the allocation of grants to applicants. Financial support to projects is further complemented by efforts made towards skills acquisition for project members who must receive training in basic business management and leadership skills prior to receiving funds.

For the previous year 2006, a total number of 75 projects received support from the Ministry, eight of which are benefiting the San communities in Caprivi, Ohangwena, Oshana, Omusati, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke and Oshikoto Regions. Appraisals conducted at regional levels revealed that many of these projects could have been viable, but due to inadequate financial resources only 75 projects could be supported.

Advocacy Materials:

Posters: An annual task of producing posters for national days falling under the auspices of the Ministry was dully carried out. Such posters are designed, produced and aligned to the theme of that particular year.

Community Development Policy: The Ministry has made progress towards the formulation of the said policy, as it is in the process of contracting a consultant to develop the policy that would serve as a legal framework within which the Ministry and stakeholders would operate.

Video on Income Generating Activities: A video on supported successful income generating activities in Kunene, Erongo, Karas and Hardap Regions is underway. The video will provide information with regard to success stories of small-scale business initiatives geared towards combating poverty and unemployment among the communities.

Capacity-building:

In total, 150 income generating activity project participants received training in basic financial management especially bookkeeping, marketing and customer care.

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Community members are accorded opportunities to undertake exchange visits to other Regions in order for them to learn from good practices. During the past year 2006, groups from Erongo, Oshikoto, Omaheke and Khomas Regions visited projects in Tsumkwe and Otjozondjupa Region.

Similarly, project participants are sponsored to attend various Trade Fairs in Ongwediva, Rundu and Windhoek Show. They are also sponsored to attend SADC Trade Fairs. In June 2007 exhibitors will attend the Global Summit of Women that will be held in Berlin, Germany. The first group is from Tsintsabis.

Division Early Childhood Development (ECD):

The Ministry ensures that early childhood development programmes are well managed, ECD centres are registered and are accessible even to the less advantaged communities and that quality ECD service is delivered. In the past year, a total number of 2,878 early childhood development centres were registered in all thirteen Regions. These centres altogether, have enrolled 8,566 children, of which 4,286 are girls while 4,274 are boys. The programme also takes as its priority, the enrolment of orphans and vulnerable children in the centres. A number of 1,214 orphans and vulnerable children were enrolled as of last year, 593 boys and 621 girls.

To ensure quality delivery of early childhood development programmes, it is essential that child caregivers are continuously trained and that refresher workshops/courses are organised. Hence in 2006, a total number of 317 early childhood development caregivers were trained in different early childhood development related courses. These include child-care, toy-making, methodology in child teaching, management of the early childhood development centres and so forth.

Construction of Model Early Childhood Development Centres:

With the inception of the ETSIP program the Ministry, in collaboration with its main partner the Ministry of Education, continues to work out modalities for the transfer and provision of pre-primary phase to the Ministry of Education. In the meantime, children of pre-primary (ages 5 – 6) continue to be catered for by early childhood development centres under Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

For this programme to expand vertically and horizontally to all 13 Regions, the Ministry needs N\$24,577,000.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will fail in my duty if I do not express a word of appreciation for the support and assistance we receive from our partners, for example, all Line Ministries, other Government

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institutions, the private sector, and our cooperating partners such as; UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, WFO, FES, FAO, Regional Councils and municipalities and village councils. We highly appreciate their valuable assistance. We count on their continuous support as we enter the new Financial Year to ensure gender equality, and that the welfare of our children, particularly those of Orphans and Vulnerable Children are upheld in the Republic of Namibia.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Members of Parliament, it is now my humble honour to request this august House to approve the Ministry's Budget to the amount of N\$191,333,000, of which N\$183,877,000 is for the operational Budget and N\$7,456,000 will be the development Budget. May God bless the gender and the children of Namibia? I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister.

Vote 24 – “TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION”, N\$713,220,000 put for introduction.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. Allow me to introduce Vote 24, for the Department of Transport and Communication.

I will focus my motivation by primarily highlighting some important achievements during the last Financial Year.

The Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication is mandated to deliver seamless inter-modal transport, communication and meteorological infrastructure so as to, among others, contribute towards the achievement of Vision 2030 and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Historically, the development of the transport sector in Namibia has been mainly linked to South Africa, thereby relegating regional integration with other SADC Member States. Namibia has now developed its transportation and communication network, connecting to other neighbouring countries. At this stage, a number of transport corridors have been developed, such as Trans-Kalahari, Trans-Caprivi, and Trans-Cunene corridors. These transport corridors are, inter alia, promoting and facilitating regional trade between hinterland countries and other international trading blocks, in particular via the port of Walvis Bay.

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The recent ratification of the MoU on the Trans-Kalahari Corridor by the Namibian Government has created a framework to harmonise our policies and procedures as per the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology and to make the corridors operative among the contracting parties, namely Botswana and South Africa. For example, to introduce uniform opening hours at our borders; axle load limits; customs formalities and calibration of weighbridges.

The Walvis Bay Port is increasingly becoming a competitive regional hub due to, *inter alia*, its strategic geographical location, efficient cargo handling and security. In this context, Botswana and Zambia have shown interest in establishing dry port facilities at Walvis Bay Port.

Apart from our regional connectivity with other SADC States, our Ministry has also been developing communication infrastructure in the rural areas of our country. The provision of rural roads allows transportation of goods and people, thus allowing access to various locations such as schools, hospitals, marketplaces, churches, etcetera.

The creation of rural infrastructure is aiding in the reduction of poverty and boosting job creation in our rural communities. Special attention is given to the construction of feeder roads to connect rural communities to district roads. This will enable them to take their produce to the market centre.

Training has also been provided to 60 Small and Medium Enterprises in order to equip them with information and to enable them to participate in road construction and maintenance works. Some Small and Medium contractors were further trained on how to tender and to run profitable businesses.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to further enumerate on my Ministry's achievements in the Road sub-sector as it relates to a number of road construction projects that were carried out over the past years:

1. Omakange-Opuwo, financed by our Government to the tune of N\$1,147,000, entails the upgrading of 57.5 kilometres gravel road to bitumen standard and was completed on 10 February 2006.
2. Uutapi-Tsandi-Okahao, financed by our Government to the tune of N\$133,500,000, entails the upgrading of 55.4 kilometres gravel road to bitumen standard and was completed on 8 December 2006.
3. Aus-Rosh Pinah (169 kilometres) road, co-financed by African Development Bank (ADB), BADEA and our Government at the total cost of N\$309.600 000, was upgraded to bitumen standard and has been completed.

4. Kamanjab-Omakange (204 kilometres), co-funded by African Development Bank and our Government, is being upgraded to bitumen standard. The project is divided into two phases of which half of Phase I is completed and is open to traffic.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the construction of the following road projects will start during this Financial Year:

Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu road (370 kilometres), will be co-financed by Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and our Government to the value of N\$810,500,000. The project is divided into two phases: Phase I Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru (134 kilometres) and Phase 2 Nkurenkuru-Kongo-Elundu (236 kilometres). Once all the formalities have been completed with the development partner, the project will start around June 2007.

Rehabilitation of Okahandja-Karibib road, co-financed by our Government and KfW is expected to start during this Financial Year. This road is the economic lifeline of our economy and forms part of the Trans-Kalahari corridor. Both tourists and Namibian holiday-makers use this road to the coast.

Eiseb-Otjinene-Epukiro road will be gravelled and the construction work will start during this Financial Year and an amount of N\$60 million is budgeted for this project.

Gam-Eiseb Settlement road, financed by European Commission (EC) to an amount of N\$10 million, will be gravelled and the construction work will continue during this Financial Year.

Gravel road projects to be constructed by labour-based methods during this Financial Year.

The construction of the following road projects will be funded by European Commission:

- DR3502: Kongola-Zambian Border (22 Kilometres)
- DR3507: Ngoma-Muyako (43 Kilometres)
- TR 8/6: Katima Mulilo-Kopano Quarantine Camp (5 Kilometres)
- Tondoro-Kamupupu (15 Kilometres)
- Rupara/Muveve-Gcangcu (12 Kilometres)
- Mangetti West Quarantine Camp (50 Kilometres)
- MR/92 Omagongati (5 Kilometres)
- Drainage — Sesfontein, Okanguati, Okombahe

Construction of the above-mentioned projects will commence in June 2007 and the cost will amount to approximately N\$43,075,000.

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The Onyaanya-Onanke, financed by KfW to the amount of N\$21 million, will also start during this Financial Year

Having narrated on the achievements recorded by my Ministry in general, I now wish to share with you our achievements in the Railway sub-sector.

The extension of the railway line from Tsumeb to Ondangwa was successfully completed in June 2006. The completion thereof culminated in the inauguration and commissioning of the Nehale Lya Mpingana Railway

The station was inaugurated by His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba on 12 July 2006.

The construction of Phase II (Ondangwa-Oshikango) commenced in September 2006 and is progressing well. For fair distribution of labour, the 60-kilometre earthworks component was divided into 5 earthwork sections. This enabled an equitable awarding of tenders to five successful bidders instead of one. To maximize the involvement of the local population in the projects, labour-based construction methods are being used. Approximately five to six thousand local community members are employed. Members of this august House are therefore, invited and encouraged to partake in voluntary work at the railway construction project.

Apart from the Northern Railway Line, my Ministry has also completed 50 kilometres rehabilitation work of the 139 kilometres railway line section between Aus and Lüderitz, and work on the remaining 89 kilometres is progressing well.

As part of its modernisation and expansion programme to maximise its profitability, TransNamib has acquired new rolling stocks and equipment from the People's Republic of China. Amongst this equipment are 152 open top wagons, 30 oil tank wagons, 4 sulphuric tank wagons, 21 acid sulphuric tank wagon, 21 sulphuric barrels and some emergency apparatus.

I will now share with you our progress with respect to Transport Policies and Legislation.

Progress has been made in the implementation of the Road Traffic and Transport Act and the Road Traffic and Transport Regulations. First registration of Left Hand Driven vehicles has been outlawed. Wearing of bicycle safety helmets to mitigate possible head injuries in bicycle accidents has been made compulsory. Furthermore, carrying of warning triangles and fitment of reflective stripes for certain goods vehicles has been made compulsory as well, while substantive progress with regard to public passenger transport reforms has been recorded. In this regard, a series of Workshops with all Local Authorities has been successfully

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conducted. In addition, a number of amendments to the Road Traffic and Transport Act have been compiled and forwarded to the legal drafters.

In order to improve the quality of driving and road-worthiness of vehicles, my Ministry has constructed two new driver testing centres, and for efficient service delivery. Nine other centres have been upgraded into one-stop centres.

Increased loss of lives, caused by road accidents on our public roads is disheartening, hence the need for high-level intervention. In response to the clarion call by the Head of State, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, my Ministry, in consultation with the Ministry of Safety and Security, City of Windhoek, Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, National Road Safety Council (NRSC), Roads Authority and the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) and many other stakeholders established a multi-agency "*Road Safety Coordinating Committee*" tasked with the responsibility to synergise and harmonise the activities of the road transport sector. Resulting from this endeavour, we launched our first ever-collaborative multi-sectoral pilot project under the banner of "*Xupifa Eemwenyo*". The project, running from 4 April to 6 May 2007, has thus far been a resounding success.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to share with this august House some of the results recorded thus far:

Easter Incident	2006	2007	%
Accidents	169	94	44.4% (Reduction)
Fatalities	30	7	86.7% (Reduction)
Serious Injuries	17	22	29% (increase)
Slight Injuries	63	30	52% (Reduction)

In addition, various law enforcement actions undertaken countrywide from 4 to 15 April 2007 resulted in 2,837 written notices being issued for traffic violations amounting to N\$662,750 in value. Standby Courts were also set up in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice to prosecute those making themselves guilty of violating traffic rules and regulations and I congratulate the law enforcement agencies as well as the Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General for giving us their support.

Allow me, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members to use this opportunity to appeal to all law enforcement agencies to continue applying zero tolerance towards road users who contravene traffic rules and regulations. I, therefore, would like to express my appreciation and thanks to our men and women in uniform for the job well done.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to continue with the achievements in the Aviation and Meteorological sub-sector.

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The lengthening and widening of the runway at Walvis Bay Airport to ICAO Category 4 “F” to accommodate bigger aircraft, such as the Airbus A380 (the new generation of wide-body aircraft), and the upgrading of Hosea Kutako International, Eros, Ondangwa and Lüderitz airports to accommodate the growing aviation traffic needs in respect of passenger and trade of which I informed this august House last year during my Budget speech is ongoing and will be completed in November 2007.

A state-of-the art air traffic control tower equipped with air traffic control and meteorology equipment at Lüderitz airport, has been constructed and similar towers will be constructed at Katima Mulilo and Ondangwa airports. Ten Radio Relay Stations are being installed throughout Namibia to establish communication between aircraft and air traffic control in order to enhance safety and security of air navigation.

Seven Fire-fighting and rescue vehicles have been distributed to Hosea Kutako International, Walvis Bay and Ondangwa airports, respectively.

I am pleased to mention that our Ministry implemented over-flight and terminal charges, which are based on a weight-distance formula, at the end of last year. This project is expected to generate over N\$40 million per annum.

My Ministry is in the process of acquiring air traffic surveillance radars to cover the entire Namibian airspace in order to enhance aviation safety, especially in view of the expected increase in air traffic during the Soccer World Cup 2010. Negotiations are taking place between my Ministry and the City of Windhoek to secure suitable sites on the surrounding mountains for the installation of both primary and secondary radars to cover the terminal control area of both Eros and Hosea Kutako airports.

The acquisition, installation and operation of the radars will engender confidence in civil aviation, the business community as well as tourists to Namibia. This will boost our economy and our tourism industry, resulting into job creation and contribute to our economic growth.

Allow me to share with you new developments in the Communication sector.

As a country, we are required by other bodies such as SADC, the International Telecommunication Union, the Universal Postal Union, etcetera, to liberalize our communication sub-sector so as to among others, permit competition. I highlighted in my previous Budget statement that a second cellular operator was to be introduced. It therefore, gives me pleasure to corroborate that during the last quarter of 2006, a second cellular operator (Powercom/Cell One) was introduced and is already operational in Namibia. This marks a milestone in liberalising the telecom market through the introduction of competition.

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In line with our national objective to ensure affordable and universal access to communication infrastructure and services, especially in rural areas, Telecom Namibia introduced Code Division Multiple Access services as a strategy to diversify as well as to effect rural access at affordable rates. In addition, due to widespread theft of copper wire from telephone lines, Telecom Namibia will soon replace all the copper wire telephone lines with the Code Division Multiple Access System.

In this age where Information and Communication Technologies have become commonplace, a major challenge has emerged for postal service delivery, namely that competing communication technologies have come to displace mail services, such as Internet, SMS, MMS, e-mails, etcetera. In order to ensure that the postal sector in Namibia meaningfully contributes to national development and to counteract the aforementioned threat, the postal services sub-sector had embraced ICTs by automating their service counters, establishing access points at post offices and introducing Smart Card technology, among others.

Allow me to share with you developments in the Maritime sub-sector.

My Ministry, in collaboration with other SADC Member States, in particular, South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar and the Comoros, signed a Multi-lateral Agreement on Search and Rescue Services in Southern Africa. A national Maritime Search and Rescue Centre was commissioned on 29 March 2007 at Walvis Bay.

The Centre will coordinate emergency operations as well as receive maritime safety information between ships and shore. This will enhance safety of both cargo and fishing vessels in our waters.

Furthermore, my Ministry facilitated Namibia's accession to the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC). The convention calls for the establishment of national response organization and cooperation between International Maritime Organisation member states to combat major oil spills. With this instrument in place, Namibia will be able to protect its marine environment and receive assistance from international organisations in the event of any serious oil spill beyond its control.

My Ministry has completed a Pre-feasibility Study of a new port facility in Cape Fria/Angra Fria

The results of the seismic survey revealed that Angra Fria is a favourable site for port development. This proposed harbour would serve as a gateway to and from SADC countries through Trans-Caprivi Highway. Angra Fria is also ideal for landing and export of fish to Europe and Americas.

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Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to share with you developments pertaining to Government Garage.

Good progress has been made in reforming the Government Garage. The concerns of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts with regard to financial management are also being addressed. Concerning Government Fleet Management, arrangements are underway to implement an IT solution through collaboration with the Provincial Government of the Western Cape in South Africa. We envisage to introduce an Oracle-based Fleet Management System, which is compatible with the system used by the Ministry of Finance.

The system will have vehicle-tracking capabilities; improve financial management, and the general operations of the Government Garage.

Furthermore, my Ministry managed to purchase a total of five hundred and fourteen vehicles (514), including those of political office-bearers during 2006/07 Financial Year. 726 old vehicles were sold on various public auctions country wide, as they became expensive to maintain. The revenue generated from these vehicle auctions amounted to N\$9.1 million and more old vehicles are still to be auctioned.

Government Air Transport Service

The Department of Government Air Transport Services' functions are to provide a safe, secure and efficient air transport service to the Government's VIPs, officials, visiting dignitaries and commercial sector to local and international destinations.

It facilitates maintenance of communication equipment erected on mountains for the NBC, State House and the Office of the Prime Minister.

It also renders transport services to conduct geological surveys for the Ministry of Mines and Energy, game rescue, as well as wildfire control for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and private enterprises.

My Ministry played a vital role in emergency operations, such as airlifting and dropping off food and medicine to communities affected by natural calamities in the following Regions:

- Caprivi Region (Floods)
- Hardap Region (Mariental floods)
- Kunene Region (Cholera outbreak in Opuwo)

My Ministry is responsible to ensure public access to safer and reliable transport, meteorology and communication infrastructure. The provision of this infrastructure contributes to economic development and employment creation and

poverty reduction. I, therefore, would like to share with you the seven programmes of my Ministry:

Programme 1: Railway Infrastructure and Maintenance

The purpose of this programme is to develop, rehabilitate and upgrade the railway network. The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the Ondangwa-Oshikango and Aus-Lüderitz railway lines.

To continue programme implementation, I am requesting an amount of N\$182,342,000 for 2007/08 Financial Year.

Programme 2: Roads

The purpose of this programme is to develop, rehabilitate and upgrade the rural and urban road network. The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the construction and rehabilitation of the following roads: Kamanjab-Omakange (204 kilometres), Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu Road, Okahandja-Karibib Road and Gam-Eiseb-Otjinene-Epukiro as well as the labour-based gravel roads I referred to earlier.

I, therefore, request an amount of N\$288,490,000 for this programme.

3. Programme 3: Road Traffic and Transport Act and Regulations

The purpose is to ensure proper utilisation of the transportation infrastructure and to enhance the level of road safety on Namibia's road network. The allocation for this Financial Year covers the construction of Oranjemund and Lüderitz and the upgrading of Windhoek, Okahandja, Outjo and Grootfontein Vehicle and Driver Testing Centres.

I request an amount of N\$20,749,000 under this programme.

Programme 4: Aviation and Meteorological Facilities

The purpose of this program is to ensure a safe, secure and efficient Civil Aviation infrastructure and to be in compliance with the World Meteorological Organisation Conventions as well as with the SADC protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology.

The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the upgrading of Civil Aviation infrastructure, the acquiring of a modern aviation radar system for Namibia, construction of Control Tower for Katima Mulilo, upgrading of Meteorological facilities and Government hangar.

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I, therefore, request an amount of N\$125,126,000 for this programme.

5. Programme 5: Maritime Safety and Pollution Control

The purpose of this programme is to ensure safety of life and property at sea, protection of the marine environment, as well as marine infrastructure development. The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the acquisition and installation of four 20 miles racons, Marine Radar System as well as to conduct a feasibility study for Cape Fria/Agra Fria project.

I, therefore, request an amount of N\$85,820,000 for this programme.

Programme 6: Communication

This program is responsible for the development of communication policies to liberalise the market, promote investments and ensure adequate access to Information and Communication Technologies, especially access to rural areas.

The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the following operational programmes:

Development of postal policy and regulatory framework

Review of the current Telecommunication policy and regulatory framework and Development of a comprehensive communications master development plan.

I, therefore, request an amount of N\$1,201,000 for this programme.

Programme 7: Government Services

The purpose of this programme is to provide Government with reliable and safe road transport services. The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the acquiring of additional vehicles and maintenance thereof.

I, therefore, request an amount of N\$86,730,000 for this programme.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, in light of the above outlined programmes, I humbly submit Vote 24 for the total amount of N\$713,220,000 for your endorsement and approval.

I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister.

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HON RIRUAKO

Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM” put for discussion.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, tourism is for the country itself, but somehow, somewhere, some people enjoy the fruits. It is supposed to be spread over the country as a whole and not to stick to one or several areas for many years to come. This must be changed. It ought to benefit the citizens of this country at large.

We have been looking at this and observed the way it operated in the past, but seemingly it remains in the same direction. There is no remedy. I have a reason to say that. If you look at the way it operates, all these sides in the South, all the way to the middle of the country, nothing.

You know that if you go to Aminuis, you come back and sleep in Gobabis. If you go to Epukiro, you go to Gobabis. (Intervention)

HON DR GEINGOB: May I just ask a tiny question, please? I am sorry, Honourable Chief, is it true, that yesterday or today it is your birthday? If so Happy Birthday.

HON RIRUAKO: You must ask the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee why I told her. Who created the good understanding between me and her? The 24th of this month, yesterday. I was sitting, but I could not tell you and you changed your character now, perhaps we are going to become friends.

Back again to tourism, it still benefits the people who used to benefit and that must be changed. I have been tolerating that, I could not say anything about it, but our area is not visited by the Minister concerned, there are no queries, nothing. We cannot limit ourselves from where the greener pastures are, we have to do it for our people equally. We also have to train our young people, no black people are involved in these operations. I am sorry to say that. I say no black people – some of them yes. Those who are keen to participate have been put aside. I am sorry to say that.

This is not the way we ought to go. The young people who are courageous enough to participate in tourism have to be encouraged instead of discouraging them. I am sorry to say this. I have been told by the citizens to say this, to pull up our socks and to come back to our people and to see where they can live better than up to now.

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Furthermore, Honourable Chairperson, tourism is an asset to this country. N\$300 to N\$400 per bed and this goes to those who benefit all the time. Why? We have the capacity to build a kind of guest house anywhere in the reserves, those degraded areas from Namaland all the way down to Hereroland. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Chief, do we still have Hereroland and Namaland?

HON RIRUAKO: I do not own the Hereros and you do not own the Namas. I said I do not want to create a Herero Republic and you do not have the right to create a Nama Republic within the Republic. Everyone who stood up here does not own anything in this country, it belongs to all of us here. That is not yours. You might be in the Government, but do not tell your people how to behave.

Chairman of the Whole House Committee...(Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Chairperson.

HON RIRUAKO: Chairperson. You are a person but you have a gender. I am going to sit down, but that must be changed, Chairperson, Chairlady.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am not a lady, I have children.

HON RIRUAKO: A lady has children. Lady Dorothy in England has children, just like a Lord.

HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I only want to make three comments on natural resources.

A few years ago, Honourable Chairperson, we started with a lucrative ostrich farming project. Instead of only exporting ostrich products, we also sold live birds and eggs, thereby only transferring our business and wealth to the other countries.

Now this year again another lucrative Hoodia project is looming. This project has the potential to boost the economic potential of both the commercial and communal farmers. In order to prevent the recurrence of the past value lost, I humbly request both the Minister of Environment and Tourism and the Minister of

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Agriculture to seriously consider an immediate ban on export of Hoodia seeds and live plants. By only exporting ready-made products, we can secure the future use of Hoodia.

According to the Honourable Minister Namibia is housing the largest number of cheetahs in the world. Now that we learned that we are also exporting cheetahs, are we doing justice to the country or are we going to get benefits out of this in the long run or are we only transferring from Namibia to any other place?

Honourable Minister, the elephants; Elephants are quite an attraction. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Chief a question? Honourable Chief, I entirely agree with you that we need to conserve the little we have in terms of wildlife or natural plants or whatever. Are you aware that in Omaheke, particularly in the Aminuis Reserve, prior to Independence there used to be a teeming wildlife population, particularly the springbok, but now I understand some people managed to get hold of R4-rifles and so on, and if you go there today, you will not find a single springbok? They have been wiped out. Are you aware of that, Chief?

HON //GAROËB: I am aware that lots of wildlife have been wiped out, but I cannot mention specific areas. I might make a mistake, but it is definitely a fact that numbers of wildlife have been depleted. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the former Government of South Africa has taken that wildlife with aeroplanes. Now it is for this Government to bring them back. It has been taken away from those areas. Before Independence all the planes went there and wiped out everything. It is now for our Government, especially Agriculture and Tourism, to come together and put these animals back where they belong if you really mean business, but not to say I do not know who have taken them.

HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, a few remarks on the elephants. Truly speaking, elephants are a very good attraction for tourism and our farmers have learned to live together with these creatures. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Mine is just a Point of Order, Honourable Chief. It is on the indigenous plants like

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Hoodia. I was thinking of !nabba which is also an indigenous plant. Do you not think that !nabba could also be included in these protected and economic viable plants, because it is like an African potato which is also good for the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. They say there are about 20 species in the Hoodia family in Namibia and out of these, only 3 have been taken for this project and one of these three is the !nabba. It is therefore included.

These elephants, although they are very beautiful animals and they are an attraction for tourists ... (Intervention)

HON BOOYS: Would the Honourable Chief accept a question? I am terribly sorry to interrupt you, but when you talk about !nabba and *Hoodia* I thought about *kamagu*. There was a time when *kamagu* was so popular. After the ostrich has disappeared, what happened to the *kamagu*? Is it still popular?

HON //GAROËB: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. The *kamagu* was one of the lucrative projects, but I do not quite know what went wrong. All I believe is that maybe the market is not yet right and that is the problem. There are still people who want to sell *kamagu* but the market is not viable enough. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. *Kamagu* is not finished yet and the market is still in existence. This comes from Omaheke. In the middle of Omaheke and in the South they have some areas where they grow those which are popular to be exported.

HON //GAROËB: The Honourable Minister will enlighten us on the *kamagu*. I was about to say that the elephants are really very beautiful animals and they are an attraction to the tourists and our farmers have learned to live together with these elephants. But nowadays the elephants are causing a lot of damage to the infrastructure.

In the area in which I farm in the Huab Valley we used to have 80 elephants roaming the area those days. Today only in that area they are more than three hundred. Therefore, they are really damaging, but we do not want to kill them although we do have rifles.

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HON DR ANKAMA

I learned that the conservancies in the area get a quota per year from the Government to cull or use trophy hunters, but the problem is that only two conservancies only get one elephant per annum. I do not know whether it is true, but we will hear from the Honourable Minister. I would rather suggest that this quote be increased a little bit, so that at least one conservancy can get one elephant per annum.

What is more, Honourable Minister, last week a bull elephant pushed down my windmill at the farm. That was not Government property, it was my personal property. I am still coming to the offices and I do not want to say much on this, but it is just an example of the damage caused by elephants. Thank you very much.

HON DR ANKAMA: Let me join the Chiefs. I am not the traditional Chief, it is just my name, not a title at all.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise in order to make a small contribution to this very important vote. I look at the tourism development on Page 7 and I am looking at how we were talking here when I first came to Parliament in 2005. We talked about Namibia Wildlife Resorts which was making a great loss and I would like to commend perhaps the Minister himself or the Ministry and the Cabinet for the manner in which they decided that there was a need to refresh the face of Namibia Wildlife Resorts.

On many occasions when we see things going down we want to privatise and we run quickly to privatisation and not always is it necessary to go to privatisation and to take that route. I would say Namibia Wildlife Resorts, after having a new management, seems to be doing well and it seems like it is now on track. Sometimes we wait until things are bad, but this time we acted at the right time and it is doing well.

I was reading about the opening of the Waterberg Resort and I want to congratulate the Ministry for that achievement. Tourism is the fastest growing industry in our country and I feel we should do a lot to provide information not only to tourists *per se*, but to the people inside the country, because once everybody understands the tourism industry, they will be in a position to contribute positively towards that kind of growth. If we give our support to tourism, we will probably be reaching our target of Vision 2030.

The sector has the capacity to benefit our country and contribute towards the attainment of our Vision 2030 goals.

Furthermore, I would also like to commend the Ministry. As an example, I have followed with keen interest developments around Namibia Wildlife Resorts'

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turnaround strategy under the new management. The progress of an entirely new development at Sossusvlei, the Sossus Dune Lodge which, in my view has been enthusiastically received and supported. I would say that this concept presents a totally new approach and product from the existing Namibian Wildlife Resorts facilities, an eco-friendly lodge built from natural materials and blending in with the environment or the surroundings around there. This is very good. If only we could also show how good the community could do around there. People can use the natural environment to construct small little centres, receiving visitors or tourists in this country.

Lastly, a year ago we were dealing with a serious crippling and seemingly directionless company. Today Namibia Wildlife Resorts is rapidly regaining confidence. This is shown by the activities that have taken place. For example, if you go around Etosha Pan things are picking up there.

Lastly I would like to question the Minister of Environment. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. I thank Chief Ankama, but we need development in the areas which are not yet developed. Encourage those which happen to be developed is in order, but those who were left in darkness must also be booming like others and we have to encourage them. We praise where the praise has remained, but there must be changes from now onwards.

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you, Honourable Chief. I understand you, but when people make remarkable progress they should be praised for what they are doing.

The question that I have, Honourable Minister, is that you will remember I spoke to you about a year ago about where people have to go when they want to buy ostriches. I asked you that question last year. I wanted to find out where can I buy ostriches, I want to keep my environment natural. I want ostriches to buy or turkeys or peacocks and what is the price? There are Namibians who would want to own these things, not for farming necessarily, but for having them around in their environment.

Let me once more support this Vote and thank the Ministry.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am rising in support of Vote 18 – Environment and Tourism. Let me first convey to my Colleague, the Minister, our appreciation for the good efforts that they are doing to position our country for 2010.

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Then on Page 517 of the blue book, Comrade Minister, and I am sure your staff are around here to provide the technical information, project no 927 dealing with the upgrading of tourist roads, Etosha, but this particular project is provided for under the regional projects, which is the Kavango Region. I am just wondering whether that is correct. Maybe there is a mistake. The intention maybe, it is tourist roads to game parks like Kaudum, like Sekerete or Mahama. Maybe if we could just get some clarity there.

Then on the same Page 517 of the Development Budget document there is an item about water provision for game, but I see there that there is no provision made in terms of funds. Is this not an invitation for the game to come to people's farms and places for water as there is no provision for water for them in the game parks?

Then on Page 334 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the programme on community-based and natural resources management, particularly the conservancies, we commend you on what you are doing. Here it is just a request, not a question. I think it is important – and I know you are doing it – that we intensify the education and information campaign programmes to the community in terms of educating, informing them about what conservancies are, how they should be managed, who should manage them. This is important to avoid and prevent misunderstandings, because it seems that sometimes the members of the conservancies just look at these conservancies as their own property at the exclusion of some other members of the community. Therefore, I think the issue of intensifying the education and information programmes to educate the communities in general about what conservancies are and what the intention and policy of Government is, is very much important.

On Page 335 the programme on community lodges. Here we probably need to inform the Namibian public through the Parliament, what is the progress with regard to the implementation of this community lodges programme.

Lastly, on Page 336 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework there is talk about the development of the operational procedures for the national lottery, which procedures are envisaged to be finalised and implemented during the course of this Financial Year. What have been the difficulties in terms of finalising this particular programme, if there were any? Thank you, Comrade Minister, thank you Honourable Chairperson, I support the Vote.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 18 – Environment and Tourism.

Honourable Chairperson, tourism is a sector with much more potential growth and a sector from which we can in the future expect much more contribution to our national economy, unlike manufacturing, unlike growth which you expect from

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manufacturing, the jobs which will come from manufacturing, it would appear as if we rely on manufacturing as a sector of growth on 16th century European Development approach.

However people come to Namibia as they do to other tourist places and primarily for that is natural already in the environment. That I believe is the connection between tourism and environment, that people come to see what is here, the desert and the animals which we have, the natural environment and is for that very reason that it is important that we must look after our environment if our tourism has to grow.

I say this Honourable Chairperson, and I know whose responsibility it is and I believe in looking after our environment we have to take a page from what they do in Singapore. Those people travelling along the road between here and Swakopmund and they enjoy their cold bottle of Tafel Lager and we finish it and throw the bottle out of the window. I think somebody needs to look after that, that if we do not look after our environment the tourists will not be interested in coming to look at our environment.

I see, Honourable Minister, that on Page 102 there is a project on Namibia Coastal Conservation and Management Project. I make reference to this again because of environment and in this respect, environment as in dunes along our Coast. Every December and every January we hear about the destruction of the dunes and the Ministry is either unable or unwilling to do something about it. Are we waiting until the dunes disappear? Some come to look at the dunes, but if we allow continued destruction of the dunes, then we have lost those who come to look at the dunes. The Ministry needs to do something urgently about the destruction of the dunes along our coast.

Honourable Chairperson, on the following Page 103 is a project on community lodges. I see there is a provision of N\$20 million. My question is, what exactly is envisaged here, what is the Government's programme in this particular aspect? Is the Government going to make loans available for communities to build lodges or what exactly is it this House is being asked to approve? (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. That is why I have started to ask for community development. I did not want to mention the amount mentioned in the book. The way it is used annually has to be reported back to the House. But thank God that another person is mentioning it.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, on the following page is a project on international tourism marketing. I am saying people come here largely to see what nature has provided for us, but if we do not tell them what we have, they

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cannot come and see what the nature has given us. I say this because the amount that is being provided to do this international marketing appears to be wilfully small. In this Financial Year it is N\$2 million that is being requested. If you translate that into pounds or euros, it looks like the money you would need to take a couple of friends for dinner and that is what we are asking to sell the country.

And whilst I am at it, I might as well make reference to the Namibia Tourism Board which is the Government's primary agent for promoting our country, selling tourism, selling what it is we want people to come and see here and spend money and create jobs. I heard and I am sure the Honourable Minister also has, that the outgoing CEO of Namibia Tourism Board recently gave an interview to a magazine called "*Insight*" and he said that neither the Ministry, nor the Government as a whole understands exactly what is involved in this sector, and that the money that is being allocated, they need ten, twenty times to market what we have, to sell the product. Is that not why companies have sales departments, they have marketing departments? Even if you see that it is a good thing that we should keep it under the table, even if you see and it requests so, it stimulates demand. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

May I ask a question? Honourable Gurirab, are you aware that in the tourism industry there is global networking, just like in all other economic sectors? Are you aware that a big portion of the tourists who visit Africa are brought here by big companies in Europe which market and sell destinations back home? Are you aware of that?

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I have no reason to disagree with the Honourable Member. It is good to piggy-bag what others are doing, but we should be first in the queue in selling the market in our country.

What I want to know is whether the outgoing CEO was talking through his head, whether he was talking what some would call nonsense or whether there is sense in what he is saying and if indeed there is sense in what he is saying, we would need to put in more money into marketing than what we have.

Honourable Chairperson, the last issue I wanted to raise with this round is that I wanted to ask the Minister what the timeframe is, when does the Government intend to lift the ten-year old moratorium on issuing new gambling licences, because it would look like as a Government we are using what would appear an unfair legislative bar for new entrants and that we are protecting those who are already operating in the industry. Therefore, what is Government's timetable? It has been more than ten years that the moratorium has been in place. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 18. I have a passion for this Ministry, for obvious reasons. Every time I hear about it I develop a nostalgia. As a young politician 17 years ago I was given my first responsibility to serve the Namibian people after Independence in this Ministry. So, congratulations, Comrade Minister and your staff, for the job you are doing well.

Comrade Minister, I only have a few comments and questions to make. When we as Namibians talk about our natural resources, we look at the fish, the game and more so, the renewable resources and we feel now that we know these renewable resources, if it is well protected, well maintained, it can live beyond human expectation.

Many of our animals in many areas have been depleted, as the one speaker already said. As I grew up in the North, going to school on foot, I used to avoid being confronted with these animals. They were all over. There were Wildebeest, Oryx, Zebras. They were everywhere, but nowadays when you go around, you do not see them. The few that we have are either in Etosha and other game parks or are privatised and my attention today is really directed towards those that are kept on private farms.

The idea is not bad to keep game in confinement. However, as we do to our other natural resources, the Minister of Finance slaps everybody who mines with a type of tax. You pay because you are exploiting the resources of the country and the people. My question is, are we requesting these farmers to pay a royalty on the animals they are keeping?

These animals belong to all of us. I know these farmers are paying other taxes, but I am particularly asking about royalties paid in terms of game kept. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: These animals are being poached from your farm, in those earlier days the police and the nature conservation caretakers took the animals outside the fence or they bought it from your own area and placed it somewhere there next to you. Is that fair? They bought those animals.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism is going to answer our questions. I was just posing my own questions. How much do we derive from these animals that are kept in confinement or privatised, to put it crudely?

The other issue that I would want to get some information on is the programme your Ministry introduced some time ago, the seed animal programme to formerly

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disadvantaged farmers. How successful has this programme been? Was it a once-off project or is it ongoing?

Lastly, Comrade Minister, inasmuch as we do not have a policy yet on what to do when this conflict between game and humans is escalating, the communities are crying. In Caprivi Region this year, somewhere north of Tsandi, the elephants in particular have destroyed crops. There is going to be no harvest. We have seen that on the television. What is the long-term plan of the Ministry to alleviate the plight of these people? We cannot just go on and say we cannot compensate. I am not talking about compensating, but are there relief programmes that are earmarked specifically for those whose properties get destroyed by game?

Those were my concerns and as I said earlier, Comrade Minister, you have my support. Thank you.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, I would like to congratulate the Ministry. When I saw the amount generated by this Ministry I really smiled. However, I was also seriously shocked to learn that although they generate this amount of money, it is the community who feeds these millions of birds flying in the whole area of Omusati and Oshikoto. This is a total exploitation of the community by the Ministry, because the Ministry do not feed the birds, but the community feeds the birds. How much money was generated from the meet of these thousands of birds eating the crops of the poor community? (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask my uncle a question? Honourable Moongo, are you suggesting that while the communities are feeding the birds, the Ministry should continue feeding the community? Is that what you are suggesting?

HON MOONGO: I do not think the Ministry of Tourism is the one initiating this drought aid in order to feed the community. The community feeds the birds and the Ministry feeds the community through the programme of drought aid. Therefore, where are we going, Colleagues? I want to know how many of the Ministers have mahangu fields. It seems there are only two. Therefore you do not understand the consequences. The whole mahangu field is destroyed by the birds. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Moongo, while lambasting the Honourable Colleague here because of the birds, have you heard that these birds

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came on a plan from Mozambique and Zimbabwe to Namibia? Did you hear such a story?

HON MOONGO: That is why I say the Ministry failed to control the population of the birds. They are supposed to erect a big fence for the birds in order to control it and no other birds from other countries to come and destroy the crops of the poor communities. How much money was produce from the meat of the birds? I want an explanation. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

Honourable Chairperson, I am very interested in this fencing off. I am wondering whether we should fence off the whole Namibia or how? Can the Honourable Member just explain? I think it is interesting for the Minister and I support you, but I mean, how do we go about it?

HON MOONGO: Therefore, I appeal to the Minister to reduce the bird population. (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Moongo, I know you grew up somewhere in the North and you have been eating a lot of birds when you were young. What is so difficult for you to make business now that you have Ukuumwe? Can you not make business out of the birds?

HON MOONGO: Colleagues, while we are joking here people are going to die because of hunger, because the crops are totally destroyed by the birds. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, you suggest that the Minister or the Government should prevent the birds from destroying the mahangu fields, but do you have any scientific proposal or option from your side which you could share with the Government? If yes, you can draw up your proposal and give it to the Minister.

HON MOONGO: I do not want to come up with a proposal, but if that is the case, I will give information. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on a point of information. Honourable Moongo, I just wanted to inform you that Namibia is not the first country to be affected by these kinds of plagues. Maybe Honourable Kaura could help us here, he has written a lot of books. There was the Cultural Revolution in China and many years back they tried to eliminate the birds. You know the population of China is so large and they organised themselves that everybody should have a drum to beat. So these birds were flying all over for hours, they could not land. As a result all of them died. But then another plague came in the form of birds which again affected their crops. Therefore, do not tamper with nature. Thank you very much.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. What type of business do you intend to do with the birds, to increase the birds, to allow the birds to increase? (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we fail to discipline the kudus, we allow human lives to be lost through kudus. They can kill any time. Now our Honourable Minister said I cannot pay you to go and bury that person who died. Those people have fences, high fences to prevent those animals from going out. Whoever is alongside must erect a high fence in order to save human lives. It is quite clear and the Ministry does not even want to think about it. Birds are something else, but the kudus need to be stopped immediately and you do not want to pay when people are killed by the kudus.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I suggest that we take the unemployed youth countrywide to kill the birds and produce food for the community. (Intervention)

HON NAMBINGA: Honourable Chairperson, to be very serious, may I ask the Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, you are telling this august House that you are capable of drawing up a plan and give it to the Minister. Two weeks ago I drove past your homestead there at Ongwediva and I saw a lot of birds eating your mahangu. Why do you not come up with a plan at your house first to stop them before drawing up a plan for the whole country?

HON MOONGO: Try to reduce the bird population by killing them and feed the community with bird meat.

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I was disappointed when some community whose garden was destroyed cut the trees along their mahangu field and were arrested. They did that because the birds are using the bushes as hiding places. Colleagues, we are doing harm to the community and doing best to the bird population.

The other aspect is on the lion population. I thought you want to make money from the lions and put them within a strong fence where the tourists could come and view them. But now you bring the lions from other countries and allow them to wander around. Now we are feeding them, they are eating our cattle at Oshivelo. They are killing our community and livestock, but you do not control them and you do not feed them.

I appeal to the Honourable Minister to control all the dangerous animals.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I rise to support the Vote under discussion wholeheartedly. I have seen that the Capital Budget and the development Budget has been increased from N\$11 million to over N\$100 million. I think this is in recognition of your noble efforts to improve tourism in the country and we support you wholeheartedly.

My only question is that as we are embarking on the development of these infrastructures, I think it is important for the Minister also to recognise that there are Namibians that would like to visit these places and I hope the Minister will strike a balance between foreign tourists and the local Namibian population, because I read in the newspaper that some people were complaining that they do not have access to these facilities, so that these facilities remain accessible and affordable to the local population. I thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I want to join the previous speakers in supporting the Minister, his Deputy and the staff on Vote 18. I have two issues that I want to raise under this Vote 18.

One is on equity in income participation. We all know that the tourism sector is the fastest growing economic sector, as mentioned by the Minister in his motivation speech. When you look at the sectors that contribute towards the economic growth of this sector, if I zero in on labour and I look at the income of labour, you can see that the income generated by labour is very skewed. You look at who is taking the biggest package home in terms of salaries and wages. I believe that something should be looked at, how we can really address that skewed income generated by labour.

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If we look at the question of land as a factor of production which contributes towards the growth of this sector, one can see that the income generated in terms of rentals is not coming to us, the formerly disadvantaged, it is going to those ones who are still in control of land ownership in the country. Therefore, we really need to look at that.

If I look at capital as a factor of production that contributes towards the growth of this economic sector, then you see all the interest goes to foreign banks. We need to check that when they pay in Germany, the money should come back to Namibia.

On the question of entrepreneurship, all the profits in the tourism sector are very skewed. We need to see how we can really encourage our own people, but I believe that the Minister has some programmes which they are embarking on. Maybe the Minister will reflect on them. But these are issues that need to be looked at if we want to benefit from this fastest growing economic sector and that is tourism. We have been fighting for the Independence of this country, but we also want to benefit from the fruits of any given sector.

I think those are very cardinal issues that need to be looked at for the benefit of our Nation.

The other issue which I want to address myself under this Vote has been addressed by previous speakers and that was on the gambling and lottery.

I know about the moratorium which was put on the issuance of gambling licences, but I believe it is high time now that we need to know where we are standing with that.

We have been informed that the National Lottery could really help us in the fight against poverty. It will contribute towards poverty alleviation because the income generated from this lottery can be redistributed to the poor through levies or taxation. It can bring more money to our fiscus. If the Minister could reflect on those specific issues which I have mentioned, I will highly appreciate it and I want to register my support to this specific vote. I thank you for your attention.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, let me support the Minister of Tourism on Vote 18 and my comments will be on Programme 1 which is on Page 3, which deals with protected area management, followed by Programme 2, protection and management of key species and natural resources and then Programme 5 which deals with tourism development.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me link my comments on Programme 1 with Programme 5 that deals with tourism development and my comment is with regard to the maximisation of our efforts to derive the maximum benefits from our tourism development exercise.

Tourism is a very, very broad sector which can be segmented or which falls into various segments and if we are dealing with protected area management, especially our national parks and game, in terms of competitiveness and positioning our country from a tourism marketing perspective, I think it will be prudent for us and it will augment our competitive position in this industry if we can consider the upmarket segment of the tourism sector, which I believe is really underdeveloped.

I know that my comment may be confused as advocating for privatisation. Far from it. Namibia is an attractive country, it is enjoying peace and stability and it has the infrastructure, but our upmarket segment in this industry is underdeveloped as far as the opening of national parks is concerned. Etosha is a prime area. If we could consider to open it to private players who will not compete with Namibia Wildlife Resort, but who will cater totally for the upmarket segment, we will definitely add a lot to our revenue and there are countries in this Region which are making a kill from that. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Kazenambo a question? Comrade Kazenambo, you said that you do not want to be misunderstood on privatisation. What do you exactly mean by the higher segment of a private company not to compete, but it is inside a national park. How are they not going to compete with Namibia Wildlife Resort? Unless we do something else, but anything you bring to your child is to destroy your child. There are a lot of big areas outside, let them develop outside. Can you put it in such a way that Ilonga does not misunderstand you when you say it is not competing with Namibia Wildlife Resorts. How are they not going to compete in a capitalist system in Etosha?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I will attempt to answer, it is a good question and I will attempt to give straight answers to it.

Without going to Etosha, if we can start here in Windhoek, you can manage the hotel sector from guest houses to three-star hotel to five-star hotel. There are travellers who will not go and sleep in a three-star hotel or in a guest house for security reasons or for various reasons and even in national parks there are upmarket segments. Namibia Wildlife Resorts will cater for the people who would like to be in Etosha, but who would prefer to stay there and even watch

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nocturnal animals at night. However you will force them to leave the park at a certain hour. If they are inside Etosha, if you build a five-star upmarket hotel, you will make a kill out of it. They will fly in and they will stay at an upmarket hotel. There is no way they will compete with the middle and the backpackers segment at all, which the Namibia Wildlife Resorts at the moment is concentrating on.

In fact, to protect the Namibia Wildlife Resorts, you can even enter into joint ventures and you will be creating jobs, you are adding to the range in terms of product. This is the reality. A country like Botswana, if you go to the Okavango Delta and mind you, Honourable Comrade Iilonga, in terms of infrastructure development, even other than that water that is running there or anywhere where you can capture it to develop the mahangu's of the world and so on, Etosha is a prime area because you will link it with Sossusvlei, which is a unique place and Naukluft which is the only biggest Naukluft in the southern hemisphere. If you link it with Etosha, then you will make a kill. It is a kill and you will be catering for a certain segment.

I would really like to appeal for us to consider tapping into the upmarket segment which for now we are not tapping, because of the infrastructure which we have and we are losing out. This is my appeal.

These companies will not compete with Namibia Wildlife Resorts and it must be understood from that perspective and these are economic realities. It may be from a capitalist point of view, but can you also define what is capitalism? Honestly, capitalism is not ... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Clarity. We cannot go back, we go forward. Capitalism is the disease it was, Communism is the disease it is. But all those are gone.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I was advocating for re-development of our parks. To conclude because time is running out, in tourism development we must also consider injecting life into cultural tourism. This country is rich with cultural products. Let us develop cultural tourism, let us also develop agro-tourism, which is agriculture oriented type of eco-tourism and to conclude, Honourable Chairperson, on the issue of management of wildlife, especially in the Sossusvlei area. I think the Minister of Agriculture with the help of Tourism need to coordinate, because the local communities, especially in the Omatjete, Sesfontein area were in the Poverty Profile Assessment done by the National Planning Commission, and they are complaining that certain farmers have big earth dams in the river system and this disturbs the flow of water and they do not receive enough water in their areas. As

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a result, those wildlife destroy the windmill of the Chief. If there could be coordination and management so the private farmers not do that, so that the marginalised communities will not suffer.

With this I support the Vote.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, mine will really be very brief. I want to start of giving my wholehearted support to Vote 18 and I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister, the Deputy and the whole staff. They are doing very well on the question of promotion of the community-based tourism.

It seems the Ministry is also doing very well in promoting the conservancies in the communal areas. Comrade Minister, what is your advice? Sometimes we see traditional leaders fighting over and against the establishment of conservancies because they are fighting over some of these forests, that this is mine and the other one is saying, this is mine. I however believe whatever is there, livestock and wild animals, it will be to the good of all of us.

Then my last contribution is with regard to our National Parks. We still have a lot of people, particularly from our poor rural communities, who do not have access to these National Parks and possibly these are the charges that are not deliberately looking at how our communities could gain access to these parks. We should have access to the resources in the country, but having access is also introducing a way of learning and that is how we benefit from these resources.

I support the Vote.

HON BOOYS: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 18 and I only have two points to raise.

Honourable Minister, at the beginning of this year I was travelling between Otjiwarongo and Okahandja, I think it was the second week of January and 20 kilometres outside Otjiwarongo to Okahandja I saw an elephant walking on the other side of the fence. I know those are guest farms and I stopped and asked my children to come and look at the elephant. We stood at a distance and watched. I am just wondering if we should allow these big animals, elephants, rhinos and lions, to be brought to guest farms inland. They might have permits or concessions from the Ministry, but I am just a bit careful for us to allow these guest farms to bring in these big animals.

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Secondly, I feel Agriculture and Tourism should coordinate on this thing of every farm now becoming a guest farm. The indigenous Namibians have been farming communal, now they are moving to commercial. Before this farm was a guest farm it was an agricultural farm, so I have to mention agriculture and I have to mention that the indigenous Namibians are now moving from communal to commercial farming and those who were engaged in commercial farming has now developed a new tactic to develop these farms as guest farms or wildlife farms. The two Ministries have to cooperate to see, before a farm is declared a guest farm, whether this farm is suitable for agriculture. If we allow all these farms to become guest farms, then we are allowing this industry to kill the agricultural industry. Both industries are needed and I think to allow all these farms to become guest farms would be dangerous.

My appeal is that you look into it for these big animals not be moved inland and I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:

Comrade Chairperson, I will be brief. We have these game parks in the communal areas, the Mudumu, Mamili, Muhango, Kaudum, Mangeti, and you name them, but the problem is how do the communities surrounding those parks benefit from these game parks? For instance camping sites could be established in those areas because people are crying that it takes time for them to have access to these resources and as a result there is a conflict between officials and the communities surrounding these places. People are also poaching because they are not free to have access to these resources.

Our Traditional Authorities in those communal areas asked that Government increase their allowance. However if they could have access to these resources, they could at least in a way be assisted. With these few words I support Vote 18.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to contribute Vote 18.

The Minister of Environment and Tourism has a very important function to perform, namely to protect our ecosystem. This includes wildlife, birds, and plants, name it. This is done in order to ensure the sustenance of life, the life of today and the life of tomorrow. Otherwise there will be no future. It is very fundamental. In this connection I want to express my concern on the environmental hazard caused by plastic materials which I found around this country. This is a terrible thing. These plastic products which I see around the country make our towns and villages dirty. Go to Katima Mulilo, go to Oshikango, they are consumed by animals. Honourable Members, in South Africa

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people are no longer using plastic bags. When you go shopping you get a shopping bag made of non-plastic materials.

Honourable Minister, why can we not do the same in order to protect our environment? Honestly, this is a looming catastrophe. If you do not take action today to ban plastic materials ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? The Honourable Minister is telling us that in South Africa the supermarkets are using bags not made out of plastic materials. The supermarkets we have here are part and parcel of the supermarkets in South Africa, but yet they are using plastic bags. Why is there a difference? Could the Honourable Minister tell us?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: Thank you, Honourable Minister. I do not know exactly why if plastic bags are banned in South Africa they find their way to Namibia, but there is one South African supermarket chain, the Trade Centre which had banned the use of plastic bags. When you buy your groceries, they either give you a box or you have to see how you take your groceries home. South Africa has its own domestic laws and if they ban plastic bags in their country ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, there is an NGO, a women's organisation called the Women Action for Development, headed by Ms Veronica De Klerk. They are making shopping bags, but up to now they do not have a market. The women who make these things in the rural areas bring it to the Head Office here, but still there is no market. I think this can be a great opportunity for the Roadmap of 2010 for these women groups.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am requesting the Honourable Minister to seriously look into this problem of plastic and find a solution because this is an impending catastrophe and we cannot just sit back. Thank you very much.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I did not intend to take part in this Debate, but there is something I thought my Comrades would pick up and it is in the Minister's speech on Page 7, where it reads: "*There is a big potential for expanding tourism through*

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international marketing in the traditional markets of Europe to other parts of the world, as many members also stated during the discussions of the previous Budget on Vote 18.”

This statement is very important but is left hanging, and many of the Honourable Members have talked about actually tapping from the potential markets elsewhere in the world and upgrading our infrastructure to cater for that. However, nowhere in the speech is a strategy outlined as to how to actually divert and look at these other markets.

Some Honourable Members and I happened to visit some of the Caribbean Islands and some Honourable Members went to Barbados, Jamaica, those areas, and some tourists complained that they come with their cruises to Latin America and just at the tip of almost seeing Africa, they go back. If there are some areas of trying to look at non-traditional areas and not just looking at Europe, I would wish that there is a strategy to develop this statement, hanging and dangling as it is, into some strategies of looking into these other markets.

This is my contribution and I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, first my support for the Vote. Two issues on Page 5 of the motivation statement under Programme 3, community based. My question is on these conservancies. I am aware that people have demarcated areas for this purpose, others have been trying to find donors to put up a fence. What is the Ministry's responsibility in assisting the communities to establish these conservancies, and here I am specifically referring to the communities that do not even know which embassies we have in Namibia and what the total cost of such a project can be. That is just from the Ministry's point of view to assist those communities to set up conservancies.

My second question refers to Shamungwa Conservancy in the Mukwe Constituency. It has been there for five years but they still do not have any help.

The responsibility of maintaining the fences along the borders, and I am specifically referring to the one between Namibia and Botswana, from Muhembo up there. The fences are down and unfortunately the elephants have decided to walk over. Is it the Ministry of Environment and Tourism because of the elephants, is it Ministry of Defence or Home Affairs? These fences are down and it is very dirty, you cannot drive there. Who is responsible and what the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's stake on those fences, in particular the one between Botswana and Namibia along Muhembo Border Post. Thank you and I support the Vote wholeheartedly.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I revert the Floor to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. Let me in general thank all the Members of this august House for the interest displayed in the responsibilities and work of this Ministry as well as their support before coming to individual contributions, and as Members can see justice has to be done.

With all due respect, I do not know how to deal with the contributions by Members who left, but let me thank *Chief Riruako* for his support and his concerns. He was talking about an area that the Minister is not visiting, but he did not say which area. I would really love to invite him to indicate which area he would like the Minister to visit, because the Minister is supposed to visit all areas and he is trying to do that. However in the instance of the Chief he is most welcome and I will visit the area and we can talk.

Coming to *Chief //Garoëb* – he also left – but for the benefit of the Members present and I believe the Chief will be informed, his concerns in particular when it comes to the genetics of *Hoodia*, just to tell the Chief and Members that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism already does not allow export of seeds or live plants of *Hoodia*. It is not allowed. Only products may be exported when the time comes. Permits now issued are for cultivation and the production thereof, but not for export.

Concerning the cheetahs that the Chief was talking about, the only cheetahs we know about that were exported were to the USA, but these were cheetahs which were not suitable for reintroduction in Namibia. Apart from that no other cheetahs were exported.

Concerning the elephants the Chief was talking about and I think I should also address *Honourable Moongo's* concerns about the birds, because whether it is birds, whether it is elephants, lions, the human-wildlife conflict is really a serious problem and on that one I would like to say the following: The policy on this conflict is now in its final stages. Up to now the Ministry had no policy as to how to deal with this human-wildlife conflict, but we are busy and the policy is now in its final stages.

Hunting quotas have been awarded to more than twenty conservancies and I think Chief //Garoëb also mentioned that one and the Ministry is also in the process of establishing additional quotas. He was talking about one elephant for two conservancies. We are looking into additional quotas for elephants and crocodiles, particularly in the north-eastern Namibia, to reduce the problems with these

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species. Therefore, we are in the process of putting mechanisms in place to address the problem of human-wildlife conflict.

Also as far as the birds are concerned, I would love to – as was previously put – learn from Honourable Moongo the type of things one can do to stop these birds coming to the mahangu fields. But I will learn from his advice.

What one should really appreciate is what *Honourable Nujoma* mentioned. Nature remains nature. We need to put our heads together and work together to address the problem. There is no way that we as a Ministry will turn a blind eye to the problem the people are experiencing with wild animals. We have to work together on that one.

There is a serious problem with elephants, birds, crocodiles and lions, but we are in the process of getting a policy in place how to work together with the people and how to address this problem.

Honourable Ankama, on the issue of ostriches. As far as ostriches are concerned there is a possibility under the newly introduced scheme of the Ministry, the Breeding Stock Loan Scheme, to provide members who will qualify with animals such as ostriches. Therefore the Honourable Ankama can apply for that and the process will come. The private farmers may also be in a position to have tamed ostriches, but this would be a private issue. However, as far as the wild ostriches are concerned, these are under the care of my Ministry and it can be taken care of under that scheme. I will await your application.

Comrade Mutorwa, here I must apologise. If I could be availed time to go into the Development Budget and come back with a proper answer, however I will not be able to answer it right now and my apologies for that one.

As far as the community lodges are concerned, the first community lodge was established at Grootberg in the Kunene Region and it is doing very well. The idea here is to involve communities, either in partnership with investors, to put up these community lodges. For example, included in the Budget are five more such community lodges within the special development projects. The objective here is to involve our rural communities in this exercise.

As far as the difficulties with the National Lottery are concerned, I just want to tell the Honourable Member that the Lotteries Board has been appointed, the development programme for National Lottery is approved and it is on track right now. However when it comes to the question of gambling, we all know and it is true that the moratorium is still in existence. Whether it is now ten or five years, that I cannot tell, but the Colleague may be correct in saying ten. The point is that the moratorium was placed and the instruction of the Cabinet decision was that the law should be amended. Therefore, the process is ongoing and the Honourable

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Member would appreciate the fact that a law cannot be amended just like that. It is a process, but we are working on that.

Comrade Mutorwa mentioned the parks in the Kavango and also the roads. Let me also follow up on that one. The point is that in all the parks, whether the ones in Etosha, the ones in Kavango or Caprivi, there must be roads and the roads must be maintained. Therefore, this can include all the parks.

Also the question of education and information in connection with the conservancies is very true. It is true that the Ministry is experiencing that sometimes when you go and tell the people of the benefits of the conservancy idea they grab it without fully understanding what they should do and how to go about. Therefore, that process is also ongoing. I thank you for your support, Comrade Minister.

Honourable Gurirab, thank you for your support. It is true, tourism is about natural resources. As far as the dune belt is concerned and the off-road driving on the belt, the following information: Cabinet has recently approved that the Ministry should manage the dune belt area through the issuance of utilisation permits as an interim measure until the area is formally proclaimed as a protected area. Permits are issued, at the moment free of charge, and the recent Easter weekend we could tell that there was a great improvement as far as that is concerned. The officials were there and it was checked. The Ministry prosecuted several offenders, but in general there was a reduction of problems compared to the previous years. This is being taken care of.

As far as the Namibia Tourism Board is concerned, Honourable Gurirab, it is true that the funds are not sufficient, but the point is that one can only use the available portion of the money. The Namibia Tourism Board have to sell Namibia, it is true and more money is needed and I will always count on your support for more money.

Comrade Ithana, thank you for the support and congratulations. You asked whether there is a royalty on game. Yes, in the form of an export levy on live game exported and secondly, a permit fee for the use of game for hunting and selling. However these fees are low, I must admit. We are now in the process of increasing the amounts, but we could also investigate the royalty concept.

Honourable Moongo, I am pleased to hear that you are happy. The issue of the birds, as I have already said, is a natural phenomenon, but we are now in the process of announcing the hunting season and there is provision for huntable birds and in this way the birds are compensating for the mahangu that they are eating. We cannot just kill birds for the sake of killing them, that we cannot do, but we need to co-exist, supplementing each other. Please do not advise the youth to kill the birds and the same with lions. Lions and elephants are problem animals, but

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we are also in the process of looking at quotas to be allocated to communities near to the parks and suffering under these animals, so that they could also be assisted to address this problem. That is on the way.

Comrade Nujoma, thank you for your support and also what you said about the Development Budget. On the question of Namibians visiting the parks and our natural scenery, this is indeed an issue that needs some education and encouragement and if I can say it here, on behalf of Namibia Wildlife Resorts, there is a 25% discount on the price at all resorts for Namibians.

Comrade Esau, once again thank you for your support. On the issue of payments made by tourists, whether it is in Germany or other countries, I think we should understand that when we travel to Germany, where do you pay? You do not pay in Germany, you pay for everything here, like your air ticket and when it is through companies, even your hotel and everything is paid here, but there are mechanisms for this money to go where it ought to go. Therefore, we are not totally losing out on that one, the money is coming. If people are bringing in coupons, as was previously said, that is the proof that they paid and that is proof that the money is on its way. I have already touched on the issue of lottery and gambling.

Honourable Kazenambo, thank you for your support and as far as the benefits and marketing of tourism and the parks are concerned, it is true that the Ministry is addressing the skewed income, development and implementation of national training programmes to develop human capital to take up high-level jobs and also opportunities of SME's should improve, skewed income and marketing. These are issues that are being addressed.

Programmes are being developed to ensure market access to SME's through Namibia Tourist Board activities and also through the special projects fund entrepreneur advisory services will be provided.

Comrade Kazenambo mentioned upmarket sector development. Improved Namibia Wildlife Resorts facilities, especially at Okaukuejo, will cater for the upmarket segment. Maybe I should also use this opportunity to invite the Honourable Members of this august House to visit these resorts and inform yourselves of what is going on there. (Interjections). Free lunch is gone, you will have to pay, but you are invited. On Friday we will re-launch the renovated facilities at Waterberg. There is now even conference facilities at Waterberg, the restaurant is there and the rooms, maybe not five star, but close to five star. Please go and see for yourselves and support the projects.

I should also say that there is a tendency by Cabinet Ministers, Ministries and even Parliament, to have their conferences at places other than the Government

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facilities. You are not supporting your own facilities and it is important that we take note of this.

There are plans underway to develop a five-star hotel, as per newspaper reports. Sossusvlei Game Lodge at Sesriem would be upmarket, currently catered through a guest farm, but could with more research in agro-tourism be packaged for the communal areas as well.

Comrade Pandeni, thank you for your support and your kind words. You mentioned conservancies and traditional leaders and it is true that in some areas there are misunderstandings, but we are in the process of consulting these traditional leaders. We intend to bring them together around one table and explain our vision with these parks and how all of them can benefit without fighting about a particular area. This is in the pipeline.

Also when it comes to conservancies, it is our contention that conservancies are under the jurisdiction of the Traditional Authorities. Therefore, they should not see conservancies as something different, because it is in their area where they have jurisdiction and the conservancy committee and the Traditional Authorities should work together and everybody must benefit in a particular community.

National parks and access by rural people and the charges. When an entity is run on a commercial basis, it is true that there must be charges, but as I have already indicated, there are provisions to make it possible for our local people to also benefit and have access.

I can also mention that we are in the process of drafting a policy on the future management of our parks. Cabinet Members will recall that Cabinet already in 2004 decided that the concession areas in the Kunene Region must be declared as national parks. That process is on and they will become part of the Etosha National Park, connecting up with the Skeleton Park. The intention is to however involve the communities there in the management of this park and also for them to benefit from the park as such.

Comrade Hans Booys, thank you for your support. You mentioned the elephant at Otjiwarongo. We must try and trace it, how was it marked and to whom it belongs? I fully agree with you on the notion about lions and elephants, but lions cannot be controlled, they move all over. However what you said is true, we cannot allow these dangerous animals to be kept on guest farms and so forth and there are conditions for that one.

On the issue of every farm now becoming a guest farm, I think this cannot be controlled by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism alone. We need a national policy on that one because we are talking of a free market and these things. We are encouraging people to diversify, because when it comes to farming with

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animals and you take the raining patterns in our country, there is a need for our people to diversify in order to survive.

Honourable Dinyando asked how do communities benefit from parks in Kavango and Caprivi. The Ministry has already assisted three communities to establish camp sites in these parks and has recently agreed to a new camp site in the Mahangu Park.

The proposed concession policy makes provision for awarding concessions in parks to communities. The Ministry awards hunting quotas to communities around parks. As part of the Millennium Challenge Account proposal, the Ministry is developing a programme to support tourism development in the north-east, which includes partnerships and shareholding by communities.

Comrade Kaapanda, I cannot agree more with you on the dangers of plastic. I think each and every farmer farming with animals will know that plastic is dangerous for our animals. I agree with you that something has to be done and I would believe that maybe together with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and other Ministries and Government entities we need to address this problem and see what the possibilities are for alternative material to plastic. It is true, it is polluting and it is dangerous.

Comrade Nambahu, thank you for your support. When we talk about new areas and traditional areas, for example, you would appreciate the fact that up to now our main source for tourism is the German-speaking Europe, but we intend to diversify and go to other parts. You will recall that we already signed an agreement with China, for example, for Chinese people to come to Namibia as tourists. The same goes for the Nordic countries and we are even venturing into America.

Comrade Tweya, I am not so very clear whether community members understand that conservancies must be fenced off. It is not the practice as far as I know. An area is declared a conservancy, but not necessarily fenced off. There is nothing like that. It is an open communal area, demarcated and declared a conservancy and that's it. (Interjection). The animals are there and they remain there. They are moving and that is why the whole community is benefiting. It is not necessarily an area to be fenced off. It is possible where need be, but it is not a condition. If you go to Sesfontein, you will see Springbok all over. They are almost like tamed animals, they stand close to you.

As far as the international fences are concerned, this is also a concern and the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication is mainly responsible for the maintenance, but there is a joint effort between Agriculture, Environment and Tourism, Home Affairs and Works. A Committee was sent out to assess and we are in the process of addressing that problem, because it is a serious problem.

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Comrade Chairperson, unless I made a mistake elsewhere, I do believe that I covered the questions. I can see my Prime Minister wants to say something.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I just want to give information on birds. There is an organisation in East Africa which monitors the breeding ground of migratory birds and that organisation normally has means of destroying such birds, because they are destroying products in Kenya. What should perhaps happen is for Southern Africa to learn something from East Africa if these birds become recurrent every year. Perhaps the Ministry of Agriculture could get in touch with that organisation that is based in Nairobi, to study the breeding grounds of these migratory birds. The suspicion is that they breed around the Zambezi and then after that they start to migrate to other places. The best thing is to find where they are breeding, so that we can destroy them there before they start migrating to other places. That is just information. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE: Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 19 – “TRADE AND INDUSTRY” put for discussion.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. There are two things that I want to highlight which are not very clear to me in the Vote of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Let me start by congratulating the Honourable Minister for a rather good presentation.

Honourable Chairperson, I just wanted to find out from the Honourable Minister on the programmes of the Ministry in this Medium Term Expenditure Framework, Page 389. The Ministry has listed programmes in the book, the private sector feasibility study on site and premises, SME development programme and a number of them. I have seen in the various Budget papers that a number of projects, if not all, have been in the Budget for the last, plus minus last 5 years, exactly the same and the only thing changing is just the figures and I know that these are not continuous programmes for ever. It is programmes that were supposed to have started and ended.

I just want to find out, for instance in 2003/04 in your gender development programme you had N\$2.5 million that was budgeted for, the next year N\$2.5 million, in 2005/06 you had N\$2.7 million, and in N\$2006/07, N\$2.6 million. What is the money used for? This programme, as far as I have heard, is not yet operational and you are spending plus minus N\$2.7 million every year. Could you just shed light on this? (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiiko, you just said now that that programme has been budgeted for, for the last 5 years, but you have only been here two years. Can you tell us what you did three years ago with that money? Why are you asking now?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Minister, I am forced to answer that question and I will answer that question. If you know what was going on with some of us at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the nepotism and tribalism that was going on in that Ministry, I can prove that and I can say it outside this House. Be careful, when you ask some of those questions to some of us who were in Government institutions, you are pushing us too far.

The other question that I wanted to ask, Honourable Chairperson ... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? You are claiming that you were suffering under nepotism and tribalism. Did you complain to the Ombudsman about that?

HON TJIHUIKO: I believe that being a senior Minister in Government, the Right Honourable Prime Minister ought to know some of these things. However you may know that I was moved from the position of Deputy Director: Small and Medium Enterprises to the position of Deputy Director: Industrial Development with a note pushed under my door. Do not push me too far. (Interjections).

Let us concentrate on the Budget and I think some of you know the reason why I am asking these questions. If you allow me to ask the question and get the answer, you know the reason why you are jumping up, let us get the answer to these questions because it is not possible for a project to be budgeted for every year and there are no results. (Interjections). You cannot tell me anything about development. You do not know anything about the process and I know the process.

Honourable Chairperson, I also wanted to know if the Honourable Minister could just give us an idea as to why has that programme been on the books for all these years and when they budget every year, do we get reports of this programme that has been in the Minister for all these years?

Secondly, I just wanted to find out from the Honourable Minister that I remember that when the NDC were just about to be dismantled, the Namibia Development Corporation was an institution that was looking after the SME premises. They

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were the ones who were collecting money and they were the ones who were responsible for after-care services. I just wanted to know from the Minister what happened to the services that were provided by the Namibia Development Corporation?

Secondly, I have heard that there is a company or institution or structure that was established to collect the payments from the various Small and Medium Enterprises premises. Do we know the owners or can we have the names of the owners of this company and can we also be informed what is the name of this institution or company that is collecting the money? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Comrade Chairperson, is it allowed in this House for a person to use information of an office. When he was there he did not talk, but when he comes here he thinks it is different. If he talks of nepotism, is the nepotism now out or is nepotism still there?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, I think we should be very, very sensitive. I have been saying that when you push somebody to say certain things they will. It is not that we do not want to say it, it is simply because as a matter of principle we are not saying it and some of these things hurt. You are responsible as Deputy Minister to make sure that these things are not happening and you are happy to see that some of these things are not happening to the people from your tribe. That is why you are happy with it. If you want us to come down to that level then we will do that. (Interjections). A promoter of tribalism like you. You are promoting tribalism and you know it. That is why you are jumping up and down. You are a tribalist! Push us and you will get it.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, we should not dwell too much on tribalism. It is better to solve the problem outside. I am dealing with the Votes here and I am not here to solve personal problems. Please proceed.

HON NAMBINGA: Comrade Chairperson, let us not abuse our position in this august House. If you have problems, the Namibian Government has structures in the Ombudsman. Please let us concentrate on the Committee Stage and Committee Stage alone.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, if I could continue with my questions. At the time that we moved from the Namibia Development

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Corporation, a company was established. I want to know to whom this institution reports to and to whom the money being collected is paid?

With those few comments I support the Vote.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support the important work of this Ministry and I have only two small questions.

When the Honourable Minister motivated the Vote yesterday, he told us at length about the international agreements, the associations, the SACU, the MERCOSUR, etcetera, that Namibia has joined as part of expanding the market for our products.

Against the background of the information that the Minister gave us yesterday, I was a little surprised when looking at the staffing of the Ministry, particularly under the International Trade Division, that of 79 posts on the establishment, only 30, that is less than 50 percent, people are in posts. It was the same last year. Last year it was actually only 22 people employed. I felt, given the increasing importance of what we are doing in that area, that we would like to have staff on the posts to help us to find markets for our products. So I am a little perplexed and I am asking the Minister whether people have moved on or what happened to them? Have all of them moved on to start companies importing Japanese cars or what has happened to them?

Lastly, the Honourable Minister was talking about the Katwitwi EPZ programme as one place that is funded under this Budget. Is the Minister in a position to give us some idea of what exactly is happening in this programme, because the main idea behind this programme was that it has helped us to create jobs and absorb numbers of the unemployed? Is it working, are we getting more investors in this programme and getting people employed?

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. My question is on Page 249, Estimates of Revenue. I would like to hear from the Minister which measures are being put in place to wind up the NDC. Will it be the responsibility of the Minister of Trade and Industry or the Minister of Finance? No provision was made for the NDC in the 2007/08 Budget.

Secondly Honourable Chairperson, I would like to hear from the Minister what will happen to the farms of the Namibia Development Corporation? Will it be given to the Ministry of Agriculture, will it be sold to private companies or will it be put on auction?

I would also like to know from the Minister what would happen to the 25% shares

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that the Namibia Development Corporation had in Coca Cola. Will it be transferred to the Development Bank which, in my opinion, would be a conflict of interest or what will happen to it?

Fourthly, Honourable Chairperson, during the last retrenchments which took place in Namibia Development Corporation workers were transferred from the NDC after agreements between the Namibia Development Corporation and the new owners. After a short period these new owners did not fulfil their obligation towards the company and the employees. Employees lost their jobs and I hope that this time around all workers will be given a fair chance to choose whether they want to be retrenched or to be transferred.

My next question is about trade fairs, whether the Ministry is subsidising or sponsoring the activities of trade fairs. If it is yes, in which way? If it is no, why not?

I want to know, if it is yes, why did the trade fair shows become Chinese trade fairs? The only products on display at our trade fairs are plastic Chinese products. I also want to know from the Minister how are Namibians encouraged to display their products and what are the obstacles facing them?

What measures can be put into place to change the situation of the past few years regarding the Trade Fair Societies? There are many stories that we read in the newspaper about Show Societies which are not really benefiting our Nation.

With these few questions, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I revert the Floor to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I really appreciate the interest that has been shown in especially the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Let me start by first dealing with *Honourable Tjihuike's* question. He basically talks about the history of what was happening in that Ministry a number of years ago when he was a staff member within the Ministry itself. He made accusations of nepotism, tribalism, etcetera, trends which are nowadays regarded as totally unconstitutional and illegal in terms of a modern Namibia. I think everyone of us, irrespective of where we are, has many ways to get the situation redressed if we are discriminated against in terms of our race, religion or tribe. I still think that tribalism is unacceptable. Under my leadership that will not be tolerated in my Ministry, nor will any other type of discrimination be tolerated, but when some

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wrongdoing is taking place within any Ministry, I suppose that we should take the legal course to have that situation addressed.

The feasibility study for SMEs to access finance from financial institutions and sites and premises are needed in all towns, villages and settlements. I am just referring to the programmes that you have referred to. Feasibility studies and business plans are provided by my Ministry basically to assist the bulk of the formerly disadvantaged business people who want to get into business to have their feasibility studies done or to be assisted with proper business plans in order to embark on their business. We provide sites and premises and in my Budget speech I have referred to something like N\$172 million that have been invested in these premises. As you know very well, these are sites and premises that are provided for business people who cannot afford locations on the market at market prices to get into business. Therefore, our Ministry provides such premises for upcoming entrepreneurs for them to embark on business and to take off. That is what we are doing with sites and premises.

Currently there are 34 premises at 24 different localities and I have referred to an amount that had been invested in those premises countrywide. This is also an ongoing programme responding to demands of the private sector.

The services that were provided by Namibia Development Corporation are currently provided by the Offshore Development Company and no private company collects rentals from the industrial parks and SME modules. This is the information that I got, but if Honourable Tjihuike knows the name of the company, I would be quite interested to know, so that we can follow up on that company. I would appreciate if you could provide me with that information of a company that you allege is collecting rentals.

The official position is that ODC is the one which has been tasked to collect these rentals, but if it is otherwise, please provide me with that information so that we can investigate that situation.

I have indicated the different programmes in my speech and I do not know which one you want specific information on. Honourable Tjihuike, I hope I have covered what you have mentioned. Your main issue was about being discriminated against and I think I have given advice on that one.

Honourable Tsudao Gurirab, your question was concerning international agreements to expand our markets and you are surprised by the extent to which we are understaffed, especially in the Department of International Trade. You are correct, this is an issue that I am sitting with all the time. I have always been insisting that why do we not get the maximum positions that need to be filled, that have been budgeted for and approved. That is my concern, because I believe with

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an understaffed Ministry you are likely to fall short in terms of implementing what you are supposed to implement.

As I mentioned in my report earlier, the Public Service Commission has also approved the other positions that we need to get going on some of the projects and some of those have already been provided for in this current Budget.

Hopefully, within the next three months or so we would be filling all those positions. Of course, we have to follow the processes that are required, because the adverts and the interviews and all these processes take some time. However we will fill those positions.

Your second question was about the EPZ programme and what is happening on this programme. The EPZ programmes are continuing. Many investors do come and they register companies in terms of the EPZ Act. In terms of employment creation, I cannot provide you with the exact number of jobs created but we do create jobs through that programme.

Furthermore, we are also looking at the total investment incentive regime in the country to see whether we can compare with our neighbours in the Region, so that we can try and improve, where possible, and on that basis address the issue of our competitive ranking that is going down.

Honourable Dienda, as you are aware, a decision was taken long ago to wind up the Namibia Development Corporation and what is happening right now is that we are in the process of getting to finalise the winding-up process. With the winding-up of the Namibia Development Corporation, the different assets that the Namibia Development Corporation has as well as the different liabilities of Namibia Development Corporation would have to be addressed before you actually wind up the company. We have gone into the process of verifying the existence of those assets, where they are. Some of them are in the form of buildings, some of them in the form of shares, as you correctly pointed out here. In whatever form they are, these shares would be assigned through the different processes.

After this verification process and the final auditing of the books, my Ministry and the Ministry of Finance will get together and look at the assets as well as the liabilities that are there and how the liabilities would be taken care of. Then eventually we would be going to Cabinet with suggestions as to what should be happening with what asset and how the liabilities could be addressed before winding up.

The 25% shares in Coca Cola would equally be addressed in the same way that I have suggested here. Retrenchment of workers is a liability that I have been referring to, that before the company can close it has to address the situation of the workers and address pension and payouts and all those things.

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HON VENAANI**

You asked whether we subsidise trade fairs or not. Sometimes we subsidise transport especially for trade fairs outside the country. We promote the export of Namibian products. For instance, if there is a trade fair outside the country where we are invited, we help to subsidise the transport.

The allegation that our trade fairs are dominated by what you call Chinese products, I do not exactly understand what that means, because the trade fairs that I go to and open, have more Namibian products produced by Namibians. I have attended trade fairs in Kavango where handicraft were exhibited there. Sometimes you have fruits and vegetables exhibited. These products that are exhibited there are Namibian products and it is for a good reason, it is to try and encourage people to produce more and to take their products to the market and compete with other products that enter this market. On that level we can also improve the quality of their products and they will be able to also export.

I thought I have covered the questions and I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objections? Agreed to.

Vote 20 – “AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY” put for discussion.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise first and foremost to support our Vote. Secondly, I want to thank the Minister for his candid submission that agriculture is not getting its fair due in the Budget and I agree with you and having said that, you have covered a very large area of problems you are experiencing.

Let me start from the onset with one issue that I think is important and it is the issue of bush encroachment.

Bush encroachment is a very serious problem that hampers productivity in our country. It is estimated that we are losing close to 700 million to a billion on productivity because of bush encroachment, and I do not know what measures the Ministry of Agriculture is taking in addressing the question of bush encroachment and I think attention must be given in that regard.

Secondly is what we can do with the wood if we clear the land, because I hear that there are companies which want to be supplied with dry wood and coal. What are we doing in that regard?

I want to thank your Ministry in terms of rural water supply and especially the extension that you are giving in areas such as Tsandi, Onambundu, Ondangwa and

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HON VENAANI

Oshakati, because one was seeing a serious tendency of many of our populace and citizens carrying water on their heads from the water points. The fact that you are now trying to extend these services so that people could have water at nearby places is a very welcome move and I really support that. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. May I ask him a question? The Honourable Member is doing very well in his intervention, so far so good, but I want to find out from the Honourable Member whether he has asked his neighbour on his right-hand side on the benefits of the biomass of these bushes which are encroaching the farms. The Honourable Member has been quite involved in this exercise. Could you maybe enlighten the Member?

HON VENAANI: On rural water supply we have a serious problem, and the Minister is aware of the Okakarara water supply. There are huge outstanding amounts of millions that the people owe in that area. What can NamWater do to meet these farmers halfway? You and I know that the prices are going down drastically and if you look at the amount that is being owed and the number of cattle and animals that are there, there is no equation, these farmers are going to go bankrupt if they have to pay this outstanding debt. I want to ask the Minister what his advice would be in this regard.

The other issue that I want to raise is that mostly in rural Kavango, the south of Kavango and Epupa area where many farmers are currently using hand wells to give water to their animals.

At a place such as Omuhajivingo in Epupa I do not know what is hampering our Government to provide those people with even windmills, so that these people could have decent equipment. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Venaani, I still supply you with information. In the area where I grew up there is only one borehole. Attempts were made to drill more boreholes, but you do not have consumable water there. In my village Amarika there is only one borehole and it is not working.

HON VENAANI: You should join the last King of Scotland. (Interjection). No, I do not want to join his jokes. Be that as it may in your village, if we can put up a windmill or an engine there, it will be faster, rather than doing what you were doing now, whatever he has been doing. When does the Minister envisage to address this problem of wells in southern Kavango and the Epupa area?

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HON HAUSIKU

The other issue is the repair of these engines. Sometimes you find farmers stuck for two or three weeks or a whole month and the cattle are not drinking water because the officers who are supposed to fix these engines are not there.

Let me move to another important issue which is the drought aid. I see under Main Division 09 of your Ministry that you would have to submit a submission to Cabinet for approval, but some areas in the country, such as the Aminuis Constituency, upper Kunene and lower Kunene, are experiencing serious drought. (Interjection), and Onyaanya too. I have not been there recently, so I am talking about the areas that I visited recently. What is the Minister doing? I see that the Budget allocated is N\$100,000, so perhaps Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa could provide some of the contingency funds to address the drought aid problem. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am rising to support Vote 20. I have a few issues to raise. I want to commend the Minister and the staff specifically on the progress they have made on the construction of silos. This is a programme which has been overdue for a long time. My mahangu is safe now since the silo in the area of Katjie Nakatjie has been completed. Thank you, Minister, for the progress that you are making on that programme.

The other programme that I want to commend the Ministry on is the knowledge empowerment programme for the rural farmers. I was impressed when visiting some rural farmers who have been struggling to provide medical services to their animals. They always had to run to big centres to be provided with medicines and sometimes they have to expect the extension officers to visit them. The programme that you have implemented where local people are trained is really doing very well, and I feel that for this programme to continue that way, they should be evaluated station by station, so that those which are going backwards could be assisted to maintain the level of service they are rendering now.

On Page 5 of your speech, the sentence that starts with” *“Training of the first certified students started in October 2006 for a period of one year. When they have completed their training, they will be allocated plots at Vungu-Vungu, Ndonga-linena and Etunda.”* I wanted to know, because I was under the impression that the people who are being trained will be leading some agricultural projects in the Green Scheme. I thought these would be trainers and supervisors of the farmers who will be resettled, but if they are provided with plots, then it means they have been trained to become settlers and not trainers of others.

Connected to this one, I want to know what progress has been made by the thirty-five or so small farmers who were settled at Shadi five or six years ago. I

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HON DR KAWANA**

remember we had some local people and former combatants who were resettled at Shadi on small plots.

My next question is on the status of the service providers within the intended Green Scheme. At Etunda and some other projects we already have service

providers. What is really the status of these service providers? Are they considered to be owners of the projects or producers like the others and at the same time providing service to the small farmers? I am asking this question because we have to act very early, due to quite a number of questions on this issue from the areas where these projects are located.

Then I want to raise some issues with the document you have distributed, the Technical Information document of the Budget speech 2007/08 on Vote 20. The Minister is providing information on Pages 29, 30 and 31 on Etunda, Sikondo, Ndonga-linena, Shitemo and Kalimbeza and you can go on and on. Minister, I have been involved in some of these projects, specifically in trying to convince the local people to provide land for the projects to start and also to get the process completed.

On Sikondo, for example, we are saying negotiations took place with the tribal authority for the land and land-use. Finalisation could not be reached on the ownership. The funds originally allocated were verimented to the Etunda project. Minister, I think a few months ago we facilitated for the second time, because this land was offered to the Minister of Agriculture in 2005 by the Chief and his Traditional Authority and the letters were brought to the Minister and to the Founding President. I do not know whether this information was drawn up before, because a few months ago I provided you with a copy of the approval that has been given, including that of the Regional Board.

I think the project at Ndonga-linena is an old project and you have been working on the pump station, the pump station is completed and one would like to know, after the completion of the pump station, what is the reason why there are delays in terms of starting. I know finance is one of the problems, but one would expect that project and the area to be clean, not to be bushy as it has been before it was de-bushed.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much and in conclusion I support Vote 20.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I also rise to support Vote 20. Under Programme 05 – Agricultural Extension I would like to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate the Honourable Minister for the support to communal farmers with

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HON DINYANDO

fertiliser and subsidised seeds. Comrade Minister, as you are aware, I was one of those people who have been calling for this project to start and I am happy that it has at long last started, though I am disappointed that only N\$5 million is provided under this programme. I hope that in the next Budget this amount will increase.

However, under the same Programme 05, Comrade Minister, I would like to make an appeal to bring back subsidised ploughing services to communal farmers. The Ministry must endeavour to acquire some tractors so that those services could be reinstated which were terminated some time back. Some of us were opposed to the termination of this programme, as you are aware, but the consequences are there for everybody to see, because even those who acquired those tractors are now struggling to pay, and those who managed to pay off the tractors, the poor communal farmers cannot afford the price of those tractors now. It would be much better for Government to continue rendering those services.

Also under Programme 07 – Planning, let me join my senior Minister, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, and congratulate you and your Colleagues. Comrade Minister, you are aware that I am one of those who have been calling for the construction of silos in our country, so that they could be used as a strategic food reserve for this Nation. I saw those four in Rundu and they are very good and I am very proud. I hope during the inauguration the Comrade Minister will also extend an invitation to me, so that I can go and witness that.

I am also disappointed, Comrade Minister, because I see there is only N\$3 million in the programme to continue with the extension of the silos to quite a number of Regions, like Omusati, Ohangwena and Caprivi. They were omitted in the technical programme, but you assured me that they are part of the Regions that are to be considered.

With these few remarks, I support Vote 20.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:

Comrade Chairperson, I will be very brief. I rise to support Vote 20.

First is the issue of the harvesting of water. This year we have experienced this mass of water in the Caprivi and Kavango Regions and I am just basically referring to the two channels, the Ndonga-linena and the Bukalo channels. They were so full this year that you would think it is a river on its own. I managed to follow the Ndonga-linena one, it goes deep into the inland. I think through the deepening of these channels we would be able to harvest this water. We can make use of our culture of voluntarism like with the railway. People can volunteer to dig those channels and make earth dams along these channels for us to harvest this mass of water.

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HON TJIHUIKO

The second one is the issue of the pipelines in Regions like Kavango, Caprivi, Kunene and I know that there are others where you have pipelines. Are there any future plans for these pipelines to be established in areas where there are farming units?

In last year's Budget there was a programme on horticulture, but when I went through I could not come to a specific clause, but I know it might be under the Green Scheme. I think the extension officers in Regions and Constituencies could be utilised in order for them to provide the necessary skills and know-how to people who want to be involved in horticulture, not only those who are being trained under the Green Scheme, but individuals who would like to do it on their own. They find it difficult to get off the ground, because they have to go and ask for know-how from somewhere and this makes it difficult for them to produce what we would like them to do.

With those few words, I support Vote 20.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I just wanted to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture for a good Budget. I also concur with what Honourable Venaani has said about the issue of rural water supply. There is a point that I want to put in your good hands, Honourable Minister, but the problem with access to clean water by the poor community is becoming more and more difficult by the day.

In areas like Okamatapati and Otjituuo NamWater is now pumping water into a certain point and everybody connects from that main point directly to your house. Those who cannot afford to connect water directly to their houses, may not have access to water in due course.

A day or two ago one of the traditional leaders in Otjituuo, specifically in Koblenz, was on the radio, saying that apparently in Koblenz – and I want the Honourable Minister to investigate whether it is true or not – the San community has been given a water point where it was only meant for them and the other communities are now taking water to their own homesteads. What happened is that the San community were billed with N\$500 ... (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Tjiuiko, do you not think that questions could be put on Thursday so that the Minister can investigate? You are now asking a question which should be investigated.

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HON KAZENAMBO**

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, it is in here, rural water supply. The point that I wanted to make is that I think that will be a good idea, because what I know is that the rich communities are also misusing the taps that have been given to the San community. That is the point that I wanted to make, but I think it deserves to be investigated.

The second point that I wanted to touch on is on the question of commercial agriculture and especially on livestock. I do not know whether I have missed it in your presentation or the document. I have not seen specific mention of livestock, especially goats, sheep, mutton, and I am very concerned, because I have seen that nowadays when it comes to commercial farmers, the cost of being a commercial farmer is increasing by the day. If you look at the various taxes that have been put on commercial farmers, if you look at the land tax, the 15% levy on the export on-the-hoof cattle, the toll of the mutton industry.

Honourable Minister, today I have seen in this newspaper, *New Era*, what is happening here. This is a result of our policies. I believe that when we took a decision to impose a levy on the export on-the-hoof, when we took a decision to ban the export of mutton to South Africa, we did not consider the long-term effect on the industry. What we are seeing now is that we have created employment in the abattoir sector, we are losing employment in the producer sector, because if the producers are not producing, the abattoirs are automatically not going to perform.

What we are saying now is the fact that you cannot justify by saying that you cut off here and you increase employment there. At the end of the day, you will continue reducing employment and in the long run, if nothing is done, we would create insecurity in especially the mutton producers. That insecurity will have a serious impact on the strategic planning of this industry in the long term.

I therefore plead with the Minister that this issue of mutton export to South Africa, especially now when we are facing a situation of drought, be looked at as a matter of urgency. We must look at it and I know the Minister has considered it, bringing it from 6:1 to 3:1 and there is a need for us even to allow export, even one to one, so that we can get out of the backlog that is now building up, while we have a bit of grazing in those areas, especially in the South. This cannot be ignored.

With those few remarks, Honourable Chairperson, I rest my case and I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is on the food security programme and poverty, but before I get to that, let me support the Vote.

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HON KAZENAMBO**

The issue of the Green Scheme, whenever you go to the Regions and when you meet some Councillors and some traditional leaders, there is a concern on this issue called the Green Scheme. There is no clarity, the Scheme has now been going on for approximately 5 years, but there is no tangible evidence and even the Councillors are asking and personally as a Deputy Minister I have no concrete answer to tell them what is the Green Scheme and it is not my fault. If it is my fault, let me be advised from now onwards, when you are asked on the Green Scheme, you should provide this answer. I do not have it.

You hear complaints that even consultants that are working in this Green Scheme, sometimes land with a plane and they do not give any concrete guidance, but the true fact of the matter is that we are going to allocate money and money will be flowing into the pockets of the consultants, but where is the food security of the ordinary people after 3, 4 years? Even now at Ndonga-linena we have cleared the field and after three years there is nothing tangible. We really need to be fair ourselves and let us not be made to be unruly and appear to be critical while we are not provided with information. We are serving the people and we are questioned. Can we be provided with the answer, what is this animal called Green Scheme? Thank you very much on that one.

The other one is the issue of Meatco. We are not talking for our own sakes, we are representing communities and people. Who is the owner of Meatco? We are told that this company has been established with Government money. How do we establish a private company with Government money? Was it a loan, if it was a loan, what are the terms of repayment? If it belongs to the community, to whom does it belong, because some of us are producers, we sell to Meatco and our hearts are bleeding. Can we also be provided with an answer, who is the owner of Meatco? I asked this question last year, I am repeating it. Who is the owner of Meatco? Is it Government, is it a private thing and if it is a private thing, who are those owners. If we are told it is farmers, is it also local communities in the rural areas? Are they included as owners, because Meatco is in Oshakati, Meatco is in Rundu, in Katima, it is everywhere. Who is the owner of this Meatco and we are told it is the community. My father is not an owner of Meatco, I am not an owner. Who are these owners and we must receive clarity on Meatco. Please, we are begging for these answers. It is not Kazenambo speaking, I am speaking on behalf of those who are querying these things.

To conclude, my last point and it is the issue of water. I am 100% supporting what Honourable Venaani has said and what Honourable Tjihuike has said on the water in the Okamatapati area. We need clarity, because people are complaining there and sometimes you get ashamed, because you do not have an answer. Sometimes they will take you to show you the water is leaking here, but we are billed. At the end of the month we will see that the water is billed. How do I explain that? Even if I have to defend what is not defensible, what do I say?

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HON MUTORWA

The other issue is community management of water which I mentioned earlier on, the issue of earth dams in the area of Sesfontein, even the Otjimbingwe area. The community is complaining that there is tension amongst the community with water management, because some of the communities that are nomadic have to move their animals when there is a drought and they do not have access to water. There is tension between communities. How do we manage this issue? These are my humble questions and I support the Vote.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Comrade Minister Iyambo, yours is a Budget that provides life and sustains life by providing food and water. All the other things cannot be there without food and water. Therefore, the support is obvious to this Vote.

On Page 41 of the technical document, Comrade Minister, thank you for involving our young people in the National Youth Service. We hope that that relationship will grow from strength to strength.

On Page 5 of your statement, Comrade Minister, you are making reference to some agricultural projects. To quote you, you are saying that:

“The Ministry continues to monitor the management of irrigation schemes” and they are mentioned there. My question is, what is the status of the Shitemo Agricultural Project, it is not mentioned there, as well as the Musese Agricultural Project.

On Page 41 of the technical document, we applaud you for the training that you are providing to the small scale farmers. It is very good, it is empowerment, but I just wanted to find out whether there is any coordination and linkage between your Ministry and the Namibia Qualifications Authority with regard to the recognition of these qualifications that are obtained through this training. It is very important that when you are given a certificate that at least that certificate is recognised by somebody, in this case the Namibia Qualifications Authority. I just wanted to find out whether that coordination and linkage is there.

On Page 5 of your statement, the Mashare Irrigation Training Centre will be developed as a modern training centre for small-scale farmers. We support that, but considering the historical background of the Mashare institute, this was a place that was established as an agricultural college like Ogongo. Is it the intention of the Ministry to use this particular facility as a training centre for small-scale farmers only or maybe the Ministry also envisages somewhere in the future to broaden the scope of activities for this very important facility, in the light of the implementation of the Green Scheme Project in that particular area of our country?

Page 7, wild fires, we support you in your efforts there. Here I maybe just have a comment. I think in addition to the awareness programmes that your Ministry, through the Directorate of Forestry, is carrying out, I would like to propose that maybe closer collaboration and cooperation with the Traditional Authorities should be established. Veld fires have become a terrible thing, especially in the Region of Kavango and some are just caused by careless individuals. I think we now have to move into the direction of not only providing awareness programmes, but also maybe programmes to educate people how to prevent these veld fires and the time has come that we need to punish those who cause veld fires, using the Forestry Act. I know the Traditional Authorities have a good system of punishing people.

Comrade Minister, on Page 5 of your technical document there is reference to the scaling down of the areas where vaccination will be scaled down for foot-and-mouth disease and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, but you say that as a result of the positive results you have achieved there, you are scaling down. We want to know whether this implies that the disease has been eliminated completely, hence the scaling down or what is envisaged here?

Lastly, we welcome on Page 12 of the technical document that very soon you will publish the findings of the research done. *“The Subdivision of Livestock Research has just completed a two year programme on the identification and description of livestock farming systems in the northern communal areas, the results of which will enable livestock researchers to better understand the livestock sector and respond to the challenges facing the sector. The final document is being drafted.”* We look forward to the publication of that document, so that it could support our farmers to provide food to our people. Thank you.

HON BOHITILE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much. Allow me to wholeheartedly support Vote 20 and in your own words, Honourable Minister, on Page 8 you said that agriculture is one of the priority sectors of our economy. Indeed, this is the sector from which the largest part of our communities make a living. My focus will be on two Main Divisions.

On Main Division 05 – Agricultural Development and Extension, Honourable Minister, my compliments to you on the fact that this Main Division exists, because this Division provides a crucial service. It is doing good work. But I also share the concern you expressed in your motivation on Page 3 on the budgetary constraints that this Division has, especially on travelling and subsistence allowance. I see that that particular item only increased with N\$150,000 and already this year we were hearing that they did not have enough money to travel and do their work. However, it only increased by N\$150,000.

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HON BOHITILE

This is a Division which is giving support to communal and commercial farmers to enhance entrepreneurship and commercial production through training and guidance and this is a sector which consists of many part-time farmers. One just has to look around this House and you see a good number of farmers, part-time farmers for that matter. If one has to take the part-timers in this House for training by this particular Division in all sorts of areas, appropriate farming systems, livestock production, appropriate field management or whatever, you would have to do this during a weekend. Where would you get them during the week? However, the extension workers, the professionals in this particular division do not get overtime if they would do this kind of work over a weekend. (Interjection). No, they do need cars, they train, they guide, they give information.

There should be a way, Honourable Minister, that we could make it attractive for these professionals to be willing to do this work during weekends. What are the possibilities?

Referring to Page 4 of your motivation, I must once again congratulate you on the successful implementation of the National Identification and Traceability System that we also refer to as Fanmeat. We always hear that Namibia is the leader in this aspect. However, we received information that in my Region, the Omaheke Region, at Pos 3, selling of the yellow Fanmeat ear tags was happening for N\$100 each to enable cattle thieves to sell at the auctions. You would go, buy some ear tags for N\$100 and put them on the *tollies* that you stole and you will be able to sell it. I do not know whether the Ministry knows about it, and if the Ministry knows about it, have you taken any measures to nip this in the bud?

Main Division 11 – Rural Water Supply is also a very crucial Main Division and I should once again commend your Ministry for attempting to ensure sustainable supply of safe water to rural communities. This is crucial, it is important and it is very much appreciated. However, back in Omaheke Region at the Ben Hur resettlement area, about 10 000 hectares where people are resettled, communities are going for months and weeks without water due to a Lister engine that has broken down. Ben Hur is only 60 kilometres from Gobabis and at Gobabis we have technical staff of this particular Main Division. The rural extension officers are based there, they have vehicles, there is a Budget of N\$8 million for travelling and subsistence allowance, there is a Budget of N\$7.7 million for materials and supplies, but it takes weeks and months to give these communities assistance. In the meantime both the animals and the people are without water, while these animals are the only livelihood of these communities.

Comrade Minister, could you help to push your officials to have the will to assist these people?

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, this is a people's Vote and it has all my support. I thank you very much.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: I thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only have a few concerns or questions and before I put them, I would like to thank the Minister on behalf of the board and management of NBC for having made use of the corporation to do your Ministry's programme at a cost. This is really appreciated and I am sure that programme will be helpful in the advancement of the work of your Ministry.

I am referring to Page 388 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework where you are talking about appointment of drilling contractors for drilling of boreholes. Honourable Minister, I think this is very commendable because it will enable the community to have some water. I would just like to advise the Ministry that the staff should do some monitoring to ensure that the boreholes are drilled until they reach the level where there is water. There are some areas where the boreholes are drilled and they have not reached the water level. The problem is that sometimes the agreement with these contractors is according to the metres that they should drill, but in Namibia you do not have the same water level in all areas. In some areas it is very shallow, but I can tell you, if you go to areas such as the Okongo area, the water is very deep and you cannot drill the same metres and reach the water level.

I am told that when you were invited to go to Omindaungilo you visited some of these boreholes which were just drilled and they have not reached the water level.

I think Comrade Dinyando touched on the question of water harvesting and I also want to underline it. Comrade Minister, people should be encouraged to harvest water, because they can make these water pans deep and when it rains they can collect water that could stay longer, at least for animal consumption. I know if you encourage the people they will be able to do it. They did voluntary work, and I think the Honourable Minister of Transport knows about this road, and if there is a campaign, the same thing could be done.

Another thing that you also need to encourage on water harvesting is for people to have these big containers, because you have them at some schools and the water lasts up to six months if that tank is filled up. They just need to be encouraged.

The next issue is animal health. I was happy to see in the Development Budget that the Ministry is planning these veterinary clinics. This is very important and if you could have them in every regional capital, it would be very useful, because presently, if your animal dies, and you take it to Ondangwa for them to analyse what it is, they would say it is too late. If it is nearer, you can bring that animal and it can be analysed and you can be told what is the problem.

Then the fertiliser and the drought or seed subsidy. I am happy to see that the seed subsidy is coming back, Comrade Minister, so that the poor farmers could have

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HON NAMBAHU

seeds, especially the one which is viable for a certain time, the rainy season. If you plant early, then maybe you can have the other one, but when you are planting late and you are looking for the Okashana, it is very difficult to get it. This is very welcome and I applaud you for this.

Finally is the issue of the soil degradation. This is a very serious issue. Nowadays people do not have animals for fertiliser. I do not know how the Ministry or the Government is going to deal with this. If you go around and see these fields, they are literally sandy and white and you cannot plant anything. Comrade Minister, I think something needs to be done. I know it will be difficult, but we need to start thinking about it very seriously because otherwise we will not be able to help in terms of food security. I support the Vote, Comrade Minister.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support this very important Vote and really give my applause to the Minister, I salute him for the valuable information that is provided in the technical document which accompanied the Budget and mainly for the implementation of the Water Act. I have been hearing time and again that it was expensive, but I think it is important that we have decided to implement it and that is very good.

There is one area I would also like to give my comments on and it is on the international rivers, especially the Orange River. I would like to know when are we likely to see Namibia having its own dam there to augment the water flow, because when you travel along that river, you would see that the neighbour on the other side has more than 25 dams and we do not even have one. They release the flow when we do not need it and when we need it, they do not release it. It is very important for us to speed up this effort to have our own dam in that area.

The initiative of planning with the Angolan authorities is also a very welcome one and I think we should be very proactive, because when you link it with the inter-basin transfer, taking water from the Congo and I do not know whether a study has been made ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: I just want to ask my Honourable Colleague a question. You mentioned our neighbour and the need to have a dam constructed along the Orange River. Of course, it is a very good idea because our neighbour has more than 25 dams. Do you think those dams were built just recently or do you think DTA could have done a good job for this country by persuading the Government they collaborated with to construct a dam along the Orange River? (Interjections)

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HON NAMBAHU: They are busy answering there. It is really a pity that we are at such a disadvantage, and it was also during the time we were proposing that a dam be constructed that South Africa was presiding over the United Nations Council on Dams, so they were not willing to be seen to be authorising, because when you want to build a dam, you have to have the consent of all the neighbouring states on the river. Therefore, we are at a disadvantage, whatever happened, we just have to live with it and try to persuade them to allow us now that they have a new dispensation.

The initiative with Angola, we have some of these tributaries in the North, like the Oshigambo where most of you have maybe attended school, the Okankolo and there is no conclusive evidence as of now as to why these rivers are not flowing. There is a lot of speculation on what is happening in Angola or what has happened. I think now is the time for us to have a study to determine ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I put a question, please? Comrade Nambahu, are you aware that along the Orange River the farmers with grape farms have limited water usage from that river, because they only get a certain amount, but on the other side it is free usage?

HON NAMBAHU: Yes, there are all these arrangements, because the philosophy actually is to get an equitable share of the river because you are equally entitled as a rotarian? You were not accidentally born there, you are equally an owner. Therefore, some of the injustices that have taken place are still taking place and we have to strengthen our capacity in order to be able to negotiate and get a fair share of what is denied us.

With the transfer of water from the Congo basin we will be able to transfer water into these other rivers. I am sure the Comrade Minister is aware of some of these areas I am talking about and those small tributaries and maybe it is time that we have a study and have conclusive knowledge as to why they are no more flowing as they used to flow in those old days.

The last point, Comrade Minister, and these comments I am going to make are not necessarily directed to your Ministry, is that some of us study our statements that we made last time, and sometimes one wonders whether it is worth repeating some of the things. When you collate and relate to what you have said last time and you do not see it captured, you do not have the courage to actually repeat the same thing. But this is not necessarily directed to you, Comrade Minister, this is just a general comment I would like to make.

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My point is on aforestation. There are good points there, aforestation, reforestation, deforestation and if you travel to the North, you see deforestation is still taking place and this is not going to be solved by one given Ministry. There is a need for an integrated strategy. The Ministry of Lands is not land for commercial areas only, it is land even where I live in the village and if the Headman is allocating land to someone, it is just like we are sitting here. We talk of the carrying capacity on the farms when it comes to animals. Is there no such concept when it comes to humans? These people are supposed to have chickens or a goat, where is it going to graze and we are talking about the reduction of poverty, and the one who is allocating does not have any concept of deforestation and the other one who has a different jurisdiction of land does not talk to this Traditional Leader. The Tate Moongo's are busy allocating land without any knowledge when it comes to the effects on the environment. This issue needs an integrated approach in order for us to halt it, because it has not only started, it is still carrying on and up to when are we going to have that taking place?

Honestly, I feel this is something we need to look into. Some of us will find it difficult, because I will read these things and come next year, I will say what I have said today, because we are talking on behalf of the people who sent us here. It is time that that point should be taken. Thank you.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Most of the questions that I had were already covered by the previous speakers, but let me start off by supporting Vote 20 wholeheartedly. I have only two small contributions to make.

One is on the agricultural extension services, a very important services that is expected to be rendered to our people and this particular one has reference to our rural communities.

Comrade Minister, the way people cultivate is still the same as when I was a very small boy and I believe we want to convert this communal area also to come closer to commercial, also to produce something, so that it is able to sustain the lives of the poor communities. I thought the extension officers are there in order to empower the communities, so that we can move away from the old practices and assume some new practices, but apparently that is not happening and maybe there is a problem somewhere.

Then on Page 48 of the technical information document there is a reference to the question of drinking water quality monitoring programme.

This is a very important service, but is this programme actively working because we still have a number of areas where the water quality is really not that

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conducive. We have Opuwo, we have Khorixas, we have somewhere in Ohangwena and I can mention quite a couple of them.

Maybe if this programme could be reactivated it would be very helpful. With that I support the Vote.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, first of all allow me to thank the Honourable Minister for the training which they gave to the local community members who used to plough with donkeys and horses. It is really a good move. They are now ploughing with this small special plough from China or from Zimbabwe. I would like to encourage the Minister to also train the individuals who have tractors so that they could be more productive. Not only that, some of them plant with the tractors and then cultivate with the tractor. Whether they are ten or fifteen, they are making good progress. What we need is to bring the community to the level of commercial farming and I do not see any move from the side of the Government to train these people.

With this I support the Vote.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to speak on the national identification traceability ear tags. I am perplexed by the fact we are ordering these ear tags from European countries while we can produce them locally with machinery from elsewhere in the world. I do not know how long we are going to continue giving some of these resources to people while we have to empower our people. I would declare my interest on that one.

The other issue that I want to raise is the Veterinary Cordon Fence. I was told that the Ministries have a Joint Commission discussing the Red Line, but it must become a programme of the Ministry to give us a clear, definite guideline as to when are we going to erect this fence and how far are negotiations, because we really cannot fill our quotas, because the majority of our cattle are in the northern areas of the country. I am aware that there are no longer quotas, but be that as it may, the fact that there are no quotas now, we should have increased what we are giving to the European Union.

Another issue is the recent announcement of the European Union on the quotas, that there are no quotas and I am looking at the Ministry to perhaps seriously interrogate markets for game meat, because I can tell you, game meat is a delicacy in our country and if we can try to get some markets in Europe, we would be able to help our beef, mutton, fish and our grapes, so that we also increase some trades with that area.

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I want to thank you, and I want to be on record, that perhaps being the sixth Minister of Agriculture, you would be remembered for having overseen a process of the production of these new sheep, Gallop-Ost, that we are producing, the Land Cruiser sheep in this country. It is something very commendable by the Ministry, that we are bringing a new Namibian breed, that we are trying out a new sheep that is going to be cost effective to farmers, eating less grass, adapting very quickly to our conditions and I want to thank you wholeheartedly for that. You were the Minister that took that process to its logical conclusion.

The Green Scheme was already mentioned, I do not want to go there. The other issue is the feedlots. Meatco wants us to raise oxen, sign a contract with Meatco. What are they doing with the feedlots south of the Red Line? Are we producing any feedlots? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20 and I think Honourable Hausiku as well as Dr Kawana have referred to the question I want to raise. I just wanted the Minister to give us a breakdown of how this European assistance is being utilised to benefit the supposed beneficiaries, the local communities. We understand that this assistance somehow gets lost between the service providers and the consultants. I would appreciate that. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I revert the Floor to the Minister.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, let me thank all the Honourable Colleagues who participated and who all supported the Ministry and Vote 20. You are all thanked, including the other Colleagues who did not participate in the Debate.

Some questions were asked by many and I wish to address those ones so that I do not address them again when I will refer to each individual Colleague who spoke.

What is the Green Scheme, is it working or not working? What type of animal is this called the Green Scheme? Honourable Colleagues, the fact on the ground is, when the Green Scheme came to be talked about, it was the policy that was approved, not the programme on Green Scheme. Of course, there were all fun fares that were undertaken to inform people that yes, indeed, we are going to be very serious with this Green Scheme, and rightly so. Ndonga-linena, for example,

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was de-bushed as if shortly after the de-bushing the Green Scheme was going to start immediately.

The Green Scheme is meant to use irrigation water. Water has come to the river to the field before anything else could start and that is what has happened with Ndonga-linena.

The engineering work for taking water from the river to the field has taken place. We have advertised Ndonga-linena twice for people to express interest to come and farm. Remember that Government is supposed to put in N\$3.8 billion in the Green Scheme, the private sector, more than N\$7 billion. It was not meant that Government itself is the one that is going to farm, but to make the land available and the private sector to come and farm. Of course, in some exceptional cases Government may have to undertake the farming itself. On the two occasions that we have advertised Ndonga-linena. Nobody, was found to be credible enough to farm at Ndonga-linena.

We have then decided that maybe we must perhaps move in as the Government to try to do something about it. Then the people who have to farm must be big commercial farmers and small commercial farmers.

Experience has just taught me shortly after I went to the Ministry that the way we wanted to do it is absolutely wrong, as far as I am concerned, when it comes to the small scale farmers.

People were taken from the villages, from subsistence farming into commercial farming where they had to borrow money from the banks, money they had to pay back, people who had no clue about financial management, about quality of the soil, about marketing, about human resources that they had to use. We felt, to at least give the small scale farmers one year theoretical and practical training, so that when they start farming commercially, they at least know what they are doing. Otherwise I see the Lishaseko programme is going to take place. We will blame people for not being able to farm, but we have not prepared them.

I thought it was good for us to train these people for one year and the first intake has been taken up at Mashare Training Institute. They are going to qualify in September and in October they will be allocated land to farm, and I thought that was going to be very good. Otherwise the Green Scheme was just going to be a failure like some other programmes that have failed and it was not, as far as I am concerned, a good idea. I thought it was better to delay for one or two years and make good preparations.

The fields that we have available now for the Ministry to kick-start the Green Scheme are Shadikongoro, Vungu-Vungu, Etunda and Aussenkehr. The rest of the fields belong to NDC and until that time when the infrastructure of NDC will

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be evaluated and everything has been done, finally in the end it will probably come to the Ministry, but not yet.

Even the fields that I am referring to that are ready, Shadikongoro, Vungu-Vungu, did not have a component of small-scale farmers. We have to make money available, make a portion for the small-scale farmers available. Now they are available in Shadikongoro and Vungu-Vungu and at Etunda there are small-scale farmers. Although they were not trained under the programme that I am speaking about, we decided that they could continue, because they are already there and they will be given practical training on the field.

Small-scale farmers are at Aussenkehr, they have their land and we are now preparing leasehold deeds. They are not very much inclined to take up the deeds, because they will have to pay. We are now trying to work out a leasehold with the option to buy once they are ready.

What brought in the problem is the resettlement programme. They are saying, *why are we made to buy the land when there are other Namibians who are being settled on Government land free of charge?* They should also be settled the same. But these are two different programmes, it is not the same and we are trying to find a way out.

Production of food is going on in those fields that belong to the Ministry now, but Green Scheme in all its earnest was not kick-started yet. We hope that it will start in October this year, but the infrastructure is not yet available. I hope the Green Scheme is well understood. But we are on the right track and we will get there.

Honourable Venaani asked what we are doing about bush encroachment. There are some foreign companies which have been around Windhoek since last year, trying to find local companies to get into joint ventures and start doing something about bush encroachment for which there are two possibilities.

One is for the bush encroachment to be used for energy and, of course, that will need a discussion and agreement with NamPower, because somebody has to buy that electricity. NamPower are saying they are ready to buy that electricity as long as the price is at an acceptable level. They will not just buy it at any rate. The other is to produce coal that could also go to foreign markets.

They have been testing the equipment that needs to be used for that and they have found some ways how to use the equipment they have, but they have not yet started.

If you look in the Budget of the Ministry, we are making N\$2 million available just to be able to assist Namibian companies who would want to get into joint ventures with these people. You know Namibia is Namibia and sometimes people

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do not have the capital, but we want to be ready to say that Government will assist you so that the project goes ahead. We hope we will get somewhere with that one.

We are concerned about the quotas of the European Union that we are not fulfilling and, therefore, we think addressing bush encroachment would be one of the processes that we can have.

We are trying to do what we can about the rural water supply. About the outstanding debts in the Okakarara area, I must hasten to say this is not unique to Okakarara, it is basically the case with all rural water supply points in the country. I really do not have the solution, but at an opportune time we definitely have to decide, but I am unable now to say exactly which way, because these debts are not owed to Government, they are owed to NamWater and we have to see how to assist NamWater and the people. I must also say that Government pays 80% of the rural water supply and the rural communities pay 20%. Therefore, we as a Government are already helping the local communities, but it must be understood from the viewpoint that people are poor and water is life, they must have it. Those are the questions.

About people using traditional wells in Epupa area and western Kavango, it is not only restricted to those two Regions, in fact literally you find it in all Regions, particularly in the northern communal areas. The problem is again the resources available at the Ministry to drill boreholes. Literally for every Region or where possible, two Regions combined an annual tender is approved and allocated money and people are going around drilling. The problem is that money is not enough.

What I said the other day when I was reading my statement is true, we just have too many competing needs that, unfortunately, it is not humanly possible for us to get all the money that we need.

About the long time that it takes when engine problems have been reported, you are right, this has been said in so many meetings in so many areas. The problem that we had and still have that must be addressed in the Ministry is that, because of the misuse of cars by Government officials, a limit has been put on the kilometres travelled per month in order to pay S&T. Otherwise the expenses will be too high for the Ministry and I must say, our people are ahead of us in trying to get money. They will sometimes travel on Sundays to go and repair that engine, not to repair but to go and sleep nearby, but because they travel on Sunday they want S&T and overtime. They will go late in the afternoon and come back at ten in the evening and claim from 5 o'clock to the time they came to the base, all these kinds of things. It is really problematic, but I am not saying that we have our hands up and surrendered, we will have to address it.

Drought, yes there is a drought in the country. The position now is that next

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month there is going to be a national survey in the country, but that will be the time for us to say, what is the harvest that we are going to get, the situation of water, the situation of grass for the animals and then thereafter report to Cabinet for a decision to be made on what we have at hand: Drought in the whole country or some parts of the country, in all aspects or some aspects of the drought. Yes, we are seized with that problem.

You are right, we are ordering ear tags for animals from foreign countries. I would have liked them to be produced here and I could maybe disclose the secret that Honourable Venaani approached me last year and said he wants to produce them here. Let us address one thing, the ear tag is good for traceability, there is no problem, but it is not going to address the problem of forging or theft. It is your ear tag, I take it off and replace it with mine, but with branding you cannot erase it and it will be seen if you tamper with it. If we were to have more money, we could maybe do what Botswana is doing by putting a chip in the stomach of the animal and you cannot remove it. Yes, we will continue with it and if it is the tender which is the problem, I will try to see where is the problem that the tender cannot be issued.

Honourable Venaani, the Cordon Fence. A task force has been set up, composed of all Ministries, and there is also collaboration with the Colleagues on the Angolan side, because we have to address the problem from both sides. The Ministry is planning that this Cordon Fence programme must be in the coming NDP3, because it is a programme that cannot be done over one or two years, because we have to mobilise the community and that would take a long time. The beacons along our borders also have to be identified now, since apparently a lot of things got lost during the war. However Angola is part of this team and Namibia, as I said, wants to address this issue during the time of the NDP3 once and for all.

The Gallop-Ost is a programme that the Ministry is engaged in. I think many people will agree with me that the sheep farming in the South is what made the towns in the South what they are today, nothing else but the sheep industry. Right now the price for karakul is too good to be true. I want our people to engage in that and a lot of them have the knowledge to farm with them as opposed to ostriches that we tried to introduce, which was a wrong decision.

Honourable Hausiku thanked us for the silos. We are going to continue with the silos until all the thirteen Regions have it and maybe there will also be some even in other Regions where silos have not been built. It really meant to take care of our own food security. That has indeed started.

You thanked us for the extension services to rural farmers. The 35 trainees are actually going to be the nucleus of starting the Green Scheme. They will be allocated these plots for them to farm and we can now demonstrate that indeed people are willing and able to do it. In the future we can also train the trainers for

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others, but for now that is what we have done.

The status of the service providers is another problem. The service providers that are at those projects now, made an agreement with the Ministry in 2002/03 for them to farm.

With some of them the agreement is for five years, others eight years, others two years and we will probably have to wait until those agreements have come to an end. We can break the agreement, but of course, we will be sued and we will have to pay. We have agreed with them so far that a component of the small-scale farmers be made available on those projects. They have all agreed, there is no problem with that. When we start with the Green Scheme, we will perhaps concentrate much more on the small-scale farmers. The big commercial farmers are already farming, they are producing what they would have been producing under the Green Scheme. One of them at Shadikongoro is the best farmer in the country this year in terms of producing food and of course, they are providing employment to our people.

Let me also put it this way that sometimes we look at the people who are on the projects. For argument's sake, the service provider at Etunda is somebody who is employed by a company. A company has tendered, it won the tender to work on the project, it had no expertise and it recruited somebody who will implement it for him and he is just paid a salary. I am pleased to say that the majority of the people who own that company are previously disadvantaged people.

Honourable Hausiku, Shikondo, this must have been prepared earlier. When I was in Kavango two months ago I met the Chief to agree. Money is made available in the Budget and we are going to start this year cleaning. What you said the Chief agreed and yet later on nothing was done, what happened was that the Chief agreed, but the private sector investors went to the Chief and said they wanted the area and I understand there must have been something given to the Chief as a share or something. The Chief said, "*fine, I want to work with you, not with the Government.*" Therefore, since there was no letter of occupation, it was only a letter from the Chief to say they can work on that land. The Chief still had leverage, but I am glad the community works with the Chief until such time that even the so-called investor apparently pulled out and the community together with the Traditional Authority are now on the same pathway. We are now going to carry on with this project.

Honourable Kawana, thank you very much for your support. You have mentioned fertiliser and actually the plan was that we need more than N\$200 million per year to be able to give fertilisers to each and every farmer who is producing wheat or maize or millet, three hectares for each. What was done here was to say maybe we need to start to test the various fertilisers and know which one is the best. That is why there are N\$5 million in this Budget and I am sure

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during the NDP3 that will find its own corner where the amount will be sufficient or near sufficient that we can start giving fertilisers to those who need it.

Ploughing for the communities, yes we would love to do that, but as you know, we do not have tractors any longer and that is going to cost another fortune to make tractors available. However I agree, it would be ideal for us to continue supporting the communities.

The N\$3 million that are made available for silos, there are some other moneys made available at the Namibia Agronomic Board, so do not worry about that, the programme will continue.

Honourable Dinyando mentioned the harvesting of water. Yes, that is a good idea, there are people who are doing it. The problem with our country is only that when we have standing water, 85% of it evaporates and you only have about 15% and you will most probably use only 10%. About 5% will go down and then you are maybe able to use 5 or 10% only. But it does not mean we cannot make that effort. Yes, there are those areas that have channels, such as Ndonga-linena and Bukalo and others.

There is a horticulture programme going on. We are trying to put up central infrastructure in Windhoek and Regional infrastructure that would be meant for those that are producing those items to come and put them there and from there the supermarkets and wholesalers could come and buy. The only thing that we are insisting on is that the imports cannot be delivered directly to the wholesalers, they must also go to that same place and people will then come and buy.

Otherwise people will make contracts with wholesalers and when Honourable Venaani has produced his, he will find you a buyer. We want all to go the same place and then to categorise them, this is type A and type B and people can come and buy. Otherwise people will form cliques and that is not going to be helpful for us.

An effort has been made, three years ago we were only producing 17 percent of horticulture here and now we are producing 26 percent. There is an effort being done.

Honourable Tjihuiko, as I said, water is life, our people cannot be without water. The issue is sometimes money that is not available to make water available.

I will not have an answer now on the boreholes in Coblentz which are meant only for the San.

If you look in the technical document, the livestock and everything is being referred to there.

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What you said about value addition processes, Cabinet in its wisdom really felt that we cannot afford to have animals being exported on-the-hoof from the country. We need to retain some of the possibilities of work here. I am so glad to say that all the producers that came to see me through their organisation all said they support hundred percent the Government decision on value addition, but there will from time to time be problems, just like we have now with the small stock. But we may have to see what to do as opposed to what has been gazetted, to see what to do in order to help the farmers. However this will be temporary.

Honourable Kazenambo, thank you very much for your support. I think I have already explained the food security relating to the Green Scheme. I have also explained what type of animal the Green Scheme is. Then you asked who owns Meatco. This is a problem that we will never be able to solve unless we have all the facts.

It is true that Meatco was established by an Ordinance of Government. It is also true that farmers got loans from Government to assist in the establishment of Meatco, white farmers that time and that money in fact came from the then White Administration. However what stands on the books now, and the Honourable Minister of Finance can bear me out, they were paying that money that was given and last year they paid the last N\$13 million that was there. But the final picture would most probably emerge, there are some requirements that the Right Honourable Prime Minister put to Meatco to do if they do not want to be classified as a parastatal. They are working on those issues, but Meatco is a difficult animal, so to speak.

What I was told is that it is not owned by anybody apart from the farmers. The farmers own it and whoever delivers his or her animal to be slaughtered at Meatco, that person owns Meatco. What happens is that after they have paid all the management fees and everything, the money left is then paid to the people who supplied the animals to Meatco. I must admit this did in the past not include black farmers.

What Meatco is now saying is that they have now to come to a point where every farmer who delivers animals to Meatco should own Meatco. We will see that later as we go, but I cannot exhaust the Meatco ownership now.

It is a problem to supply water to nomadic people. The people will not even tell you when they are moving, they just move. It is really difficult and this is one of the problems we have to live with, unfortunately.

Honourable Mutorwa, thank you very much for your support. What is the status of Shitemo and Musese? They are NDC projects. You asked whether we are collaborating with the Namibian Qualifications Authority in the training we are providing. We are not yet doing that in this particular respect, because this

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training is only for one year. But I get your point, we may have to find out what are the possibilities.

We will give them some kind of certificate, but obviously recognition is perhaps needed. I must admit that we have not worked on that one and thank you for mentioning it.

I think you must give me time to come back on the status of Mashare. I am working on some things that this college can be used for and we will come back on that.

On wild fires we have to collaborate with Traditional Authorities. What is meant with the scaling down of vaccination is that we must be in a position to say that Namibia has been free of this foot-and-mouth disease for more than 46 years, except the Caprivi Region. For example, look at Kaoko, Opuwo, around there, those animals have not been vaccinated by anybody, but until now there has been no single disease and what will happen is that we will invite people to come and say for this period no vaccination, but no outbreak of this disease, these animals are free. But you know this is meat politics, we never had this problem for 46 years. Britain has just had it the other way, not even ten years, but now they are allowed to sell their animals all over the place. Namibia who never had it for so many years, they say we cannot accept your animals.

Comrade Bohitile, thank you very much for all what you have said and I must look into the issue of water not being available. Safe water must definitely be provided. Let us meet and get more details on this one.

Honourable Ndaitwah, thank you very much. That agricultural programme will have to continue using NBC, because as you know, NBC Radio reaches almost every corner of Namibia. Yes, we have to pay and we thought that maybe you could also be kind to us for us to pay less, but I understand the problem of NBC too.

We are also working on the veterinary clinics. The problem with the boreholes that have to be drilled deeper is that sometimes you do not have equipment that goes down 200 metres and when they drill up to 150 and they do not get water, they go. I was there in the south-east of Eenhana, I have seen where a borehole was sunk up to 300 metres and they got sweet water. Now we have decided in the Ministry to drill test boreholes that goes 340 metres.

Comrade Nambahu, thank you very much indeed. Yes, we have to do something about the soil. When the cattle are at the cattle posts and manure is not available, the people could work on only half of the field and on the other half plant culpy beans which would actually inject nitrogen into the soil. However it is sometimes difficult to convince our people. That would be one way, in the absence of

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manure, to at times only plant beans on part of the land and the next year you can plant mahangu, because the soil would then have been treated by the beans. The sand is also being blown by the wind, the deforestation that Honourable Nambahu mentioned and that is a problem. However if you plant these castor oil trees around your field to provide a windbreak it would help, because the trees that were there before are gone.

We are going to implement the Act but in stages, not the whole of it. Cabinet has just approved the other day a fully-fledged environmental impact study for the dam that needs to be built somewhere near Noordoewer. As you know, previously the World Bank was condemning the construction of dams, but now they have made a u-turn and they are supporting it. It will just depend on this study.

Comrade Pandeni, thank you very much for your support and everything that you have said. The water is divided into A, B and C. Up to C water can actually be consumed by human beings, but C-water, depending on the metals in the water, like what you have in Opuwo, that water is C and NamWater and ourselves as the Ministry are in contact to see whether we could find a better solution to this water in Opuwo and some other areas.

Honourable Moongo, thank you very much for everything that you said. We do want to help out people although it is not easy in all respects. But we try to see whether it is possible for the people to have ploughing services, but the soil in the northern areas is not really conducive for ploughing. If you plough your field actually degenerates fast as opposed to working with a hoe or that plough. Tractors are not the best in those communal areas. Of course, if one could get fertiliser that would help quite a lot. Thrashing machines are available, they are not cheaper, but it is a method that we have to use in order to relieve the hard work of our ladies.

Comrade Nujoma, thank you very much for your support. The EU support is a national programme which is led by the Director General. He will have the component of water, for example, we may have a component of a programme supporting indigenous plant usage, but then you also have another Ministry which has another component. Everybody gets their part on which it has been agreed. For example, our Ministry has the programme which has been referred to by Honourable Venaani, Tsandi-south pipeline and Onabutu pipeline and it is actually built with two-thirds of the money from the European Union.

There was a question on why the European Union has announced no quotas. I would say that is European Union politics. SADC countries have presented the European Union with what they want the EU to accept from our side. That has not been agreed upon. This offer says that if we agree to sign on what we are negotiating now, then come January, everything is free, meaning it is a stick and carrot for us to agree to what we have on the table, and if you do not agree, that

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free for all will not be forthcoming. It is conditional. We can only hope that our Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry, who is the Line Minister for negotiations, will speed up this case and maybe good news is coming our way. But for now I will treat it with caution. Those were all the questions.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objections? Agreed to.

Vote 29 – “INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING” put for discussion.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First I would like to thank the Minister and her staff for taking two or three steps forward. You are really moving and thank you very much.

Globalisation is today's word. With regard to both time and place, economic integration has brought people closer to each other. With the help of modern information, as the Comrade Minister mentioned on Page 2, technology and information is immediately available in the whole country.

I refer to Bullet 2 on Page 2. Comrade Minister, I think two years ago we had experienced some problems in NBC and we have been discussing this problem in this House, and I think that three years ago we were experiencing a lot of problems of shortage of equipment and transport. Today we heard about many professional personnel leaving NBC and the question is, what can we do as a Nation in order to turn around this situation in NBC and stop personnel from leaving NBC, but to have them develop, distribute and disseminate information efficiently and effectively in order to stimulate further advancements and aspirations throughout the country. What can we do to help NBC in order to generate more funds, so that in future the organisation can serve us efficiently?

Comrade Minister, as I said, many professional technicians left the organisation. Are there any incentives to motivate the personnel so that they can stay in the organisation? This is our homework, actually it is not 100% your problem, it is our problem. We are all expected to answer these questions as a Nation.

Information is a necessary but sufficient factor for development. Therefore, training, interaction and learning are needed in order for information to be translated into skills and knowledge that can bring about practical change and improvements at NBC and other parastatals – Pages 3 and 4 of the Minister's speech. The technical frameworks and facilities of various networks are good vehicles for exchanging information, but without a doubt the most important elements are the people at work in various parastatals, engaged in network and utilising their capacity to learn and develop.

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Not only that, expertise and the technicians should also be strengthened so that they have the know-how. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed for an Honourable Member to re-read the statement of the Minister while we are in Committee Stage?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is not allowed.

HON DR AMWEELO: My comment is the following: The personnel I am talking about, in order to handle the equipment we are talking about, require more training and more training. Lenin said, “*study, study, study and study.*”

With regard to the *New Era* I have no words to say but to thank them for the wonderful job they are doing. I experienced the good job they are doing. I have produced about thirty technical articles and they were all published in *New Era*. They are doing very well. Otherwise I support Vote 29 and I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you. Just two questions. The first is to say that I do support this important Vote. The value of information and the importance there of is sometimes only appreciated when we do not have that information.

Comrade Minister, on Page 6 of your statement – and I am sure the technical people will help you to get that information – the last paragraph states: “*During the period 1st of September to 30th of November when people paid for their licences, NBC was able to raise an amount of N\$22 million that was used to service the Corporation’s historical debt.*” What is this historical debt? Can we get the details of the historical debt of the NBC?

Then on Page 7 of your statement, the issue of the transmitter network that is being expanded and the studios that have been upgraded are very much commendable. But Comrade Minister, I am informed that the NBC-TV in Kavango Region for the past two weeks people were not able to watch NBC-TV

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unless they have DSTv. First I did not believe that, but then today I made a follow-up and it was confirmed. Maybe the NBC management, using this House and using the Minister, would like to provide the information as to what was the problem and what is being envisaged to solve the problem.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I will be very brief.

Allow me to congratulate the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. I found your introductory statement very informative. I think it is one of the well-prepared statements.

On Page 4, the third paragraph from the bottom, you stated that: “*The Corporation also concluded contracts for the manufacturing of radio transmitters and TV decoders, as well as the construction of the Klein Windhoek access road.*” I do not know whether it is access road Klein Windhoek construction or Klein Windhoek access road or you wanted to say something else.

As I said, I agree hundred percent with what you have said. I believe that the NBC is a national broadcaster. It is an institution that we as a Nation should treat the way we are treating things such as Air Namibia. While the NBC has problems, I think what we need to do is to do our level best to see how best we can get the NBC out of the mess which it finds itself in. I know what the NBC is one of the television and radio stations that is being watched and listened to by the majority of our people. Most of the information is coming through the NBC, whether television or radio. Therefore, it is our duty to make sure that the NBC will be there for years to come.

The financial dilemma in which the NBC is finding itself in, to my thinking is manmade. It is something which was created by human beings. We find ourselves in debt, because we did not manage the institution the way we should have done it and, therefore, it will be solved by our intervention. I would, therefore, think that the Government should look at the debts of NBC and try to work out mechanisms to reduce it. Whether it is over a period of five years or over a period of three years, we need to reduce it in such a way that in five years' time the NBC should be in a position to start generating its own resources and cover their own expenses and I think that this could be done. If the *New Era* has done it, then I believe that it could also be done by NBC.

A few problems that I have with the NBC. The first one is the local indigenous language radios. If you look at the local indigenous radios, the Otjiherero service will only concentrate on Otjiherero-speaking people.

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They will not go out and interview anybody who does not speak Otjiherero. If a Minister does not speak Otjiherero, he or she will not be able to be interviewed on the radio, and I am using the Otjiherero Service as an example.

Even during the Budget it is crucially important for the people out there to listen to the views of Ministers, but you will see that they will interview Tjihuiko because I speak Otjiherero and the Oshiwambo Service will not come to me, because I will not respond in Oshiwambo. I think it is crucially important that the presenters should be trained in such a way that they should translate what I have said in English into Oshiwambo. That will help everybody to have access to the radio services of all the indigenous languages instead of being narrowed down into one service and it is only Tjihuiko, Kazenambo or Venaani on Radio Otjiherero. That does not do us well.

The local music is one of the areas that the Honourable Minister needs to look at. You will see the same three or four groups week in and week out and on the Otjiherero Service from 6 o'clock in the morning it is *Oviritje* and when you go to your car and turn on the radio, it is *Oviritje*, nothing else. I think we need to do something about that.

In conclusion, I also have a problem with the reporting of sport. The big companies are putting a lot of money into sports, especially football, the NFA and the reason why they are doing that is that they want to get the maximum publicity out of it. But if you turn on the radio Saturday afternoon, there is this thing called *Kassie*. Every day they will be reporting from Khomasdal while the NFA games are being played in Tsumeb or Walvis Bay and you hardly get the news until quarter past seven. The people are at Khomasdal and they are reporting on these unofficial football that is taking place there. It is not good for the businesses who are putting money into the NBC in order for them to get the maximum publicity out of it. It is not good for us to wait until seven in order to know what is going on. I do not think that that goes down well with the public. So this is one of the areas that you really need to look at.

New Era is an exemplary business. If you have the right people in an institution, you will get the right results. If you plant cabbage, you will end up getting cabbage. I think this is an exemplary step that the company has taken, and it has now started producing results and, therefore, I am not going to touch on the NamZim projects on which I criticised you so much last year. This time around I will say you are doing well and it seems I will give you a chance to look at it again and I believe by next year they will also be able to produce results.

With those few remarks, I support the Vote.

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HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I only have eight questions. I support the Vote and I feel sorry for the Minister for not getting what she was asking for.

On Page 6 of the Minister's speech: "*The Corporation will soon be forced to rely on archive material.*" Honourable Chairperson, Parliamentary Reports are only broadcast for thirty minutes every day. Instead of showing us old films and things which we might not even like, I think the Minister can lengthen the Parliament Reports with at least one or two hours per day. At least then the Nation will be informed and watch what the leaders are doing.

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, as much as I would like to sympathise with the Minister about her cry for more money, I cannot. I still experience discrimination towards Political Parties and then it is not even election time. We are all paying TV licences, no matter which political party we are affiliated to, taxpayers' money is being used to fund the NBC. So I hope that the situation will change now.

Just last week, Honourable Chairperson, I was on Good Morning Namibia to inform the Nation about our Women Democrats Congress. I only came on for fifteen minutes on Wednesday and Thursday morning the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, in her capacity as a SWAPO member, was allowed forty-five minutes. (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Yes, because she is the Minister of Information!

HON DIENDA: Marlene please, she was speaking as a SWAPO member, not as a Minister, informing the Nation about SWAPO Party's anniversary. So, the NBC covered the Congress of the Women Democrats, but until now that congress was never broadcasted on the NBC. Maybe the cassette got lost along the road, as is usually the case or what happened that it was not yet broadcast?

Then Honourable Chairperson, I did not even run for the elections, for your information. The question is what went wrong within the NBC, is it mismanagement, lack of leadership skills, incompetence of those in management and the board of directors. Increasing Government subsidies will not help if we cannot find out the cause of the problems.

Then my question number six. I want to know whether the NBC still has these flats in Pioniers Park which they had some time ago and the houses. Maintenance of these assets are costing a lot and I also know that the NBC employees are getting housing loans which they can take up from banks. I think it is better to

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treat this accommodation as guest houses for the staff who are coming from different Regions, instead of keeping assets which are costing so much money at the end of the day.

Then on operational debts incurred by the NBC.

I would like to know from the Minister of Information and Broadcasting whether this increased PAYE, medical contributions of the staff which were not paid previously or has the situation been changed to solve the problem and did they make an arrangement with the Ministry of Finance how they can pay back the PAYE which was outstanding.

Honourable Chairperson, on Page 261, claims against the State – N\$80 million. Could the Minister elaborate more about these claims and what it was all about, so that we can all have information about it. I thank you and I support your Vote.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also like to support the vote of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I have only two questions.

The first one was already taken, namely the historical debt. Secondly it is about the NBC-TV reception. Before I mention that, I would like to declare conflict of interest because it is in the area where I live. The reception is very poor in the Nkurenkuru area up to Rundu. Even a dish does not help in that area, it is only these antennas which are about ten metres above the houses. We are talking of information dissemination to all Namibians. People really want to watch and see what is happening in the country. I would like the Honourable Minister to pay attention to that, the poor service by NBC-TV in those areas and maybe other places throughout the country. I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 29. However, I have one comment and one question on condition that NBC will improve and cover some of us who are declared *persona non grata* by NBC.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I wholeheartedly agree with the Mission Statement of the NBC that is to inform, to educate and to entertain. The NBC over the years has done a great job and we appreciate it. However, on Page 1 of the Minister's statement she mentioned that *in the developing countries, including Namibia, the radio is still one of the most powerful sources of information sharing and the majority of our population continues to use this medium*. I agree with her, it is a very important and powerful

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weapon, but it can also become a destructive weapon. Indeed, it can become a weapon of mass destruction

Experiences abound in Africa, if I go back to Rwanda, during the genocide campaign the radio was used as an effective weapon and up to this date these radio broadcasters are being pursued because they have also contributed to the genocide. My question is, the NBC has been promoting the notion of Nation building and uniting this Nation which was so divided by the apartheid system and so on. But nowadays it appears that this noble objective is gradually being eroded. We see that the NBC, the radio services in particular, all of them are being abused and they are becoming divisive instruments. Instead of uniting the Nation there is now a tendency and I used to listen to the talk shows and you will hear there was this statement which was always made that please, do not use derogatory language, we are here to educate and entertain, derogatory language will not be entertained, tribalism and regionalism. The NBC was effectively working towards this noble objective.

However nowadays, to our astonishment we are learning that this very institution is being used and the presenters seem to be encouraging this type of derogatory language on the NBC. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the NBC doing, what measure are you taking to reign in these unscrupulous elements who try to divide our Nation and foster tribalism, regionalism and all these bad things? I remember previously you were just cut off, but nowadays people continue to speak even for hours. Some are even being sponsored by outside institutions to be on the radio. What are the measures the NBC is intending to take to reign in these unscrupulous elements and to start working towards building the Nation as it was before? That is my comment.

I recently visited Okongo, and I went to a village in Ohangwena Region called Ehanga. The community there were complaining that they do not even receive a single radio signal. They were saying they have bought radios and it is now almost 17 years down the line from Independence and up to now they do not hear anything, not even to speak about the NBC-TV. They are urging us that they want radio. Maybe it is a good thing in disguise, because they do not hear this poison on the radio. I told them it is better for you, that is why you remain revolutionary and militant, keep it up.

Those are my two questions and I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 29. I think this time I have been covered for a week and then from there I vanished and I do not cry. (Intervention)

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HON IILONGA

HON GURIRAB: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed, because I believe this is conflict of interest for a Member who every day speaks on the radio on almost all phone-in programmes to participate in this Debate? Is it allowed?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: What the Honourable Member should understand is that what takes me to talk on “*Open Line*” and unfortunately not on the *Chat Show* because I am at work. I phone with my own money.

I start on Page 4 under Point 3.2, *New Era*. I congratulate the *New Era* for the improvement and the self-reliance, but again, Comrade Minister, I know you are not the one dealing with these institutions daily, it has a board of directors, but I just want to find out whether any deliberate stand can be taken against some of us to be excluded. If you have a very important message, you never find it published in the *New Era*. I do not expect my views to be published in *the Namibian*, because I know they are regarding me as enemy number one or two. It is only when I asked for the farms to be expropriated they put me between Dirk Mudge and whoever. Who is really taking that decision to say this one must be covered, the other one should not be covered?

On Page 6 under Point 4.2, NBC, the same. I sit with number two in command, but he is also just discriminated against. When we are not here, just watch NBC, they just show these empty chairs. I do not know whether you will recall one day during the State of the Nation Address, you only saw my hands. I think Honourable Kandetu is here, they covered me for a week and then I vanished. Who decides to censor us? NBC is our corporation, *New Era* is our newspaper, it is supposed to record what we do here. They are even worse than *the Namibian*. Why is this?

Sometimes when we have to respond people get angry. We must not get angry if we see, because many people are covered wherever they go.

On 21st March this year, Independence Day, Honourable Moongo even had things in his own homestead covered, but the Councillors who organised official programmes were not covered. What is this? Is it because there was *boerewors*? (Intervention)

HON GURIRAB: On a Point of Information. I just want to tell the Honourable Member that I am familiar with the editorial policy of NBC and they normally cover you if you are newsworthy, if what you are saying or do makes sense. I suspect in this case that what Honourable Moongo was doing made sense, that is why he was covered.

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HON HAINGURA/HON DR ANKAMA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I am just asking the Honourable Minister who censors? Is it those technical people or do they have a meeting through the board or where does this come from? We pay for licences and you want us to support for you to get money. There was an issue of historical debt, my question is, this debt which accumulated to over N\$200 million, is it because of mismanagement? Is it because of certain equipment bought that you failed to pay? Or is it the forensic auditing known by this House or is it just that Government must take over this debt? How did this debt come about to become even historical?

I support Vote 29 and I know I will be covered for a week and then vanish until next year's Budget.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I rise to wholeheartedly support Vote 29, and I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister for really doing a good job in informing the communities, especially during the polio outbreak. That is why we got a coverage of 100% plus, but I have some concerns to raise.

I think our studio equipment needs to be looked at, because some of the equipment is so old. Another issue is the selective coverage. Some of the Honourable Members have become a Virus to the NBC. When they cover you, maybe they think you will infect the NBC. Yet at times the information we are giving is very important to the society.

Yesterday I addressed awareness on rabies and today I saw it in the newspaper, I was there with Dr Toto and some school children, but to my surprise I just saw Dr Toto and the school children.

We are complaining of lack of equipment, like cameras and shortage of staff. These people take time and go and cover events, use all these things and when they come back, it will take two weeks for this news to be shown. This needs to be looked at. I support the Vote.

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have three observations to make.

The first one would go along with the equipment of NBC. I understand there is a financial dilemma with the NBC. Nowadays one can easily acquire the right machinery on the market at reasonable prices. We are currently using these heavy cameras. When I visited the NBC several times, I have seen they are using Betamax and perhaps a few VHS cameras. However I have seen a lot of good digital Camcorders on the market. With N\$7,000 you could buy a very reasonable

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HON MOONGO

camera. I am looking at how we can equip people in the regional offices of NBC with very good quality cameras. These are digital cameras and you can easily download anything with them. Nowadays you do not need heavy equipment. I do not want to go to the technical aspect of it, but I have done a bit of photo journalism and I do editing myself. If you look at the films that I have done myself, they are quite good. However let me leave that point.

Then I would like to go to the programmes that we usually broadcast. Some are good programmes that could be duplicated and then sold in the market and we will make money, be it music, be it documentaries and some of us would like to buy these, and own these. Maybe we should think along these lines so that we can really bring about diversity within the NBC.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in particular the Minister, for what is mentioned on Page 7, *the free flow of information*. It was Minister Ndaitwah who explicitly supported the Parliament Access Centre that we adopted in this Parliament, let alone the Line Ministries that are supposed to have similar programmes. I must thank the Ministry for its commitment to take along, within their own programmes, the Parliament Access Centre as a centre that will enable the communities out there to have access to Parliament, to have access to documents on Parliament, to have access to comments on issues pertaining to their daily lives. I expected more from the Parliament, I expected more from the Ministries which are supposed to be Line Ministries in disseminating information to the people. The people there want to learn and I must really commend this. I support the Vote and I thank you.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I was shocked to read about the debts of the NBC. The debt is so huge that the NBC cannot function. The people are underpaid because there is no money and I want the Minister to inform us how far is the strike and what remedy will the Minister provide?

On Page 6 there is mentioned the “*Sam-film*” which has taken millions. (Interjections). It is a film to advertise and promote Sam Nujoma as a leader, it is not promoting the people of Namibia – and we are spending millions! What are we doing, Colleagues? Are we really serious? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, when are you going to write your biography of how you ran away from SWAPO? You wavered and this film is about those who wavered.

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HON MOONGO: Sit down! You are a junior, sit down. When I write my biography, I will use my own money. I invited all parties to stand on one platform and show the true unity of the Namibian Government, which is really encouraging. Why do you spend millions to promote only one man? It is really embarrassing. I want you to withdraw that money because to promote one person while there are many people in Namibia. Let him use his own money! (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo, I think the "*one man*" you are talking about is the Father of the Nation. I do not know how others feel, but there are those who respect that "*one man*" you are talking about. You are a leader and you should set an example by respecting other leaders like you.

HON MOONGO: I want the Father of the Nation to use his own money to promote his name and to promote his political career and not the State to promote his career. What type of corruption are we talking about? This is another type of corruption. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Order. This House has approved the money to be used for that film. How come you made a U-turn now? Is this honestly what you are doing now? It was approved here. He is now discrediting the House.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Away from that topic, proceed to the next one.

HON DR GEINGOB: On a Point of Order. Honourable Chairperson, I was wondering whether it is allowed in the world, and in Namibia, that you refer to a former President of the Republic as "*one man, one man*". We talk about us being honourable and being honourable to one another, we show respect, but really, is it how we are going to educate our children who are watching, that they must refer to a former President of the country as "*one man, one man?*" Can that be withdrawn please? Who is that "*one man?*" A former President of the country and this House passed a resolution, saying he is the Father of the Nation, a resolution by this Assembly. Yet he is being referred to as "*one man, one man.*" Is that in order?

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HON BOOYS

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo, withdraw that word. It is not fair, you are a leader and I respect you, you gave me my military training.

HON MOONGO: I withdraw the word “*one man*”.

I appeal to the entire Nation not to use the State’s money for an individual’s history. With this I support the Vote.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, thank you very much. I rise to support Vote 29, but let me go straight to NBC-TV. Yesterday, the Honourable Minister, told us that you have problems with the allocation of money and it is even possible that you may not be able to broadcast the tabling of the Budget live in future. But I am just trying to see whether one as a political leader, cannot try to solicit funds for some NBC programmes.

If you look at the northern railway line, many private individuals, private sector, Government, Parliamentarians got involved to make a success of the railway line. Could you not in the same manner try to solicit funds from outside to broadcast sports, whether you could not solicit funds from outside from tourist industries, or whether you could not solicit funds from AgriBank, Agrifutura, NNFU to support those programmes, so that the NBC-TV must not only rely on Government funding?

For example, you could have two hours once a week on Agri-TV where they show us agricultural activities in the country. It could then be sponsored by one of those organisation which I have mentioned. On Saturday afternoons you could have different sport codes and it could be sponsored from outside.

I would like to join others on this Parliamentary Report. This is not a Parliamentary Report, it is just Parliamentary News. In my view, a Parliamentary Report is to play the video for people to see what has happened in the Parliament on the particular day instead of them taking over and doing the talking. I think that is where the issue of non-coverage comes in. Show the people the report and let every Member be seen who has said something. They should stop reporting news and call it reports.

With regard to the news broadcasts, I have been visiting some of our neighbours, other African countries, even Europe and I have never seen news on Namibia. You hardly see anything on Namibia, but NBC is so eager to report about South Africa, America, Baghdad. Even our neighbour South Africa, I have only once seen them reporting something on the polio that broke out last year, kind of warning their citizens. However, truly speaking, there are a lot of events taking

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place in Namibia, but our TV is always on other countries. It is good to tell us about Baghdad, but it is already on CCN and Sky News.

If NBC really wants money, they should go for programmes where they can get money.

What is there for us to view on NBC-TV on Saturday afternoons? Nothing. Sunday the same, nothing. I also watch NBC News and I know what I am talking about.

Take the example of the South African programmes. Once a week they have a two hour broadcast on Agri-TV. That is where we learn about our own agriculture. NBC could do the same. They are sponsored by their Landbank, they solicit funds. If NBC on Saturdays could show us our sport activities, all sport codes, not only soccer, rugby, basket ball. They are chasing away their own customers. They cannot get clients because they are not attracting them. But if they really bring in some channels, maybe for one or two hours, then I think people will start spending their money and the private sector will start spending their money.

Where are these private sector companies, which make millions and billions out of Government tenders, spending their money?

I have never heard about old-age pension, be it by Meatco or by Pupkewitz, I have never heard about soccer fields or rugby. They are making millions out of Government. Where are they spending their money?

Maybe the politicians should take the lead and really encourage people to start assisting NBC-TV. Then I am sure that many of our people will start concentrating on assisting NBC. I support Vote 29 and I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 29.

Firstly, let me extend my sincere thanks to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting on the issue of transmission, expansion of transmitter network programme on Page 4, especially on the transmitter programme in Tsumkwe, Gam and Eiseb Block. The one in Tsumkwe is working well, but the one in Gam comes and goes. While I am on the issue of transmitters, I would like to find out from the Minister if it is not possible for these transmitters to be equipped with solar panels, because in some cases we hear that these transmitters are not operating because there is no diesel and this becomes a problem. As we know, radio coverage is very important for the rural poor. They do not read newspapers, they do not have

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access to television, but the radio serves as an important medium of communication, because they use it even for notices of people who have passed away or cattle auctions and also other important information. Therefore, I want to know whether the transmitters could not be operated on solar power.

You said here that there is a shortage of reporters and shortage of equipment at NBC-TV, but I wonder whether there is not a possibility of using the services being rendered by the Namibia Press Agency, because there is also money allocated to them in this Budget, to also complement and augment what NBC is doing? Even a company like NAMPA by now should be equipped with video cameras and they could also supply material to NBC. Maybe they could complement each other and they can purchase certain materials from NAMPA at a better rate.

We have in the Ministry of Information the ones who do documentaries and I do not know whether these institutions could not complement each other.

I would like to commend New Era and NAMPA for what they have been doing, although one realises that the materials being processed by NAMPA are under-utilised and I wonder how we could really use this information, because even if you check Reuters, the BBC and other institutions use Reuters and NAMPA can close that gap.

On NBC-Television, there are good programmes which one could really be proud of, like *Good Morning Namibia* which is doing stunning work, in my opinion. Open Line, some of us have been given a tough time behind the scene, because of what they follow up from the bosses, what about this story? Therefore it shows that they are on the case. There is *Talk of the Nation*, but this does not say that others are not important. Especially *Open File* reflects investigative journalism and their stories are oriented towards developmental journalism, because they highlight the realities about the society of Namibia and for the people to judge.

Now I come to NBC coverage in municipal elections, etcetera. I think this is a typical reflection of censorship, no more, no less. If the problem is censorship in a democratic country like Namibia, it is illegal in its whole entirety, because number one, it undermines the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia which advocates freedom of association, freedom of the press and please, journalism is about the people to judge for themselves. The problem is that if you censor a certain individual, either Opposition Parties or individuals in the Ruling Party, like what is happening now, you are denying the Namibian people to judge and in the process you are angering certain members of the society. They withdraw quietly from supporting the institution.

If I take an example of Radio Otjiherero, they are doing a marvellous job, because they bring two opposing parties, you will have Honourable Kazenambo and

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Honourable Tjihuiko on the other side and the people will be judging, but the NBC is not only employing selective morality to certain individuals, but even this thing of attacks on *Open Line* against the Founding President which NBC allows freely and you will not believe the anger outside there in the villages. I do not know whether they monitor this, to check the mood outside there.

Therefore this thing of selecting people and they see that you are selecting the Opposition or you are selecting certain individuals whom they do not want or you are marginalizing a certain institutions, you are recognising the Union of Namibian Workers, but what you are doing, you are creating anger. You do not test the frustration and the mood of these people, because you are not monitoring them. Therefore, NBC is guilty, it is undermining the Constitution of this Republic, it is undermining the free policy of this country. Those who are responsible for this policy must revisit it. It is dangerous, it negates, it undermines the principle of journalism, it is primitive. I support the Vote.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I will definitely be very brief, not even four minutes.

I support the Vote of the Honourable Minister. The mission of the NBC to educate and inform is very good, but I very often wonder why certain things cannot change. I want to speak almost along the lines of Honourable Utoni. The *Chat Show* programme, the call-in programme, honestly, if we want to call that educating or informative, I really wonder. That programme is not educative, it is insulting. We can even ask the society to call in and make some suggestions and the topic will be drawn up. Whoever calls speak on that topic which has been agreed and whoever is diverting from that, is cut off. But this thing of speaking east to west, south to north, insulting all over the place, who does it educate? (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, could we not maybe draw up some Rules, like the one which you are using in the Chamber right now? We draw up some rules for the NBC *Open Line* and *National Chat Show* so that they can link to that, which could help them maybe to control the public.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I understand you, Comrade Chairperson, but maybe they will say Parliament now wants to control them, because they are even providing the Rules. However it is for the Board of Directors to decide how these call-in programmes should be handled. We can still ask the communities out there to say they want to talk about

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agriculture, industry, education, something like that. Everybody talks about that topic, people will educate each other. But what is going on, honestly Honourable Minister, I do not think it is educating anybody. Yes, it is freedom of expression, freedom of information that we get, but it is not educative at all. That is my stand.

The sooner the board of directors look at this programme, the better, because now we are insulting one another. I support the Vote, but I want that one to be looked into, without any precondition, but let it be looked into.

HON NAMBINGA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to touch on three points and I support the Vote.

The first is the question as to how the NBC collects licence fees. Are we sure that people are paying? What mechanism do we have in place to convince us that people are really paying the money that they owe to NBC? I am doubtful, but I do not know.

The second issue is that it appears NBC has adopted a tradition of being late, particularly when they come to meetings. In most instances, despite who is addressing the meeting, they would come late and I think this issue must be addressed.

The last example is the funeral of the late Bishop Kauluma. They came before the President, but they came after the church was already full, to such an extent that they did not have their equipment in place. After the President had arrived, they were asking to plug in their equipment and when people went around, the security personnel said *no you cannot do that, you should have done it before*. But this is not the only incident. I am just saying that I think it is advisable that these people should try to be on time, particularly when you have a Head of State coming to address the meeting, so they could have their equipment in place before the meeting starts.

Lastly is on the issue of the call-in programmes. These programmes have just become as destructive as the so-called *Ananias*, to be very honest. It is insulting, it is so destructive and it is not uniting the people. At least we do not know who *Ananias* is, that is the only difference. But now that we know who are the moderators of the call-in programmes, I think we have a problem and I am in agreement with what Comrade Iyambo was suggesting, that something must be done because perhaps these people find it difficult to control the callers. But something must be done. I thank you and as I said, I support the Vote.

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HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I am just taking the Floor to support the Vote. Many things have been said, some which I wanted to say, but I want to mention one way of also utilising the NBC-TV.

We have all along been struggling with a deficit of teachers in mathematics and science. I was thinking that the NBC could be utilised to have programmes which could be synchronised into the system of NBC, especially in the afternoons or over the weekends, where the whole curriculum on mathematics and science can be provided. Many schools do not have mathematics and science teachers and I am sure many institutions would sponsor such programmes. If we have such a programme, then a lot of our children would benefit from this while we are training our teachers through the ETSIP. Thank you very much.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I just want to find out from the Honourable Minister whether that is normal. On the 12th of April on Channel 97.4 I was listening to the radio, and it was like a jovial joking thing, where someone was complaining that someone's daughter kicked his dog or something like that, someone with an Indian accent as he was speaking. Then he phoned the father of this daughter and he was complaining that your daughter kicked my dog and the other person was saying, "*which daughter*", your daughter and so the argument started. Then this man started using four-letter words, ****, and I spent 14 years in the United States of America and I have never heard something like that used on radio, except when you go to an x-rated movie. But to hear it on these channels that are listened to by young children, it was surprising. I was surprised and shocked. Is that normal, that that kind of vulgar language, obscene language can be used on radio on a Saturday morning? Is that normal? I just wanted to find out.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Thank you Honourable Members, first and foremost, for your support to Vote 29 – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Let me also thank you for the great interest that you have shown in this very strategic national institution which we can only improve on if we could have discussions and see how best it can serve the Nation in line with its mission and mandate.

Yes, *Comrade Amweelo*, the shortage of equipment and transport at NBC is a concern and you asked why people are leaving and how we can retain them. The only way we can retain the staff at NBC is when we can improve on their working environment, which means that they have appropriate equipment and, of course, the salaries, because if there is one sector which has opened up, it is the broadcasting sector and people are moving to the private broadcasters. Similarly,

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there is a high technology that has to be used and NBC has a system of in-service training and also sending people out for training. When they come back they are marketable and they can move outside. We can only retain them if we can give them a good salary.

You also asked what we can do to generate money for NBC and I think in reacting to this, one would maybe also draw some ideas from what was brought up by **Comrade Booyis**. Broadcasters mostly derive its resources from advertisements.

You would have noted of late that there are a lot of advertisements on NBC. You also have to understand that most companies operating in Namibia are branches and they have to choose where to spend money on advertising, whether in Namibia, considering the catchment of NBC or elsewhere, like in South Africa. But nevertheless, there are advertisements coming in.

NBC does cover sports regularly every day after the news and then there are special programmes over weekends both on the radio and on television and of course, in anything there is always room for improvement.

Comrade Amweelo, I mentioned that the question of training is very, very important and that is also duly recognised at NBC and it is done. NBC is doing training in cooperation with some other broadcasters. For example, at one point the French were providing training to NBC staff.

Thank you for your appreciation towards what the *New Era* has done. Let me also thank you for the contributions you are making to *New Era*. We would really want many people to do that, so that they can share knowledge and information with their fellow citizens. We appreciate that very much.

Honourable Mutorwa, the historical debts are long overdue debts which NBC has and they need to be attended to. You referred to the N\$22 million which were generated from licences. It has contributed to cover some of those debts. It is a long list that I have and I have asked them to also account for that N\$22 million and it covers a lot of things, things like the security companies that were not paid, pensions which were in arrears, the Group Provident Fund, Old Mutual Protection Plan, Municipalities which were not paid, some to the City of Windhoek, some to the law chambers, a long list and the total accounts for all that money. These are only the ones that would enable the NBC to continue using those facilities, because some service providers were not willing to even take an NBC Orders, because they know they are not going to be paid.

There was also a question on whether this also includes the Receiver of Revenue. Yes, it is one of the debts which has to be paid to the Receiver of Revenue.

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Comrade Mutorwa, the issue of television not being viewed in Kavango, I am sorry my good neighbour, that I will not be able to give you an answer. I am going to find out, because it has not been brought to my attention as to what happened. We have to find out.

Honourable Tjihuiko asked what is the construction of the Klein Windhoek access road. Even if you have installations wherever you have it, it has to pass somewhere. It is just like an aeroplane, they have their lines which can be called roads, so something which can access in order to improve on those transmitters which are around the capital. That is just the term.

It is true, NBC needs to be helped and that is why you are all bringing up these good ideas and NBC is a parastatal and when you are in difficulties, you run to your parents. So, the Government will definitely be the body which can assist. But at the same time we also ask individuals to assist where they can by making use of NBC facilities. I already mentioned advertisements, that if people could advertise on NBC, it would be very helpful.

We all have to understand that we only have one station, especially television, and you have limited hours. Now advertisements have to compete with programmes and the news, but there are plans which the board is pondering on, to see whether there is a possibility of a second channel, which would then be assisting the news and the programme channel, because that one could be more commercial. How long it would take I am not able to tell now, but there is a plan.

The indigenous language services are only focusing on those who speak that particular language. They are for that particular language and that is why it is not possible to say you can go and speak Otjiherero on the Nama-Damara service language. If you are making news, let us say you are addressing whatever and you are saying it in that particular language, it is sometimes translated, but if it is just a specific programme that is organised by that particular language service, it will remain a programme for that particular language service.

You said that only a few of the local musicians are given a chance. I have to find out, we need to have fair play and everybody must be given a chance. In any case, it is also to a certain extent a source of income, because when your song is broadcast on NBC, NASCAM will be informed and then they know how many times your song has been broadcasted and then you get royalties for that. I have to check, because the idea here is to promote the local artists and that is what we all want.

Then the issue on reporting on sports, especially football from one locality and you are saying it is denying the Corporation some revenue because these companies are paying for sports. I have to find out how it really works, if a certain company has sponsored a certain sport code, where are they supposed to broadcast

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from. I will check on that one and if there is any improvement to be made, they will definitely make an improvement.

Thank you for congratulating *New Era and NamZim*.

Honourable Dienda said the Parliamentary Report needs to be lengthened from thirty minutes to one or two hours. Yes, I agree with you. If Parliament, in its own capacity, can even help us in this programme when we are talking of a second channel and if together we could generate some resources, then we would be able to have Parliament covered fully, because you cannot expect Parliament sitting from 14:30 up to 17:45 to be broadcasted. If you take those hours from the current broadcasting time of NBC, then be rest assured that no other programmes will be covered, because you are talking about 4 to 5 hours and that will not be possible. However when we have two channels or a Parliamentary Channel and as a Parliament we could generate that money, we could arrange that. As Parliament we can think of that, but for now the time allocated could be the one we rely on until there is more space.

Discrimination against Political Parties, I do not think there is discrimination against Political Parties. I watched your programme on *Good Morning Namibia*, that day and you were doing what you were doing. At times you wasted a lot of minutes when questions were asked and some minutes passed without those minutes being used. I was watching it. The time was given, but the time was not properly used. There is however no discrimination.

The question is now whether what is really happening with NBC, what went wrong, is it management, or what is it? Yes, there are a lot of things that have contributed towards what is happening at NBC. People are being put at wrong places. For example, your profession could be a technician, but then you became a manager for finance. That is just an example. That really created a lot of problems and these are the issues that the board is now trying to iron out.

Sometime ago I mentioned that in any institution the finance and administrative departments are the heart of any institution. In this case, when you have an institution like NBC which had this department which was not led by a person who has a qualification in that field, it created a problem. Some of these things have now been discovered because a chartered accountant has been hired and he is really now trying to put up the system. Comrade Minister of Finance, this is also going to help us to have again another business plan for NBC, so that we see how we can move.

Claims against the State are things that were not covered and then as a result there are those claims.

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Comrade Nghidinwa said NBC coverage being very poor in Kapako. I mentioned in my motivation that the issue of transmitters is being done in phases. Until we have completed that programme of improving on NBC transmitters we are going to have some pockets which are not properly covered. Please, we have to understand this. The idea is for the whole country to be covered equally, that is what NBC is aiming at. We have that programme and when they get it one day, they are better off than other places where they are not reaching. The radio is 94%, the television 64% and those are the pockets which are in that remaining percentage and we are trying to capture those.

Comrade Nujoma, NBC covering those not to be covered. This was mentioned by many Comrades and I do not want to repeat myself. It is difficult for me to say you are correct or not correct, but I know NBC is not supposed and does not discriminate against anybody. What we can do as individuals, because everything is recorded, and there are some Honourable Members who went and they were given their charts, when they have appeared, what time, how many minutes and everything and I would really ask the staff of NBC that the Honourable Members want a printout of their coverage. I tell them to make that printout available. (Interjections) Unless something is live, no broadcaster can broadcast everything that has been said, because I know some people even said we have these events and NBC was there throughout, but why was only a small portion shown? It is not possible for everything to be covered.

Honourable Members, I will inform them that those who are approaching them want a printout and to be told exactly when they have appeared. That can be done, all the records are there.

Then again the question of the phone-in programmes and I think I will also answer this together, because it also came up from different Honourable Members. I agree, NBC is there to inform and educate and even now the introductory statements of the programmes are always warning our people, but it seems that this polluted country of ours is really making things difficult, because it seems that we do not have teeth in ourselves and as a result to try to abuse this national broadcaster.

Of late, a decision has been taken and currently there are topics. You are told that today we are speaking about water. This is just an example. Then whoever is coming in with anything else, the NBC is working with a delaying device, because with these topics you still have some people who just jump in and the message has already gone out. That is a result of the unfortunate polluted environment of unhappiness and anger that we have and it is very unfortunate. But now they have topics when it comes to phone-in programmes.

On signals in Ehanga this is just one of those pockets which are not yet reached and if you listen to the motivation, the first term what is Ehanga is completed, but

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it has not yet started functioning and that is going to improve the signals in the area between Okongo and Nkurenkuru. That is what I am informed.

Comrade Ilonga, thank you on the *New Era* and, of course, again one has to check with the *New Era*. You say they are not covering the message you are giving and I do not really think that is any policy saying they should not. But they must be somewhere, like NBC, listening as to what people are saying.

The 21st March is a national day, organised by Honourable Moongo on our Independence Day, and I could see SWAPO colours there, I could see whatever colours and I do not know what Honourable Moongo was trying to do.

Honourable Haingura, thank you very much for thanking NBC on covering the polio campaign. The issue of the studio equipment which needs to be replaced is true. I know there are some places, for example Rundu, where I have seen them working under very difficult conditions with the equipment which are there and these are the things that really need to be looked into. I have addressed selective coverage and I do not want to repeat it.

One problem we experience sometimes is that we have many events taking place at the same time on the same day. There are those events where the equipment may come late. If you are in the Regions, do not expect the news to come on the same day, because we do not have electronic transfer of the news. That is why sometimes the NBC staff ask you, when you go and address a rally or a meeting, "*Honourable Minister, are going back today*" and if you are going back, you are given the cassette, please drop it at the gates at the NBC. But ideally all the NBC centres could be connected and the news can just be sent immediately, but we do not have that yet.

Comrade Ankama, thank you very much. I do not know what is a reasonable price for equipment. You talked about N\$5 000 to N\$6 000 and I will not go into the details of this, because whenever I am informed about the prices for professional cameras that have to be used for quality programmes, you are talking about N\$20 000, even N\$50 000. But you talk about N\$5 000 and maybe there could be discussions with the technical people at NBC.

You talked about programmes which could be reproduced. Yes, programmes could be reproduced and can be sold. The only catch is when it comes to music, because the musicians are also producing their CDs and they need to be sold. If you have to ask NBC to reproduce them and sell, maybe one has to check whether it will not contravene the law. But the other programmes can be bought.

Thank you for your idea of Parliament Access Centres and we know it will be very helpful in our work.

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Honourable Moongo, you are shocked by the debts. Fine, that is what it is and I have answered that.

With regards to the film, I am happy that you were made to withdraw the term, I will not refer to it. We are a civilised Nation, we are a Nation which has a history and culture and one underlying culture of Namibia is respect and we cannot compromise on that whatever the case may be.

This time around I did not ask a single cent for the film. I simply gave information that the film has been completed and I want to tell you, Honourable Members, this film is on the history of the liberation struggle of Namibia and whoever is going to watch it, will come out saying exactly that. The Founding President, as a person who has led the struggle for the liberation in Namibia, in this era has become and will remain a symbol of that struggle and that is why that film was called "*Nujoma: Where others Wavered.*" But you will see it, Honourable Member and Honourable Members will remember when we went to the new State House. Before we saw it there were a lot of Debates – *new State House, new State House*. When we undertook a tour of the State House, the opinions changed completely. The same is going to happen when you view this film. I will make sure that Members of Parliament will see it and you see it is about the history of the liberation struggle in Namibia.

*Honourable Booy*s, I think I have addressed your concerns. *Honourable Kazenambo*, thank you very much. The expansion of the transmitter for Gam and Tsumkwe is also going to be done. You have raised a very important issue, the issue of the parastatals to share information, namely *NBC* and *NAMPA* and to a certain extent, *New Era*, because they can share the news. The same applies to the Audio-Visual division of the Ministry. Plans are already underway for the three parastatals to come together and to see how they can complement each other.

When it comes to the audio-visual division in the Ministry, they are already working in cooperation with the *NBC*. Sometimes when you are watching the news, then there will be footage which says the material came from the Audio-Visual division of the Ministry.

There is also an understanding that when Audio-Visual division of the Ministry covers an event, then they pass the material on to the *NBC*. It will depend on whether in the area there are facilities that they can transfer that material, but that is already there. Thank you for reminding us to strengthen that particular cooperation.

New Era was also commended and *NAMPA* materials being under-utilised. That is very unfortunate, because we really want this material to be fully utilised. Thank you for acknowledging the *Good Morning Namibia* programme and other

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programmes. Thank you for commending on what is done in Radio Otjiherero. It is difficult in the NBC, because what you think is balanced is not balanced to others. When something is coming in which you like, it is a good programme, but to others that is a different thing altogether. I am just talking about the issues, on that one we cannot compromise. I have also answered Comrade Iyambo that now there are topics.

It was asked how NBC collects revenue? NBC used to collect it and then Penduka came in and now NBC again started last year. Now that you have paid through the amnesty, you are now computerised. NBC now knows exactly where you are and who have televisions. You will be getting the invoices, but there was also an idea to go back to the dealers, those who are selling televisions. It has come back and also those who are repairing television sets. They are trying so many ways of collecting the licence fees.

Honourable Nambinga on the NBC staff coming late. It is true that they come late and it is so annoying. Comrade Muharukua will remember one day when I was addressing something and NBC did not come. Many people spoke and just as I was starting to speak, they came and they wanted to start to connect and I told them to go out. I am addressing people who are here, I have nothing to do with your camera, because those people have come to listen to me, and they did not cover that event. I refused, I said *I cannot be disturbed*. It is unacceptable that they come late when they were informed and they confirmed that they are coming. The only problem is when the place and the time are changed. I want to appeal that whenever you set a time, start on time, because sometimes they have two or three events to cover in a day and if the first event starts late, then either you will be left or the other one will not be taken care of.

Honourable Ngatjizeko suggested we have educational programmes on NBC on subjects such as mathematics. That can be improved, but there is this College of Open Learning which is targeting learners and teachers. Therefore it can be improved to see some of those programmes.

The other day I had a meeting with the UNESCO representative and they are putting on a CD of mathematical curriculum material and all these things which can be used either on the television or on individual computers, so that the children can be taught science and mathematics.

Honourable Kaura mentioned the use of vulgar language on air. Really, these are some of the elements we have which unfortunately just happen. However the Radio Regulation Act of 1952 prohibits any use of vulgar language on broadcasters. It is an old Act but I told you in my motivation that we are working on the new one, but it is just not allowed. It is really unfortunate.

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Finally, the NBC is constantly trying to develop the capacity of their staff, because at times things may become just too many and they do not know where to start or whatever.

There are concerns by the board and the management and journalism training to understand what we say when we talk about educating and entertainment. It is one of the concerns and they are conducting training.

It is a pity that sometimes individuals fail to distinguish between their profession and their personal feelings, because when you are an institution like NBC or any other institution, you should really try to be professional and not to think personal, even to have your political appreciation to be made part of your work. Sometimes there are people who fail to make that distinction and that is where things go wrong. However, otherwise, the whole idea really is for the Corporation to serve the Nation in accordance to its mandate as it is in the Act that has established that particular Corporation.

Once again, Honourable Members, thank you for your support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection?
Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall now adjourn until tomorrow afternoon at 14:30.

Honourable Members, due to the vagaries of international travel and connecting flights, I will have to depart tomorrow morning on a very long journey to the Far East, and will therefore not be joining you tomorrow. I will thus miss tomorrow's business. I hope and pray you will creatively utilise the long break to serve the people and also to take due care to return in one piece and revitalised after the recess which will be 26 April 2007.

Good luck and God speed.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 24:15 UNTIL 2007.04.26

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
26 APRIL 2007
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, first announcement from the Desk of the Speaker, re Dr Mosé Penaani Tjitendero memory and remembrance. Today a year ago ultimately Cancer has robbed Namibia of Dr Mosé Penaani Tjitendero, first and longest serving Speaker of our National Assembly. His hallowed earthly home has become the National Heroes Acre. We will always remember and venerate his outstanding leadership and the starring contribution to the liberation struggle, the Constitution-making process, the establishment of the Republic of Namibia and his service in this House.

While we cannot have engaging Debates, exchange on issues of public interest and outreach activities together in our rural communities and urban poverty areas, fond remembrance will for ever endure. We honour you and we salute you, Honourable Speaker. May your soul rest in peace.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees?

TABLING: REPORT ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

HON DR GEINGOB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this House, the Motion on modernising property rights was tabled in the National Assembly by Honourable Venaani of the DTA on 29 June 2006. After some discussions in the House the Motion was referred to the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration on 12 July 2006 for further consultation with the relevant stakeholders on the possible amendment of current legislation on title deeds for communal property owners and by so doing, provide security of title deeds.

Due to other prior commitments, the Committee could unfortunately not undertake the required consultations. However, the Committee has drafted a work programme and identified Ministries and institutions that need to be consulted.

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY
HON BOOYS**

These are Ministries and institutions, such as the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, Deeds Office particularly, the Law Society, the Shack Dwellers Association and Traditional Authorities.

Secondly, the Committee has identified the need to conduct these consultations during the coming Parliamentary Recess to speed up the process. In addition, the Committee may consider conducting nationwide public hearings to provide satisfactory recommendations to this esteemed House.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I crave the indulgence of the Assembly to grant this Committee more time to properly investigate this very important subject matter and to report back at a later stage.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, your kind consideration and agreement to this request would be highly appreciated. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please Table the Report. Any objection? Agreed to. Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions. Notices of Motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 12, 23 and 24 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 94 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Mutorwa?

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, during the discussion of Vote 27, Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture, on the 24th of April 2007 and in response to a specific question, I promised to provide more and specific information to that question. I now have the honour to present to this Honourable House a statement as prepared by the Namibia Football Association so as to properly reflect the records of this Honourable House in response to that specific question.

The Namibia Football Association has the pleasure of informing the media, all stakeholders, particularly the Government and the City Council of Windhoek, the general public, that FIFA, after having discovered gross violations of its directives on the inspection of the facilities during the recent inspection of the two stadiums in Windhoek, namely the National Independence Stadium and the Sam Nujoma Stadium, decided to send another inspector to Namibia to do a whole new inspection on the two facilities. This decision of FIFA was arrived at after the NFA complained to FIFA about the manner in which the inspection was conducted and the derogatory statement note of the inspector's language during the media briefing.

We also complained about the fact that the inspector spoke to the media, which is not in line with the FIFA directives for that class of inspections.

The NFA, therefore, wish to urge the general public and all stakeholders to rest assured that a new and transparent inspection, in which all stakeholders will be sufficiently involved, will be conducted by FIFA in the near future. NFA will then approach both the Government and the City of Windhoek to discuss the recommendations that will arise from that report. Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION
OF COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 23
HON GORESEB**

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01 to 11, 13 to 22 and 25 to 31 had been agreed to and Votes 12, 23 and 24 had been introduced.

Vote 23 – “WORKS” put for discussion.

HON GORESEB: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister for the numerous achievements he has achieved during the financial period under review and his good endeavours for the current Financial Year. However, I have five questions and the very first one is on Page 2 and this is a repetition of the previous question I have asked him last year.

Honourable Minister, the Department of Works renders essential services, like the implementation of capital projects. I have one capital project which was identified by the Local Authorities and which was also taken up by the Regional Council and which was prioritised in NDP1 and NDP2, the bridge to link the major town Usakos and its suburb, Hakaseb.

Up to this very moment it has not been implemented and my question to the Honourable Minister is: Is this priority no longer prioritised? Has it been scrapped from the books or are you still going to execute it?

On Page 3: I am very pleased to learn that the Honourable Minister has succeeded in creating a fixed asset register as well as the envisaged asset register system which can easily monitor the deductions made to the State. What action plans does the Honourable Minister envisage now that we know the individuals who occupied the State properties, such as flats, and the records are clear with the municipalities who occupy those houses, what action plan has the Honourable Minister put in place to recover the money lost by this illegal occupants of various State properties or are we going to write it off and start afresh?

On Page 4 the next question is about Government housing alienation scheme. Is this scheme still in progress and if yes, does the Honourable Minister intend to expand it to all the other various towns to enable the current occupants to benefit from this scheme? Because on the next Page the Honourable Minister admits that maintaining the Government properties is still a problem with the insufficient budgetary allocation.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

On Page 6 the Honourable Minister is talking about decentralisation of certain services to the Regional Councils. Can I correctly assume that this decentralisation will go along with resource allocation to the Regional Councils so that they can be effective in order to maintain these facilities?

My very last question is on Page 8 where the Honourable Minister is informing us about the various ongoing capital projects. It is pleasing to note that the Minister is doing his level best to upgrade the debilitating infrastructure as well as implementing certain capital projects. However during my visit to the various Regions, Omaheke, Oshikoto and Hardap, we have learned that these upgrading services rendered by the Department of Works are not satisfactory, because those who receive the tenders, usually opt for the cheaper materials and at the end of the day they pocket the money and the service rendered is not satisfactory due to the fact that they are using inferior quality materials. There are always rumours that those who win the tenders make use of the Chinese materials, but I do not agree with that view.

My plea to the Honourable Minister is to consider the quality of the products, to inform the inspectors, after the service has been rendered, to go to the projects and facilities to determine whether the quality is satisfactory.

With these few remarks and questions, I support the Vote.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote, also to thank the Minister especially when it comes to the construction department of the Ministry, that you are empowering the local communities when they are sub-tendering to construct some of the public infrastructure. Keep it up, Comrade Minister.

Another issue is those who are illegally occupying Government properties that your Ministry is really working hard to identify these people and to remove them, so that they could be occupied by the right occupants. There are many people who are on the list of the Government who need accommodation.

Then my question is drawn from Page 9 of Comrade Minister's speech. I first want to commend the Minister for the good progress that is going on in as far as the construction of State House is concerned and I think all of us now know how important this institution is, as it is a national asset.

Comrade Minister, at one point you informed the public that understandably there is that security border which we all agree that it must be there in any institution of that nature, and there are people, some having plots and I know that you have already informed the public that your Ministry is working on this programme and

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HON MOONGO/HON DIENDA**

you will consult individuals. Unfortunately Comrade Minister, it seems you have not yet started consulting those individuals and they are really concerned, because when you are investing in property, you have a plan for it and if you are behind with your plan for three or more years, it is really disturbing. When is the Comrade Minister going to consult these individuals, so that they can realise their plans? I support the Vote, Comrade Minister.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. First of all, allow me to congratulate the Minister for the improvement in the Ministry, but allow me to raise my concern. The old traditional leaders' offices which were destroyed during the liberation struggle throughout the country were neglected and are still not renovated. I would like to know whether all the Traditional Authority offices are included to be renovated and whether it will be attended to during this Financial Year. Thank you.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, on Page 291, the maintenance of Government buildings. The staffing of the personnel, according to these figures, are in line with establishments and the positions filled at present, but we are sitting with a situation that the maintenance of buildings are not up to date. What is the problem?

When our Committee visited the schools in the Hardap and Karas Regions, the school principals complained that they completed forms and asked for the school hostels and the hospitals to be renovated, but they only received promises and nothing has been done so far. What could the problem be if the staffing is normal?

Secondly, on Page 8 of the Minister's speech the Minister is talking about the construction of classrooms nationwide. My problem is that there is nothing about accommodation for teachers, because I think this is the biggest problem. We are building schools but there is no accommodation for the teachers. Most of the teachers are not from the rural areas and when they are appointed at certain schools, they do not have accommodation and it is one of the problems facing the rural areas.

Then thirdly, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I would really like to thank the Minister for the progress on the recovering of rentals from civil servants and I support the Vote.

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RT HON ANGULA/HON MUTORWA

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Number one, I support the Vote. Question number one to the Honourable Minister: When are you going to establish a Government estate organisation to take care of Government properties? Many of the Government properties are in a dilapidated state.

Last year I received several personal calls from some people who visited flats somewhere here at Ausspannplatz where drivers, clerks and other Government Officials stay. Apparently those flats are not being taken care of, the water is running and nobody is repairing the pipes, the corridors are not cleaned. Outside it is an eyesore and I thought perhaps it would be useful for Government to establish an organisation to take care of Government houses and infrastructure. My question is; are you considering establishing such an organisation?

Question 2: I have to ask you this question for the sake of the Electoral Commission to know that I addressed the issue with you. The Electoral Commission has no premises where to operate from. Within three years or so we are going to have elections, Local Authorities, Regional Councils, National Assembly and Presidential. I see when I said Presidential Honourable Venaani was nodding his head. This time you are going to be successful. This very important institution does not have premises. Honourable Minister, can you assure this institution that you are going to do something about their predicament?

Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am rising in support of this very important Vote and I would like to raise a question emanating from Page 9 of the Honourable Minister's statement.

In the town of Rundu, somewhere on the bank of the river there is this very historic strong, stone Government house. This particular house has been in existence since the town of Rundu was established in 1936. It used to be the official residence of the Government representative there as the Native Commissioner up to 1990. Then after Independence, and I remember I was Regional Commissioner at the time, there were some discussions to convert and declare this particular house as the official guesthouse for Government, but up to now that house seems to be neglected, it is not used, it is dilapidating, but due to what you are saying on Page 9 of your statement, I would like to enquire what are the plans from the Ministry with regard to the utilisation of this very important Government property.

Secondly, in case the Ministry does not have specific immediate plans to utilise this particular house, I would like to enquire whether it would not be possible for

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HON MUDGE

your Ministry to get in touch with us at our Ministry so that this particular house could possibly be given to the National Heritage Council of Namibia, seeing that it is really a historic building. I support your Vote.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, first of all I would also like to confirm that we support this very important Vote. Very worrying is the fact that the Minister in his motivation speech mentioned the vacancies in the professional positions. I think something should be done seriously to ensure that the salary packages being offered would be sufficient to attract very well-qualified people into that Ministry. We know from experience that that is very important and that the backbone of that Ministry is to have those professional people in place.

I also want to congratulate the Minister on the progress made on the fixed asset register and the moneys that have been recovered. What I just cannot understand quite well is the fact that the Ministry is charging a percentage of the salaries for rental. In other words, there is no fixed rental on the size of the properties but it is being calculated on a percentage of the person's salary. That is something new to me. Then the Minister wants to introduce the programmes to ensure that this rental and also the occupation of these houses are properly managed. Very good, I think the Ministry will now see what amount of money they could derive from that.

I do not want to say much more, except that I am a bit worried about the small and medium enterprises contractors mentioned by the Minister. It is a very good thing that you have a situation today where small contractors are able to tender for work, like building one or two classrooms. That is a very good thing. My experience is that it seems to me as if the Tender Board is involved to work out the tenders for these small contractors and then also decide who is going to get what. It could be a good thing to make sure that everybody gets a job, but it can also be very dangerous. Most important is that they ensure that the people who are tendering and who are allocated these jobs, that they are able to do it properly. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on a point of information. Honourable Mudge is talking about small and medium enterprises and he is talking about some of the dangers involved in the tendering process. Honourable Mudge, your former President De Klerk made a statement in the Nordic countries, acknowledging the progress South Africa has made in the socio-economic development of South Africa. Honourable Mudge, when are you going to acknowledge that the SWAPO Party Government has made tremendous progress since Independence? It seems you are still living in the past cocoon, in the apartheid cocoon and you are still making statements that

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HON PANDENI**

since Independence SWAPO has not made any progress. When are you going to recognise that fact?

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Mr De Klerk has never been my President, so I do not know what he is talking about.

What I wanted to say was, the Minister mentioned the larger projects on Page 8. Mention is made about the Naval base and the classroom construction, N\$45 million for the Naval base and N\$13 million for classroom construction. I do not want to downplay the importance of a naval base, but I think we should rather strengthen the Ministry of Fisheries to ensure that they can patrol our coast for the reasons that it should be done for, for poaching of our fish and rather spend that amount of money on classroom construction. Thank you very much.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also join the previous speakers, the Honourable Members who supported this very important Vote. Comrade Minister, I have a few queries.

One is that in the motivation that the Ministry is establishing oxidation ponds and I am sure that is for a very good cause. However Honourable Minister, we are experiencing that a Local Authority has two or three ponds, but when the town is growing these ponds will be filled up and one is again expected to establish and construct new ones. Comrade Minister, is it not maybe high time that we look at a system of water treatment, so that we are able to reuse the water. Maybe it would help rather than every time to add one oxidation pond to another.

Comrade Minister, you have realised that during heavy rains and floods, these oxidation ponds are over-flooded and in the end the water is mixing with the drinkable water.

The second aspect is with regard to the process of decentralisation and that the Ministry would like to expedite this process in maintenance services, technical services and garden services to Regional Councils. I am just a little bit worried whether, with regard to the technical services, the process will also go together with people who have the technical know-how. As we are all aware, the technicians at regional level are very few, if not none at all. I hope it will go together with that process.

Another point is with regard to the old buildings that one finds in the various old towns that are not occupied, they are dilapidated. The Local Authorities have been asking whether they need to take over these houses and buildings, so that they

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HON DR L AMATHILA**

possibly renovate them and be put to good use by the residents in answering to the need for housing. But it appears as if this is not coming. Somewhere in Oshakati there are those buildings and even the electricity and water infrastructure systems are not functional. Do you have any plans in future to consider this request from the Local Authorities?

My last point is with regard to the establishment of the Independent Memorial Museum which was mentioned in your motivation speech, which is a very good idea, because that is also an effort to preserve our very important and rich history of the liberation struggle. I had in mind Omugulu Gwombashe.

Honourable Minister, do you perhaps have an idea of establishing such a museum also in Omugulu Gwombashe? Possibly we could even store some of these old military vehicles that were made non-functional during the fight between the People's Liberation Army of Namibia and the colonial forces, maybe as a way of showing the young generation where we are coming from. The old guns and old vehicles that were involved in this and that are currently not used and are probably in the area of Grootfontein and maybe somewhere else, so that we have a museum that is also talking to the present generation, but visibly showing where we are and what it has cost the Namibian people in order to arrive where we are today.

With this, I wholeheartedly support the Vote and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support the Vote of the Honourable Minister. On Page 11, Programme 2, Government buildings infrastructure.

Honourable Minister, this morning I went to the Airport to receive the President of Singapore and as the sun was coming up and we were standing under the roof for protection at the front part of the entrance of the old Airport where we were receiving our visiting Heads of State, and when I looked up I was wondering whether I was in Namibia or some other place. The ceiling is falling down and I thought I was somewhere else, not in Namibia. Please, we need an urgent repair of that roof, because should that Head of State come and look up, I think we will be scandalised. It looks terrible.

Secondly, I do not know whether this is the right place, but it is on the Airport when you fly in. I had to correct the pilots when they announced that we are landing at Windhoek International Airport. The second time, as I was going out, one of the hostesses told me, "*there is no name here, there is no Hosea Kutako Airport displayed anywhere*", and how many years do we have Hosea Kutako now? Perhaps over ten years. Please display Hosea Kutako Airport, Welcome to Hosea Kutako Airport.

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HON VENAANI**

Even when you arrive at a small village in West Africa, you know you are in Wagadudu or where. Now we do not even know whether we are in Windhoek. Secondly, which airport is this? You are told Windhoek International Airport and you think you had to land at Hosea Kutako Airport, is this another Airport? Please display the sign of Hosea Kutako Airport.

With these few remarks, I want the Minister to make sure that that roof is repaired. It looks very ugly. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support the Vote under discussion. I want to touch on two issues that I need some clarity on.

Firstly, does the Ministry currently have an asset register with all the properties that are supposed to be maintained in this country? The last time we were there, there were issues of uncertainty regarding Government houses, Government properties and at some of them you were not even aware that they are your properties. Does the Ministry now have a full asset register of all the properties that you are supposed to own?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: On that note, the House shall now break and shall be back at 16:00.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to thank the Minister of Works, Transport and Communication for the road between Otjinene-Eiseb-Gam. I thank you most sincerely, because it is contributing to the opening up of markets. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. I want to inform my Colleague that we are not at Vote 24, we were still at Vote 23.

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HON MBAI

HON MBAI: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will be very brief.

I would also like to echo and also extend my support and appreciation to the Honourable Minister on the process of Government Houses Alienation Scheme.

I understand that to date N\$143 million has been collected through the scheme. One would like to know in which areas of town were these houses alienated, and more especially I would like to know why the Government houses, especially in Opamue township in Okakarara were not yet alienated.

I also come back to the Minister and also extend my appreciation to the Minister, especially on the tremendous progress made in the registration of the tenants of Government properties. I experienced the same problem in Okakarara, especially the township I just mentioned. The tenants complete applications year after year and deductions have not yet been effected from the relevant authorities. These amounts are accumulating and one day the institution may come up with a bill that contains the arrears and it will be difficult for these tenants to pay these high bills. One would like to know where the delay lies. Is it in the processing of applications to the relevant institutions and ministries or do the problems and delays lie in the operation of the Ministry itself? I thank you and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I revert the Floor to the Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to tackle the questions, starting from the last speaker.

Honourable Mbai would like to know where the alienation scheme process takes place, because none has ever taken place in Okakarara. The alienation scheme is a process that depends on individual indication of interest to buy the house they are living in. It is not something that the Government identifies and decides to put certain houses on sale. However it is a very slow and cumbersome process, depending on people coming forward and offering that they want to buy the houses they are living in.

Of course, there are certain houses which are no longer needed by the Government as assigned houses that the Government can decide to alienate. In fact, I had a meeting with the Mayor of Okakarara who came to my office, proposing swapping Government houses that are not utilised in Okakarara for either land or anything

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HON KAAPANDA

else. I cannot remember the details. We seem to have agreed on the proposal put forward.

There are also houses, like the DBC houses, that were built with Malaysian funds. They were built in a number of towns and those houses were never occupied. I think there are some at Grootfontein and Ondangwa and we worked very hard to have those transferred to the Local Authority in order for them to generate income by having those houses transferred to them. The process was so tedious. First the Minister of Trade and Industry has to pay the tax, because the money that was used, the loan from Malaysia, was not paid back. First of all we had to settle the debt and then again the houses had to be valued. The valuation process is also a tedious one, it is done by the Ministry of Lands and there are few valuers and sometimes they accept to do the job of valuation if there are quite a number of houses to be valued. They find it to be very costly to travel to a place where there is a single house to be valued. Then you have to wait for a long time to have valuation done of a particular house in a particular town.

We as a Ministry are desirous to transfer all Government houses to the Local Authorities and this is the policy of Government, because we felt Local Authorities can collect revenue and become a viable entity.

That is the situation we are facing. There are laws that we have to abide to, procedures to be followed and hence the process is slow and tedious and time-consuming.

The deduction of rentals from tenants occupying Government houses was the second question from Honourable Mbai that many tenants have filled in forms, forwarded it to the relevant authorities for processing, but deductions were never made. It is true, there are many people living in Government houses but they are not paying anything because the system is also not effective. People in the Ministry are blaming the Ministry of Finance for not deducting rent from the tenants. This is something we are going to discuss seriously with the Ministry of Finance, as we have embarked on a process of setting up an asset register, compatible to the system which the Ministry of Finance is using and luckily we now have an IT person in the Ministry, a Deputy Director who has already started the process as to how we could effectively put up a system that can be monitored, controlled, evaluated and assist to see whether we are doing justice to the Government properties.

Government should make money from the houses it owns. The Government has these assets in order to benefit financially from these assets, but at the moment that is not the case.

At the moment we do not know exactly how we are going to effectively deal with this. Of course, we are also looking at other experiences from which we could

borrow good practices to be used here at home.

At the moment I cannot give a definite answer to this and I hope you will bear with me and appreciate the difficulties in dealing with these property problems.

Honourable Venaani, you did not read my statement. I clearly stated what we are doing on the asset register and what we are going to do about the asset register problem. At the moment we do not have a reliable asset register.

Of course, we have records about Government properties which are not reliable. Do you know why I am saying it is not reliable? If you look at the records regarding properties we have in our Ministry, then compare it with what is contained in the Deeds Office, there are discrepancies. We are in a very difficult situation, but of course, it is not only us. I was talking to my Colleague in South Africa, they are also in the same situation.

Honourable Amathila, thank you very much for alerting us. Of course, the condition of the second terminal at Hosea Kutako International Airport is somehow in a state of disrepair, but there is a programme for this particular building, because we are planning to separate our terminal buildings into two terminals, an arrival terminal which is currently used and we want to use it only for departure in the near future. We want to turn the current terminal into an arrival terminal in the near future, but we want to have a separate arrival terminal, the building the Deputy Prime Minister is referring to which is in a state of disrepair, where she says the paint is peeling off. The condition is really as she describes.

What also surprised me is her discovery that Hosea Kutako International Airport has no name displayed. We listen to the announcement by the captain of the flight that we are now descending to Windhoek International Airport. There is no such a name, we do not have a Windhoek International Airport, but we have Hosea Kutako International Airport, but there is no name. Therefore, I am going to take up this issue with the Namibia Airports Company to look into this. They will see it fit and proper to put up the name.

Honourable Pandeni, thank you very much for your support. The maintenance of oxidation ponds is a very critical issue and as you pointed out, the inhabitants in our various towns and settlements are increasing, but the number of oxidation ponds remain constant and the waste materials emanating from these localities and the money to keep increasing the amount of oxidation ponds is not there. Hence, you proposed that we set up treatment plants, which is an excellent proposal.

I think we discussed a treatment plant once when I was at the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and I cannot exactly remember where we stopped. We brought in NamWater in this question because

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it involves water, engineering, but it is an issue we have to look at and see from what angle could the Ministry come in.

However, a team went to Rundu and to some other places, Ruacana, to investigate the condition of the oxidation ponds and to report to our Ministries so that we could take appropriate measures. I cannot remember having seen that report yet. It is still to come.

Another issue is decentralisation. I mentioned the problem of maintenance and I mentioned the Government policy that we have to implement which is decentralisation. We are talking about decentralising maintenance, the technical services and others to the Regional Councils. Does that mean we are decentralising problems to the Local and Regional Governments? No, I do not think so.

Maintenance as such is also a cumbersome process. Let us take a pipe that breaks in Okakarara. You need to issue an invoice to a company to do the job, but we cannot do that. First of all, you have to issue something that has to go to the Economising Committee in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication and they discuss and after discussion, a decision is taken to go and repair. Then it has to be sent to the Department of Finance to see whether there is money in order to issue a certificate that has to be referred to Okakarara so that they can contract a company to do the job. You can see the to and fro movement and all the channels the invoice has to go through before the decision is taken, a certificate issued for a capable person on the ground in order to contract a company to do the job, and by that time a lot of water has been wasted.

If the function is delegated to the Okakarara Regional Council or Local Authority, then it will be quicker to go through that system and to take a decision to repair the broken pipe. Hence it is very important and necessary to delegate this function to the sub-Government.

When decentralising functions to the Regions, we decentralise resources as well. We do not just give functions without being accompanied by resources, such as personnel and money. This is the essence of decentralisation.

The technical staff in the Ministry, the unit in the Department of Maintenance will also be decentralised. If I have gone offline, I hope my staff up there will correct me. However this is supposed to be the case.

Honourable Minister, you do not need to worry about this, this is how it should be done in order for decentralisation to be functional.

Honourable Mudge mentioned vacancies of professional posts coupled to low salary packages offered by the Public Service of Namibia, which of course is a

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worrying issue. Why can we not adjust the salaries of professionals in order to attract them? This is a brilliant idea and I agree with you hundred percent. We have tried that, because that Ministry cannot function, cannot be called a technical Ministry without professionals like engineers. We need mechanical engineers, we need electrical engineers and we need civil engineers. You cannot have one without having the other two. There are three categories in engineering work.

We discussed the issue with the Office of the Prime Minister and it is an ongoing issue, but however, in the Region the salary package we are giving we were able to recruit engineers from Zimbabwe, Zambia and Kenya. All in all we have recruited six engineers. Some have already arrived and some will arrive soon and I hope that will push our Engineering Department and also enhance the services to be rendered by these professionals.

You questioned the validity or the correctness of the percentage of salary.

What the civil servants are paid at the moment is far less in accordance with their salaries. We want to make sure that people pay reasonable rent to the Government. So therefore, we have this system of doing it percentage-wise on their salaries. You said maybe it is not the right way. Could you explain how we could maybe improve on this so that we raise reasonable funds in accordance to what people earn? At the moment that is what we have done and of course, we will be happy to receive any advice so that we can do the right thing.

You questioned the tendering process and I think that is based on my statement that we have been training our small contractors in the various areas to be able to tender, to be able to participate in the tendering of projects. However of course, the awarding of tenders is not just done without consideration. We have a system of evaluating the capacities and the performance of tenderers. Every tenderer has a history and on that basis tenders are awarded. Of course, looking at the capacity, we cannot give a big project to a small contractor. Maybe he might not have the equipment to carry out that particular project or the skills. All these aspects are considered.

Of course, we have a mentorship a small contractor with a big contractor in a partnership relationship, where the main contractor will have the responsibility of providing assistance to the small contractor through in-service training. To ensure that this is happening we have an inspector who will periodically visit sites to see how the small contractor is being assisted through in-service training and mentorship and maybe through this process we will build up the capacity of our small contractors.

Honourable Dienda, you have congratulated me and I will do the same to you. You mentioned that the building of classrooms should be accompanied by teachers' accommodation. Yes, there is such a thing happening, but this is not the

making of my Ministry. The determination or selection of building schools is done by regional planners and on that score, we have already decentralised that function to the Regions in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. They are determining, they are the ones who are drawing up priorities as to where a school should be built, the size and the likes.

We are a technical Ministry, we are doing mechanical work as presented to us. If you say *build me a school*, we just work on that. We do not say, “*what about accommodation?*” We do not do that. This is how these things happen. However of course, it seems that the Ministry has realised that, because now you find teachers teaching in some places where they were not found. They are from other places. Placements nowadays are just done where there is a vacancy. After finishing the teachers’ training you do not expect to go and teach at your village, but the Department of Education that is responsible for the placement of teachers will just send you where there is a vacancy and it is advisable and proper that there should be accommodation. However now you find teachers teaching in villages and housed by villagers. I do not know whether that is really a conducive environment for the teacher to do his or her preparatory work. It seems the Ministry has taken a step to look at this concern.

Honourable Angula, thank you very much. Your question is pertinent and straightforward. My Ministry is looking into establishing a Government estate organisation that will look after Government properties, because we are not able. I said in my statement that the value of Government properties is to be roughly N\$20 billion and the money allocated for maintenance is a mere N\$36 million this year. The N\$13 million operational is also included in the N\$36 million and how much is left for maintenance? Honestly, nothing.

Therefore, it is very necessary that we should look at establishing a maintenance company and on that score we have already started with discussions with the various experts, especially the Office of the Prime Minister. Somebody has already been designated to work on this particular issue, the issue of establishing a maintenance company. There is a general discontent and fatigue about parastatals. Some of you might say, “*oh not again another parastatal*”.

However on this one, imagine a project worth a billion, a company with assets of a billion dollars, how can this company go around? And it is a professional company, for that matter, and you are not going to just appoint somebody from the Ministry and make him a CEO. This thing is going to be done professionally. We are going to invite tenders and this company will supervise. I think the trend of administration will be wiped out, but honestly, there is viability in this. There is a sense in this one and that is why the Prime Minister sees it proper and fitting that we should look at this very seriously.

We are also looking for the State House which has been completed. Maybe we are

just waiting for the official announcement. There were some little faults and that could be completed at any time, checking little faults that need to be prepared before the official handover, and once that has been completed, then State House will be transferred to the Government. However the problem of maintenance will remain, hence we are going to contract a company that will maintain this building. Of course, they will go through training. There is a unit that is specially trained by the Koreans, because State House is a big complex and you must have somebody who knows all the corners of this complex and all the technical requirements that would be conducted.

There are issues that would require regular spot checks. Therefore, people who must do that should be trained and these will do what we call preventative maintenance, but major maintenance will be done by a professional. Of course, we should have those skills in this country and let us trust that we will find a company that will do the job for the Government.

The second comment by the Deputy Prime Minister is the need to find a place for the Electoral Commission, a very important institution that should have a proper place. This is the edifice of our democracy and it is a shame if you do not have a proper building for the Electoral Commission.

I have taken up this message, and we will see what we would be able to find to provide a fitting building for the Electoral Commission before the next elections. We will work very hard to look into this issue.

Honourable Moongo's question was misdirected. *Honourable Ndaitwah*, thank you very much for your support and I also appreciate your patience as well as those who own private plots at Auasblick. Honestly, I must take this opportunity, firstly to express our appreciation and thanks to the people who own plots at Auasblick. It has been a long, tedious and frustrating time for these people not knowing what is going to happen to those plots and these people remain calm and patient and remain loyal to their Government. This is a sign of patriotism. There was no demonstration, there was no public protestation and I would really like to thank them and also to express my regret for that delay.

However we have started the process. The private plots were valued by the valuers from the Ministry of Lands and there was a process of adjudicating power of expropriation to the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication by the President of the Republic and that adjudication process has to be gazetted. Documents to that effect have been prepared and very soon the gazetting will be effected. Once again, it was not clear whether another valuation will be done. Of course, we have already budgeted for this particular issue. However we have these technical and logistical processes that we have to go through and sooner or later we will engage individual property owners and make offers and we want to expedite this process. If there would be a delay, then we would immediately

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inform the affected people of the delay that has cropped up. However we wish to be able to expedite the process.

Honourable Goreseb. I could not hear him, honestly. This is also what happened last year. That is why he came up with the same question, because I could not provide answers, because I could only hear about the alienation plan for houses and the Namibian Government alienation.

We can meet outside, we work together and we know each other very well. Let us keep that friendship alive.

With this, thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 12 – “GENDER AFFAIRS AND CHILD WELFARE” put for discussion.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support our Vote because it is now gender equality and no more Women Affairs.

There are two issues that I would like to seek clarification on from the Honourable Minister.

Last year, as part of the Committee work, we came across an issue regarding the registration of orphans, that the Ministry is first registering half orphans, that is orphans that lost one parent, after which they will come to register the full orphans. My question is, I thought the ones that need more attention are the double orphans, but you started registering half-orphans first and each and every day we have new half-orphans, so you will complete that and get to the full orphans. I thought it should be the other way around and I would want to seek clarity from the Ministry, because this is what we found in the Region. Even if it is not the policy of the Ministry, that is what is happening.

The other day I even heard one Regional Councillor was inviting children to be registered and exactly what he said is that they are first looking for children who have lost one parent. In any case, I would want this situation to be reversed, because I thought the full orphans need more attention than half-orphans.

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The second issue that I am concerned about is that we have had gender-based violence, men abusing women and we have seen protests. These days we are increasingly reading of women committing human rights abuses against children. There was a case of a woman who murdered her children and even in today's newspaper there is a woman who cut the private parts of her baby. I know if a man has committed such crimes, we would be seeing the Ministry organising demonstrations and we do not see the same happening. The message you are sending to the public is that rights abused by women against children seem to be more acceptable. That is the message you are sending. The moment you start doing these things it amounts to selective morality. When a man does it, it is a crime, all of protest, all of us do this and that, but when a woman does it, how do we look at it? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: May I ask my the Honourable Member a question? In the first place I want to make it clear, it is not a family issue as some of the Colleagues are trying to say, but Honourable cousin, do you not think it is also important for men to take up issues when women commit crimes?

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much. I really agree with you and this is what I am doing, raising this issue as a man on this platform, but what I would also want to see is women raising these issues. Thank you very much.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Before I say anything, I just want to add that women are also abusing women. This is also violence.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, this is our Vote and I would like to acknowledge the efforts done by the Minister. On Page 4 of the Minister's speech, development to promote gender equality. I would like to see the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare playing a bigger role in gender issues in this country.

First of all, it is always the same people being invited for training. If it is follow-up training then I will understand, but every time when you enter a workshop on gender or violence, it is just the same women. I am wondering, there are so many other women in this country who do not have the knowledge, so why are we only

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concentrating on certain people when we send invitations? Why can we not reach out to the churches, to the schools instead of just using the same people to be trained, while other people do not get the information?

Secondly, I would also like to see the Minister of Gender Equality promoting gender sensitisation in school policies. I am talking about uniforms for school girls. That is a big problem. If the Minister could take a leading role in sensitising these policies, so that we can make these policies gender sensitive. (Interjection).

No, there was a school in the Hardap Region where the school principal did not allow the school girls to wear boys' trousers. She did not allow it because they feel that you must be in your ladies' uniform. She did not feel comfortable with a skirt because she had problems with her bone structure. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, may I ask a question? Honourable Dienda is stating that they are not allowed to wear boys' trousers. Why should the girls wear boys' trousers when you have girls' trousers? Why should they be allowed to wear boys' trousers?

HON DIENDA: It is unisex. When you go to Pep Stores you will see it is for everybody, it is unisex, so men and women can wear the same ones. Therefore, we need promotion of gender sensitive school policies.

The facilitation of support for and the endorsement of community-based care for orphans and children without guardians or care-givers. We all know that some people just want these things to be a money-making scheme, but if the Minister could play a leading role in these ones, like the one on Page 4, the Eros one, that is a good one.

If the Minister of Gender could support the development of female economic empowerment programmes, senior literacy programmes while removing the barriers to access such programmes and the barrier of making use of the same people every time when we have these types of workshops. There should also be progress reports on these activities to the Women's Caucus. I know that the Women's Caucus is a dead body and I am praying for the resurrection of this dead body. The Women's Caucus and also the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social Welfare and Community Development to show us a Progress Report, so that we as Members of Parliament who are here, are not here for our families, we are here to... (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, may I ask a question? Honourable Dienda, you say you have a problem to come together as women. Do you want to suggest that it would be better if the Chair of that forum could be a man? Maybe that would be useful.

HON DIENDA: I cannot remember that our Committee in our terms of reference has spoken about gays. (Laughter).

I would also like to thank the Honourable Minister for the leading role taken and including our Committee in the visit to Oshana Region. I still feel that our Women's Caucus could play a more effective role when your Ministry visits these Regions, because we come from Regions, we have the knowledge, we know everything, to be empowered of what is going on.

Finally, Honourable Chairperson, I would like to throw the idea to the Minister and the Cabinet for the establishment of an Ombudsperson for children. I thank you.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to register my support for the Vote, but I have only one question and an observation.

It seems something is conspicuously missing in the programme of the Ministry. I am on record in this House for condemning the initiation and bullying of children in our schools. Is the Ministry going to join us in combating the bullying and the archaic practice of initiation against our children in the schools and really to go on an offensive to curb this practice which is so dehumanising, humiliating and against all the conventions? (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Colleague a question? Honourable Nambahu, are you aware that scientific research has proven that many men that commit these abuses against women are people who were bullied during their younger ages. Are you aware of that?

HON NAMBAHU: I think that is like saying, are you aware that the sun sets in the east? I think it is general knowledge and I do not need to give any scientific augmentation. There simply is no excuse for us. Therefore, I would like to invite the Ministry to consider the protection of our children in schools and actually to punish the culprits, because as I said before...(Intervention)

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HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask my Colleague a question? Honourable colleague, do you know that sometimes teachers are also guilty of this initiations? For example, in the Regions where I grew up there were teachers who when a child comes to school and uses the left hand to write, she/he would be forced to use the right hand whereas she was born as a left-handed person.

HON NAMBAHU: Inasmuch as I agree that this is Committee Stage, I would probably just like to say that this is part of those archaic practices and myths that were actually stemming from the negative part of the culture, where even if you were left-handed in the culture where you come from, you were not to become a Headman. Therefore, these are the kinds of things which we should really not condone and I would like to invite the Ministry to really protect our children from this practice, and where it is being supported and condoned by principals, the school needs to be named and shamed and punished for that. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you very much, Honourable Nambahu. I am calling on the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to respond.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:
Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

First of all, let me register my appreciation for all the Members who supported by shouting *d'accord* in the beginning and for the Honourable Members who participated and brought out some of the issues which are really opening eyes, especially the last one of Comrade Nambahu.

Comrade Mushelenga, with regard to the registration of the orphans, first of all when we talk about equality, it means that our Ministry walks the talk of no discrimination. That is why we took it in such a serious light that we first brought in the Children's Status Bill, so that all the children should be equal, whether they are born inside or outside marriage.

Now what is happening? I will really investigate and I will invite you to come with this evidence to the office and we will take care of it, because discrimination is not allowed. An orphan is defined as any child who lost one or both parents. I can recall hearing the Minister of Finance saying it should be the other way around and when you look at the logic of that case, you see that a child who at least still has one parent, is not in that severe need as a child without both parents, and we also have the tendency of children households, that a child up to the age of 9 are leaving school, especially the girl child, to take care of the rest of the siblings. This is really not what the Ministry does, because we do not preach, we are doers

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of the work. That is what we are not doing. We will definitely take care of this, because no discrimination is allowed. Please come with the information, we will take care of it.

That is why we embarked on a great campaign, we got an extra N\$9 million from the Ministry of Finance in the 2005/06 Financial Year and we have now registered up to 146,000 children of which 64,000 are getting the grants and we will put another 40,000 with this year's Budget. We take care of those who are not on the grant through the World Food Programme to have at least one hot meal a day.

Gender-based violence: You are right, but again, the Constitution of this country is very clear. When we write about any law or discuss any law inside here, first of all we make sure that it is gender sensitive and when it is gender sensitive, it means there is another saying that *no one is above the law*. Gender sensitive means whether it is a woman or man, whether it is a boy or a girl.

If someone, whoever it is, commits a crime against the children of this country, which are so precious and not only precious for the country, Namibia, but precious in the eyes of God, because we read in the Bible that when the mothers came with their babies, the disciples tried to push the mothers away from Jesus, but let me tell you, Jesus is another one, I admire Him so much. He said, "*do not push them away because the children belong to the Kingdom.*" Who are we, if Jesus who is the Saviour, can say "*do not touch the children?*" Up to this moment I still have the mandate for child welfare and I am in the line of Jesus and I will personally take care of those women who are abusing the children and dumping the babies. This is not allowed. No one, even if it is the person with the highest authority in this country, crime is crime, corruption is corruption.

Even this thing of only women fighting for the rights of women, abuse, HIV/AIDS or home-based care, children in need, it should be women who have to jump up and do the community work and come up with placards because someone has been killed, join us, as the Prime Minister joined us last year with the sixteen days of activism. Let the men join us, because it is not a man's issue that is why we talk about gender-based violence. It is not about women, it is just that the women are the most innocent, the most vulnerable and are suffering. Even in times of war it is the women and the children who suffer the most and it is the men who are importing weapons of mass destruction. It is the men who are just fighting for power and have wars about resources.

It is the women and children who suffer the most under any circumstances. When both parents die, when there is no extended family, it is the girl child who drops out of school to take care of the siblings. The women suffer the most at the end of the day. If the man is terminally ill with HIV/AIDS and he cannot work anymore, it is the woman who takes care of this very sick man no one wants to touch. Sometimes she does not even have protective gloves.

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Honourable Dienda, you raised a concern that it is every time the same group of women who are participating, but as you know, there are stakeholders and whenever stakeholders have any programme regarding women and children, they have to register with the Ministry. The Ministry has a database of all the active NGOs and women programmes and child-caregiver initiatives. When we have a programme on children, then we invite all the stakeholders. Even with the SADC Protocol recently, we invited all the women's groups. Everybody was there and if you are not invited, then you had better register yourself with the Gender Desk to be on the database, because we are not excluding anyone.

You were not a Member of Parliament when we travelled to Spain and you know what I did to you. You were from CoD, but I embraced you. That is what Namibia is about and that is what we are preaching about. Just register and you will be invited.

You mentioned uniforms and I do not know which school it is, but I am the godmother of many children and I personally take care of their schooling, because they are from very weak families and most of them are girls, for that matter. I do not know why I choose to be the godmother for the majority of girls. I buy trousers for them because the South is extremely cold, the girls cannot wear these skirts. Even the Government policy says you may not send a child away who cannot pay the school development fund. You know that because you are a community worker. At times we from the Ministry have to pay for the children. This is what is happening and it is a standing policy, but people on the ground are not following it. We can enforce the monitoring and evaluation systems and we can take care of this. You are right that the new fashion is unisex. You can wear anything. If someone is not allowing that, maybe it is a church school and maybe they are conservative, but I cannot allow the girls to suffer, especially when it is very cold.

With regard to the caregivers, we are promoting community involvement, we promote that a child should be taken care of by the whole village. We promote the African culture that every child is your child and that is why we are doing away with institutions, because this is the very last resort.

Even with the adoption of children, we promote foster care for children and that is why we also give foster care grants. Where there are no care-givers, we need to know about it. Just report it to the office and we will definitely put them in foster care. There are so many Namibians who are really reaching out to take care of these children, which we really appreciate.

On female literacy, because of the new name, Gender Equality, we have a literacy legal programme which involves all the communities, the traditional leaders, the church leaders, the care-givers, everybody involved in community issues for our disadvantaged people. However we can think about focusing on this where a bill

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is mostly affecting women. You can come up with this one from the side of the Women Caucus and we can take care of it.

For example, when Honourable Ndaitwah was the Minister and I was her Deputy, Meme Shoombe was the Chairperson of the Caucus. The Caucus came to life based on the SADC Gender Declaration, that each Parliament must have a Women Caucus.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am requesting all, please Comrade Minister, just go to the points on the questions, because it does not make sense to ask the Members not to become general and allow the respondent to become general.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: The people asked questions for clarity and if I just say, "*yes Caucus, no Caucus*", it will not make sense.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Comrade Minister, I am asking you as the Deputy Chair chairing this House, just answer the questions and not to make it general.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I am trying to motivate, because I am a teacher and I do not know how to just answer a question. That is not my style. She referred to the Parliamentary Women Caucus and she does not have the background and I have to tell her.

It was most born out of the Gender Declaration, so that women should lobby and that we are role models and mentors to other women, especially in the rural areas, because of the African culture which we have that women think that it is not their domain to be politicians and for economic empowerment, which is the new approach after liberation in all the African countries.

Nevertheless, when Honourable Ndaitwah, was the Minister, many of the women did not know how to present themselves in front of a camera, they did not know how to write their speeches and pose questions, so the Ministry of Women Affairs, then, held a series of workshops on that aspect and we did not only improve the Parliamentarians, but the Regional Councillors and the Elected Women Forum and the local and village councillors as well. These are things which we do. So you must come with a request. When you are sick, you go to the doctor. The doctor cannot say you are sick and come to you. I invite you, my door is open, I have an open door policy.

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Thank you very much for the support and the Ombudsperson for children is a very positive idea and I take note of it, because the Youth Parliament will also be launched in May and this is a very good idea.

Honourable Nambahu, the bullying of the children is another issue, because it has a psychological impact, as was said by Honourable Venaani. It has a long-lasting impact on the child. Bullying cannot be allowed, but as I said, I am coming with the Child Protection and Care Bill and that will definitely take care of this issue, because when we have a law, it is a strong tool which we will use in enforcing this and then we will put up clusters in the schools. We have the parent committees, we have the advisory teachers and we can engender some of the subjects at school. The children coming from a poor background, an orphan, a child whose parent has maybe killed someone and is in prison are the ones suffering the most and we cannot allow that. It is not allowed in Namibia. Our Constitution does not allow it and we are coming with a very strong Child Protection and Care Bill and we need to have dialogues in the school on peace, on reconciliation, on love and care and on nation-building. These are the things we really need to do for the children.

The Ministry of Education is really the one under whose umbrella these children are, although we have a function for the vulnerable ones and the orphans. If you come up with something like that, Honourable Nambahu, the Minister will definitely take care of it.

Thank you everyone for supporting our Vote. We really feel that we are strengthened and we are together and we are holding hands, because together we can make it, united we can make it.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 24 – “TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION” put for discussion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 24.

Allow me to commend the Ministry for providing essential services, such as fire-fighting and rescue vehicles to the Airports in the country. I must indicate that the Hosea Kutako International Airport has become a busy Airport these days and I am interested to know from the Minister as to when the Ministry will introduce bus services to the airport. When you look at the distance where the aircraft are parked, it sometimes become confusing, especially when another plane is arriving at the same time and the situation becomes more serious in the rainy season. The

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time you reach the arrival hall, your suitcases, including your expensive suit, are wet. Some of us are regular visitors to this facility and we are faced with questions which we are unable to provide answers to.

Minister, you do not need to start with a hundred bus services, but you can start with two. This will address some of the concerns we have.

The second issue is the Government Garage. Do we really need this facility? If we need it, Comrade Minister, then broader supervision should take place. I am raising this concern as a result of personal frustrations. Sometimes you take your car in for service and the car is parked there for more than two weeks without anything being attended to. However when you call to follow up, you are told your vehicle is done, but yet nothing at all has been done on that vehicle. If we need this facility, I would really recommend ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask a question? Comrade Lucas, are you aware that when you are told your car is ready is because they have not yet sent it to a private garage? Are you aware of that, that they say they did it but they sent it to a private garage?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I am aware, that is why from the beginning I indicated that I speak from personal experience.

Comrade Minister, I really recommend that if we still need this facility, then a serious reshuffle should take place in that section. With that concern, Comrade Minister, I support your Vote and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Chair. Comrade Chair, please let all the Honourable Members know that I am only Muharukwa, coming from the Ovahimba community. (Interjection). Yes on transport. When you people stand up, I am sitting here and keeping quiet, but when I am standing you are talking too much.

Now on the Opuwo road. I rise to thank the Minister of Works, but first my thanks goes to the former Minister of Transport, Comrade Amweelo. When we do not congratulate the Founding President of this Republic, we are going to be guilty, because when the Founding President talked about the Kunene Region, especially the Kaoko Region, he said two things: to promote Opuwo to be the capital of the Kunene Region and to put a tar road between Omakange and Opuwo and now in between Kamanjab and Omakange. I want to tell the public out there that their road will be completed in January 2008.

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Comrade Minister, the Opposition thought that is a dream, the tar road is not going to happen in that area and when you are going to open that road, I want you to invite Honourable Kaura to be there and for you to tell the people that the SWAPO Government is the Government for the people, it is not the Government for politically confused people. I thank you and I support the Vote.

HON KAURA: On a Point of Order. This is not a House for a tribal fight among Hereros. Please advise Honourable Muharukwa.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 24 and I have three points and the one I am constantly repeating, e-fuel.

Those who were talking badly about me have now seen what has happened to e-fuel. You come at the service station, you are told that the e-fuel is not there and some say they do not have those forms and they refuse to accept books. Who chose these people?

Now there are forms in Oshakati, and sometimes we travel not because of our own making, we travel in the night and if you find the office is closed, you cannot get e-fuel. I link this point to point number two, the garage cards. They link the cards to e-fuel, if you are in a town where there is e-fuel, you cannot use the cards. This is the problem we are facing and people who are not making observations will not discover this. Why is it like that? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Iilonga, do you think that the e-fuel system is so expensive that the Government of the Republic of Namibia cannot afford it, so that it is installed at its Government filling stations?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Katali that was my last point on the issue of e-fuel and Government cards. If the introduction of e-fuel was to curb the theft of petrol, why can it not be installed in Government Garages? Sometimes we say we have peace, but mind you, Comrade Minister, only the Government here in Namibia uses e-fuel and if we can be sabotaged, we can be sabotaged just once. These things are under the private sector and the private sector are the ones who can bring a Government to a downfall. They can do it, we are not immune. We must be careful, we can easily be a target of the enemy.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 24
HON IILONGA

The other issue is that we now have two cars, a Camry, in our case, and an off-road. You find that our officials have cars, but they do not have individual cards for each car, yet in the Government the Camry has its own card and you are charged at the expense of the Government and the off-road has a card. Why can we not have only one card for those Ministers' cars? That one card is enough and if any criminal act is committed with that card, it can be followed up.
(Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Why do you not discuss it in Cabinet?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I am not a Member of Cabinet, I am in attendance. Our officials must know that this is expensive to Government and it is not a good thing.

The last point is on the Government Garage. We do not need a third party we do not need a private company to service our cars. Where are they going to get people and you were alluding to this when you motivated the Vote...
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Deputy Chair, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Can the Honourable Member tell us how many engineers and technical people are employed at the Government Garages throughout the country and why can they not do that work?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Yes, that is what we want to advise the Minister. We only need a qualified mechanic, proper control and administration, like that company you want to bring in, maintenance of our property and we do not even need a tender. You do not even invite tenders for people to go and maintain State House.

Therefore, my advice is that we need to control our properties like the private sector is doing. Why do we love them, but we do not take their example and administer our properties and assets as they are doing. Let them improve. We do not need another parastatals, there are many parastatals and then you get another Chief Executive Officer. With that I support Vote 24.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 24
HON P MUSHELENGA/HON KAAPANDA

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have two short points.

I would like to thank the Minister for the extension of the road between Otavi and Tsumeb, especially at the Tsumeb construction site. It is now wide enough and it is minimising the risk of accidents. My appeal to the Minister is however that that road between Otavi and Tsumeb is generally narrow and especially when you have two trucks passing each other, one is forced to have the left tyres off the tarred road. If the Minister could consider including this in the next Development Budget, so that that road is widened bit.

The other one is the issue of service providers to the Ministry and I want the Ministry to really consider this issue. I was travelling from the North and at the roadblock at Otjiwarongo there was a police car that has been standing there for days and it was not functioning. They were telling me it was one of these private vehicles, not a Government vehicle, so it cannot be blamed on Government Garage. The service providers that provided that vehicle were supposed to come and repair and they took days and days. Government Garage tried to call them and they were not coming. It was the festive season, but at least there must always be skeleton staff. When you are providing service, you must provide a satisfactory service whether it is holiday season or not and they are supposed to provide a quality service to Government. I thank you and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you Comrade Mushelenga. I revert the Floor to the Minister.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:
Thank you very much and as always, I will start with the last question, the car standing at the roadblock for a very long time, waiting for a service provider to come and repair it.

Comrade Mushelenga, workmanship in this country is very, very bad. Inefficiency is not only commonplace in Government, but it is a widespread phenomenon. Quality service delivery in this country does not exist. I can give an example.

If you go to a public toilet at a private filling station, most of those toilets are not functioning. Go to Otjiwarongo, a filling station which is open twenty-four hours and imagine how many cars are filling up there, but the service rendered by that company in terms of public toilets is very, very bad. I agree with you and I am not surprised that a company contracted to provide service to a Government unit are not doing their work efficiently. Maybe the best way to deal with such companies is to withdraw the contract.

We also have small companies which have contracts from the Government to provide garden services. They are supposed to maintain gardens by watering them, mowing them and everything that is needed so that we keep our gardens beautiful and clean, but they are not doing it efficiently. I say we should not pay these companies. I requested my Deputy Director of Gardening Services to give me the list of all those companies and the agreement to see the conditions which are stipulated in those agreements, so that we can hold them responsible for their failures in accordance with those agreements. I am still waiting for this agreement to come on my desk.

Honourable Mushelenga, thank you very much for your support. I agree with you regarding the road between Otavi and Tsumeb. There was a programme to work on that road and rehabilitate it and to see where expansion can be done and to improve the general condition of the road, but because of the competing priorities the moneys allocated were then shifted to another project which was seen to be more urgent and critical. However, the plan to rehabilitate and improve that road has not been abandoned completely. We still have a programme to work on that road.

Honourable Iilonga, e-fuel not available at all filling stations. Some e-fuel stations refuse to accept the logbook after they have experienced a mechanical failure, that the e-fuel is not working, but there is no option for using the card or the book. This can create a lot of inconvenience. As a solution to that problem, why can we not install e-fuel at the Government Garages? I do not know, this could be a solution to the problem because I do not know how many Government bodies are there in every town and settlement locality, because we are criss-crossing this country. Maybe this could evoke long and intense Debate and we will end up spending the whole night here. Therefore, maybe we could look at this at an appropriate time.

With regard to the card, apparently we have this system because each Minister has two cars, but there is a card for each car. You asked why can we not have one card for both cars in order to be more cost effective. I think this makes economic sense and we will look into this matter.

Comrade Mushelenga, the improvement of Otavi-Tsumeb road is in the Roads Authority programme for this Financial Year and RFA funding.

Honourable Muharukua, thank you very much for your support and we will definitely invite Honourable Kaura when we commission the Opuwo-Omakange road. Honourable Kaura, it will boost your election campaign.

Honourable Lucas, thank you very much for your support with your critique and very serious proposal. Your question is whether we really need a Government

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 24
HON KAAPANDA**

Garage. At the moment yes, but I must admit that many countries have done away with Government Garages.

We are also looking at how we would want to maintain Government Garage under Government auspices.

You asked why we cannot introduce a Government bus service between Hosea Kutako and Windhoek. (Interjections). We can look into this as well. Thank you very much.

You spoke about reshuffling of the staff at Government Garage and why they are there but they are still sending cars to private garages. I discussed this intensely with my staff, but I was told that one of the reasons why cars are being sent to the private garages is that sometimes the mechanical repair that is required, requires specialised equipment and we do not have that. Nowadays mechanical faults in an engine are detected by a computer system. Thus far we have not managed to find money to do that. This is one of the reasons that might have changed this, that Government cars must be repaired by Government mechanics at Government Garages. To employ qualified mechanics may not be possible because of salary package, but what I am stressing is that we must train our mechanics.

We have been working closely with the Minister of Education to see how we could beef up training of artisans, people doing mechanical repairs in various categories. It is a shame that we do not have artisans in Government. But there are institutions where they could be trained. There are so many vocational training centres and yet we are unable to train artisans. We are working seriously on this and hopefully we will prevail in having artisans being trained in existing Government vocational training centres.

With this I would like to thank all the Honourable Members, those who spoke and those who supported the vote in silence. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection? Agreed to. The Committee further has to consider the Bill.

Clauses, Schedule and Title put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported without Amendment.

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**THIRD READING APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

APPROPRIATION BILL: THIRD READING

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I move so, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, just a few remarks.

Firstly, to extend my appreciation to all the Honourable Members of the House and, by extension, to the public out there who are our electorate for the valuable contributions made towards the Debate on the Budget. I want to appeal to the House and to the public to remain patient because of the current shortcomings that we are not able to address all our developmental needs. However I want to assure you that we will continue with efforts to improve public revenue, so that we can make bigger strides towards the achievement of our development goals.

I also want to appeal to the Namibian Nation at large to be more forthcoming in contributing their fair share to the Treasury in the form of taxes, because we are the only ones that can finance our own development. We cannot rely on others to do that for us. I also want to call upon all Namibians to support the implementation of public projects by looking out for problems in their areas during the implementation of these projects and notifying the relevant authorities, so that these resources that we have appropriated would all be put to use and the public will be well served.

I also want to call upon Namibia to support me as Finance Minister in safeguarding these public resources that we have appropriated for the development of our country by looking out for misuse of these funds and notifying the appropriate authorities, not to come and make insinuations or just ask questions in Parliament, but to walk to the Office of the Minister, to the Ombudsman, to the Auditor-General, to the Anti-Corruption Commission and say "*this is what I have observed*", so that we can intervene on time and prevent the misuse of our scarce resources. Thank you very much.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Third Time.

APPROPRIATION BILL

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have just passed the National Budget for 2007/08 and we will now pass it on to the National Council for review and passing. In terms of our Parliamentary Calendar for this year, the House will break for the month of May as from tomorrow until Tuesday, 5 June 2007 when the House will continue with the business remaining on the Order Paper. No business will lapse as this is only a break and not the end of the session.

In terms of Rule 90, automatic adjournment, the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 5 June 2007.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:25 UNTIL 2007.06.05 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
05 JUNE 2007**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I welcome you back after an extended recess which, as I stated earlier on the eve of adjournment, was meant for parliamentary outreach activities and also for reflection. As it happens in life, during this period of recess we lost loved ones, family members, relatives, friends, neighbours and other acquaintances, among them Honourable Member of Parliament, a great freedom fighter of Namibia, Richard Kapelwa Kabanjani, who now lies buried at the Heroes Acre and we also remember the passing on of the wife of Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo, Dr Pauline Iyambo and many others. I ask the House to rise for a minute of silence in memory of them.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

HON SPEAKER: I am informed, Honourable Members, and this is a good news, that starting from 15:00, it is about now, access to the Parliament Restaurant for refreshment would not be available to the Honourable Members. This is due to the fact that it is being prepared for readiness for the hosting of a reception by the Chairperson of the SADC Parliament Forum, the Speaker of the Botswana National Assembly this afternoon and evening. That is a handicap now being presented to the Honourable Members and I regret the inconvenience.

Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

TABLING: AUDITOR-GENERAL REPORTS

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table Audit Reports on the Accounts of the Vocational Training Fund for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2006 and Town Council of Lüderitz for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2004. I so Move.

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notices of Questions? Honourable Dienda.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 52:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 7th of June 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following questions:

1. Is the Minister aware that there are no public toilet facilities available at big shopping centres, like the Red Cross shopping centre and Pick & Pay shopping centre in Katutura?
2. What will the Minister do to rectify this problem?

QUESTION 53:

HON DIENDA: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 7th of June 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development:

During the Budget Debate, the Honourable Minister said in his reply that the name of Wanaheda has been changed to Samora Machel and that as a leader of the country I must know it. Can the Honourable Minister please inform the public and myself and the residents of Wanaheda about the following:

1. When and where did the official name change take place?
2. Why are the name displays in the area still for Wanaheda and not for Samora Machel?
3. The municipal accounts which the residents receive still have the name "*Wanaheda*" on it. If it is officially changed, when will the administrative part be changed so that the residents may not be confused any longer?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the questions?
Honourable Gurirab.

QUESTION 54:

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 14th of June 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance the following:

Given her answer in this Honourable House on 20 October 2005 on the performance of GIPFs DCP portfolio, whether the Ministry of Finance and NAMFISA have now completed the investigation, and whether the report of this investigation can be tabled in this Honourable House.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Notices of Questions? Honourable Tjihuiko.

QUESTION 55:

HON TJIHUIKO: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 14th of June 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement the following questions:

1. Is the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement aware that some five to six years ago farm or mine workers in the Karibib-Usakos area were evicted from their place of work and dumped on the main road between Karibib and Otjimbingwe?
2. Can the Honourable Minister inform this august House what you have done to address the plight of these people?
3. Farmers' farms were expropriated for having mistreated or unfairly dismissing their workers. Why is it that no action was taken against those farm owners to date?
4. Honourable Minister, I understand that these people have been living on the road for more than five years or so. Can the Honourable Minister please do something about these fellow Namibians who have been living under these harsh conditions for some time with young children?

QUESTION 56:

HON TJIHUIKO: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 14th of June 2007, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Honourable Johannes Pandeni, the following questions:

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON ULENGA**

1. I wonder whether the Honourable Minister would confirm that the Oshikoto Regional administrative officers will be moved from Tsumeb to Omuthiya? Is that true?
2. Is it true, Honourable Minister, that the reason for the decision to move the officers from Tsumeb to Omuthiya was to bring services closer to the majority of our people?
3. You would agree with me, Honourable Minister, that by taking the office to Omuthiya would also help to stimulate economic growth in the town and surrounding villages.
4. If the answers in 1 to 3 are in the affirmative, which I assume it would be, why did Government decide to move Government officers from Okakarara to Otjiwarongo?
5. Having realised now that economic growth can be built around service industry, such as Government, amongst others, would your Ministry consider moving Government administrative officers back to Okakarara on the same basis and reasons you have decided to move the office from Tsumeb to Omuthiya?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the questions? Any further Notices of Questions? Honourable Ulenga.

QUESTION 57:

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 14th of June 2007, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

1. Is the Prime Minister aware that the drought situation in the Kunene Region has started to negatively affect both animals and people alike, especially in the Epupa, Opuwo and Sesfontein constituencies of this Region?
2. When will the Government start with drought relief for both animals and humans in the affected areas?
3. As the farmers want to sell their cattle, why does the Government refuse to subsidise the low prices of animals?

QUESTION 58:

HON ULENGA: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 14th of June 2007, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

1. Is the Right Honourable Angula aware that for many years now, there have been claims and accusations of nepotism and tribalism, as well as allegations of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, in the ranks of the NDF and the Namibian Police Force, Nampol?
2. Is the Prime Minister further aware of the fact that despite repeated denials by responsible Ministers and high-ranking officers in these Ministries, the allegations have persisted and have refused to die?
3. When will the Prime Minister investigate these serious and disturbing allegations against the Government so that, if they are found to be true, those responsible can be brought to book and if the allegations are found to be false through public investigation, they can be disproved once and for all?

QUESTION 59:

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I further give Notice that on Thursday, the 14th of June 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Honourable John Pandeni, the following questions:

1. Why were the water points within the proclaimed area of Helao Nafidi Town turned off and closed down?
2. Is the Minister aware of the fact that due to this closing down of the water points within the proclaimed area of Helao Nafidi Town, people and animals alike within the proclaimed area of Helao Nafidi no longer have access to clean water and have to drink and use unclean water from earth dams, omifima and omiheke?
3. Is the Minister aware of the serious health risks to the local people of Helao Nafidi involved in drinking this unclean surface water, especially in the light of the recent cholera outbreak in the Ohangwena Region?
4. When will the Minister go and open the closed water points within the proclaimed area of the Helao Nafidi Town or cause them to be opened?

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON ULENGA**

QUESTION 60:

HON ULENGA: I would lastly like to give Notice that on Thursday, 14th June 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare the following question:

On the last occasion when Rössing Uranium Limited retrenched part of its workforce in 2003 due to the then depressed demand for uranium, the company promised to take the retrenched workers back into employment as soon as the uranium price improved. Now that the uranium price has improved significantly, and the workers are demanding that they should come back to work, when will the company start rehiring the retrenched workers?

HON SPEAKER: Could the Honourable Member table the questions? Any further Notices of Questions? Any Notices of Motions? Honourable Venaani.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 12th of June 2007, I shall Move –

That this Assembly discusses the current prevailing drought situation experienced in many parts of the country by farmers with a view that Government can impose measures in assisting farmers with food subsidies for animals and human consumption in some parts of the country.

Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

HON VENAANI: I further give Notice that on Thursday, the 14th of June 2007, I shall Move –

That this Assembly discusses the current prevailing debt of water bills experienced with NamWater by farmers on the Okakarara Water Carrier, with a view to allow a recalculation and softer repayment periods to avoid water suspension on animals and people by NamWater.

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions?

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**NOTICES OF MOTIONS
HON ULENGA**

HON ULENGA: I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 12th June 2007, I shall Move –

1. That this House, in the light of Government's proclamation of many new towns, such as Nkurenkuru, Helao Nafidi, Okahao, Ruacana, Oshikuku, etcetera, in the rural areas in recent years and the many detrimental and distraughtly effects these proclamations have had on the local communal farming communities, this House therefore debates the socially, economically and psychologically insensitive and destructive manner in which resident farmers in newly proclaimed towns, such as Helao Nafidi in the Ohangwena Region, are robbed of their property and forcibly evicted from their homesteads and from "*Omapya*" to marginal lands by the local town councils.
2. That the Assembly debates the developmental value of many of the newly proclaimed towns in the country, such as Helao Nafidi in the Ohangwena Region.
3. That the Assembly critically consider the negative effects of forced urbanisation, as experienced in the newly proclaimed towns.
4. That the Assembly refers the matter to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration for public consultation and further appropriate action.

I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Konjore.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I thank you to be allowed to share a few thoughts about this very important day with this august House and the Nation at large.

Comrade Speaker, Nations throughout the world commemorate the World Environment Day on the 5th of June each year. The World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and

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action. Indeed, it is the occasion where Governments stimulate national awareness on specific environmental issues.

The international slogan for 2007 is, “*Melting Ice – a Hot Topic*”, in support of International Polar Year. The theme focuses on the effects that climate change is having on polar ecosystems and communities, and the ensuing consequences around the world. It would seem to many of us that Namibia is not directly linked to the Polar Regions on the continental geographical scale, however, the consequences of melting glaciers and the destruction of Polar ecosystems as a result of climate change would not exclude Namibia from these effects, with predicted sea-level rise due to global warming which could submerge our coastal islands and affect our entire marine industry and the coastal economy.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the Namibian theme of this year’s commemoration of the World Environment Day is “*Go Green – Use Renewable Energy*”. This theme is selected specifically to promote Namibia’s efforts in positioning itself to mitigate and adapt to the negative impacts of a global phenomenon, which is climate change. Our national theme is, therefore, important and challenging. It reflects the need for all of us to recognise and understand the negative impacts of climate change and our roles in preserving our ecosystems, resources and natural processes on which we depend.

Economic development in Namibia is underpinned by the quality and integrity of the natural resources base. The country’s environmental assets provide opportunities for us to achieve the objectives of Vision 2030 and make good progress towards meeting the target of the Millennium Development Goals. Namibia therefore, cannot afford to lose its environmental assets through inappropriate practices and degradation.

It is scientifically and economically established that climate change is expected to affect food security, the economy, health and prosperity in many parts of the world, and vulnerability to climate change is considered high in Africa due to many factors, and Namibia is no exception. These include, *inter alia*, heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture, frequent droughts and floods and poverty in many countries, while adaptive capacity is low due to lack of economic resources and technologies.

As global carbon emissions increase and the greenhouse effect intensifies, world temperatures are likely to rise. As the polar ice caps melt, sea levels will rise and some coastal areas will be flooded.

We should not think that Namibia will be immune from these dangers. Climate change is considered to be one of the most serious threats to our environment, human health and well-being and economic development. Our arid environment, recurrent droughts and desertification have contributed to make Namibia one of

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the most vulnerable countries to climate change, a problem we did not create or contributed to, but are going to be recipients.

Moreover, change in temperature and precipitation would likely affect the availability and distribution of water resources. Much of Namibia is dry and suffers inadequate water supply. Dry areas could get drier with climate change, decreasing water availability and access further.

New and innovative methods are being developed to deal with the challenges brought about by climate variability and the changing climate. Consistent with the national energy policy, climate change presents an opportunity for Namibia in terms of exploitation of our renewable energy potential. In line with today's theme, we have to go green. We need to explore abundant potentials of renewable energy sources to supplement or even replace the existing non-clean energy sources. These sources include solar, water, biomass, crop, wind and gas.

Renewable energy is viable and important in Namibia due to the abundant sunshine in the country, which allows the application of solar technologies by producing clean and environmentally friendly energies. In addition, there are various cumulative benefits of producing electricity from renewable energy sources, as these technologies can be designed and set up anywhere, and this increases improved access to better energy services to even the remotest communities in areas where our electricity grid network cannot be extended in the near and even in the foreseeable future. Hence, having renewable energy is a major contribution to electricity access for the majority of Namibia's poor.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members,, Namibia puts more emphasis on our vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. This approach will be used to prepare strategies and action plans that can be easily fitted into the national development planning processes, such as our Third National Development Plan (NDP 3), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Vision 2030.

Namibia ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995 and became legally obliged to adopt and implement policies and measures designed to mitigate the effects of climate change and to adapt to such changes. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as the leading Government Agency, is responsible for the coordination and implementation of climate policies and measures with respect to the fulfilment of the country's obligations under the mentioned convention.

Our Initial National Communication was presented to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2002 and this identified a number of potential projects and activities that Namibia could undertake to implement that can aid its development process, while contributing positively to its response to climate change. Areas and sectors covered include agriculture, energy (including

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renewable energy), health, transportation, water conservation, land use, forestry and tourism.

During this occasion of the World Environment Day and, indeed, this Environment Week, let us dedicate ourselves, our resources and our institutions to ensure that our environment is properly managed and protected for the benefit of all of us, both present and future.

I would like to reiterate that every person needs to take a lead and be proactive as well in pushing the global agenda towards engendering the protection of our environment. Let us have peace of mind from knowing that we live in a healthier environment, richer in wildlife and natural diversity, an environment that we can care for, use, appreciate and enjoy. Let this important day and week be a reminder to every citizen, every community, the business sector as well as to all of us in this august House that our environment is in our hands and that we are the custodians thereof and thus responsible.

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

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for a very important and much awaited speech. Thank you very much for the details that you have shared with us and at the same time, frightening us with the unavoidable truth. Any further Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF
SECOND READING: LABOUR BILL**

HON SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned on Monday, 16 April 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare that the Bill be now read a Second Time. The Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare adjourned the Debate for his reply and I now give the Minister the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members. I rise to respond to questions or

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**SECOND READING: LABOUR BILL
HON !NARUSEB**

issues raised by some Honourable Members of this august House. I do not intend to respond in the sequence of the Labour Bill, but in the order in which the questions were raised.

I want to thank the Honourable Members who participated in the Second Reading Debate on the Labour Bill for their constructive input. It is apparent that there is strong support for this important Bill. You have confirmed our aim to enact a Labour Act that is conducive to good labour relations, fairness at the workplace, improved productivity, employment creation and economic growth for social development, a Labour Law that will contribute to Namibian employees and their families enjoying decent lives.

With this in mind, we have taken into account that decent minimum conditions of employment are necessary to reach the aforementioned objectives. A few Honourable Members may misunderstand certain issues of the Bill's provisions. I will, therefore, address the issues that have been raised for the purpose of clarification and will also address briefly proposed amendments.

Comrade Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, *Honourable Dienda* indicated her support for the Bill generally, but proposed certain amendments, which will be discussed later at the Committee Stage. I would like to give an initial indication of our Ministry's views at this point, with regard to the following proposed amendments:

Clause 23(5): Proposal that the employer and employee should agree on the timing of annual leave, but if they cannot agree, the employer should make the final decision. Although this is a proper approach to employer-employee relations, it is more in the nature of a guideline, which could be included in the Codes of Good Practice and Guidelines that will be prepared to guide the parties in the day-to-day implementation of the Labour Act.

Clause 23(8): Proposal that an employee who falls sick during annual leave be granted an additional day of paid leave. The Bill already provides for paid sick leave, that is 30 days in a three-year cycle. There is no need to increase the number of sick days.

Proposal to provide for special leave to attend beauty pageants, sports competitions, etcetera. In our view it would be inappropriate to include such leave as a statutory minimum condition of employment. Such matters, we believe, can be negotiated between trade unions and employers or between the employer and employee in appropriate cases.

Proposal to require employers to continue to pay all portions of remuneration except for basic wage during the period of extended illness covered by the Social Security Act: The Bill and, indeed, the current Labour Act (Act No 6 of 1992),

provide that an employee is entitled to sick leave at full remuneration for thirty days during every three-year cycle. The Social Security Act provides an extended leave benefit that kicks in after the employee's sick leave is exhausted. It provides a certain portion of basic wage on a progressively declining scale over a period of up to eighteen months. I would add that we are about to gazette amendments in terms of the Social Security Act that will improve the amount of the benefit.

The Honourable Member's proposal would require the employer to continue to pay all other aspects of remuneration, such as housing allowance or pension contributions, for the period during which the employee receives the Social Security benefit, up to a maximum period of 18 months. I take note of Honourable Dienda's proposal, because of its significant financial implications, I will consult within the Ministry and with our social partners. If the proposal is found to be viable, we will bring it back to this House at an appropriate time.

Clause 28 – Accommodation: Proposal to require a certain minimum advance notice to evict an employee from employer-provided accommodation in cases of termination of employment at the behest of the employer, measured on the basis of one month's notice for each year in which the employee has resided in the accommodation. We find considerable merit in the principle contained in the proposed amendment. This is a separate issue from that of tenure on agricultural land, which is not within the purview of the Labour Bill. We would support an amendment that requires a minimum of three months' notice in the case of agricultural employees and of one month's notice in all other cases of employees who occupy accommodation provided by the employer. Therefore I will make an appropriate amendment in this regard in the Committee Stage.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, *Honourable Viljoen* asked for clarification on two Clauses:

Clause 12, which prohibits the employer from making certain deductions from an employee's salary unless authorised by the provisions of the said clause. He has mentioned that the provision would prohibit employer deductions to repay loans paid to employees by NAMMIC, which is owned in part by the National Union of Namibian Workers. The intention of this clause, which is also found in the 1992 Labour Act, is to protect workers from incurring large debts to their employer, which it then withholds from their salaries. The NAMMIC example should present no problem, since it is a commercial loan which is ordinarily handled through repayment from the employee's bank account, like any other loan.

Clause 24, with respect to the entitlement to sick leave pay. Honourable Viljoen has correctly pinpointed an ambiguity in the language through the use of the word "*thereafter*" in Clause 24(1)(b). We thank you, Honourable Viljoen, for this contribution and we will introduce an appropriate amendment at the Committee State to clarify the clause.

Honourable Viljoen also voiced his concern that the improvement in maternity benefits contained in Clause 26 will lead to employer discrimination against younger women in hiring. Our answer to this is quite simple: Such discrimination would be illegal in terms of the Namibian Constitution and this very Labour Bill and will not be tolerated, hopefully by us all who happen to be employers.

Honourable Viljoen posed a question concerning legal representation in conciliation and arbitration proceedings in terms of Clause 82(12) and 86(12), respectively. He asserted that the parties to those proceedings do not have a right to legal representation and he contrasts that with disciplinary proceedings in terms of the Public Service Act and the Local Authorities Act, which permit the parties to be represented by lawyers. The Honourable Viljoen's supposition is not quite accurate. The Clauses of the Bill to which the Honourable Member referred do not prohibit legal representation, but limit the use of lawyers in the interest of resolving labour disputes in a speedier and less adversarial manner than the current system in the District Labour Courts. This will facilitate the resolution of simpler disputes and will eliminate the possible advantage to the party with greater resources. In such cases the conciliator or arbitrator is a professional who has been trained to develop the record in a more inquisitorial manner to ensure that both sides are fairly heard. However, the parties may agree to legal representation and more importantly, the arbitrator has the power to authorise a party to be represented by a legal practitioner when the dispute is of such complexity that legal representation is appropriate and such representation will not prejudice the other party.

As far as representation at internal grievance hearings or disciplinary hearings in the Public Service and Local Authorities are concerned, they are analogous to the situation in private companies where the trade unions and employers have negotiated a right of legal representation. However, the modern trend definitely favours less formal internal proceedings, without lawyers.

Honourable Viljoen also questioned the effect of the absence of legal representation at conciliation and arbitration proceedings, insofar as Clauses 82(1) and 86(9) make it a crime for a witness to refuse, without lawful excuse, or refused to honour a subpoena or to answer a question posed by a conciliator or arbitrator. The Clauses to which I referred to not modify or limit a witness' constitutional right not to incriminate himself or herself, or the right to invoke any other constitutional rights in relation to the conciliation or arbitration proceedings. The witness will not be punished for refusing to honour a subpoena or answer a question if the excuse is lawful. The decision to honour a subpoena is made before the proceedings, so the question of representation will not arise. Further, should an issue of possible self-incrimination arise after the proceedings have commenced, a witness will be able to seek a recess at any time in order to consult with a lawyer of his or her choice.

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Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, I would further like to reply to the comment of *Honourable Moongo*, which was not generally addressed to the Bill itself. He suggested that the recognition of Trade Unions affiliated to SWAPO violates Article 95(c) of the Namibian Constitution, which makes it a policy of the State to promote the formation of independent Trade Unions to protect workers' rights.

I think, with all due respect, Honourable Moongo misinterprets this important principle, which is intended to guarantee employees the right to form Trade Unions without interference by the State or by employers into their affairs and activities. This is the meaning of Independence in the constitutional context. One aspect of this Independence is that a Trade Union is free to exercise its right to affiliate to a political party, such as for instance SWAPO, or to associate with social organisation, such as the Council of Churches of Namibia, as was done in the case of the BIG, without State interference.

Honourable Moongo also questioned Clause 17, which authorises the Permanent Secretary to permit an extension of the statutory maximum number of hours of work when the parties have agreed. Honourable Moongo asserts that the provision is unworkable since the Permanent Secretary does not have offices throughout the country. The identical provision has been in the current Labour Act since 1992, and there has been no difficulty to date in making an application to the Permanent Secretary.

Honourable Moongo also took issue with Clause 13, which provides for the Minister to set minimum wages and other conditions in an industry after considering the report of a Wages Commission. He expressed his view that there should only be one minimum wage for the Nation, rather than the possibility of different minimums for different industries.

We do not agree with the Honourable Member's view. The principle in this Clause is the same as that contained in the Labour Act No 6 of 1992, namely, that an in-depth study into the particularities of an industry or sector is required before recommendations can be made as to whether a minimum wage is needed and if so, at what level. Our general approach has been that it is desirable for the Trade Union and employer or employers' organisation in a particular industry to negotiate an agreement governing minimum wages and other industry-specific minimum conditions. Indeed, employers and employees in the agricultural, construction and security industries, respectively, have negotiated minimum wages and other conditions that are vastly different from each other but industry specific. Moreover, we think that is more appropriate for the Commission to investigate the situations in particular industries and to make recommendations to the Minister for minimum wages and conditions when such an approach is not possible.

Honourable Moongo also questioned the logic or wisdom of providing transport to

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dismissed employees. If I have understood him, his starting point was to protect employees. We think that the provision of transport to retrenched employees is appropriate and fair, especially to those who came from afar to take up the employment. The Clause allows also for the employer to make a payment in lieu of the actual transport.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, my friend *Honourable Ulenga* stated that he thinks that the Labour Bill reads more like a collective agreement than a Labour Law, and that the Bill looks like the result of negotiations between a union and a company.

Although Honourable Ulenga made this observation as an apparent criticism of the Bill, the truth is that the Bill is a product of social dialogue between the Government and its social partners, the employers and the employees, through their respective organisation. Therefore, it is in many respects the result of consultation and negotiation among the social partners. It is akin to a social collective labour agreement.

Several Members made emphatic statements about labour hire, to the effect that it should be outlawed. I would like to inform the Members as to the background of the provision contained in Clause 128 and of the Ministry's further plans to address the labour hire headache.

First, a provision to protect employees referred by labour hire companies was adopted by this House in the Labour Act No 15 of 2004. Next, before that provision was put into effect, the process commenced that gave rise to certain technical revisions to the 2004 Act, resulting in the Bill now pending before this august House. During that process we decided to strengthen Clause 128, which is intended to protect employees referred by labour hire companies from illegal treatment, by either the labour hire company and/or the client company to which the employees were referred. This was intended not as the final word on labour hire problems, but as an interim measure to improve the provision previously adopted by his House.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 15:42

HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:
and Social Welfare to continue.

I call on the Honourable Minister of Labour

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

This was intended not as the final word on labour hire problem, but as an interim measure to improve the provision previously adopted by this House. However, the Ministry has on its agenda a project for an Employment Services Bill that will include a much more in-depth look at labour hire.

We share the opinion that companies should not be permitted to perpetuate the practices of SWANLA. At the same time, there is a need to allow for the provision of temporary labour services needed in a flexible labour market. Even if legislation is formulated to outlaw labour hire, it must distinguish between abhorrent and legitimate temporary labour market services. The bottom line is to protect employees from exploitation and abuse, no matter from which employer.

Honourable Ulenga proposed that Clause 25 be clarified to indicate that the five days of paid compassionate leave provided therein is a minimum condition of employment Clause 9(1)(b) already addresses this as follows:

“A basic condition of employment constitutes a term of any contract of employment except to the extent that... (b) a term of a contract of employment or a provision of a collective agreement is more favourable.”

We take note of the need to look further into the conditions of employment of employees in the communal areas. We bring to your attention the fact that there presently is a minimum wage agreement between the Agricultural Employers Association and the Namibia Farm workers Union. However, questions have been raised about the possible need to devise separate minimum wages for different types of farms. This requires further investigation. Apart from that, the Ministry suffers serious constraints to police such agreements, since it does not have enough inspectors to cover all areas on a regular basis. We earnestly appeal to the social partners and even to the Honourable Members to report to our Ministry any violations of statutory minimum basic conditions of employment or minimum wages covered by industry agreements that may come to your attention.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, ***Honourable Tjihuiko*** appears to question the impartiality of Public Servants who will act as conciliators and arbitrators under the new system of dispute resolution, which will resort under the Labour Commissioner’s Office.

Having been a Public Servant himself, the Honourable Member is aware that the Public Service Act prohibits senior Public Servants from participating actively in partisan politics, but permits them to belong to Political Parties. Clause 85(1) provides:

“There are established, as contemplated in Article 12(1)(a) of the Namibian Constitution, arbitration tribunals for the purpose of resolving disputes.”

Further, clause 85(6) of the Labour Bill provides:

“Despite any provisions to the contrary in the Public Service Act (Act No 13 of 1995) or in any other law, the arbitrator must be independent and impartial in the performance of duties in terms of this Act.”

I trust this allays the concerns of Honourable Tjihuiko.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, Honourable Amweelo raised a concern that non-permanent employees may not be protected by Clause 39(d), which requires employers to provide employees with necessary protective clothing. However, the definition of employee contained in the Bill does not exclude temporary employees. Therefore, the provisions contained in Clause 39 regarding protective clothing apply to all employees, whether permanent or temporary.

Finally, I wish to inform the Honourable Members that I will offer amendments to the following Clauses of the Labour Bill during the Committee Stage:

Clause 1: Definition of Labour Commissioner: correction of a typographical error; Clause 24(1): Sick leave: Clarification of language to remove ambiguity as to the entitlement.

Clause 28: Provision of accommodation: New provision requiring that upon terminating an employee required to reside on the employer’s premises, an employer must give three months’ notice, in the case of an employee residing on agricultural land, and one month’s notice in all other cases. In cases in which such an employee has reported a dispute concerning unfair dismissal, the employer may not require the employee to vacate the premises until the dispute is resolved in terms of Part G or otherwise disposed of.

Section 71(3)(d): Extension of collective agreements to non-parties: Technical amendment to delete language inadvertently included.

Clause 128(2): Employment hire services: The language of this Clause has been revised to conform to the language of the Sub-clause (3), which provides for joint and several liability of the labour hire company and the client company. The new language makes clear that both the labour hire company and the client company are deemed to be the employer of an employee who has been referred by the labour hire company, and that the employee is deemed to be the employee of both the labour hire company and the client company.

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Clause 142(5): Repeal of laws, transition and consequential amendments: Revision of the definition of employee contained in the Social Security Act to harmonise it with the definition of the “*employee*” contained in the Labour Bill. This will ensure that all employees entitled to maternity leave under the Labour Bill are also entitled to coverage under the Social Security Act.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, while I thank you for your attention and support, may I simultaneously beg the indulgence of the Honourable Members to commence with the Committee Stage on the 19th of June 2007? I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Member Minister. I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any objections? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

LABOUR BILL

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**SECOND READING – VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
BILL**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 11th of April 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Deputy Minister of Education, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. The Minister of Education adjourned the Debate for her motivation. She now has the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament. The tabling of the Vocational Education and Training Bill in the National Assembly could not have been at a more opportune time than this. This is following after the State of Nation Address by His Excellency the President who did not mince his words when he demanded for a doubling of the pass rates currently standing at 45% to 90%, and that is a great challenge for the Ministry.

Taking into cognisance His Excellency's State of the Nation Address and its emphasis on education, today should go down in the history of education as a very exciting day indeed for all of us here, and more importantly for our Nation and the young Namibians in particular. As we all know, one of the major challenges that our Nation faces is youth unemployment, while at the same time our industry and our business community are complaining that they find it difficult to identify and employ qualified skilled workers, artisans and technicians in many skills areas.

During the past decades there has been a mismatch between the vocational training that was delivered by the vocational training centres and various other training providers and the requirements of the industry. We have identified that one of the main reasons of this mismatch was the inadequate consultations between the training administrators, on the one hand, and the industry and business community, on the other.

The Bill that I shall present to you today has been drafted with this problem in mind. It intends to ensure that a strong partnership is established between the private and public sectors, which will ensure that vocational and technical training delivered is relevant and responsive to the needs of our country. The establishment of the Namibia Training Authority (NTA) with strong joint control and supervision by employer, employee and Government representation shall guarantee that this partnership is implemented and the impact maximised.

In anticipation of the drafting of this Bill, the Ministry of Education has already since 2004 initiated a complete curriculum reform process. This has been done by means of a specially assigned NTA project management unit. These challenging changes are being undertaken with strong support and participation of our industry, with financial support from our development partners and it is in line with the Namibia Qualifications Framework (NQF).

If I may, let me single out one area which is so important for our economy, namely the Tourism and Hospitality Sector. In this regard, standards, curriculum and training materials for this sector have already been completed by the project unit in close collaboration with the Namibia Tourism Board, as well as with the hospitality and tourism sector. These materials are highly relevant and have been very well received and are gaining national acclaim by other SADC countries and will, no doubt, result in better skills training for workers in this important

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economic sector that in no small measure, significantly contributes to our GDP and thus, economic growth.

With the establishment of the Namibia Training Authority we shall be able to accelerate the work and to cover all other skills areas in a relatively short time. Funding for this ambitious undertaking will be a joint effort between the Government of the Republic of Namibia as part of its Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP), which intends to maintain its current level of funding; and the private sector that will supplement the Government funds acquired through the introduction of a training levy. These additional resources shall enable us to infuse quality into the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector. In addition, other improvements in terms of quantitative expansion of training places countrywide are likely, so that many more young Namibians will gain access to relevant skills training.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now turn to the main purpose of my speaking in this august House, which is the Bill.

The aim of the Vocational Education and Training Bill is to provide for a new policy, institutional and funding framework for vocational education and training in Namibia for improved skills and standard of living. To achieve that, the draft Bill provides for the determination of national policy, the establishment of the Namibia Training Authority and the National Training Fund and for the imposition and collection of the vocational education and training levy.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would now like to carry this august House through the Vocational Education and Training Bill, Clause by Clause.

Where Clauses in the draft Bill are self-explanatory, I would not waste time, but where it is necessary, I would provide an explanation.

The long title and arrangement of sections are self-explanatory.

Clauses 1 to 2 provide for definitions of Clauses as well as application of the Bill. The Bill excludes Vocational Education and Training activities taking place in the army and police force.

Clause 3 provides for Objects of the Act. The objects of the draft Bill are set out at achieving an effective and sustainable system of skills formation, establishing a stable and accountable organisation and management system for skills development and establishing and maintaining a sustainable partnership between Government, the private sector and civil society in order to resource vocational education and training.

Clauses 4 to 9 provide for the determination of national policy on vocational

education and training; establishment of the National Training Authority (NTA) as a juristic person; and NTA's powers and functions. They also provide for the development of Performance Standard Agreements as well as the establishment of the NTA Board, as contemplated in Clause 10.

Clause 10 provides for the Composition of the Board. The Minister appoints the eleven members of the Board as follows:

- 5 Persons nominated by employer representatives on the Labour Advisory Council;
- 2 Persons nominated by Trade Union representatives on the Labour Advisory Council;
- 3 Persons representing Government; and
- A member of the Council of the Namibia Qualifications Authority.

This will be done through public invitation through a Government Gazette and publications in two national papers. The Chairperson is appointed by members of the Board from amongst their number.

You will have an opportunity to debate, so just listen carefully as I read.

Clauses 11 to 13 provide for conditions under which one may be disqualified from membership, the term of office as well as judiciary duties of the members.

However, Clauses 14 to 16 provide for general duties of the members, their removal from office as well as the filling of vacancies.

Clause 17 provides for committees of NTA. The Board is required to establish the following standing committees:

- The Standards and Curriculum Council, to assist the Board in the performance of its standard setting functions;
- The Assessment and Certification Council, to assist the Board in the performance of its assessment and certification functions;
- The National Training Fund Council, to assist the Board to control and administer the National Training Fund; and
- Industry Skills Councils as the Board deems appropriate, to assist it to generate standards for key industry sectors.

The Board is authorised to establish other committees it deems necessary for the effective exercise and performance of its powers and functions.

Clauses 18 to 21 provide for limitation of liability of members and committees in the performance of their powers and functions. Provision is also made for their remuneration and allowances as well as the employment of the Chief Executive Officer and staff by the Board.

Clause 22 provides for the establishment of the National Training Fund. This clause establishes the National Training Fund, which consists of:

- Money appropriated by Parliament;
- Education and training levies, interest and penalties paid by employers;
- Money received from the Vocational Training Fund;
- Interest earned on investments of the Fund;
- Money accruing to the Fund from any other source.

Clauses 23 to 32 provide for the control and administration of the Fund by the Board; the use of money; the opening of bank accounts for recurrent and investment purposes. They also provide for exemption from taxation; stipulates the Financial Year (which coincides with the Government of the Republic of Namibia's); demand a business and financial plan on an annual basis and only provide for 15% of estimated revenue for administrative purposes as well as an annual report and financial statements. Provision is also made for goods and services charges in the performance of its statutory functions; and ultimately the winding up of the NTA and Fund.

Clauses 33 to 40 provide for the imposition of levy, the conditions under which it may vary; the penalties on late payments and defaulters. The Clauses also provide for conditions under which it may be exempted and what necessary records were to be kept.

Clauses 41 to 42 provide for the appointment and powers of inspectors. They also prohibit the disclosure of information obtained in the process.

These Clauses 43 to 44 provide for appointment of Quality System Auditors and set out the offences and penalties.

Clause 45 to 47 provide for Regulations that assist in the implementation of the Bill, amend and repeal of related laws and provide for transitional provisions.

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Clause 48 provides for the short title of the Bill and the commencement date to be determined by the Minister.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as I said at the beginning of my address, today is a very important day in the context of addressing the serious youth unemployment in our country and I, therefore, trust that this House will give the passing of this Bill its full support and I thank you for your kind attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Minister, for your motivation. Any further discussion? Honourable Gurirab.

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, since the Bill is only being distributed right now, I move for the adjournment of this Debate on this Bill until Tuesday next week. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Bill stands adjourned to next week Tuesday. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING: ELECTRICITY BILL

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 29 March 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Minister of Mines and Energy that the Bill be now read a Second Time.

The Deputy Minister of Lands and Resettlement adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor. Maybe somebody is instructed to adjourn the Debate.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on behalf of Honourable Katali I would like to move that the Debate on this Bill be adjourned until Wednesday next week.

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**MOTION ON CRISIS IN EDUCATION SYSTEM
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON CRISIS IN EDUCATION
SYSTEM**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Assembly adjourned on Monday, 16 April 2007, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Schimming-Chase, that the Motion be adopted. I now call on Honourable Tjihuiko who adjourned the Debate.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase introduced a Motion in this august House, challenging us as lawmakers to seriously review the performance of our education system in our beautiful country.

I was informed by professionals that the JSC examination is written after ten years of schooling and marks the end of the Junior Secondary Certificate cycle. Under normal circumstances fulltime learners will be sixteen years of age when completing Grade 10.

For admission to Grade 11 in 2005, the Ministry decided to keep the minimum requirement of 23 points and the minimum requirements for English on an F-grade. Based on that requirement, 14,335 candidates qualified for admission to Grade 11, 45.5% if compared to 46.3% in 2006.

In 2006, 13,916 students qualified for Grade 11, which represent 46.3% of the total enrolment for that year. The question is, what happened to the 53.7% of our young people?

The 53.7% of our young people, aged 16 and 17 years, were advised by the Ministry of Education that if they want to continue studying at Senior Secondary level, they better consider using the alternative learning opportunities available in the Ministry, for instance Namibia College of Open Learning (NAMCOL and Vocational Training Centres.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Articles 20(1), (2) and (3) are very clear as far as our right to education is concerned. It is very clear, it is constitutional, but still our Ministry of Education is officially advising the under-aged school children to look for education opportunities outside the parameters of our Secondary Education System.

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On December 21st 2006, the Ministry of Education issued a press released titled, “*Results of the 2006 Junior Secondary Certificate Examination for fulltime candidates*”. On Page 3 of that press release they explained the result by way of tables.

The Ministry gives the percentages of entries at each of the grades for the examination as a whole in that table. I hope that everybody has the table.

The statistics show that the percentages of graded entries at most of the grades are lower than in 2005 and also that 2.6% more entries are ungraded. If the 2005 and 2006 results should be compared at the higher, the intermediate grades C, D and E and the lower G and G grade ranges, they show that there was a shift in the percentage of candidates obtaining the higher and intermediate grades to those obtaining lower grades and being ungraded. This shift is a reflection of poorer performance in 2006 than in 2005.

The cumulative percentage data support the view that the performances of the 2006 JSC part-time candidates are poorer than in 2005. The poorer performance is manifested by 2.6% less candidates being graded and the lower cumulative percentages at all grades.

Yet the Honourable Minister of Education, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, made an interesting statement in this august House on 15th February 2007. This is what the Honourable Minister had to say: “*In terms of this programme (referring to ETSIP) I am today tabling for information of this august House and the general public the rank order of our 13 educational Regions as well as the rank order of our secondary schools in terms of both junior as well as Senior Secondary School national examinations.*”

He went on and presented rank order of the Regions, starting with Erongo at the top and Kunene at the bottom and also the rank order of top 20 performing schools in Namibia, being St Boniface College in Kavango, Oshigambo in Oshikoto and Jan Möhr, Mr Speaker, Sir, in Khomas the top performers in Namibia.

The Honourable Minister went on and said: “*In looking at this ranking, you will find some surprises, for instance that a mainly rural Region such as Oshikoto in 2006 outperformed all other Regions in the IGCSE examinations.*” That was very good news and I think we should be proud of that.

However Honourable Minister, please, I am very much suspicious about that statement and I would like the Honourable Minister please to put my suspicion to rest. Please tell us, how many students have taken Grade 10 and Grade 12 exams at St. Boniface College and Oshigambo Honourable Speaker, and how many have actually passed their exams and proceeded to Grade 11 and UNAM and the Polytechnic of Namibia?

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Then again on the 15th of February 2007 the Ministry of Education, through the Honourable Minister himself, glorified the performance of rural schools and Regions as a great success. What we have seen last year was glorified as a great success of education performance in this country. It means what we have seen last year is actually the strategic position taken by the Ruling Party to see to it that our kids are going to perform at the level that they are performing right now is not by accident, it is by design.

The result of the national IGCSE entry (fulltime and part-time combined), if compared to 2005, shows that the graded entries increased with 11% from 89.4% to 90.5%, resulting in a concomitant drop in the ungraded entries from 10.6 percent to 9.5%.

With the 2006 IGCSE results, the annual increase in the percentage of graded entries in the lower to average grades has been maintained for the fifth year in succession. This gradual increase over the past five years has in 2006 resulted in the best performance in the grade range B to G and in the highest percentage of graded entries being obtained so far. In the Grades A to A plus the performance has also slightly improved if compared to 2005.

However, this is what the Ministry was saying: If the overall results should be evaluated in absolute terms, it is to be noted that in spite of the increase in the percentage of graded entries and the better performance over almost the whole grade range, if compared to previous years, the IGCSE candidates are still under-performing at most grades. For example, only 37.8 % of the entries obtained D and better grades. It means that those students who got A, B, C, D are only 37.8%. These are the people who have qualified to go for further studies, these are the students who qualified, if possible, to enter into the job market as qualified students. The rest, only God knows where they are.

For cumulative percentage of around 50% or higher would have been more satisfactory. This is from the Ministry, it is not from Okakarara. The Ministry itself is saying that it could have been better to get a result of at least 50%, but still glorifying 37.8% pass rate of our students. That is why I am saying that this is not by accident, it is by design.

This under-performance is caused by an under-performance by both the fulltime and part-time candidates.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, 37.8% of 27,699 qualified to proceed to either UNAM or the Polytechnic or join the unemployed graduates. If you take that 37.8%, it is 17,210 students per year who are always being thrown into the streets and you take that and you times that by 17 years, it gives us the figure of 292,590 of our young people who have been thrown into the streets. That is the strategic education system of the Ruling Party of the day.

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It is true, Honourable Deputy Speaker, that the SWAPO-led Government strategy on education was copied directly from the strategies of colonialists, namely the Germans, British and South African Bantu Education. The objective of those education systems was to create a class society with well-educated white minority with a few black elites to support their masters. Now the 37% black bounties, supported by their white colleagues, are developing a poor of poor desperate rural-based people to vote for whoever is going to come up.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am saying this because I am now more convinced than ever before – and I am seriously saying this – that this Government is not serious about the well-being of our kids, totally not.

Last year, about the same time, we debated the issue extensively and recommendations were made to the relevant Ministry for their serious consideration and action. Do you know what happened? The entire Namibian Nation, after having expressed their anger and disbelief about the deteriorating state of our education system since Independence, we were hoping to see a different and most importantly, better Grade 10 and 12 exam results last year, 2006. What we have seen once again was a total disaster. No wonder that the situation remains the same, because I remember that when Honourable Schimming-Chase motivated her Motion, both the Minister and Deputy Minister did not take it seriously and they excused themselves from the Chamber.

It is, indeed, painful that every year for the last fourteen years or so, a child aged between 16 and 19 is being condemned to a life of uncertainty and hopelessness in an Independent Namibia.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, being students of History, let us look at what other scholars have to say about our education system.

I was personally impressed by what Mr Andrew Clegg's article in *The Namibian* dated 19th January 2007 on Page 7. I was mainly impressed by his argument because what he said on education is exactly what I said about land reform when I motivated my Motion on land reform last year, 2006. This is what he has to say about the education system or strategy of the colonisers. Let us listen to this very carefully.

“Government has always used the curriculum as a means of social control. The British, in colonial times, were particularly good at this. They needed an education filtration system, only the finest should be able to get through their colonial schools to help them run their colonies. So they set up a series of annual hurdles, standards, remember the names? Designed to trip up all but the best. The great majority fell, as intended, unwanted by the wayside.”
37.8%, thus the great majority...(Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. Honourable Tjiuiko is hundred percent wrong and he is trying to compare the education system introduced by the SWAPO Party to the education system which was implemented by the colonialists in this country, of which his Party happily participated as members of the Interim Government. He is misleading this Nation, the SWAPO Party has come up with good programmes in the education system, amongst others which the Deputy Minister of Education has just enumerated. Therefore, it is wrong for Tjiuiko to compare the education system with the Bantu or colonial education.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, if you give me two minutes you will agree with me.

Today it is only 37.8% of those who were intended to pass, have passed. That is the difference.

Apartheid South Africa took this over and raised it to an art form. The system was tailor-made to create failures for the under-resourced majority and success for the privileged minority. The majority of our people in rural areas are the ones who are failing. The selected few, the Ministers' kids are the ones who are passing. It is exactly the same system, is it not?

Mr Andrew Glegg went on and asked the question as to what happened to the apartheid curriculum at Independence? What has been done to change the system? What happened? We need to answer this question and I hope whoever is going to stand up will be able to answer this question.

The old system which was tailor-made to generate failures was adopted by the current Government. The only thing that was changed was the eleven education systems and then it was to change the medium of instruction from Afrikaans to English, which was done overnight without any preparation for the teachers and the kids and the result is what we are seeing now.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the British started the system, the apartheid South Africa raised it into an art form. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I put a question to the Honourable Member? Talking about English medium in this country, does the Honourable Member know that long before Independence, what was called community schools and which were labelled by the South African Government and the interim Government in Namibia as Swapo schools, introduced English as medium right from Grade 1 and

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those kids attended those schools, they did not fail because of English medium. Does the Member know that? If the Member wants, we can explain which schools we are talking about. Some of us were part and parcel of that.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister, because now you have agreed with me. If you look at those schools, how many schools are we talking about? I am talking about the system that was specifically designed to get through the system. I know those schools because I grew up in this country, but I am talking about the vast majority of our people. I am talking about the day that you took over. You changed the system overnight. The kids the next morning were taught in English. The teachers were expected to teach in English while they were educated in Afrikaans. There was no preparation at all, do you not agree with me?

What has the Government done rather than announcing the next day that the Minister of Education is a black Minister, the Permanent Secretary is a black Permanent Secretary, education tomorrow will be English. That is all that you did – nothing less, nothing more.

What I am saying is that the British started this system, the apartheid South Africa raised it into an art form and the Namibian Government under SWAPO has perfected this system which is the root cause of the current education mess in which we find ourselves. The problem is that you have perfected the wrong system. You have made a mistake and you must admit it.

If we want to secure the future of our children, let us look at what our education experts have to say. Dr Tjama Tjivikua, the Rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia, at the launch of the Namibia English Teacher Association, said: *“The Namibian education system is facing a serious crisis because it continues to struggle with English as a medium of instruction due to a lack of a proper and sound foundation.”* This is a professional educator, a person who is dealing with our kids on a daily basis and he is now telling you that the problem is the wrong foundation that the SWAPO Government has put in place without proper planning. Let us accept that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. I know how some failing politicians can try to twist statements said in an innocent and scientific manner by some academics and other speakers outside there, but the impression that Honourable Tjihuiko is creating here is implicating Dr Tjama Tjivikua that he implied that the SWAPO Party’s education system is not

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grounded well. He must say it and if he is paraphrasing Dr Tjivikua, he must separate the two.

HON TJIHUIKO: This is what I said Honourable Kazenambo and I repeat. Dr Tjivikua, the Rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia at the launch of the Namibia English Teacher Association (NETA) said: *“The Namibian education system is facing a serious – and not SWAPO – crisis because it continues to struggle with English as a medium of instruction.”* That is true and I did not say it is SWAPO. If you want to say that this is in SWAPO, it is you who are saying it, not me and I think it is a good thing that you admit that you have failed and you are trying now to push the tables left, right and centre. Let us face it, listen to me.

I was surprised also to note through the press that apparently when the programme ETSIP was designed, the local partners were not consulted, even to the extent that the NANTU Secretary General said: *“It seems as if settled staff members at the Head Office of the Ministry of Education and the World Bank and/or IMF officials are driving the ETSIP process.”* The locals, the professionals that we have in this country were totally ignored. That is what the union is saying, your partner is saying, but it is true.

Our current education system needs to be replaced by one that is fundamentally designed for success rather than failure. The one that we have copied from the colonialists was designed to fail our people. We have copied it without even thinking. Let us think now, let us design the one that will fit our conditions, let us design the one that is now designed for our success and the success of our kids. Thirty-seven point eight percent of our kids to go through, this is exactly the system that is designed to take us back to those colonial times.

The Namibian people are capable of designing and developing a tailor-made education system for themselves, a system... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I want to tell my brother, through you, it is better to go back to our children, to talk to them, that they should not go to the bar during the night, not to use cell phones in class and to respect our education. During the colonial time you are talking about, they were beaten by the white people and that is why they were following the things. Now, because you even allow them to buy beer from your shebeen, that is why they are failing.

HON TJIHUIKO: The point is that what you are saying could be correct. If we followed the Debate of the Children’s Parliament when they were looking at

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education, they made a recommendation and if we look at that, then we realise that your Government is running in the dark without knowing where you are going, to the extent that the young people are now telling you exactly what they want and what they have said is not very far from what I am saying. It is not very far from what we are preaching.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Today Tjihuiko is talking the truth, that this Government is my Government, it is the SWAPO Government. I thank you.

HON TJIHUIKO: The Namibian people are capable of designing and developing a tailor-made education system for themselves, a system that would address Namibian problems. Let us do it the Namibian way, as we did with the drafting of our Constitution. We have the in-house capacity to do it. We can do it, but trying to pretend what we have is the best, it is not ours, it was not designed by us, it was not made for us. This is not the education that we fought for. We have bypassed the system, we are confusing the system, let us face it and design one for ourselves. Thank you very much and I support the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Member. Any further discussion? Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, if there is nobody else who wants to say something, I wish to adjourn the Debate until next week Wednesday, 13 June 2007.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned to the 13th of June 2007. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE: MOTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY
COMMISSION**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 6th of March 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Gertze that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Venaani adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise to make a few remarks on the Motion tabled by Honourable Kalla Gertze who has raised a very important Motion.

In any country, in any society social security is very important and it is a universal human right to look after your citizenry. However when you look at the culture – and I want to address the question of culture – of poorer nations, they behave as if looking after your citizenry is a privilege rather than a right and arguing that the reason why countries such as Sweden and rich countries are taking care of their people is because they have resources. I think that culture is quite wrong.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, our country has a deep-rooted cycle of poverty and a rooted cycle of poverty has two sides: One is a material poverty and secondly, a moral poverty. We are living in a society where many of our citizens lack self-esteem, aspiration and we have to address this cycle of poverty.

Our economy remains very skewed, the gap between the rich and the poor is growing. The economy is in the hands of a very few and the very few that have the control and the means and that are enjoying the prosperity of our Nation are also not keen to share the responsibility of sharing.

The next question that comes to mind is us, the governors, people in positions to lead nations, how do we respond to our social security? To me the principle decision that was taken way back in 1994 to create a social security system that would look after the death benefits of our people, looking at maternity leave for our mothers, trying to train our people was good. But currently, when we are talking about social security we have to expand it a bit further to address the cycle of poverty and hence, our reluctance to address the issue of income grant to needy Namibians reflects weakness from our Government in addressing the needs of our citizenry, because I for one support the idea of a poor Nation such as ours, middle income country by rating, but with skewed economic indicators, that we as a country have the moral responsibility to look after our citizens by providing social security to them.

I do not support the idea of saying that each and every Namibian must be a recipient of an income grant, but at least those needy citizens, those who are not sharing in the prosperity of our country should be able to have access. We have to carve policies that would make sure that these people are also going to be beneficiaries of a social security system in our country.

Of course, to address societal poverty, any Nation should propagate and advance the agenda of providing skills to your citizenry, so that they become self-reliant. Of course, Honourable Tjihuiko has just a few minutes ago spoken at length about some of our failures within our education system that we are not doing.

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Therefore, I believe that this Motion is quite timely, that we as a country should seriously try to interrogate the expansion of what we call social security. We should expand it to cover the broader picture of our modern society.

I was informed one day that the Government recently met with stakeholders and addressed the issue of poverty, now that we are going to have a new poverty strategy. Well, I do not know whether the right people were invited to that conference that I read in the papers, but be that as it may, we are waiting to see how the Government is trying to address the question of poverty, to have a very organised strategy to address poverty. I feel chief amongst those strategies should be to have a very reliable safety net of a social security system that is going to cater for the interest of our citizenry.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, with these few thoughts, I support the Motion as raised by Honourable Gertze and I support the idea of us expanding the concept of social security, so that it addresses modern failures of our country. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise also to participate in the Debate on the nature and aims for which the Social Security Commission was established. However, my intervention will be grounded on my experiences, my observations.

Firstly, I think the Government needs to be commended for having established the Social Security Commission and so far the people who are benefiting from the social security scheme are the intended beneficiaries. One definitely sees that these intentions are correct, are good. However, be that as it may, surely we need to evaluate and monitor strictly how these programmes are implemented and how do they continue, on a sustainable basis, to realise their original intention.

Surely, the problem which prompted me to rise to contribute to this motion is that I get worried and I get concerned when well-intended programmes are abused and when there are loopholes which are abused.

With social security we are talking about money intended for the poor. It is mostly intended for the majority of the people who are poor people, people who are in the middle and lower segments of this society – despite the fact that I may be an intended beneficiary. However the majority of the people who are supposed to benefit from this in this country will be labourers in companies who really receive meagre salaries.

It pains me when I hear that money which is intended for certain beneficiaries is

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received by people who get big salaries. I feel some laws need to be enacted somewhere. If I am ignorant of those laws, then forgive me, but if within our policies we do not strictly put laws that would curb the usage of this money by the big business people who access these funds and then they are talking about hundreds of millions of the Social Security Fund which is not accounted for today or which is still being searched, it is painful because those are the ordinary people's monies. We need to put mechanisms and a system in place so that this money benefit the intended people.

My statement should not be misinterpreted by the selfish outside there who always defend their own interests and then when one says something, they only hear what they want to hear. I am not against investment, I am not against business, but I am saying that we must put strict measures so that the money from some of these programmes are really protected and not get abused like we have experienced with hard-core criminals and lucrative people who accessed this money and really messed up the Fund. I am participating in this motion from that context.

We have a number of programmes, the money for the elderly, call it pension, money for the disabled people and there are many programmes. We need to harmonise these programmes and coordinate them well and look after the money, because now we have millions disappearing unaccounted for. It sounds like the Government is not concerned or the Government is not doing anything and then it gives cause to the likes of Honourable Venaani to say Government is failing. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kazenambo, of course there are some programmes that are trying to alleviate poverty, but what do you say, as a very young and able politician, to a man who has fought for this country, who fought against oppression and he is sitting on the street, he is not an elderly person, neither is he a woman to get maternity leave, he has no job in this country, what do you think is his due in a free and independent Namibia? Nothing until he gets a job, nothing until he becomes an elderly person of our society or what is the benefit that is due to that person and how do society and Government as a whole address his plight?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Yes, I understand the question by Honourable Venaani very, very well. Honourable Venaani, any caring

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Government, and not only a caring Government, any caring society will care for the situation which you have just explained of that vulnerable man or lady. You have left out our mothers, it seems that you only care for men. I agree with you hundred percent when you say that the Government should broaden I am answering your question. The Honourable Member does not know the procedures. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, it takes a whole month for him to answer, so I think I should come in. May I ask the Deputy Minister a tiny question, please and then he could answer both? The Honourable Deputy Minister was saying that any caring Government or society would do everything in their power. Can any caring society beat of peaceful demonstrators, teargas them? Is that the sign of caring that you are talking about? Where did the instruction come from? (Interjections). I just wanted to ask that question to the Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Venaani, that is why I said we must harmonise our programmes. Let us harmonise and coordinate the programmes which are similar, so that it does not appear as if Government is not doing anything.

I am still emphasising the point that Government has put up programmes that are aimed at addressing the plight of the poor and it is not in my character to try to say there are no loopholes. If there are some loopholes, the society must identify those loopholes and recommend to Government, through political parties, through churches, through traditional leaders, through traditional structures, because a Government is not only about SWAPO alone, society is not about SWAPO only to be blamed. Let us be fair, it is some of us here who want to exploit the ignorance of the people for cheap political capital. (Interjections).

No, let me conclude, why are you getting worried? Why are you getting worried before I finished my sentence? Those who are guilty already know where I am leading. I am saying that it does not help to exploit the ignorance of our people to try to discourage them from going to programmes; to condemn any programme that is coming from the side of Government to make cheap political capital – like the education was being knocked down here by one Honourable Member from Okakarara, in order to score cheap political capital with cheap statistics from unknown libraries. We have to avoid that and face the truth. (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. I just wanted to inform the Honourable Deputy Minister, that all the statistics that I quoted are official statistics from the Ministry of Education. It is coming from the two press statements that were released by the Ministry of Education. None of them are coming from Okakarara and you can even find it in Okakarara Library.

Secondly, I also want to inform the Honourable Deputy Minister that I am not a Member of Parliament from Okakarara Constituency. I am not a Member of the National Council, I am a Member of Parliament. Therefore that is the confusion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I was just saying that a caring society should really try to come up with mechanisms, Honourable Venaani, to address the plight of those who are left out. I will agree with you, I will not dispute that. There are even some elderly people who fought for the liberation of this country.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: On a Point of Information. Statistics can be wrongly interpreted and since I came into this House I have avoided politicising education in such a very cheap way. Education is at the centre of development of this country, please let us not politicise it in a very bad way. Let us put statistics in their right context. We cannot take statistics and go and misplace them and go and locate them somewhere else as if they are statistics from a document of the Ministry. They are even within the context. The student of History, I will still answer appropriately because I want to prepare a reply, a decent reply, but at the moment I just do not want you to play politics with education. Whoever is intending to do that should stop it. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, before I conclude, it is really interesting that whenever we want to play on the emotions of the citizens of this country, we will talk about a man or a lady who participated in the liberation of the country or we will say under colonialism we were implementing something. This is cheap politics, Colleagues. Can we move on? By the way, those who went to participate in the liberation of this country, wherever they participated, they also participated for those who did not participate and can we identify in this country who did not participate in the liberation struggle? We play double standards. (Interjection). We do and I will qualify what I am saying.

We are building a Nation and at one point we must try to behave like people who are building a Nation. We must!

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Kazenambo a tiny question? Honourable Kazenambo, you were correct in saying that the Government has put programmes and policies in place, but unfortunately we ourselves frustrate these programmes. Let me just give an example and I agree with you that we need to broaden the economy so that we can accommodate all these problems. I think we have started very well, the social security programme is working well. We need to expand the economy so that we can accommodate everybody, but unfortunately, because of scarce resources it is sometime difficult.

The question is that we ourselves are frustrating the programmes. The NGOs in this country and all of us are participating in frustrating these good efforts of the Government. Let me give you an example of the Cuban doctors here. The Government of the Republic of Namibia entered into an agreement with a country that has sacrificed so much to give us these doctors, so that they can attend to our people, because we do not have the necessary capital to employ doctors from other countries. Now we ourselves and an institution like the LAC, which is of course foreign funded, are actively promoting that the Cuban doctors leave this country in violation of their agreement and they are supporting them.

Without providing alternatives, who will provide us with other doctors? I will be happy if the LAC could provide other doctors. Therefore, the question is, we are undermining our own efforts and that is the truth.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I got the question. (Laughter). I was saying that Nation-building requires understanding. Nation-building requires deliberate efforts. It is not a question of me talking to this side here, I am not talking to anybody, do not misunderstand me. I am talking here about bigger principles of building a Nation. This is my interest. You are saying that I should speak to this side. On your side there you say that SWAPO is wrong when they say they participated in the liberation struggle. Why should it be me? It should be you too. It is not my duty to judge who fought where and who participated in what, because I made my own contribution and I was in the Party which made its contribution, so it is none of my business to judge others because we have delivered the project.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Is it true, Honourable Deputy Minister, that people who were at the forefront of the liberation struggle suffered alongside yourself, as you rightly put it, are the ones that you were teargassing yesterday and beating them up?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: It is this type of cheap politics which I was just referring to a while ago. To answer your question, Honourable Tjihuiko...(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Do not be angry, just answer it.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I am not angry, it is my way of talking. Maybe you are angry because you are cooking something. To answer your question, Honourable Tjihuiko, you are ridiculing the plight of the people who have a concern and these people can be those who you are referring to or it may be others. However, I am saying, let us be bigger at heart, let us have bigger brains in order to build this Nation. The issue is that there are administrative procedures, there are mechanisms of resolving conflicts, there are mechanisms of resolving differences in any given Nation. (Interjections). I am answering your question, your cheap political question.

Coming to the issue of social security, I was saying that the biggest concern which made me to rise, is the money which is aimed at the poor people. Let us put mechanisms in place to protect the interest of the poor, not for this money to be absorbed by fly-by-night groups and criminals who want to make money from whatever political side they come. Let us start putting stringent mechanisms in place. I am also a business person, I started my small business with my own money. If you are so good and shrewd in business, why should you have to access other people's money? And if we want to dish out this money, let us go to the Development Bank and commercial banks and team up with other people, not to access poor people's money to be used by crooks who call themselves business people. I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussions? Honourable Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: If there is no one, Comrade Deputy Speaker, who wants to participate, I want to postpone until next week, Wednesday.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned to next week Wednesday, the 12th of June. In terms of Rule 90, automatic adjournment, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 17:45 UNTIL 2007.06.06 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
WINDHOEK
06 JUNE 2007**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06
NAMIBIA SPORTS COMMISSION**

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to lay upon the Table of the National Assembly, for the information reference and use of the Honourable Members, the 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Namibia Sports Commission.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Report. Further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Gurirab.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 61:

HON GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 14 June 2007, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

On 20 October 2005, in response to an oral question by Honourable Ben Ulenga, on the progress being made on the discovery of rotten relief food at Mpacha Airport near Katima Mulilo, the Prime Minister undertook that the public will be informed once the investigation is completed. I understand that the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister in fact stated in this House, that the investigation was being completed, *people have been found who are responsible for what happened and it is now to formulate the charges. I think we are about to get there.*

In light of the above, can the Right Honourable Prime Minister inform this House of the status of the investigation and subsequent action taken on this matter?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Questions, Honourable Member. I recognise Honourable Moongo.

QUESTION 62:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 14th June 2007, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

1. Is the Minister aware that the staff and secretaries of some of the traditional leaders are underpaid due to lack of money in their respective Traditional Authorities?
 2. Can the Minister confirm that the secretaries are the ones filling in the long forms for mahangu fields in some Regions without them being paid adequate salaries, bonuses, overtime, medical aid and transport to and from the headmen's houses, without transport with a lot of money which is very risky.
 3. When are the staff going to be paid salaries from the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and Ministry of Safety and Security for the job well done? They are doing all the work.
 4. Will the Minister deny that the abovementioned staff receive worse salaries than the workers who are working in the shebeens? Is it not shocking that some staff receive N\$500 and some receive N\$1,100 per month?
-

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Questions, Honourable Member. Further Notice of Questions? Notices of Motions? Honourable Venaani.

NOTICES OF MOTION

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 21 of June 2007, I shall Move –

That this Assembly discusses the current prevailing problem experienced by married couples under the applicable common law and the precedent set by our courts through judgments in relation to the following:

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1. That when married couples seek to interchangeably amend their matrimonial property regimes from either out of community of property to in community of property, they are required to divorce.
2. To allow the enactment of a legislation that would protect the couples from being embarrassed by this merely because persons must divorce if they wish to amend their status of wealth and other matters related thereto.

To further ask that this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs for consultation with various stakeholders and the public to recommend to this august Assembly on how best to legislate on this important matter.

I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Motion. Further Notices of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON HOW NAMIBIA INTENDS TO
CAPITALISE ON SOUTH AFRICA AND ANGOLA HOSTING THE 2010
WORLD CUP AND AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS RESPECTIVELY**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 06 March 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Mbai that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Tjihuike adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Four weeks of a fantastic festival of football is just about to start for the first time on the continent of Africa. The 2010 FIFA World Cup will be hosted in South Africa.

The African Cup of Nations will also be hosted in Angola and Namibia being in the middle between the two neighbours, ought to play neutral economic referee between the two giants.

The FIFA World Cup is an event where people of the world, from different walks of life, make friends, come to know the diverse cultures and traditions of the various nations of the world.

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Namibia, being what it is, a wonderful world with beautiful people, with top range tourist attractions, relatively low crime rate, Namibia ought to win the best hospitality cup of southern Africa.

The FIFA World Cup is an international football competition contested by the main national football teams of the Member Nations of the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA). The World Cup final is the most widely viewed sporting event in the world, with an estimated 28.8 billion people watching the 2002 tournament finals.

The first international match was played in 1872 between Scotland and England. After having gone through rough rides, the World Cup has reached the stage where it is today. The current FIFA tournament features thirty-two national teams competing over a month which will be hosted for the first time in Africa, most importantly in Southern Africa. The host, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, will be equally hosting the thousands of pleasure-seekers, people who are looking at the best way of spending billions in our economies.

Here I am talking about people who are eager and desperate to spend money at a given point in time. Namibia is the only country in Southern Africa, as I said, who ought to benefit more than any other Southern African country, because of its strategic position between the World Cup in South Africa and the African Cup of Nations in Angola.

It depends on how we are going to position ourselves, how we are going to design our strategies to get the maximum benefit out of this. The one million dollar question that I would like to ask us today is: What has Namibia done to get maximum benefit from these two events? Is there anything that we can be informed in order for us to be able to prepare ourselves? Is there anything that has already been designed to make it easier, especially when it comes to the African Cup of Nations?

If you look at the North, if you look at an area like Oshakati, Ongwediva, Ondangwa, if you look at the most strategically positioned area like Ohangwena Region, I am sure that with support and help provided by the Government to those areas, most of the people are going to benefit from the African Cup of Nations in Angola. We need to provide them with the necessary information, where they could go and access funds. We need to provide them with the necessary information when it comes to the issue of business. We need to inform them in good time for a good entrepreneur to realise what is it that is needed in Angola in order for them to position themselves. Whether they are going to import things from wherever, including South Africa or make it themselves, they definitely need to know in good time, in order for them as good entrepreneurs to make use of those opportunities. I am not sure whether this has already been done.

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The World Cup was first televised in 1954 and now the most widely-viewed and followed sport event in the world, exceeding even the Olympic Games.

The cumulative audience of the 2002 World Cup, as I said, was estimated to be 28.8 billion and if that happens in South Africa, I am sure that a quota of these people will definitely come to know something about Namibia and a quota of those who are coming to South Africa will definitely visit Namibia. What we need to do is to make sure that half of those who visit Namibia will come back again. These are the things that we need to know, that I need to know. As a mature Namibian I need to know what are the opportunities that exist that we can use to boost our economy. What are the opportunities, as I said? Perhaps the Ministry of Environment and Tourism at a later stage will inform this august House as to how far have they gone to make sure that these people are coming back to Namibia, and they will only be coming back once they are satisfied with the treatment that they are going to get in this Land of the Brave.

As representatives of the people we want to know these things in good time, so that we could also help the relevant institutions and ministries to take the message down to the people.

I was informed by experts that our neighbouring states, including the host countries, South Africa and Angola, have set up well-designed structures and systems in place in order for them to maximise the economic benefits for their respective countries.

For the first time in the history, FIFA would be contracting non-hotel accommodation, such as national parks accommodation, bed and breakfast, lodges and guest houses during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. I strongly believe that these generous conditions of opportunity will also be availed to the neighbouring states.

South Africa has already designed a grading rating system for small tourist centres to meet the tourism grading council of South Africa. I am not sure whether we have done anything to that effect to date.

South Africa has developed a plan that includes, among others:

- Developing a robust database of available products in the tourism industry;
- Addressing poor services levels and skills shortages at key consumer interfaces;

This is very important and I must emphasise this point, that when it comes to customer relations, our service industry leaves much to be desired. Everywhere you go, whether it is in a top-rate hotel or in a restaurant next door, the services

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provided by our people are very bad. We need to do something about that. If we do not provide a better service to these people, they will definitely not come back. The more they will come back, the better for our economy. Therefore, it is not for me to emphasise the point, I think it speaks for itself.

- Working with the relevant stakeholders to ensure sufficient tourism friendly transport at focal points.

I have seen a number of tourists coming to Namibia. The taxi drivers at the airport tell the people that to go to Windhoek is hundred dollars. The first thing somebody coming from the US would think about is a hundred US Dollars, also hundred and fifty dollars. Obviously, somebody from the US will pay US\$150, which is a rip-off. When people come to the airport they need to be provided with the relevant and right information in order for them not to be informed later on that they had been ripped off. The moment that situation happens, it is Namibia, it is not the taxi drivers. That is why it is very important for us to take note of the fact that it is our responsibility to make sure that our guests will get the best treatment that one could think of.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo, the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, informed this august House of a Cabinet Committee of some kind that exists, looking at the issue. Interestingly, the lawmakers of this country, the chamber that approves the Budget of this country, is being kept in the dark. We are the ones to support the Budget of the relevant Ministry by knowing what is really going on. It is our responsibility as lawmakers to ask the relevant ministry as to why did you not make a provision in your Budget to take care of a, b, c, because we know that this programme has been developed. This thing is only known to a few people. I do not know why it is that the whole country is being kept in the dark, but somehow I am not surprised because secrecy and suspicions have become the rule rather than the exception among the ruling elite of our beautiful Republic.

When would the Namibian Nation at large be informed openly about these opportunities, about where to access funds if they want to make use of these opportunities, about where to access training so as to enable them to meet the required international standards, about where to get their business plans developed? These are things that we cannot do overnight, we need to plan, we need to look for the relevant information. Now the information is shared by this secret Cabinet Committee, only known to some Colleagues and we are still waiting, the Nation at large are still waiting.

Or are we perhaps waiting for the members of the Committee and their friends to secure the best opportunities for themselves before the rest of the people are being informed?

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I kindly wish to request the Committee to inform this august House at their earliest convenience, so that we as the lawmakers can also help to provide the right information to the people, in order for them to help us not to guess, not to base our information on rumours, but to base our information on facts. I am sure that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has proven itself to be capable of handling a situation of this nature. I am sure that they have proven themselves in the way they handled the two Film stars that were in Swakopmund, to use the maximum publicity for Namibia because of the presence of these people. They have proven themselves that they can do it, but they cannot do it if you are keeping it secret. They cannot do it if they are not being provided with the necessary support and financial support in order for them to promote and market the Land of the Brave.

With those few comments, I support the Motion.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I am rising to make a contribution to this very important Motion on the Table of the National Assembly.

First, I would like to thank the Honourable Asser Mbai for tabling this Motion for discussion through this House of Representatives of the Namibian people. At this stage I would like to provide the following facts:

First is to state that last year the SADC Heads of State and Governments, at their 2006 Summit in Maseru, the Kingdom of Lesotho, did amongst others, also consider and deliberate on the issue of the 2010 FIFA World Cup to be hosted by and in the Republic of South Africa, a Member State of SADC.

At the end of their deliberations, their Excellencies and Majesties, the SADC Heads of State and Governments, took the following resolutions with regard, specifically, to the 2010 FIFA World Cup:

First, is that they urged the SADC Secretariat and the SADC Member States to thoroughly prepare and coordinate their efforts, plans and strategies so that the sub-Region could derive maximum benefits out of this spectacular world event in 2010, and those efforts are being coordinated at that level, and Ministers responsible for Sports, Tourism, Trade and Industry and other stakeholders at the level of the Sub-region.

Secondly, our Heads of State and Government also did urge the individual SADC Member States at their national levels to also do likewise, and in the case of Namibia, soon after that Summit, through our SADC National Contact Point in our country, which is the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Honourable Minister of

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Trade and Industry did submit a very comprehensive submission to the Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia in which submission he also did touch upon the issue of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and the 2010 African Cup of Nations, as to how Namibia should go about in terms of a coordinated kind of response and plan.

On the basis of that resolution, first from the SADC Heads of State, but specifically in the context of Namibia, on the basis of that resolution of our Cabinet and remember it is not only football, but a Cabinet Committee was put in place, chaired by the Minister of Trade and Industry, to look globally at the issues and resolutions taken by the SADC Heads of State, as it is normally the case. But then a subcommittee of Ministers under the chairpersonship of this man speaking here, in my capacity as the Minister currently responsible for sports, has been put in place and the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture is deputised by the Minister of Trade and Industry and also a couple of other Ministries that are Members of this Subcommittee. Not only that, but the private sector and parastatals are involved and, of course, obviously the Namibia Football Association. (Interjections). You always jump the gun, that is the problem, and you think you are clever.

It is a Cabinet Subcommittee, but we also have a Technical Committee that is specifically preparing what the Honourable Mbai is asking here and I said I appreciate the fact that he brought this Motion in the open here. It is good, so that we can talk about it. There is nothing secret about an event like the World Cup.

Honourable Members, that Technical Committee, and through you to the Namibian public, has submitted a report to the Chairperson of the Subcommittee of Ministers and very soon I am going to call a meeting of my Colleagues, so that we could look through this particular report that came from the technical subcommittee, not only composed of Ministers, technical, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture, deputised by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and many other stakeholders. We will look at that report, it will not end there because the resolution emanated from Cabinet. We will submit that report to Cabinet for their deliberations and endorsement and enrichment and that report will be a public report. It will also come here for the information of the Honourable Members, so that it can be owned by all of us in terms of how the country is being positioned to derive maximum benefit from the World Cup in 2010.

We must remember that in as far as the preparation of the teams is concerned, that of course is the responsibility of the experts in football, but World Cup is not about playing only. As we said the other day, *sports goes beyond the action that you see on the field* and World Cup, in particular, is a big event, is a business for the business people and industries.

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Finally, therefore, without stifling the Debate here – I did not want to take the floor now – but in view of some of the allegations that could be construed as if the Government is just sitting and at the end of the day ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Thank you very much, Honourable Minister, for accepting my question and I would like to thank you sincerely for responding clearly to Honourable Tjihuike's questions and sometimes cynical remarks which are becoming the order of the day in this House.

My question to you, Honourable Minister, is that I read in one of the newspapers that the two countries will not be considered for the World Cup. Apparently Namibia and Malawi were not considered favourably to be hosting partners for the facilities. That is my question to you, Honourable Member. Thank you very much.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I can only speak for Namibia. What I know, and I did report to this House last year, is that an inspector was sent here to inspect our facilities and the initial report that he submitted was not acceptable because it did not do the right thing and FIFA has decided to send another inspector to our facilities. That inspector is still to come, but I can say with confidence that the standard of our facilities, as compared to some of the facilities elsewhere where some of these major events are hosted, is good enough.

In as far as the qualification is concerned, of course the teams must prepare and those that qualify will then play.

Lastly is to say, Honourable Members, I specified the Committees that are there. There is nothing secret about it. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: May I ask a question? Comrade Deputy Speaker, my Colleague is doing very well in addressing this Motion. Is my Colleague aware of the fact that there is a delegation from Namibia, consisting of officials, Governors as well as Deputy Ministers, who went to South Africa to witness the unveiling of a marketing strategy for 2010 and that is in fact also to the benefit of Namibia and the SADC Member States? Is he aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Of course I am aware, but I think it is very important, as I said

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earlier on, that there is nothing secret about this and I do not want us to use it as a political something. (Interjection). You made a political statement, saying that it is a secret so-called Cabinet Committee. Why do you say that? It is not fair.

However Honourable Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Namibia is the national contact point for SADC activities. We will probably get an opportunity, as the Debate is unfolding, to provide the information which is very important. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I am terribly sorry to interrupt my Colleague, but can I kindly request him to allow me to put a question, please? Honourable Minister, do I understand you correctly that your message going out is that without denying the Assembly debating this very important Motion, that you are saying that since our Government is doing things systematically and methodically, the right information will come out at the right time? Is it what you are telling us?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: The partnership between the Honourable Tjihuike and Honourable Venaani, notwithstanding, let me simply reply by saying and I was concluding, in my introduction I said it is good that Honourable Mbai has tabled this Motion here, but it is also fair for us when we debate, that we provide the information to our people and correct information is very important, because otherwise we will send wrong signals.

In as far as the Government is concerned, Government has procedures. I said a resolution emanated from the Heads of State Summit and then at our Cabinet. It is only fair that that strategy should also go the same way. However there is nothing that prevents any individual who would like to find out more or even to make a contribution, to contact that Subcommittee. I said I am the Chairperson, he is the Deputy Chairperson and at the technical level Dr Shipo, the Permanent Secretary, is the Chairperson and Dr Lindeque is the Deputy Chairperson, composed of many other stakeholders. There is absolutely nothing that prevents anybody to contact this committee, to make a contribution or even to find out what is happening, because there is nothing secret about this.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you very much.

HON DR GEINGOB: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Since I see that Comrade Ekandjo is back after a long illness, I would like to welcome him back.

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I stand up as a sports lover in order to say something, but since the Minister responsible for sport gave us proper information and asked us to wait until information is provided through proper channels, I thought there would be no need to talk about the preparations for the two cup finals.

I know our Government will do what is right, as we have been doing all these years and never mis-organised anything. Now our desire to be co-administrators when things look good and be in the opposition and say *SWAPO Government* is not good. Either we are together, whether it is raining, shining or drought. However this thing that we talk about democracy in Namibia or there is peace and unity, then it becomes *our Government*; when we want to criticise, then it becomes *SWAPO Government*, is not going to work. When they see things are going to succeed, they want to be part of it. When the going gets rough, they want to say it is the SWAPO Government. Anyway my friend, we are a SWAPO Party Government.

Honourable Nathahaniel Kaura, my dear friend, you were running as presidential candidate and you were defeated, and you stood there – and I nearly cried when I saw that – you came and congratulated the winner and said, “*I am defeated.*” Now what are you talking about a SWAPO Government? You were defeated by a SWAPO President, it’s a SWAPO Government. It is taking care even of snakes, that is what it means to be a Government.

My point was that I want to talk as a patron of the Namibian Football Association and a patron of the newly created Namibian Brave Warriors Supporters’ Club. I am introducing that now here and inviting all Honourable Members to join that Club. You do not have to talk about the World Cup in 2010 only, let us prepare our boys now, and they will only be prepared if you will also support them. Do not just sit there crying when they are losing, this is the time for all of you to now support them, the television, the newspapers to write about them.

I was embarrassed when I was at the football field, I did not know our players. I said, “*who is that one?*” And I am the patron. Our television does not show our boys. I know all the players of Manchester United, because I see them on television every day, but not our players. Therefore please reporters, put all their photos with their names, so that we can see them and know them. And then come to the games. The stadium is empty. As the patron of the supporters’ group and as a patron of the Namibian Football Association and rugby and everything... (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I ask my senior a tiny question? Thank you very much, Dr Geingob and congratulations to the patron. I just want to find out, in introducing a new spirit of

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soccer, are you urging the Honourable Members here to not only support verbally, but also to support the club financially? Is that what you are urging?

HON DR GEINGOB: Comrade Minister, you just took the words out of my mouth. I do not know how you read my mind.

What I was trying to say is that first, to endorse that because I was going to say that, but also physical support, physical, financial and moral support, by showing up at the games and I am mandated by the Association to invite you. The other day I was with Chief Riruako at the stadium when the African Stars and Pirates were playing and the President of the Football Association asked the Chief to also come when other teams are playing, when Brave Warriors are playing. I said, "*it is alright, the Chief can start with the African Stars and later on he will enjoy the game and come to other games too.*" Then I was given the mandate to invite all of you to become my guests. When you come there, they will give you all the honour and respect and even refer to you as "*Honourables*" and you will be seated properly, not be pushed. The only thing is that you must pay. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I would like to provide some information. I thank Comrade Geingob for this comprehensive report about the Brave Warriors and the Brave Warriors Supporters' Club. I just want to provide the information that some of us do attend the Brave Warriors' matches. I have been so fortunate that when I attended the Brave Warriors' matches, they always won. Maybe it is because I am the "*Son of the Nation*" as I am being called. This weekend I was there and the Brave Warriors won.

What I wanted to say is to ask the Honourable Tjihiuko to make an effort. Small things count. If you go there, you will see the Chief Whip, and Honourable Tsudao were also there. We were there and we gave our Brave Warriors the necessary support. To be honest, I do not see most of the Honourable Members here. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Especially the Ministers!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, I am referring to the Honourable Members of Parliament. We should start building, committing ourselves not only to contribute money, but your presence will be highly appreciated. Therefore, I appreciate the leading role that our Chief Whip is playing and we give you our full support. Thank you very much.

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HON DR GEINGOB: From now on we should use proper titles for all of us. From now on he is the “*Son of the Nation*”.

As I have been saying, physical, financial and moral support is needed and at least try to go to the games. However sometimes we do not want to go there because we do not want to be pushed and to go and stand. We will give you Honourable VIP treatment, it has been assigned to me. The only thing is that you have to get in touch with me early enough and your cheque must be in that information you are giving me that you are coming. We will receive you and seat you properly and appropriately. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: My apologies, it is not my culture to disturb seniors. May I ask Honourable Hage Geingob a question?

One question about the football club. I am sure many of us are keen. We have seen this very beautiful jersey on television, but I was informed that Honourable Kaura is keen to buy two of them. Where can we get this T-shirt?

Question number two, we are not of the same height and size and you will know what I am referring to. Is it only one size or will I also qualify?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, which size are you requiring? (Laughter).

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: If it were trousers, it would be short. With T-shirt I do not know what to call it. Thank you very much, I know where it comes from, but it is one size fits all.

HON DR GEINGOB: No, there are sizes for everybody, even for small, small people. For small Hage there is a size, so do not worry, you will have a size. They can be obtained at Soccer House in Katutura, and then they are also sold at the stadium during the games.

I was only trying to inform you what happened last Saturday, a very important happening. It is difficult stress before the game, some of us are going to get heart attacks, we are asked to go down and meet the boys in the tunnel before the game to encourage them. When we came there, we found them praying, holding hands like this and the coach was praying. I think he is a preacher, he was really praying and we joined them. I was touched that apparently before they go and play, they first pray. They were asking God’s help and the coach said, “*God, help us to*

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conquer our opponents. Amen.” Then we went out and the President of the Association told them, *“the whole Nation is behind you”*. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I put a tiny question to the Honourable Member? I understand it is only if SWAPO and Ndilimani are providing dancing and all SWAPO propaganda is waved around. When are we going to have national football and not a SWAPO one?

HON DR GEINGOB: I was trying to end this in a very good spirit. That is why it is sometimes difficult to talk about something one does not have a clue about, because there is never any Ndilimani playing at any football game – never. You have never seen them there. Ask Honourable Tsudao Gurirab who goes to the games, he has never seen Ndilimani playing there and you do not see SWAPO colours there. You see football colours. Colleagues, do not always see the dark side of our country, please. Football is a beautiful game all Namibians love.

Last Saturday they prayed, all I told them because time was running out, was *“please try to score in the beginning, score as fast as you can”* and the prayer that the coach was praying about and my instructions were carried out. They scored in the first four minutes, they scored a beautiful and professional goal. After that goal we were going to get heart attacks, because now to defend for about 86 minutes was tough and to tell the truth, maybe the prayer helped us because the Libyans were good and God was not on their side. The three goals they could have scored hit on the bar, three of them. I said, prayer and the full support of the Namibian people works.

Therefore, let us support our team. The Democratic Republic of Congo is now coming on the 16th. The invitation is now being extended orally to all of you to come and see. Come, I can guide you and seat you and we can beat DRC. You cannot talk about World Cup preparation without participating in it. It will be sweeter if our Brave Warriors are in Accra and we go and support them there and if they could qualify to go to South Africa. We can have bus loads to participate and also to support them.

On that note I was going to appeal that we also please allow our new coach to carry out his duties. It is unfair that we call him, insult him for a man who retired on his own, who at the last minute said, *“take me out of the Namibian team.”* It was not the coach dropping him. He can choose players to play or not, but you are left out and you are saying *“I am quitting the Brave Warriors team”* and you blame the coach for that. Please allow the coach to do his job, he is starting on the right track. Thank you very much.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. On that note the House stands adjourned for refreshments and we should come back on time. Something appeared in the newspaper today about us coming late yesterday after tea-break. We should avoid that. Thank you.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 15:45
HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:40 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When we rose for refreshments Honourable Geingob had just concluded his contribution. I am now inviting further discussions on the World Cup.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Comrade Deputy Speaker, if there is nobody who would like to take the floor, I would like to postpone the Debate on this Motion to the 26th of June 2007.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion stands adjourned until the 26th of June 2007. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES OF
TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN AN EFFORT FOR THEM TO FULFIL
THEIR DUTIES**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 6th of March 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON GURIRAB: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I have already declared my interest in this matter as a prospective King of Damaras. I hope my participation will not be considered as a conflict of interest.

Deputy Speaker, I rise in support of the Motion. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable future king a question? Your Royal Highness to be, would you consider taking half Hereros, half Damaras under your Kingdom or not?

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HON GURIRAB**

HON GURIRAB: In my Parliament office I have an old map of Deutsche Südwest Afrika and parts of what was later being referred to as Hereroland is on that map actually Damaraland. Therefore, all Hereros are Damaras.

I support the Motion on the Floor. Those of you who read the newspapers or who can afford television would see that when politicians, particularly from that side of the House, particularly visit the northern parts of our country and also a prospecting politician from that side of the House, as many of us have seen, are on his or her own, but is always in the presence of some king or some queen, I suppose to add some importance to their presence in these communities. Traditional Authorities do play an important part in our communities. In fact, it is a constitutional intervention. It is Article 66 of our Constitution which recognises the Traditional Authorities and we have further gone on to enact three pieces of legislation in this Chamber. We have the Traditional Authorities Act, an Act which recognises community courts and also the Communal Land Act does recognise the role of Traditional Authorities in our country.

It is both the Constitution as well as the laws of our country which recognises the institution of Traditional Authorities and it is these laws which also set out the various roles which are assigned to Traditional Authorities and there is, of course, more responsibility without compensating them for the task which they are expected by the community to carry out. It is for this reason that I support the Motion by Honourable Moongo who himself is a traditional leader.

Over time money loses value, they say. The N\$500 which you give me today is not the same N\$500 two or three years from now, because with N\$500 in two, three years from today, I will be able to buy less than I will be able to buy now. It is for that reason that we should continuously, not only in this context but in the context of all other allowances, as time goes on look at the allowances and remuneration which you give to different categories of people. This is why in such instances the allowances which you are paying our Traditional Authorities have to be adjusted over time.

I am happy to note that this year, partly because of pressure such as that comes from Honourable Moongo, there was a slight adjustment for the allowances of the Traditional Authorities.

The point I want to make by way of concluding is that if we want these Traditional Authorities to play the role which we assigned them and if we believe that they are important for our opportunities when we travel outside Windhoek, we should also give them the necessary recognition by way of allowances.

With these brief observations I would like to support the Motion. Thank you.

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HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Motion as moved by Honourable Moongo, but I want to raise a few issues that are related to the Motion.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me from the onset start with the functions of Traditional Leaders. Our Traditional Leaders have a very important function to advise the State, the President, the country on the governance of communal areas, but when you look at the Council of Traditional Leaders it is only convened once a year and I do not know why the practice of convening this important body to meet once a year, because these people have a responsibility of also hearing other applicants that are applying as Chiefs and yet, while they have to hear about these applicants, people have to wait for a period of twelve months until the work of this body is carried through. I think perhaps we need to support the motion of trying to raise the allowances and salaries of Traditional Leaders, so that they can function effectively.

One school of thought is arguing that why can a Traditional Leader not live from a community like a church is living from a community? However I seriously contend that if you have the honoured task to advise the President that all Namibians have elected in their majority to be the leader of the country, surely you have a very important task on your desk and you have to be empowered through... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Venaani, you talk about the money being increased. Are you aware that some of the Traditional Chiefs are refusing development? If you are aware or not aware, you are going to learn it from now. I thank you.

HON VENAANI: My honourable sister and tjiramue, those Chiefs who are refusing development also have valid and relevant reasons why they are refusing certain developments in their areas. I know what you are referring to. One is that you are going to deprive them of their land, the land that they have made their existence on. Their Chieftaincy is based on the land that is available and if you take the land, then you have no Chieftaincies. (Interjections). That is right, we are modernising the Chiefs, we are also going to modernise that the Chiefs understand the workings of modern economies.

If the country has a priority development in an area, we are saying, let us assess the project. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? You alluded that they refuse because their land is taken. Where is such development that aims to take the whole land where the communal people are situated? Can you specify in which area will development be brought that aims to take the whole land? This is what we asked, let us give the public correct information. Some of the Chiefs refused the development of Epupa, but a lot of the land there is occupied by foreigners who have a lodge there, but because it is whites it is not racism. Is that the truth? Can you tell us which area or village will be taken without considering the livelihood of the community?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not want to be derailed, but let me say the following:

If the Government is failing to apply politics of pragmatism, it is not our fault, it is your own fault. The arrogance of the former Minister of Mines and Energy and the nostalgia that he had over that project, he was told by one Chief, believe it or not, that *“this is your last day, you will never come here”* and that happened. They never invite him, that is what happened.

When you deal with people with no education, you at least respect their views, you at least respect people. Government cannot enforce itself upon the people that it is leading, it must consult with communities. Epupa, first and foremost, failed because Government had nostalgia, the people who were going there were not ready to sit down and talk to communities and that is why you continuously fail to win that part of the country, because of the nostalgia. That is true, it is not Venaani! (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information, Comrade Deputy Speaker. When you talk, Honourable Members, let us talk about things which you are aware of. The Government of this Republic talked to the people of Kaoko several times in Opuwo and Epupa itself. In Epupa it was started by the first Honourable Minister of Mines, Honourable Toivo Ya Toivo. You were saying Nyamu was talking other things. (Interjections). You are talking about why Epupa was not even built. That is the problem between the two Governments, not the Government and the community, about the building of Epupa. Can we tell the truth to the Nation?

You are saying we have failed in Kaoko. You mentioned yesterday Okakarara, Aminuis and Otjinene where you are coming from, now you are talking about failure and that is why Chief Riruako has left you because you are confusing the Nation.

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HON VENAANI: Just explain to the Member in all due respect to her, that we all know that this project was firstly rejected by the financiers, the people that wanted to finance it and then the Government stopped it. (Interjection). Yes, and then you started again with Nyamu and you accelerated the process that you wanted to build it. (Interjection). It is also my Government. SWAPO Government that has all the Mercedeses of this country, I belong to that Government. You are leading me too and I recognise that. That is why I go to elections and lose them and accept the election results. Therefore listen to me too.

Your failure of Epupa is your own nostalgia. Do it better, you might even succeed. That is my advice to you.

On the question of traditional leadership, you give people power, but we politicians are funny people, we are giving people power and after giving them powers, we do not want to recognise those powers. We decentralise powers to Regions, but we do not put mechanisms to support regional powers. We have given mandates and programmes to Chiefs, we are failing to address their plight.

This Motion was moved prior to the meagre increase that was brought in by the Minister concerned, and I think that is laudable and applaud it. I appreciate that, Honourable Minister, because if as a Government you are saying it is because of competing needs, we do not have the resources but we want to look into the matter, it is something different. However when Ministers are taking the Floor in the House and say that the Chiefs must be supported by communities, whereas we are aware that the communities that we are talking about are people who are living below the breadline of this country. People are suffering in this country. Thus I appreciate the effort made by the Ministry and I think Honourable Moongo at a particular time should also appreciate that. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Venaani knows exactly and I thank him for appreciating what he terms as a meagre increment and I just want to give information as the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare dealing with the welfare of the elder people in this country. The majority of our Headmen and Ladies are old-aged and besides the money they get as Headmen or Ladies, they are also receiving a social benefit. Are you aware of that? It is not a question, but only to make you aware and to understand.

HON VENAANI: Very good, I hear what you are saying, but my dear father, let me tell you what is the problem of this country. The problem of this country is that the people are seeing the differences between the classes, that a few people are benefiting with enormous amounts through Black Economic Empowerment, N\$40 million deals. When it comes to others, they are saying if one man can become a

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millionaire when he was 17 years and he has an asset base of close to a 100 million and I am just doing this job for the country and for the common good of our people and I cannot get N\$1,500 in this country, that is the unfairness of the whole situation. People hear every morning that money was stolen. They are criminals but they are not apprehended. They are on the street at this moment as we are talking, they are making more money as we are talking.

They can be in my house, they can be in your house, but when you accuse them, they go to the courts and they are let free. We are becoming a society that promotes the corrupt. (Interjection). No, it is not democracy. You have to be very careful not to contradict your own Government policy. It is not democracy, if you steal it is not democracy.

The issue that I want to raise is ... (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, may I ask my young brother a small question? Honourable Venaani, you started very well and as a young vibrant very intelligent person, you have a very long future and the expectation of the general public up there is that when young people like yourselves make a contribution, you are making a contribution which prepare you to take over one day. Could the Honourable Venaani just illustrate examples, proposals that the Ministry could consider in improving the livelihood of our traditional communities? Is it difficult for you? I thought you are very brilliant, you can come up with these things. I just want to ask, is it impossible for you to come out and make proposals for the consideration of the Ministry that you are referring to? Thank you.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much for soothing my ego, but if you appoint me to become your personal advisor, I can do that. (Interjections). No, you know me, let us not go there.

When I am praising the Ministry for doing something laudable, do not take it that I want to praise you every day. I will also tell you where you are doing wrong and I will come to you with a proposal.

Perhaps it is a policy to divide how our party views this whole issue and how Government views it. I believe that, first and foremost, we have to take a principle position not to give Traditional Leaders allowances. Those that are recognised should be given salaries, because they are performing a job on behalf of communities and on behalf of our country. That is one. Those who are in Parliament, like Honourable Moongo, are not receiving anything. That is one suggestion. (Interjections). Well, he is a traditional leader, I am talking about

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traditional leaders, I am not talking about who is a king and who is a *hamba* and who is whatever. We are talking about traditional leaders.

I believe that there is also a need to modernise the work of traditional leaders. Honourable Moongo has been very candid in trying to bring them up, by talking about training people on community courts, training people on principle judgments. When you judge a case of similar incidents, people should also follow, because sometimes you hear that Honourable Kawana stole a car – it is an example – and his fine is three cows plus N\$1,000 and when Honourable Venaani steals a car, because he is the son of somebody, it is only a warning. We must also create fair community courts that people will also continue to respect and their judgments would be respected.

These are some of the issues that we need to address as we are developing our country. However we must all be in agreement in saying yes, we agree that the benefits we are giving to our traditional leaders are not the fairest of all and our country can do better. However when we start arguing that you are getting your pension and, therefore, it is additional, who is fooling who? People who have robbed this country, multi-millionaires, are receiving pensions because they are old. When we start arguing, saying that you are a Chief and therefore you are getting N\$300, you are not supporting the cause of us promoting the benefits of Chief, not to promote them to become wealthy people, but to make sure that their offices are manned by people who are well taken care of.

We recently came from a trip and people were making comparisons, rightly or wrongly, about the way former colonial Governments were treating Chiefs. Of course, the motives and the reasons why the Chiefs were treated that way during the past are very different from today and that I acknowledge. But a Chief is somebody that a community looks up to, but some of them are given business deals, you make them shareholders of companies. It is something good for the country, but of course, you must also look to other people that have nothing. For example, your Chief might be a very wealthy person because he is a King and people are giving him things or he is a good manager of his own wealth, but you also have the majority of our traditional leaders who are poor people, very poor and they have functions to perform and for the Head of State to function, he needs the support of these people and we are just saying, let us look at the plight of traditional leaders.

However let us not argue and say that we can justify earning beyond N\$30,000, N\$20,000 as Members of Parliament, as Ministers, but we are saying it is enough for them because they are getting a pension. Even you, when you become sixty, are going to get your pension with your salary.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not think this Motion is an apolitical Motion, it is a very genuine Motion brought by a Traditional Leader, a person who has great respect and understanding for the affairs of traditional leadership and if we have weaknesses as a country, and we can explain, if you are poor and you have other competing needs, we can say that and people will hear us as such. However when you start arguing counter productively, then I get worried and embarrassed.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, with these few remarks, I support the Motion.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I do not really have much to say in contribution to this Motion, I just want to make a few remarks.

I have observed that there is a tradition now in this Honourable House to pursue discussions that would result in decisions that create expenditures for Government without prior consultations having been undertaken and without the costs that would follow such decisions having been determined and confirming our ability to really absorb those costs.

I cannot belittle the importance of this issue, but I think it is a concern that we should come to Parliament with these issues and just ask that *Government should increase this and Government should increase that*, so that our people are actually left with an idea that when Government is not able to comply, that Government does not consider their needs to be important. Then there are those Honourable Members of the House that actually take this opportunity to kind of politicise the issues, whether we want to acknowledge that or not.

My plea really would be for us to look at this issue in a holistic way, rather than to bring these issues here on an *ad hoc* basis. Whether they are the benefits and allowance of Traditional Authorities or they are social grants to old persons, we need to discuss these issues properly and have proper consultations and understand the costs involved and then agree, based on what we will be able to do.
(Intervention)

HON NAMBINGA: On a Point of Information. It is a pity, Comrade Deputy Speaker, that this issue is being politicised. I accompanied the Honourable Deputy Speaker on the Outreach Programme and I was surprised that we agreed among the five of us, that is the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Moongo, Honourable Ankama and myself, that we must address the people as Members of Parliament and not necessarily as Members of different Political Parties.

Wherever we went, Honourable Moongo, particularly where there were Chiefs,

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would stand up and bring up this issue and say yes, I know most of you are SWAPO members, the Minister was here and you were just saying “yes, yes”, but now you realise that your Party does not respect it. Therefore this issue has been highly politicised. There is no way they could approach anyone of you to discuss this matter properly, because they were politicising this issue.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Nambinga. That is exactly the concern that I have, because I think that some of the Colleagues think that they will try to corner SWAPO in front of the camera here, so that the whole Nation would hear, SWAPO saying, we are not able to afford that now, so that they can go out there and say SWAPO does not care about you. That is what it is all about, I think. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. Honourable Minister of Finance, through you, Madam Speaker, we come to this House cognisant of the fact that we are in the minority. When we bring Motions to this House, we are asking your consideration. The majority must take the decision, it is not the minority that would carry the decision and when we bring Motions into this House, it is not that we know that these Motions will be carried out, but we are bringing them because they are important.

Now, when you, as the Minister of Finance, is saying that we must go and look at the calculations of the figures that is your job, my dear. That is the job of the Government to do the calculations and you have the right as a politician to come to this House and say, “*dearest, we do not have the money because of other competing needs.*” But when your Colleagues are coming to this House and say the Chiefs must be supported... (Interjections). On a Point of Information, Honourable Minister of Finance, we are all politicians and what you are saying is also political. We are all politicians and we are bringing political issues to this House and all Parliaments work as such. Do not blame us when we come to this House with considerations. You are afraid of the camera.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not think that was a Point of Information, that was the Honourable Member just arguing with me and trying to score more political goals. However the point is really just to say, we probably realise that we are not able to afford certain things, but never mind, we will go out there, knowing that this is an important issue, we will ask that money be provided to this because we know that there will be so many people out there that need this money and therefore, they would agree that there is a need to allocate the money and actually, when Government is not able to accommodate the request, they are seen not to care.

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It is most unfortunate that this is actually what you, Colleagues from the Opposition want to do and I just want to say that firstly, that is not correct. It is also not correct for us to just bring issues to Parliament and say Cabinet should do this, Cabinet should do that, as if those things can be done at no cost. If measures have to be taken, those measures have to be properly scrutinised, their costs have to be determined and they have to be provided for. It cannot be correct that we just take a decision without proper research and planning.

I know that in the past we have taken some decisions that have proven difficult for the Executive to implement and they actually amount to Parliament practically taking over the responsibility of Cabinet or rather, interfering in what Cabinet was supposed to do. You can point out an area that needs to be addressed, but you cannot just come and say, "*increase this one to that one*", like we have, for example, seen in some of the proposals that have been brought here in respect of the old-age pension, for example. A person does not even say, "*let us review and increase*", we say "*increase to this amount.*" How do you do that? That is almost inciting people.

Secondly, I want to say that, of course we need to support the Traditional Authorities and they do play an important role in our communities, and I want our communities to embrace this responsibility to support the Traditional Authorities in their entirety, all our communities and not to require Government to be the one to do everything that needs to be done, because that is the tendency now. Whether it is the maintenance of gravesites or something else, the Government should do. I really do not know what we as communities are prepared to take up ourselves. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask my sister a question? Honourable Minister of Finance, I believe that you have been to Tsumkwe or in the Tsumkwe area as the Minister of Finance. How do you expect the people living in the area of Tsumkwe to assist their Chiefs? With what?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: You see, that again is another problem. When we say that our communities must be prepared to support the efforts of our community organisations, I do not mean that each one should only support the community where they come from, because the work of the Traditional Authorities do not only benefit their specific traditional communities. It benefits all of us. When Traditional Authorities, for example, help to fight crime, that benefits all Namibians. When Traditional Authorities mobilise people to do community work, it benefits all Namibians and, therefore, we should all be prepared to contribute to our different communities as a Nation. (Intervention)

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HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. It is not tribal to say the people of Tsumkwe, because Tsumkwe is a cosmopolitan area where many Namibians live. That is one. On a Point of Information, what you are now saying as a Government leader, that of competing needs, resources available and so forth, that is new to us. That is what we want to hear you say, but when you are saying, “*you are getting pension, therefore you must remain where you are*”, we would say what we are saying.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: You definitely do not come here to move this Motion in order for the Minister of Finance to say there are competing needs. All of us know that. The Appropriation Bill came here, we were all informed about the total income that we expect to generate. We were also presented with the proposals with regard to the projects that we have to fund and we are all aware that there are many important activities that we need to implement, but we cannot implement because we do not have all the resources. That is known to all of us and all of us should try to help our people to understand and realise that there is a willingness to address all the problems that are there, but because of shortage of funds it would probably take a bit longer to address those needs than we would all have liked to see. We would want everybody to contribute their bits in order to enable us to move a bit faster.

I also want to say one thing with regard to the way that some of the people, in my view, actually want to abuse the hospitality of the Traditional Authorities and the trust of these Traditional Authorities, by trying to incite them to resist development in their areas, and all kinds of excuses are being used. Of course, people come here, trying to say no, *the cultural heritage would be disrupted, we have buried our people here, therefore they cannot be moved*. However I bet you, if we find that there is oil at Epupa, none of these financiers which are now trying to stop the building of the dam, would object to developing it. They would be falling over themselves trying to get the right to go and exploit this oil and they will not care where there is a grave.

They will push aside whatever they find and exploit this oil, but because they know that the project that is being planned to be implemented there will not benefit them, but us, they come up with all kinds of reasons why we cannot proceed with it. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. People, let us be realistic, if there is oil at Epupa, the community shall have the first say because they live there. Because we have discovered oil in parts of Africa and Nigeria is one point of reference where the State is unstable because people are not benefiting from that. Therefore we are not against any development coming to the area, but we want feasibility studies also to be made available,

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because if the feasibility study has proven to be a failure and now you want to impose it, we are aware and we speak to people all over the world. Therefore, we are not against any development, but the Government must also be on record to be fair and speak to the communities in a pragmatic way.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: There is no dispute that the communities need to be consulted about development that is taking place in their own areas, and all communities are always consulted by this Government when projects are planned for their areas. However what happens is that when the Government wants to consult these people, there are always the self-appointed...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: When people are talking about Epupa, I am getting a headache. On a Point of Information. Some of our Traditional Leaders said that except for the small amount they are getting now, they are getting money from their Political Parties. When you came to Epupa, they said in that dialogue that our cattle is grazing here, but today the people who used to live at Epupa are at Ongandjera, some at Uukwaludhi, some in Okahao or Tsandi. You said the Traditional Leaders should be consulted and this Namibian Government consulted the people living in Kaoko all the time. You said some of the Traditional Leaders are not even told about projects, but in Kaoko they were consulted all the time. But when some of the Political Parties heard about it, they ran to Opuwo, "*please refuse this, please refuse that.*" Now today you want your money to be added to organise your Political Party?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just wanted to say that there are these self-appointed representatives of these communities who now claim to have the best interest of these people at heart, better than we who are coming from the same communities and they now try to instigate these people to resist these plans for development in their areas. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I want to ask a question. Honourable Minister, I am going to put the question this way: Comrade Minister, have you ever been at Epupa? If yes, who will benefit from Epupa? Just in the centre of Epupa there is a lodge called Murunga. Those are the people who do not want Epupa to be built. Are you aware that those are the people, not the ordinary citizens of that area? It is those people who control the area and the cattle of our people are not even allowed to graze there. How many shares does Honourable Venaani have there?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The person on the Floor is the Minister, not Venaani.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Yes, I am aware that there are some citizens from other parts of this country conducting business in that area. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: On a Point of Information. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just want to give information and probably seek the direction of the House. Given that this House passed a Motion and referred it to the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for investigation regarding the recognition of Traditional Leaders and that they are now busy researching and conducting hearings on this very important aspect, is it appropriate for us to carry on with this debate on this Motion as if we are anticipating the outcome? Are we going to do the same when the report is written or what are we doing? Some of us are now sort of privy to certain information, because of the hearings and we are hesitant to anticipate the report and pre-empt what the remaining hearings are going to reveal. Is it proper for this House to continue with the Debate in this regard or should we probably refrain and wait until we bring the whole issue in a holistic manner? I am seeking the concurrence and guidance of the more enlightened and older Members of the House.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Member, I think we are now discussing the increment of allowances for Traditional Leaders. The Minister diverted from the issue of unrecognised Traditional Leaders because of the questions coming in. I know the one you are dealing with very well, it is the one of Honourable Henk Mudge on unrecognised Chiefs. It is different from this one.

HON NAMBAHU: I concur, Honourable Deputy Speaker, but the fact of the matter is that allowance are actually given to those that are recognised and there are overlapping issues. In one or another way you are forced to hear and make recommendations on the findings on the ground. It is the timing of the Motion and the overlapping nature of the two Motions.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Honourable Member, let us not complicate issues. We are talking about a different issue here right now. The one with your Committee is a different one. Proceed, Honourable Minister.

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I was just saying that yes, I am aware that there are other Namibians, natural persons or juristic persons, who are operating in that area for business purposes and I think that is the idea, that people should be able to exploit the potential of that area like any other area in Namibia, in order to improve the lot of those Namibians who live there and others who live elsewhere in the country. Therefore, for the same reasons that we think it is appropriate for these business persons to locate there, we should find it appropriate that Government should take developmental projects there in order to improve the lot of those people. We cannot argue that if the Government takes a clinic or agricultural scheme there, then the people are going to lose jurisdiction over the area. You do not lose jurisdiction because a clinic is built there or an irrigation scheme is put there. But you could lose jurisdiction if that land becomes a freehold title, because a Chief cannot exercise jurisdiction over a private land.

I think that people are now just playing on the fears of our people, people having experienced a situation where they were deceived by colonialists in the past, when they are now told that this person wants to steal this from you, of course they will react and I think it is most unfortunate when people abuse others in this manner. I just wanted to appeal to our communities out there to be receptive of Government and the efforts that the Government wants to make in order to develop our country. All of us come from somewhere, all the people in this country have cultural practices and traditions that were different from what we practise today. All of us had to move from one place to another to make way for development and where that is possible, let us all do that and facilitate development to take place in all areas of our country.

I want to end by again appealing to our Colleagues, that let us try to deal with these sensitive issues in a sensitive manner and I also want to assure our people out there that the Government is sensitive to their needs and the Government is committed to addressing their needs and that we will do that within the means available to us. Thank you.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, if there is no one taking the Floor, may I adjourn the Debate on this Motion until next week Thursday?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion stands adjourned until the 14th of June 2007. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON REGULATION OF THE CURRENT
TAXATION REGIME AGAINST PENSION PAY-OUTS**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 6 March 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Gertze, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Dienda adjourned the Debate and she now has the Floor.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank the Honourable Gertze for this Motion. It does not matter how high the tax level has been and regardless of how good or how bad our economy has performed, the tax level has always been too high.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, look at the high tax rate on education materials, such as books, computers, etcetera. It is not only a question of the level, but also of what we get for our purchase. We pay taxes for the economic efficiency of our country, but what is happening with our taxes is something one has to look into. I do not think that there is anybody in this House who is happy with how our taxes are being distributed. We are paying high taxes to bail out bankrupt and failed parastatals, while the money can be used for the benefit of all Namibian citizens, for example for health, housing, education, just to mention a few.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the issue of taxes on pension pay-outs is something that discourages people so much that one would opt not to work, but rather to become a “gomsha”. “Gomshas” do not pay taxes to the Receiver of Revenue. Are we, therefore, encouraging people to do things the illegal way or is it not better to motivate those who really care for the country?

Honourable Gertze said in his motivation, and I quote: “*There are 298,725 registered individuals as taxpayers in Namibia, excluding companies, but only 133,489 made their assessments for 2004/05.*” What is this telling us, Honourable Deputy Speaker? Namibians must not be taken for granted. We know what we are doing and we know what is happening in and around the country. Most of the taxpayers die before they can enjoy their pension benefits and Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will table a Motion on this. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I put a question to my student? Honourable Dienda, just for interest sake for the House and for the public out there, we used to know your neighbour Kalla Gertze as the Secretary-General of CoD. What do we need to call him now? Can you tell us?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, SWAPO has so many problems amongst themselves that they are making use of this House to solve their problems. Now you want to interfere in the problems of CoD. We will solve our problems.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, we as national leaders...
(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? My sister, you talked about the problems in SWAPO. You are an old SWAPO member and I want to know whether you still have your SWAPO attire or have you thrown it away? Where are those things?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, since I paid for my own SWAPO scarf, it is mine, I am the owner and I can keep it. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: On a Point of Order and a Point of Information. A while ago Honourable Dienda indicated that there was a disturbance from this corner. On a point of information, it was really just curiosity, that people here wanted to know whether Honourable Tsudao Gurirab still supports the Motion.

HON DIENDA: Since I am not Honourable Tsudao, I will not answer that one. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, we as national leaders have an obligation towards the Nation not to make those who are contributing towards the welfare of the country, at the expense of those who are drying the coffers of the Government.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, with these few words, I support the Motion.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, probably due to the long recess I just needed to refresh my memory as to what the Motion was really seeking to address.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think this issue is very central to all Namibians, because people are really working very hard for their income, an income that is taxable while working. For forty years you are paying taxes. (Interjection). If we have to go to the pronunciation of "words", then this side may not be at the wrong side, so let us leave it at that. Let us leave it at that before we "*paracatise*." (Interjections). Honourable Deputy Speaker, I withdraw what I have just said. I withdraw "*paracatise*".

Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a serious note, the person is working, your salary is taxed and after a period of forty years, the money that you have saved is taxed again. The problem is, you can argue that the money has not been taxed, but you taxed my salary. No, the finger is not pointing, it is now showing. It has the right to show. I also show my cattle like this, one, two. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, can you not come to the discussion of the Motion? (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: He rose on a Point of Order, now he is discussing.

HON VENAANI: No, I did not rise on a Point of Order, she is done. I am making a statement. If the bulk of my salary is taxed, you earn N\$7,000 and you get your N\$800 that you tax me on the bulk that I am receiving, and from that it is a deduction that goes to my pension, from that there is a deduction that goes to my house, a deduction that goes to my car. These are all deductions and at the end of the day people are highly taxed.

You can try to walk around what is taxed and what is not taxed, but what is supposed to be fair is that the taxable amount should be in the range that is acceptable to our communities. I know that this Motion was brought by many people that have worked very hard through their lives and when you have to get your N\$300,000 or N\$200,000, then you hear thirty percent is no longer yours, Honourable Saara will take it. I am talking about the institution, not her personally.

Before I make my statement I want us to make one distinction, that in any economy such as ours, it is very easy to make a generalisation between the rich and the poor. Generally you have rich people and yesterday I spoke at length about how some people are not willing to share. When you talk about the generalisation of pensions, perhaps they should also be in categories, because I believe that for a person that has worked hard and earned an income of N\$10,000 a month and after forty years you are taking 30% or more from his pension, perhaps it is what you said, that we should sit down and talk about the modalities, because generally a person just feels cheated by the system.

Of course, I could listen to all the purposes of any tax regime that we have to tax so that people can have resources, so that people can go to school, so that we can have a health system, a transport system, that we understand and we have appreciation for that. That is why we are not complaining about our tax that is deducted from our salaries, but the amounts that are deducted at the end of your life, because at the end of your life it is expected that you are also closer to your

grave. The more birthdays that many people are enjoying, it means that you are closer, you are closing the gap. At that closing the gap it would not really be fair to take away from somebody who has really worked hard and who physically has no ability in the future to work as hard as he used to.

Under those premises I support the Motion, but I am also very cautious to make a generalisation, because you also have rich people, multi-millionaires who are using these Debates to protect their money and I do not know – I am not an economist – how best we can address that dichotomy that exists between the rich and the poor. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: You should come with a threshold.

HON VENAANI: That is right, I am coming to the threshold. We should start to strike a balance so that the pension of a particular person who was the head of a corporation, earning up to N\$20,000 a month, should be treated a little bit differently from a person who was an ordinary labourer in the Government or doing a job for the Government.

I support the Motion with those few ideas. It is a serious concern and it is in the interest of our country for us to review these things. However I do not want the rich to use these kinds of Debates for their own benefit, because I believe that when you run a country such as Namibia, there is no way that the rich would continue to remain idle and not assisting and sharing their resources with the poor, because one day the poor would revolt and it would not be a good thing. Therefore, there must be a balance, a social responsibility and we must be able to share the risk as a country.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion under discussion.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I did not want to participate, but I was provoked by the feeling that the rich people have to be over-taxed all the time because of their hard work and the fact that they have accumulated enough money. I feel it is really unfair.

The poor people are not taxed because there are thresholds at which they start paying, but if you earn enough money due to your hard work, you are over-taxed, which is really unfair. We need to reconsider this.

With this, I support the Motion.

HON GORESEB: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I move that the Debate be adjourned until 13 June 2007.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until next week, Wednesday. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE ROLE OF INSURANCE
COMPANIES AND WHETHER THEY SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE
NATION**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 14 March 2007, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Dienda, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Nambahu adjourned the Debate on behalf of Honourable Mushelenga and he now has the Floor.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, first and foremost I would like to thank Honourable Elma Dienda of CoD for tabling the Motion on the services rendered by insurance companies.

Insurance is an important tool of any sound financial plan that has existed for more than seven thousand years. Insurance began as early as five thousand years before Christ in China and four thousand five hundred years in Babylon as a way of reducing risk of traders. Insurance dates to the ancient Rome period where burial clubs were formed to cover the cost of their members' funeral expenses and help their survivors financially. Modern insurance started towards the end of the 17th century in England as insurance for traders, merchants and ship owners.

At the onset I wish to share with this august House some statistical developments with regards to insurance.

The majority of the money that insurance companies make comes directly from the premiums paid and not necessarily from insurance investments. Two years back the share of Namibia's total income from insurance premiums to Continental income stood at below 1%. The Namibian insurance industry grew by some 9%, bypassing the GDP growth which stood at some 4%. Such a growth clearly was in tandem with economic activities and also demonstrates the outreach for either new clients or new products by the industry. After all, this is a developed industry within the financial services sector with a diversified network of global links with access to technology.

Short term insurance: Insurance companies write over 800 million as premiums annually. Life insurance companies yield N\$2.1 billion in premiums yearly. Interestingly, we must note that the penetration of insurance in Namibia compares favourably to other emerging markets mainly in Africa. The penetration expressed as premium as a percentage of GDP shows that after South Africa, at 13.87%, Namibia's contribution of insurance to GDP was 8.27% in 2005. For countries like Tunisia it was 2.07%, Kenya 2.56%, Egypt 0.85% and Nigeria 0.70%. So they lack behind Namibia.

With this penetration of insurance within the economy, we should inevitably expect that insurance facilities and skills must also be developed to cope with the challenge. This challenge includes ongoing customer education about financial needs, policy education, claim procedures, etcetera.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the day when the Motion was introduced, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Honourable Tjiriange, stated that it seems that we Honourable Members do not comprehend the law and the subject that we are debating. Different kinds of insurance help protect policy holders and their loved ones in different ways. Insured events may include death, accidents and illness. They further include properties, both movable and immovable assets. Nowadays people also insure themselves against legal liabilities. The insurance decisions that people make should be based on their families, age and economic situations. There are many forms of insurance and unfortunately, no one-size fits all policy.

Life insurance, for example, can be a virtual necessity, especially if you have a spouse and children. Disability insurance, which provides an income stream if you are unable to work, is important for those employed ... (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: It was not my intention to disturb the Colleague. May I ask him a question? I was listening to your very well-prepared statement and you said that life cover is a necessity. It is true, I agree with you, but I want to ask you the following: Do you know that if you take a policy when you start your first job, for example when you start in a job after college when you are 23.

At 23 you take your first life cover and you die at 75. For example, you have taken life cover of one million, but by the time that you reach 75 years, you have already paid more than a million. How do you view that discrepancy?

HON P MUSHELENGA: I am coming to that, Honourable Member, just hold on.

Disability insurance provides an income stream if you are unable to work is important for those employed or earning income, while other short-term

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**ROLE OF INSURANCE COMPANIES
HON P MUSHELENGA**

insurances, such as motor vehicle and household policies indemnify the insured against the insured loss. Therefore, most people require some amount of these and other categories of insurance.

Again I would like to reiterate and emphasise that there is a need for policy holders to be made to understand what they hold. There are instances where a person takes a funeral cover policy, N\$7,500, covering a person who is one year old of the time of policy incept. All things being equal, if this person is male he may live on average up to 47 years, with an average probability of 55% living beyond 40 years of age. By the time this person dies he would have contributed far more money than the benefit that he or she initially undertook. Is it necessary to take up each and every policy? Maybe not.

People, therefore, need to engage other saving options, such as putting money in an investment bank, rather than buying a cover for which there is a remote chance of requiring the cover or when the benefit pays, it is far too little compared to the purchase and the individual would have saved that money anyway. But without perfect information, one would not know.

Life insurance is a contractual agreement between the policy holder and insurer and the policy owner will be paid a given amount upon his or her death. Benefits are, therefore, not enjoyed by the insured but by the beneficiaries. It is therefore necessary that our people are educated to realise the need of insurance products. What is the logic of wanting your family to prosper only after your death? I believe the life cover is a necessary benefit, but too much of it will only cause the policy holder cash flow difficulties, as he or she must struggle to pay the premiums. The emphasis should therefore be on investments.

Often the terms insurance and assurance are confused. Insurance refers to the provision of cover for an event that will happen. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue tomorrow. In terms of Rule 90, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2007.06.07 AT 14:30