

**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 G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i> With effect from 8 April 2008
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister of Veterans Affairs)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential Affairs)</i>
Mr P Tsheehama	<i>(Safety and Security)</i> Resigned on 8 April 2008
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water &amp; Forestry)</i> With effect from 8 April 2008
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Safety and Security)</i> With effect from 8 April 2008
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information &amp; Communication Technology)</i> With effect from 8 April 2008
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport &amp; Culture)</i> With effect from 8 April 2008
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>(Environment and Tourism)</i> With effect from 8 April 2008

Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice and Attorney-General)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands &amp; Resettlement)</i>
	With effect from 8 April 2008
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
	With effect from 8 April 2008
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr J Pandeni	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
	Passed away on 14 March 2008
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Labour &amp; Social Welfare)</i>
	With effect from 8 April 2008
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr H angula	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
	With effect from 8 April 2008

## **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, Sport &amp; Culture)</i>
Mr P Smit	<i>(Works &amp; Transport)</i>
	With effect from 8 April 2008
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>(Trade &amp; Industry)</i>
	With effect from 8 April 2008
Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Education)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr R Dinyando	<i>(Information &amp; Communication Technology)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Agriculture, Water &amp; Forestry)</i>
	With effect from 8 April 2008
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Mines &amp; Energy)</i>
	With effect from 8 April 2008
Ms Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

**SECRETARY**

Ms I Wellman

**DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Mr F S Harker

**LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT**

**CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)**

Ms E Dienda

Mr R K Gertze            Passed away on 12 March 2008

Ms L. Kaveri            With effect from 29 April 2008

Mr T Gurirab            *(Deputy Whip)*

Ms N Schimming-Chase    *(Chief Whip)*

Mr B Ulenga            *(Party Leader)*

**DTA OF NAMIBIA**

Mr J De Waal            *(Chief Whip)*

Mr K Kaura            *(Party Leader)*

Mr P Moongo

Mr M Venaani            *(Deputy Whip)*

**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 Tjihuike            *(Chief Whip)*

**REPUBLICAN PARTY**

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

## **SWAPO OF NAMIBIA**

Dr L Amathila (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)	
Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Mr H Angula	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	
Ms L Basson	
Ms C Bohitile	
Mr H Booy	<i>(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee)</i>
Ms H Christian	
Mr Dinyando	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
	With effect from 8 April 2008
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)	<i>(Speaker)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms E Ipinge	With effect from 4 March 2008
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr Kaiyamo	
Mr R Kamwi	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Kasingo	
Mr I Katali	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
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 A !Naruseb *(Minister)*  
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele  
Mr I Ngatjizeko *(Minister)*  
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah *(Minister)*  
Ms R Nghidinwa *(Minister)*  
Mr E Nghimtina *(Minister)*  
Mr U Nujoma *(Deputy Minister)*  
Mr J Pandeni *(Minister)* Passed away on 14 March 2008  
Mr P Shifeta *(Deputy Minister)*  
Mr G Shihepo *(Deputy Minister)*  
Mr V Simunja *(Deputy Minister)*  
Ms D Sioka *(Deputy Speaker)*  
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr) *(Minister)*  
Mr P Tsheehama *(Minister)* Resigned on 8 April 2008  
Mr T Tweya *(Deputy Minister)*  
Mr R /Ui/o/oo

#### **UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)**

Mr J //Garöeb *(Party Leader)*  
Mr M Goreseb  
Ms G Tjombe *(Chief Whip)*

#### **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 *(Minister)*  
Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms) *(Deputy Minister)*  
Mr P Smit *(Deputy Minister)*

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
26 MARCH 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER** took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Before we proceed, Honourable Members, I have a request by the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services that she wants to share a matter of importance to the Nation and to this House. I give her the Floor.

---

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to make an announcement in this Honourable House, that the SWAPO Women's Council has learned with great shock and disbelief of the passing away of our Comrade Julia Nepembe, the SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator for the Oshana Region. She was also a Member of the SWAPO Women's Council Central Committee and also an Ongwediva Local Councillor. She was a loyal and dedicated SWAPO Party and SWAPO Party Women's Council stalwart.

The untimely passing away of our Comrade has really left a vacuum which will not easily be filled. She was a soft-spoken Comrade who always liked to unite people. May the soul of Meme Julia Nepembe rest in eternal peace. Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** May we then rise and observe a minute of silence?

---

The House observes a minute of silence.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

---

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMWEELO**

**RESUMPTION  
OF SECOND READING APPROPRIATION BILL**

---

**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading –Appropriation Bill.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90, yesterday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Dr Amweelo was about to conclude and he now has the opportunity to do so.

---

**HON DR AMWEELO:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Before I continue, I would also like to join Comrade Haingura to pay tribute in honour of late Comrade Julia Nepembe who passed away this morning. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Yesterday I was talking about issues related to the prevention of disasters. Disaster impacts on development. Disasters, natural or man-made, are becoming more and more severe in the world. The population explosion and the rapid industrialisation are the main reasons. In 1950 the world population was only 2.5 billion, but after 37 years in 1987, it has doubled. In 1995 it is set at 5.7 billion. It is anticipated that world population will reach 8 billion in 2020. However, it evolved that the food resources on earth can at most feed 8 to 10 billion people only.

Due to the population explosion the human beings ask for more and more from nature, and industrialisation caused land erosion. There is also a shortage of energy as well as ecological imbalance and environmental pollution and as a result economic development is hindered, human survival is menaced and disasters become more severe. Endurable development will be hard in the future if this vicious cycle could not be broken.

The other problem is with regard to the changes to the landscape. Nature is undergoing continuous change, running water, waves, glaciers and the wind have reshaped the landscape. The tectonic processes such as land uplifts, create new

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMWEELO**

areas of land. This transformation has been going on for billions of years and will continue as long as the earth exists.

In Namibia the most noticeable events in these natural changes to the landscape are rock falls, rockslides and landslides. Decrease or eliminate the risk for loss of lives and other values due to changes in landscape by detecting landslide-risk areas or being a planning or decision tool for taking adequate preventative measures against landslide risks.

We also experienced natural disasters which become more severe in some of our Regions. In recent years, with economic development, man-made disasters are becoming severe. For example, in 2006 we experienced a bush fire that raged in the western part of the Etosha National Park. More than 200,000 hectares burnt down in many veldt fires in different places in our country.

In Indonesia in 2006, around 55,000 people were displaced by the disaster, either because their homes were destroyed or from fear of more earthquakes while 269 people were missing and 400 injured. The aid network in Indonesia has a vast donation of 220 million and has been stretched by disaster in the past. Disaster caused a loss of several percent of GDP annually.

A natural disaster was also experienced in 2006 in Mariental. It is a great burden to Namibia's economic development.

With the floods striking almost every year in the Caprivi Region, water getting polluted, farmland reducing quickly, how can we develop our country and promote social progress?

Disaster reduction and preparedness, including disaster education which could help improve the quality of life of the people in Namibia will have a significant meaning to our country.

In Namibia we held two strong chains of disaster education. One is the administrative management system at all levels. Another is a greater team of scientific and technological talents covering most subjects concerning disaster reduction such as meteorology, seismology, oceanology, water resources, fire research, environment protection and preventative measures.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMWEELO**

It has been deeply recognised that ignorance of disaster is the largest disaster for mankind. The standards of a massive understanding of disaster have been seen as a criterion of social civilisation. As a matter of fact, disaster consciousness of the Namibian people is very weak. Knowledge about disaster reduction and prevention are not popularised. We will learn through bitter experience with regards to the floods which occur at least every year in our North Eastern Region, the Caprivi Region in particular. We have lessons to learn on the subject about floods, therefore, regulations and management measures are necessary, but the most important thing is to develop disaster education, so as to enhance the standard of disaster consciousness and the knowledge about disaster prevention in the whole Nation.

Disaster education should be developed in multi-channels, multi-type and multi layers. Many newspapers, magazines, TV programmes need to be published. News of disaster and introduction of knowledge about disasters in many aspects is an important fact, but we do not have enough courses in schools and colleges. Our universities, the Polytechnic and colleges need to introduce a disaster research and courses in disaster and its counter measuring in order to bring about change.

Honourable Speaker, disaster education should provide answers to the following questions:

- Where did the disaster happen?
- What were the consequences?
- Who are the victims?
- Where are the victims now?
- What mandatory action must be carried out immediately at disaster areas to prevent more damage and risks to public?
- What economical and technical feasible measures are available for mitigating serious diverse effects?

Those are questions we need to answer, when we carry out research for education.

Last year we had a workshop, that workshop was meant for men, to take the men there ... (Intervention)

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMWEELO**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Scientist and Engineer a question? Honourable Amweelo, you are raising a very important issue. I have one question on my mind, and that is with regard to climate change. We are all aware that the countries that are creating the problem, the release of the emissions, are the Western countries, and yet the dichotomy is that we are going to be negatively affected more than they who are practising these emissions.

In your view as an engineer, and scientist, what is the response of those that are going to be negatively affected towards those that are going to make sure that they are going to be negatively affected? What do you think is the third world countries' response? How can we ask for a better agenda to be assisted as you are saying, rightly about education and so forth, for us to be able to mitigate some of these calamities that are going to affect us?

---

**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, today, especially in the developed countries, they have come up with systems in order to prevent emissions. For their machinery and factories they have introduced a component called a catalyst. That component reduces the emissions, therefore you will not find much CO<sub>2</sub> released into the environment. This is the new technology that is used in the developed countries. In the third world countries we need education, because we do not have many vehicles, because most of the vehicles with CO<sub>2</sub> may cause emissions, therefore we do not need to buy vehicles, let us introduce bicycles, because bicycles do not cause any emissions. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Honourable Amweelo, do you think that an old man like yourself will ride bicycles at his age?

---

**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, I gave two alternatives. The second one that I wanted to mention is with regard to our cars, and maybe we need to introduce the LPG gas in our cars. Even the fuel is very costly nowadays, but if you fit a tank for LPG gas, it would help us to reduce emissions.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMWEELO**

Lastly I wanted to say we had a workshop which gathered all men together, discussing HIV/AIDS, but the only two things I would like to share with the Honourable House, our President mentioned that we need to (intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Amweelo, you mentioned LPG gas, I think this system is already in place in Namibia, are you aware of that?

---

**HON DR AMWEELO:** Some vehicles already use the LPG gas and they are environment friendly. What I want to say with regard to the workshop, our President told us that when we make political statements, there must be a paragraph mentioning about HIV/AIDS.

It will also be good starting from above, to be voluntarily tested, in order to know our status. That was the message and recommendation in our workshop. When we make statements we must have a paragraph (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member told the House that voluntarily tests should start up there, where is that?

---

**HON DR AMWEELO:** From top to bottom, starting with us as leaders. Let us preach abstinence, be faithful to our partners or use condoms, it is easy and interesting to generate an acronym **ABC** from these phrases:

- A** for abstain
- B** for be faithful and
- C** for condom

We can take this as a golden rule in the battle against the “horrible” HIV/AIDS (Intervention)

---

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Amweelo, you have thrown a challenge to Parliamentarians to go for testing, are you going to move a Motion that Parliament should start with voluntary testing?

---

**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, I was just repeating what the President said, it is not my duty.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, with these few words I support the Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I think Namibia is one of the countries which can present a realistic Budget in Parliament.

We are thankful for many positive aspects in the Budget. I wish to touch on three issues that may affect the Budget of every country. These issues are **electricity**, **education** and **human relations**.

In the past couple of months we suddenly became aware of new powers that play a dangerous role in the economy of Southern Africa. One of these powers is our dependence on electricity and the lack of resources to generate it. We are all aware of the power crisis in our neighbouring countries. Electricity is one of the pillars of the economy and without it there can be no economic growth.

At the beginning of this year, we became aware of the crisis in ESKOM in South Africa. We read in the newspapers that the mining industry in South Africa could lose up to billions of Rands in revenue.

In Namibia so far only one mine, Kombat mine, was closed down due to the power crisis. The other day I had the privilege to go down to the water level in the mine and for the first time I realised how big the problem is.

A newspaper in Scotland reported as follows on issues in South Africa: *“The lights are going out in homes, mines, factories and shopping malls as the national power authority, ESKOM is suffering from mismanagement, lack of foresight, a failure to maintain power stations and a flight of skilled engineers to other*

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

*countries, implement rolling power cuts that plunge towns and cities into daily chaos.*

*Even Zambia's copper mines are suffering due to load shedding by the biggest electricity company, ZESCO."*

Those Namibians who could afford it, buy all kinds of generators. We conducted seminars and workshops where solar power equipment was promoted. At this moment, we as Namibians are not properly informed on our own situation. Life is going on as if there is no threat in this regard.

During the Christmas Season all sorts of decorations are being used on lamp poles and buildings. We all enjoy it, but some town fathers forget to switch it off. In some of the towns, like Swakopmund, these decorations are still spreading the message of Christmas in February. I am convinced that we as a Nation are not doing enough to save electricity. At this very moment there are a lot of geysers and other equipment using electricity, of which some are not utilised by the inhabitants of buildings. Are Namibians aware of the threatening crisis? I think that the Honourable Minister should make a statement on this issue, not only to inform the Nation about the crisis, but also to launch a campaign to make Namibians aware of the importance of electricity and how we can assist the Government.

We hear many rumours. I have consulted the NamPower website and I took note that a fourth turbine with 85 megawatt capacity will be installed at Ruacana. Other sources said that there is not always enough water to drive a fourth turbine.

There were rumours about the possibility to deactivate the Van Eck Power Station in the northern part of Windhoek. It will be very shortsighted, because the first three turbines were erected in July 1972 and the fourth one in 1979. When Ruacana came into operation, the Van Eck Power Station was not utilised for a couple of months every year. Consequently the running hours are far less than expected.

Instead of refurbishing the Van Eck Power Station, we choose to embark on a N\$300 million deal with Zimbabwe to upgrade an old power station near the Namibian border. This is politics because Zimbabwe cannot provide electricity to its own people.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

Suppose there comes a change in Government in Zimbabwe and after the present nightmare, the economy goes back to normal, what will happen to the provision of electricity to Namibia by the mentioned power station?

I am also convinced that South Africa will supply some of the electricity to Namibia as long as it is in their interest. We must prepare for the moment when they cannot do it any longer.

Another possibility for Namibia is to invest money in the Gove Dam near Kakunda in the southern part of Angola. This is a huge dam built in the upper Kunene. I visited it two years ago and though the dam was partially damaged in the war, new sluices and other accessories to repair it are on the site.

Honourable Speaker, I am convinced that the Namibian population does not realise the importance of the availability of electricity because a human being realises the importance of something only when he has lost it.

I have a few remarks on **education**. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I just want to ask a question. Honourable Member, through the Chair, you have said that you do not see the logic of using such an amount of money in Zimbabwe. At the same time you said that we could spend the money on Gove Dam in Angola, which is also another country. What is the difference? I do not understand.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** I think there is a difference between the two countries at this moment. We do not know what to expect from Zimbabwe, but I think our relations with Angola are very good and it would be in the interest of Angola too.

Honourable Speaker, I am on record that I always defended the potential of the present education system in Namibia. Without being complete, here are two aspects where I foresee problems.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

The first one is the Grade 10 failures going back to school. I always felt sorry for those who failed Grade 10. Existing policy never denied these learners the right to go back to school, never. Learners could always go back if space and equipment were available. The measure to restrict learners who have no places or equipment, was not a punitive action, but a practical issue. Therefore, this is not a new compliance when we allow learners to repeat Grade 10.

I cannot see how Grade 10 learners can go back, there are not enough places in the existing schools except if we are willing to create overcrowded classrooms and consequently, a lower standard of education.

Another question: How many times can a learner fail and repeat Grade 10?

Secondly, ETSIP: Initially ETSIP reminded me of the rider on the white horse who will make everything good. (Intervention)

---

**HON DIENDA:** May I ask a question? Honourable Inspector, take for instance that all the Grade 10s will pass Grade 10, where will they be accommodated in Grade 11, since you are saying now that the schools will be full if all failures will be accommodated? Where will they be accommodated if all of them pass Grade 10?

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I think when we introduced the so-called Cambridge system, it was always a problem. We realised that somewhere there will be a bottleneck and in the beginning we used a floating barrier, 19 points, 20, 21, to allow just enough learners to go through. I however agree, this is a question that somebody must solve this problem. It is not me.

I wish to repeat that I have always seen ETSIP as a solution. (Intervention)

---

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Viljoen a question? Honourable Viljoen, as a good Inspector and Educationalist, do you believe that in the normative examination system it is possible for everybody to pass?

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I do not think so. Last year His Excellency the President said that we must go for 90% and then I said it is not realistic. I do think that due to many circumstances, education is not on that level that everyone can pass and cause a problem. (Intervention)

---

**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Viljoen, where do the 90% children go that passed Grade 10 from Otjiwarongo High School, Windhoek High School and so on and Jan Möhr? More than 90% passed Grade 10, where do they go?

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Kaura, I think I cannot answer that question, I think everybody knows that there are not enough places at UNAM and all tertiary institutions. (Interjection)

---

**HON KAURA:** They go to Grade 11.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** What I want to say, I am not convinced that ETSIP will improve education in the classroom. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Is Honourable Viljoen aware that most of the schools where the pass rates are above 90% are selective schools? Is the Honourable Member aware that these are selective schools, they take the cream? Are you aware of that?

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Right Honourable Prime Minister, the accusation was made

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

yesterday by Honourable Dienda, yes it is true.

I am no longer convinced that ETSIP will improve education in the classroom and I have reasons to say it. The following external factors play a role: As the Honourable Riruako yesterday said, learners have to walk long distances in wind and rain. There is sometimes a problem with the timely distribution of books, but it is internal problems that cause poor results. The answers are in the hands ... (Intervention)

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:09 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I agree that there are many under-qualified teachers, but since Independence the Government embarked on many programmes to improve the qualification of teachers. The best teacher, however, is the motivated one with a 5-centimetre piece of chalk in his hand and a board to write on. That is all you need, a piece of chalk and a board. During the time span of eighteen years, a person can attain 4 academic degrees, meaning the teachers had enough time to improve the results, but the most important issue is that education will improve drastically if the principal and the teachers are being held accountable for the results of their learners.

I am convinced that Namibian principals are the most trained officials in this country. We trained principals for the past eighteen years in management matters and I think that nowhere on earth principals were exposed to more training workshops than our principals. The key issue is, responsibility and accountability and I think that this matter should be investigated by the Parliamentary Committee on Human Resources for recommendations. (Intervention)

---

**HON DR ANKAMA:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable educationist a question? Honourable Viljoen, former inspector of schools, would you agree with me that it is not only the teachers and principals that should be

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

held responsible for the education and results of the learners, but that the learners should also be held responsible for their own failures? Do you agree?

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chief Ankama will know that if you read these SMSs in one of the newspapers, you will see that there is an outcry from learners, asking teachers to teach. In every school, all the time since the creation of the world it was a problem that learners do not learn, but I think learners nowadays realise that they must do something to pass Grade 12 and the only medium they know is the teacher who teaches the subject. I, therefore agree partly.

However Honourable Speaker, I am finished with education and I want to say something about relations. We are celebrating our eighteenth year of Independence and we are happy for the peace and stability in this country. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** May I ask a question to the Honourable Member before he is totally finished with education? Honourable Viljoen, do you not think that in order for us to address these educational problems, it is high time for us to appeal to all the inspectors, all the teachers and all the educationalists to leave politics and go back to school and practise their profession? Do you not think so?

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, if you visit a school...(Intervention)

---

**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. I think the teachers will leave when pastors will first get out of Parliament. However before I say this, Honourable Minister we will go back, when the teachers' salaries are reviewed, because currently teachers are getting peanuts, after studying for four years.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, that is a good answer to the question.  
(Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. Yes, the pastors will go, following the teachers, because the teacher is a teacher for the pastor as well and I think a true teacher normally does not work for a salary, because there is no amount of money that can compensate for the teaching work and profession. If you really do your work as a teacher, there is no amount of money that can compensate you for that work.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I think the teachers of the country will... (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Speaker, just for clarity purposes, because I have to answer to some of these questions eventually. I want to find out, Honourable Viljoen said that ETSIP reminds him of a rider on a white horse and he did not elaborate. Maybe there were lots of interjections and so on, but what did you mean by that concept? Please, before you move on.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, it is something I read in the Bible and it is somebody that comes to your rescue. ETSIP must come and rescue the education system. That is what I meant.

Honourable Speaker, the composition of the Namibian population is the sum of at least eleven ethnic groups.

I am convinced that the relations between some groups are more relaxed than between other groups and despite cultural differences, there is a desire to live in peace and harmony in Namibia.

However, ethnicity, tribalism and racism have the potential to destroy good relations, especially when political differences are not handled with utmost care and wisdom. We must study the successes and failure of other people and other

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

Governments and other Political Parties to evaluate our own successes and failures.

We are all aware of what is happening in other countries because of these differences. In Namibia we have a situation where two new Political Parties were formed recently. We are also aware of the tension between the different Political Parties. Unfortunately some of our leaders in this country are guilty of adding fuel to the fire. There is an African saying: *“If two elephants are fighting, it is the grass that suffers most.”*

Nobody can depict what the influence of these new Parties may have in the coming election. We had to stop a by-election due to alleged irregularities and sent half of the management of the Electoral Commission on holiday. How will we manage a national election? The aspect of how big Parliament is and how many representatives every Party can bring to Parliament is important, but only if it is in the interest of the country and its citizens. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Viljoen, you mentioned how many representatives a Party can bring to Parliament. Can you ask the question, how many free riders are in Parliament right now? Free riders.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** I do not really understand the question, so I think we will leave it there.

We are all concerned about these issues. I mentioned Kenya...(Intervention)

---

**HON DR GEINGOB:** I would like to apologise to the Honourable Viljoen. He is raising a very serious issue and I would like to come in on a Point of Information, because the country is made to believe there is some kind of tension among tribes, among Political Parties, leaders. Some of us who are sitting here have been reconcilers. We even have real enemies and for 18 years this country had peace. I was travelling from ACCRA back to Namibia with Honourable Minister Mutorwa. In Johannesburg while we were sitting in a plane, Honourable Nyamu came, he passed me, but I think with the eyes closed and he went back to the economy class. I asked him, *“was that Honourable Nyamu”*, he said *“yes”*. I

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

got up, I went over to him, I jokingly said, “*when you young junior people see seniors, you must greet.*” He said, “*no, I did not see you.*” We greeted each other.

I was travelling to Grootfontein the other day, I saw him at Grootfontein, he came, where are you getting this tension that you are talking about? We are trying to create a situation of tension, hoping things will collapse and you can pick up the pieces. However, be careful, there may be no pieces to pick up.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, all the Political Parties received a letter from the Police, warning us all and I think it is general knowledge. (Interjections). I think differently because I also read newspapers. We are all concerned about these issues. (Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Information. The big people, those who belong to certain Political Parties, are not fighting one another, but their supporters are fighting one another. I am even having tea with those who are supposed to be my enemies. We do not fight one another.

I am not here to heal the wound, I am here to take care of the wound itself. I am not here to create a problem for us while we do not have a problem. We have to stop there and take care of one another and if I have to fight my opposition, I am going to fight them in politics, with the mouth.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Thank you, Honourable Chief, for the assistance. Honourable Speaker, I referred to Kenya and we do not know what is going to happen in Zimbabwe this weekend. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Viljoen, may I ask you a question through the Speaker? Honourable Viljoen, you mentioned correctly that during the past eighteen years we have enjoyed peace and stability and racial harmony. I just wanted to ask you, when will the time come when all

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON VILJOEN**

of us, all racial groups will come together to celebrate our national Independence day? We are now debating a Budget of almost N\$23 billion and I know who the beneficiaries of the tenders, consultancies, service providers are. We know that they will be there, but when it comes to national issues, like when we opened the new State House, you yourself were not even there. (Interjection)

---

**HON MEMBER:** He was there!

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Oh! Somebody is confusing me. The question is that we want our compatriots to celebrate with us. We need to identify with Namibia, with its colours, with its rainbow coalition, with everything and that is what we need, not only when it comes to tenders and service provision.

---

**ON SPEAKER:** You are running out of time. My advice to you is to in future to spare goodwill and generosity to avoid questions. That is what the Honourable Pretorius used to do before you. It gave him a chance to read out what he wants to say.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member asked a very good question. Unfortunately, this is the last part of my speech and I am convinced that I will not be able to finish answering him. I am not too sure who receives all the contracts in this country, you know better than me. It is not my white tribe receiving that ... (Interjections).

Honourable Nujoma, I attended the inauguration of the new State House, I took eleven people with me because I got some invitations. All of us enjoyed it very much, but in a certain sense we felt uncomfortable because they were singing freedom songs instead of national songs. It is not a Party issue, it is a National issue.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON GORESEB**

**HON GORESEB:** Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me first and foremost to use this platform to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families, friends, parties, the Nation at large on the passing away of our dear friends and Colleagues, Honourable Kala Gertze, Honourable Johan Pandeni, Honourable Niko Bessinger and Julia Nepembe. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members of Parliament for affording me this opportunity to reflect and comment on the Budget proposals for the 2008/09 Financial Year under the theme, *“Promoting sustained growth and improve public service delivery.”*

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to congratulate and thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for her sound, prudent macro-economic policies that enabled our economy to perform satisfactorily in recent years.

During the Budget Debate of 2005/06 Financial Year, I challenged the Honourable Minister with the following words and I am quoting myself:

*“It is a good sign to see that the Budget deficit is down to 2.4% from the previous year’s 7.5% of Gross Domestic Product. Only strict adherence and implementation of the laid-down policy guidelines and collective endeavours and political will, will make this Budget a success story and will enable us to see the other side of the coin after five years from now on, which is the Budget surplus.”*

Honourable Minister, you did not wait for five years, you accomplished that the following year. Congratulations!

However, from the onset I must tell this august House that a critical analysis of the Gross Domestic Product growth suggests that the pursuit of sustained growth objectives are not without complexities and complications. One may ask the question whether economic growth improves standards of living or more jobs and a perspective on the gross domestic growth rate is provided by the population growth rate. Therefore, only if the real economic growth rate exceeds the population growth rate will there be an increase in the real Gross Domestic Product per capita of a person. (Intervention)

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON GORESEB**

**HON RIRUAKO:** Are you happy with the cost of living? It is something that we are supposed to look at.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Is it a question?

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** It is not a question, I do not ask questions. And N\$6 million goes to NAMPA.

**HON SPEAKER:** Chief, what you are posing is a question to Honourable Goreseb.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** N\$6 million goes to NAMPA!

---

**HON GORESEB:** Thank you Chief, I will come to that one. The present scenario in our country is that the population growth rate is 1.9%, and the Gross Domestic Product growth rate is 4.7% per annum, based on base line scenario, we are told. Now in order to determine the real growth rate one has to deduct the inflation. So it is a matter of 4.7% minus 7%, so it gives us a negative figure. What does this tell us? The projected growth rate in real terms is far below the population growth rate of 1.9% resulting in no impact on improving the living standards of the population.

Honourable Speaker, the unqualified pursuit of sustained economic growth is therefore questionable in the light of the cost of economic growth.

Pollution of the environment, water, air pollution with toxic substances, Ramatex is our case at present. Another factor is the depletion of natural resources. Here we have diamond mines which are exhausted, fresh water which is diminishing, natural energy resources, like oil resources which are facing the whole world.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, scanning through the Executive Summary and the Honourable Minister's Motivation Speech, one realises that our country is still faced with numerous challenges. I will single out only those which we can influence as a country or improve on in our favour:

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON GORESEB**

**Slow-down in diamond mining:** Concern is expressed worldwide that the world may be facing a serious shortage of essential natural resources within decades.

The economic slow-down in the United States, the largest consumer of cut and polished jewellery is likely to put rough diamond prices under check this year.

The world's biggest economy is undergoing two major strains at present. The presidential election and economic slow-down which may affect demand temporarily. The supply of rough diamonds is tightening now as some large mines have become exhausted.

Honourable Speaker, diamonds and other minerals are non-renewable resources of any given country and as such must be consumed judiciously. A slow-down in diamond mining in Namibia will impose important constraints on the sustainable rate of growth, being our main source of State revenue. Therefore, Honourable Speaker, I may say that the writings are already written on the wall for the Government to pursue alternative revenue sources and not wait for the worst to happen.

Public procurement policies offer a great potential for local small and medium enterprise development and economic empowerment. That is true, I agree with you, Honourable Minister. Joint ventures with companies with technical know-how will be the route for value for money.

Small miners who will reduce the unemployment rate in our country is another neglected sector with small entrepreneurs. They really need assistance from the Government. Here I want to make special reference to the small miners of Xobo-Xobo, Spitzkoppe, !Gom-!khas and others in the vicinity of Erongo and Brandberg Mountains. These people need cartels or associations through which they can do business, things like common price determinations, marketing of their stones, polishing techniques of gems or precious stones are foreign to them, hence the exploitation of their hard-earned products.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the saying goes: *“Never deprive someone of hope, it might be all they have”* and here I am referring to those small miners.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON GORESEB**

Furthermore, another important point or challenge pinpointed by the Honourable Minister is the **poorly performing State-owned enterprises**. It is needless to name them. It is true that they misuse the Government's ability to accelerate growth and to provide quality public service. Honourable Members, it is difficult to give away what you already possess, but the Government must relinquish providing certain non-essential services which can easily be done by the private sector. Private-public joint ventures, in other words joint ventures with the Government of Namibia will be the answer to poorly performing state-owned enterprises. I suggest that the Government must retain the key essential State-owned enterprises, like NamWater and the likes and invite the private sector to run or operate the rest in joint ventures with the Government.

Honourable Speaker, I say this because the State-owned enterprises are run by the boards of directors, captains of industries, their deputies and the various managers, yet again another body is created to oversee the operations of the State-owned enterprises and implement the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act, like the State-Owned Enterprise Governance Council. What are the boards, chief executive officers and the managers doing? Are they not supposed to oversee the operations and implement the Act? I think that Government is just duplicating the task or covering up for non-performance of some State-owned enterprises' boards of directors, chief executives and managers at the expense of the poor taxpayers.

Another issue raised by the Honourable Minister is the **high interest rates**. Mr Speaker, Sir, there might be some good in high interest rates. In a country like Namibia, faced with a high unemployment rate and poverty, the bad side outweighs the good in high interest rates at present in Namibia.

It is true that it has a dampening effect on economic growth since high interest rates scare people away to borrow money from financial institutions to do business.

Bond interest rate that rose from 12.75% to 15.25% last year and which are said to increase again this year are forcing the citizens to relinquish their fundamental basic human right, the right to shelter with the unaffordability of houses and rather to move into shack dwellings or renting accommodation elsewhere.

Honourable Speaker, the people are just working for these risky houses which they might lose anytime to banks due to high interest rates which make settling

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON GORESEB**

bond prices very expensive and unaffordable without even improving the quality of one's life. Who controls the interest rates in this country and who is supposed to intervene when things go from bad to worse? We cannot just expect the interest rates would be moderate in the medium term to give impetus to acceleration of growth.

Another important issue raised by many speakers is the power supply, sustainable power supply.

*“Certainty of power supply is important for new investment to come and for expansion of existing production.”* I wholeheartedly agree with the Honourable Minister. Your annual contributions to NamPower for the Kudu Gas Field infrastructure development of N\$750 million and again N\$610 million for the Financial Years 2007/08 and 2008/09 are commendable. Even the Head of State, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, is equally worried about electricity shortages facing the Region and has said the following:

*“This should empower our Government to work towards developing and harnessing sustainable and renewable sources of energy and efficient technologies to satisfy increasing energy reliance.”* (New Era).

However, Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Minister's Budget is silent on our contribution towards Westcor, a joint venture company of which Namibia is a very important member. Westcor is viewed by many to be ready by 2012 and by 2020 will produce approximately 15,000 megawatts of hydro-energy. Why is the Honourable Minister silent on the funding of this power project? What are the views or visions of the Honourable Minister on the solar power products?

Namibia has more than 300 days of sunshine in most parts. What are the Minister's views or funding ideas about wind energy projects? Wind farms can be built close to our coastline, starting from Lüderitz up to Terrace Bay. Namibia must find a lasting solution to the power crunch which looks set to stunt economic development.

Mr Speaker, I want to move to the next very important one: **alleviating poverty** among vulnerable groups.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON GORESEB**

Honourable Members, education is at the crossroads for the future of Namibia. It plays a crucial role in promoting poverty alleviation and economic growth both at national and household levels. It reflects the aspiration of the people to a successful integration with global economy in an ever-changing world. Therefore, Mr Speaker, the education system must be changed to deliver the needed skills. We were told ETSIP will do that.

In this world of intense global competition and a rapid technological change demands, problem solving communication and language skills are not being emphasised in most schools in our country.

Since education is the main source of knowledge creation, the task is clear. The education system must be changed to deliver new skills and expertise necessary to excel in a more competitive environment. What we see in this country is that those who graduate from institutions of higher learning cannot find jobs. The unemployment rate is very high among the youth, therefore the average return that you observe is also not high and that is a serious problem.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, no proper signals are sent to higher education establishments. The problem lies in the labour market, dominated by the public sector in our country where college or university graduates, who passed good opportunities in the private sector have to wait two or 3 years for a public sector job, offering a lifetime of employment and benefits above what the market offers.

We are hearing the rumours about students who graduated from Zimbabwe as Science teachers who are roaming our streets without finding jobs. How is that possible?

This is a major distortion of the labour market, but it also creates a situation in which there are no longer financing to the higher education establishments in terms of what skills are in demand and which skills are not in demand. Government needs to consider every investment as to allow it to contribute to the education process, including how teachers are trained and whether they are trained to do better at old-fashioned role learning or in much needed inquiry-based learning. Students need much more inquiry-based learning and a new set of soft skills, problem solving, communication, foreign language that is critical to further advancement.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON GORESEB**

Incentives such as reward for good performance for both students and teachers and public accountability are essential to achieving education goals.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am however very disappointed by the demoralising salary adjustment promised for the civil servants and in particular the teachers for the Financial Year 2008/09, 2009/10, I am told 5% and 7% respectively. The projected inflation rate for 2008/09 is 7%. Therefore, the promised 5% is very far below the rising inflation rate. Honourable Chief, there I come to your question.

NANTU and her associate trade unions have betrayed the civil servants when agreeing with the Government that 5% shall include the five years in advance without any escalation clause as was done by the insurance companies. I hope that the Honourable Minister of Education, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, who overruled this agreement, will give teachers a decent market-related salary adjustment or increment. After all, they are the ones who are going to carry out this ETSIP programme to improve our education system. The allocation of N\$4 billion plus for the education sector speaks for itself.

In conclusion Mr Speaker, Sir, the bulk of the 2008/09 Financial Year's Government revenue, in other words, 41% or N\$8.5 billion is expected from SACU receipts, we were told. This is a very risky situation and puts the entire country at the mercy of the SACU Pool. What will happen if the SACU payouts are delayed for an indefinite period or our revenue shrinks drastically due to SACU reforms, SADC Customs Union and Free Trade arrangement with other economic blocks?

Due to high interest rates from financial institutions allow civil servants to borrow money from their pension fund to settle their bond payments instead of dishing out cash to **BEE**, a special elite group?

Amend the Insolvency Act to address the issue of ever-increasing bankruptcy of Companies with negative impact on employment rate.

**Social Welfare Grants or Benefits:** It only empowers the selected groups to the detriment of unemployed persons who are keen to find jobs. The Government must reconsider the Basic Income Grant to also benefit the unemployed adults in the country.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON IIPINGE**

**Sustainable Power Supply:** We must heed the advice of President Pohamba. Private/public partnership regarding State-Owned Enterprises, that is the advice. High interest rates, let us intervene timeously. Education, public accountability is very imperative. Inquiry based on learning is very imperative. Give incentives to both teachers and learners and give them the market-related salary adjustment for all civil servants.

With these few remarks, Honourable Speaker, I support the Bill. Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. In keeping with established tradition, I will call on the next Honourable Member and I would, therefore, expect the Honourable Members to do what we must do and to avoid doing what we are not supposed to do. Honourable Eunice Iipingé.

---

**HON IIPINGE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to join the Comrades and the Colleagues in expressing my heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of Honourable Gertze, Comrade Pandeni, Comrade Bessinger and Comrade Nepembe. May the Almighty console them during this time of grief and bereavement.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I rise to make my first input to the deliberations in this august House as a new Member of the Namibian Parliament, a body which represents almost two million citizens living in thirteen Regions of the Republic of Namibia. This august House composes of people from different backgrounds, be it politics, religion, sex, culture, race, age, marital status, etcetera. We are all Namibians and elected Members to this House to pass laws as well as to ensure the development of our country through the exercise of our oversight role and effectively representing our people to ensure improvement of their living standards and welfare.

I, therefore, find it appropriate to use this occasion to thank all Comrades in the SWAPO Party and the Namibian voters for placing confidence in me to serve in this august House.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on this solemn occasion I pay tribute to the leader of our revolution, the Father of the Nation and the Founding President of SWAPO and the Republic of Namibia, Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma,

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON IIPINGE**

who lived and suffered for the freedom and unity of our Nation. My special tribute goes to him for his visionary leadership during the liberation struggle and successful administration of our national affairs for 15 years after Independence.

Equally, my special tribute further extends to His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, one of the Namibian liberation struggle icons and the successor of the Founding President for his splendid vision and continued leadership in SWAPO and the administration of national affairs.

I also wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the countless comrades, women and men, who faced immense hardship and suffering in the heroic struggle of Namibia's Independence.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, 18 years into our life as the independent Republic of Namibia we find that peace and justice prevail and social, economic and political changes have been unequivocally obvious. Hence, SWAPO Party should be applauded.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the founding women and men of our Constitution who during the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly, chaired by Honourable Comrade Hage Geingob, laid the foundation of Namibia's integrity. These were the leaders whose foresighted vision and arduous labour gave us the gender-neutral Constitution, the Parliament, the Cabinet and the Judiciary.

Our Constitution, one of the most liberal in the world, enshrines the traditional concept of liberty, equality and fraternity, adding to them the concept of justice, social, economic and political and declaring our Nation a sovereign, democratic Republic of Namibia. *I salute them forever!*

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, for eighteen years this House has worked hard to redress the wrongs of the past. Among them was racial and gender-based discrimination. It is clear that during the colonial era, discrimination in Namibia took place not just only on the familiar ground of racism, but also on the basis of gender. Therefore, Honourable Members, I feel proud to commend the Namibian Government and more particularly, the two Houses of Parliament, for promulgating the National Gender Policy and passing laws addressing issues of gender discrimination and violence against women and children.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON IIPINGE**

In line with the National Gender Policy and Agenda for Women Empowerment, the requirements are committed to foster any strategic action in combating discrimination in all its forms and promote gender equality both *de jure* and *de facto*.

Apart from the National Gender Policy which is implemented alongside the National Gender Plan of Action, this House has also put in place several laws to protect women from all sorts of discrimination and violence. Among them are the following:

The Married Persons Equality Act (No. 1 of 1996); the Combating of Domestic Violence Act (No. 4 of 2003); Combating of Rape Act (No. 8 of 2000); and the Affirmative Action Act (No. 28 of 1998).

In addition, this House also ratified several international gender-related agreements, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, (CEDAW) which this House ratified in 1992; the CEDAW Optional Protocol in 2000; SADC Declaration on Gender and Development; African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, 2004; Protocol to African Charter on Women and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 2003.

There are also several national documents that describe the Government's gender aims and objectives, for example the Vision 2030, which identifies the long-term national development plans, indicates gender-mainstreaming strategy.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, while acknowledging the fact that what we have done so far in terms of promoting gender equality is commendable, I am proud to note that we have now reached 30% women representation in this House two years after the SADC deadline. More can still be done. The African Union and SADC target for women representation in political decision-making is now 50% and we are still far from achieving this ideal.

We also need to assess the actual extent of inequality in our societies, whether it has been reduced. It is also vital to monitor and evaluate the impacts of the policies introduced to narrow the gap between men and women in our country.

Based on these realities and against this backdrop, I implore this august House to strengthen the National Gender machinery.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON IIPINGE**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my maiden speech to this august House coincides with the discussions of an important issue before this House, the Appropriation Bill for the year 2008/09 which was introduced by the able Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Nandjila Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. Allow me to congratulate the Minister, her Deputy and the entire staff members for a job well done. The 2008/09 Budget has been hailed by many economists as truly *pro-poor*.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, thus far this House has catalysed good economic, monetary and fiscal policies in Namibia. Internationally Namibia's economic performance is usually rated among the best in Africa. However, as the Minister indicated to this House when she introduced this important Appropriation Bill, that our positive and impressive economic performance has enormous social and economic challenges that need attention, as the economic growth has not matched the creation of employment.

I would like to emphasise the importance of Public-Private Partnership linkages in implementing national objectives. There is need to strengthen mechanisms for Public-Private Partnership linkages for the implementation of Vision 2030 programmes, including capacity-building. Developed countries are getting products and services through knowledge creation. We also have institutions of higher learning with the capacity and accumulated knowledge to assist in developing linkage mechanisms to strengthen Public-Private Partnership.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this House already knows that Namibia has one of the world's largest reservoirs of natural resources which take our competitive advantage to greater heights. Namibia has a big advantage in producing goods of value than the same countries of the north. For example, Namibia is better at producing grapes, diamonds, copper, gold than many European countries. However, we lose the competitive advantage, because our secondary industries are weak.

Let us develop value chains on resources that we have competitive advantage in. Only then would we be able to reduce unemployment. Value chains on products of competitive advantage is usually achieved through developing new products and services that satisfy and delight customers through restructuring and improving business processes to improve quality and reduce costs. In other words, by adding value, we only add value if you place the enabling incentives on products on which we have significant competitive advantage. This is when we

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

support our manufacturing industries for these products. For example, we produce grapes, we can train our people to produce wine. We have diamonds, we can produce rings and necklaces. We can achieve our value chain goals even in association with those good people investing in Namibia, whether they are Chinese, Japanese, Americans, Germans, everybody. However, we should insist that Namibians must be the majority owners in business.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I would like to thank you for accepting me as a new Member in this august House of making laws in the interest of our people. For my part I would like to promise to work hard and cooperate with you in supporting and contributing to the Debates, passing of laws, effective oversight and representation, leading to democratic and constructive decisions that will benefit our people.

Comrade Speaker, I support the Bill and I thank you very much.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, you are free now to take punches and also to return punches. Honourable Dr Tjiriange.

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, let me also join others in expressing my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the late John Pandeni, Niko Bessinger, Reinhardt Gertze and Julia Nepembe. May their souls rest in peace.

Comrade Speaker, let me first and foremost thank our Finance Minister for tabling the Budget in this august House. There is no doubt that our Finance Minister is among the most brilliant and able Ministers of Finance and she has proved to be that.

Comrade Speaker, I rise to make my contribution to the general Debate and reflect on various issues of national concern. I would like to look at the situation positively and give credit where it is due as well as to look critically to issues where necessary.

The objective of a Debate like this should be to look at what we have done and achieved, as well as to look at and identify areas which need our attention and



26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

priorities. I know that we have some measures in place to counter these phenomena, but sometimes we are caught off guard and that is not supposed to be like that.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to make my modest proposal to the drought and flood preparedness. I am proposing for a Drought and Flood Relief Fund with an initial capital of N\$100 million from the State. The fund, when opened, would be free to accept contributions from the private corporate world and even from the international community.

The administration of the fund should also be composed of the Government, the private and the business community. It is my submission that unless a concerted citizen-inclusive system approach is adopted and consistently implemented to the letter, drought and floods will always remain a life-long challenge to the country.

Take a country like Mauritius, they have a permanent hurricane fund. This fund grows every year when there is no hurricane and when hurricanes strike, it is there to be used. Why can we not do the same?

**Education and Training:** The SWAPO Party Government has declared education and training as priority number one and the biggest chunk has been continuously allocated to this sector. Primary and secondary schools have been built and the number of school-going children attending schools have drastically increased from a mere 60% to over 97%.

Institutions of higher learning have been established and increased the intake and graduation of students each year.

However, Comrade Speaker, while we as a Nation are proud about the policy we have adopted as well as the results thereof, the pertinent questions we should ponder upon are: Are we reaping the desired quality and value for the money we are investing in education? Have we totally eradicated the disparities inherited from colonialism? Are we achieving equity in education provision as provided for in our Constitution? These are open questions.

Comrade Speaker, the situation regarding education is completely challenging. We still have some schools which were privileged and better equipped than others which seem to enjoy the same eighteen years after Independence. These are so-called former white-only schools.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

The same schools are also guilty of smuggling in the Afrikaans language through the backdoor as so-called optional languages, while the same option is not granted to other ethnic languages. If one happens to complain, she/he is told to go to Katutura. All these hidden discrimination is unfolding before our own eyes, in fact we are the ones presiding over such injustices.

I can give an example of the Windhoek High School. This school has introduced classes for indigenous languages such as Oshiwambo and Otjiherero.

However, manoeuvres have been made to remove teaching Otjiherero from their school. All sorts of unconvincing reasons were given for this blundered discriminatory move.

On the contrary, children are put in a situation where they have no choice, but to be forced to take Afrikaans. They are confronted with a cunningly created situation whereby you either take Afrikaans or move out of this school.

The seriousness of the situation is that the best schools, both public and private, are practising this hidden agenda. As far as I am concerned, Afrikaans is one of the local languages like anyone of the languages of this country and our children should not be forced to learn that language.

Just imagine, what outcry we could have heard if Afrikaans or German-speaking children were forced in a similar manner to learn Oshiwambo, Damara/Nama or Otjiherero. We are free people in this country and we cannot allow ourselves to be abused in this manner 18 years after Independence.

Let us remember that children during the apartheid era in South Africa were killed by the racist South African regime, because they resisted the imposition of Afrikaans on them. Those who are heading these institutions must stop these manoeuvres. We are not fools. We see and understand what they are up to.

I wonder whether this situation cannot change if we appoint principals from the former disadvantaged groups to head these former all-white schools. Privately owned schools should also not be allowed to practise this discrimination.

Another problem regarding education is the so-called 'School Funds' which are unregulated and uncoordinated.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

The Namibian Constitution, Article 20(2) stipulates: *“Primary education shall be compulsory and the State shall provide reasonable facilities to render effective this right for every resident within Namibia, by establishing and maintaining State schools at which primary education will be provided free of charge.”* I want to emphasise the words, *“free of charge.”*

Yes, it is true that the Government of Namibia does not ask or impose any payment for education at the primary school level. Therefore, as far as the Government is concerned the education at that level is free.

However, the schools do establish school funds which are specifically for the school concerned, to be used by such schools. Granted, these are not determined by the Government. However, it is immaterial that the parent is required to pay money for the school fund which does not go to the Government. For many parents the fact remains that they are paying because their children are going to school. Therefore, for many a parent is perceived that they are paying for the education of their children at the primary school. Whether you term it a school fund or what, it is perceived to be a payment for education of children at the level which ought to be free of charge.

Many argue that the Constitution provides that, *“the State provides reasonable facilities to render effective the right to free primary education.”* It does not stipulate that these facilities should be maintained through school funds which will be paid by the parents.

People out there perceive these school funds as indirect payment for primary education in violation of Article 20(2) of our Constitution. I am just pointing out the perception as it is. Whether it is correct or not, is up to us to argue or explain.

**Tourism:** As far as this issue is concerned, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Environment and Tourism for having worked hard to bring about a meaningful change to the tourist resorts belonging to the State.

It was really a disgrace to see those resorts dilapidating and losing value, but under his leadership, the management of the resorts have succeeded in turning around that industry and making it a pride for all of us.

The areas such as the Etosha Pan are very important facilities where our children can go from time to time and acquaint themselves with our wildlife.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

They are also important resting and recreational places for the citizens of our country. More so, if properly administered and ran, they can attract foreign tourists who will bring to our country the foreign currency which is necessary for economic development of the country.

The only thing that worries me is that with this turnaround strategy, the prices of these lodges have become unaffordable for many Namibians. It is true that the Namibian Wildlife Resorts Company is giving a discount to the Namibian citizens, that is to say the Namibians are paying less when visiting these resorts than the foreign visitors. That is highly appreciated.

However, irrespective of that discount, the prices still remain very high and unaffordable to many Namibians. I am afraid that the Namibians will sooner or later never again enjoy their holidays and see the beauty of these resorts and our wildlife because they simply cannot afford to go to such resorts.

I know it is argued that even now the charges at the resorts may be lower than those charged by private lodges, but Namibian Wildlife Resorts, being a national company should have national obligations to serve the population of this country by charging them affordable fees to enable them to enjoy the beauty of their country.

I seriously urge the Honourable Minister and the management of the Namibian Wildlife Resorts to take this national obligation very seriously and try to introduce tariffs that can be affordable to the people of this country.

The other day I was travelling to the North, I wanted to spend the night at Namutoni. When I heard the fees, I had to check my money, and I had to go somewhere else cheaper.

Just imagine if you have to pay over N\$1,000 per night and you have a family of four and you are paying per person! You cannot afford that and that is the reduced price.

**Land and Land Reform:** We have spoken volumes that the root cause of the war for national liberation was the land. We have also stressed the fact that land is a source for life and wealth. We also put cognisance on the fact that unless and until the land is totally liberated, the freedom and Independence we enjoy will remain meaningless and volatile. Yes, we have

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

Budgeted money to buy land, starting with N\$20 million and now N\$50 million. Painful as it is, the purchase of land was done in good faith, conscious of the fact that if not properly handled, this issue can be a cause for possible conflicts.

It is regrettable that our goodwill has evoked the now owners of land to be speculators and profiteers out of the land they robbed from blacks. The land is becoming unaffordable and depleting the State coffers of badly needed resources. I think the time has come to totally review our policy of land acquisition with a view to stop the abuse of our goodwill.

Apart from the prices of land, we also need to review our resettlement and rehabilitation in terms of start-up capital, training and title to such resettled land. Without Title Deeds, such as leasehold over the land people have acquired, these new farmers are unable to get loans from financial institutions.

It is imperative that those who are resettled on land acquired by the State should be trained in farming methods to enable them to maintain productivity of the land on which they are resettled. Without proper knowledge of modern farming by resettled farmers, the productive farms may be turned into wasteland and unproductive ones. Such situation surely will not help us to achieve the goals of our Vision 2030.

It is necessary to help our resettled farmers in concrete and practical terms. We are told that the colonisers, when they took land from us, settled their people on our land and those so settled were given animals to start with.

I am told there was a scheme whereby they were breeding cattle, let us say a hundred head of cattle which were initially put at the disposal of a new farmer. These cattle were kept for a period of time by a specific farmer. After they have calved and their offspring were... (Intervention )

---

**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? The Honourable Minister mentioned a very important issue and I would like to ask him whether he is aware that the people who support the Government buying land, know exactly that that money will go back into their pockets because they own the land? Are you aware of that, Honourable Minister?

---

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Yes, I was talking about our goodwill being abused and it is abused in so many ways, including that one.

I was told there was a scheme whereby they were breeding cattle, let us say a hundred herd of cattle which were initially put at the disposal of the new farmer. This herd of cattle was kept for a period of time by a specific farmer. After they have calved and their offspring were big enough, that particular farmer kept the offspring and the breeding stock moved to the next farmer. So it went, free of charge. (Interjection). That is when they took the land, including what they called the Anglo-Boers who came here were given farms and they were getting the same incentives.

By doing so the colonisers were empowering their settled farmers.

We can think of various schemes to help our resettled farmers to make them productive. We have to make them productive if we want to achieve our goals of 2030.

**Mining:** Namibia is blessed with an abundance of various mineral resources which, if we had skills and acquired technological know-how, could be one of the richest countries of the world.

Ignorance, therefore, remains enemy number of the Namibian people and is the cause for our alienation to our national resources such as minerals. The other impediment in this regard is the slow development towards taking the ownership to the means of production, in particular mining resources.

It is probably high time for us to have a National Conference on Mining in the same way we had a Land Conference which took place under the chairmanship of Comrade Hage Geingob who was the Prime Minister then. Empowerment of the Namibian people in this field is imperative and we have to plan and work towards such empowerment. Therefore, such a conference may be a good platform to achieve the above.

**Energy:** Our economic development is constantly becoming so volatile and unpredictable due to unstable oil prices. The unpredictability of the oil prices makes our economic planning to be equally unpredictable and unreliable.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

However since Independence we have been talking about the imminent existence of oil or gas in Namibia. Eighteen years down the line no single litre of oil has yet been found.

Expectations and hopes of the people are being raised, only to be dashed all the time. The energy problem is posing a real challenge to all our strategic national development plans, such as National Development Plans and eventually, Vision 2030 goals. I hope we shall discover oil before some of us are dead. I really want to see that day. I was very encouraged by the statement made by the Russian here when he was describing our terrain, that there is no way that there can be no oil there and he was actually talking as if he was not guessing and I want to hear that language.

**Service Delivery in the Public Service:** The core business of any Government is the delivery of service to its citizens. To this end, enabling environment has to exist, one of which is well trained and disciplined civil servants.

There are surely civil servants who are hardworking and make us proud. Because of such dedicated staff, we have achieved the development of our country in the last 18 years, which all of us are proud of.

However, it is heart-rendering that we many a time receive reports of poor service delivery by civil servants, especially in sectors like Health, Civic Affairs, Education and the Police. While we recognise and appreciate the good work which our medical staff is doing, we also have problems which I have to mention here.

We are informed that our health workers are the best paid in the SADC Region. What is then the problem we are unable to resolve that a citizen has to spend almost twelve hours to be attended to at a hospital? We have reports of patients dying in queues while doctors are watching. There are reports that some of our health workers are neglecting to properly carry out their duties, such as making beds, bathing patients or feeding those who are seriously sick.

I remember when the late Comrade Meroro almost cried when a nurse was refusing to give a sick man a pillow which was just next to him there: "*Can you not take it yourself?*" Yes, he told me.

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

We hear that human relations typical of a nurse is declining in our clinics and hospitals. There is surely a lot to be done to improve on our medical services. I know the Minister is serious about these issues and is doing his best, but we need to talk about these issues frankly and openly so that they can be resolved.

Comrade Speaker, while I recognise the heavy load of work that workers at the civic centres have, they have absolutely no excuse to be rude or mistreat their clients. It is not uncommon to come to some office and spend over fifteen minutes waiting for attendance from idle and private chatting officers, sometimes discussing the previous night or previous weekend's happenings.

Therefore, while we are really on track, there are these few people who are making things difficult and we have to deal with them.

We have to deal with them. Otherwise, if we do not do that, we are covering up for them.

**Labour Relations:** I congratulate the Minister of Labour, Honourable Alpheus Naruseb, for bringing into being an improved Labour Law. This piece of legislation will help us to improve the labour relations in our country.

Our efforts to grant freedom to our citizens is being defeated by unemployment and its consequent poverty and destitution. Unscrupulous employers are taking advantage of the desperate situation of our people to exploit them in terms of denying them their basic rights and freedoms, such as belonging to Trade Unions, registering them with the Social Security Commission, pension schemes, etcetera, while others do take any amount of money offered as salaries.

Comrade Speaker, while I congratulate the Minister of Labour for trying to protect the workers and improve their living and working conditions, I also request him to seriously look into the issue of productivity of our workforce.

There are allegations that our workforce is not productive enough to attract foreign investors. It is also claimed that it is so belligerent, to the extent that it scares potential investors from coming to our country. We may look into these issues and see how we can resolve them openly and without fear. (Intervention)

26 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

**HON SPEAKER:** Before I adjourn the House, Honourable Members, I would like to inform the House that a memorial service will be held tomorrow, Thursday 27 March 2008, in honour of the late Honourable John Pandeni at the Roman Catholic Cathedral next to the Catholic Hospital at 18:00. Let us share this information with others.

On that note, the House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.03.27 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
27 MARCH 2008  
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?

---

**TABLING: REPORT ON FIELD VISIT  
TO OTJOZONDJUPA AND KARAS REGIONS**

---

**HON KAIYAMO:** Comrade Speaker, before I lay upon the Table the Report of my Committee, I would like to say a few words about the Report.

Comrade Speaker, I am tabling this Report for information and we would like it to be discussed. After looking at the Budget, most of the issues raised in this Report are addressed in the Budget. I would therefore like to table it for information and ask the different Ministers to have a look at it at their respective meetings.

I now have the honour to lay upon the Table, the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Economic Development on the field visit to Otjozondjupa and Karas Regions.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any further Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Kamwi.

---

27 March 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR KAMWI**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: TUBERCULOSES**

---

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to share some information related to Tuberculosis (TB) as a disease in Namibia.

Tomorrow, 28 March 2008, Namibia will join the rest of the world in commemorating the World TB Day. The theme for this year is, "*I am stopping TB.*" It is, therefore, fitting that I brief the Honourable House on the tuberculosis emergency situation in our country in order to keep ourselves informed as to our responsibilities in playing a role in stopping TB in Namibia.

Last year a total of 15,244 cases of TB were reported, translating into a case notification rate of 722 cases per hundred thousand population. 5,114 out of the total cases reported had infectious form of TB that can be transmitted from one person to another.

The Regions with the highest burden of TB per hundred thousand population are Hardap, Erongo, Karas, Oshikoto, Caprivi and Khomas. Hardap Region, the host for the World TB Day commemoration this year had the highest incidence of TB in Namibia as of last year.

In the 2008 Global TB Control Report, compiled by WHO, Namibia is ranked as the country with the second-highest incidence in the world.

Honourable Members, to date there are 254 cases of multi-drug resistant TB under treatment throughout the country. This is a great concern and is a clear indication that it is only a matter of time before we will have extreme drug-resistant cases, known as XDR Tuberculosis, in Namibia.

In fact, the relevant expert staff within the Ministry is currently in the process of reviewing all cases with drug resistance to verify the situation.

Given the large number of cases, we may well find some incurable XDR TB amongst this group.

27 March 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR KAMWI**

The current TB situation is exacerbated by the challenge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in our country. HIV infection is the major known individual risk factor for the development of TB disease. Last year, 8,186 TB patients, representing 54% of the total notified patients, were tested for HIV and 59% were HIV positive.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, tuberculosis is essentially a disease of poverty which is compounded by overcrowded, poor housing conditions with poor ventilation, alcohol abuse and poor nutrition. What are the implications?

1. TB is an infectious disease, it is primarily an airborne disease, therefore everybody who breathes is at risk.
2. Our current HIV prevalence of 19.7% makes many who are living with HIV vulnerable to TB.
3. As a result, this calls for, amongst others, more human and financial resources and much stronger efforts to implement maximum control measures.
4. The current TB situation has the potential to erase all the gains made in controlling TB thus far.

What has the Ministry of Health and Social Services done in response? A National TB Control Programme was established to implement countrywide TB activities. TB treatment is provided free of charge in all public health facilities and is fully supported by the Government of Namibia.

75% of our TB cases are treated successfully. However, the World Health Organisation recommendation puts the target at 85% or more to fully prevent the transmission of TB. We are working around the clock to get there.

Our national TB response has been expanded to include all stakeholders, but more inter-sectoral collaboration and involvement of our communities is required to multi-sectoral approach and an approach in line with that of HIV/AIDS.

27 March 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR KAMWI**

Considerable bilateral and multilateral support in the fight against TB in Namibia has been forthcoming during the past three years, especially from the US Government, the Global Fund, WHO and UNICEF.

As a way forward, the following is required and will be implemented:

1. Increased funding for the Ministry of Health and Social Services to control TB more comprehensively is required.
2. Community-based directly observed treatment needs to be made available rapidly in all the thirteen Regions.
3. New drugs for second-line treatment and proactive treatment, quality assurance measures must be instituted.
4. Fully equipped and well-staffed isolation facilities need to be established at a number of hospitals throughout the country. We are already in the process of implementing this.
5. Enhanced infection control measures within TB wards and especially at Katutura, Walvis Bay and Oshakati State Hospitals will be implemented. As a first step measure to control this, the staff members, visitors and patients are as from tomorrow banned from using the Katutura TB Unit as a throughway to the main hospital with immediate effect.
6. Stricter quarantine and isolation of multi-drug resistant TB cases will be instituted.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I trust that if you did not know the impact of TB, we now will appreciate that TB is a serious disease which demands our urgent attention and united action. Let us keep this in mind when we commemorate World TB Day during the course of this week. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** You were appointed as Minister to tell us the truth, painful as it is. We are leading in the field of HIV/AIDS and we are leading in the field of TB. That is frightening news. Any further Ministerial Statements? None. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

---

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION  
OF SECOND READING**

---

**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill*

---

**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 yesterday, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. The Minister of Veterans Affairs had the Floor. I revert the Floor back to him now.

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Yesterday I was somewhat towards to the end but not necessarily there, and I ended up by talking about labour issues.

Comrade Speaker, the next topic I would like to talk to is about the **commuter taxi business**. I fully subscribe to our fellow citizens who are striving to create their own jobs, thus making income for their families.

However, Comrade Speaker, commuter taxis have become a source of many evils. They are the main cause of accidents and various crimes by transporting stolen goods, murders and rapes are carried out either by taxis or criminals using services of taxis with conscious connivance of taxi drivers.

I would like to appeal to the Line Ministry to make taxi vehicles' colours identical. This will help to reduce crimes caused by fake taxi drivers. This issue has been discussed so many times, as far back as during the time of late Kapelwa Kabajani and late Hampie Plichta's terms and up to this day taxis have no colours identifying them.

Comrade Speaker, the taxis behave as if the traffic laws do not apply to them. As

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

long as serious steps are not taken, including forfeiture of licences of annoying taxis, this evil will continue.

I think we have talked too much about this issue and we now need the introduction of strict measures urgently.

Comrade Speaker, I will just say two word about the **Ministry of Veterans Affairs** because I will come back to it later when I deal with my Vote.

The Ministry of Veterans Affairs was established on October 4, 2006. It was established in compliance with the order of the President of the Republic of Namibia issued in terms of Article 21(3)(g) of the Namibian Constitution. The Ministry is mandated to initiate, promote and implement programmes and projects that address the socio-economic needs of the veterans for the struggle for the national liberation and keep the history of the liberation struggle alive. I would like to emphasise here that the Ministry was established to initiate, promote and implement programmes and projects that aim to address the socio-economic needs for the veterans of the struggle for national liberation. It is against this background that I appeal to all Honourable Members of this august House to support this new Ministry to enable it to deliver soonest.

The mandate further demands from the Ministry to provide for social pension, grants and houses. In providing houses, we intend to build not only affordable houses but most importantly, standard qualitative houses in which veterans would proudly live comfortably. We would like to have at least three or four different types of the same price so that the veterans can choose which type among these they would prefer. To do this and to minimise cost, we would make use of the SWAPO trained veterans to build these houses.

For those who do not know, Honourable Speaker, SWAPO had a Vocational Training Centre at Sumbe in Angola where bricklayers, carpenters, electricians and plumbers were trained. They are here and in addition to that we trained some at Berg Aukas. They are here, some of them are employed, some of them are unemployed. These are the people we would trace and deploy to build their own houses and for others. A qualified supervisor would be engaged to oversee the building of houses for veterans, who will be the head of this institution.

In other words, what I am saying is that the money given by the Ministry of Finance for veterans of the liberation struggle should be used entirely by the

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

veterans. Therefore, if we have veterans who have skills in building houses, those are the people who should be used to build houses for veterans, not to go out and spend the money intended for veterans on other people.

What the Ministry should do is to organise these people into a structured building unit which will meet all the requirements of law and requirements of a building company or enterprise, empower them with machinery and management and let them build houses for the veterans. By doing so you are:

1. Creating employment for veterans;
2. You are empowering them by giving them the capacity to have a building enterprise;
3. You are using the money of veterans to empower veterans;
4. If there is no more need to build houses for veterans, the enterprise will continue to build houses on their own, because all the instruments will be handed over to them to continue building houses for other people in the market.

We are told that Pandu Hotel in Ondangwa was built with bricks made by female veterans. We have to revive that activity so that we build houses for veterans with bricks made by veterans themselves.

There is no need to pay the money to third parties, we shall have to do everything in such a way that the money goes to veterans all the time. We shall work out business plans for these ideas that would be acceptable according to our laws.

It is against this background that we appeal to the Ministry of Finance to come to our rescue by continuously allocating sufficient and adequate financial resources to enable us to fulfil this national task. And as I have said yesterday, we have a wonderful Minister of Finance, I am sure this would not be a problem.

Now I come to **Fisheries**.

Comrade Speaker, fisheries and marine resources forms one of our renewable natural resources of the country. Fisheries have become one of Namibia's largest contributors to our GDP and the potential to grow is immense. The Government

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

in general and the Ministry in particular must be commended for putting in place management mechanisms to control the exploitation of marine resources. The SWAPO Government has also to be given credit for the Namibianisation of the fishing industry where black economic empowerment found its first expression immediately after Independence.

The other commendable development in this sector is the introduction of aquaculture and its expansion to the wider public ownership. It is creating badly needed jobs and income for the people.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, while we are to be commended on the development and scientific management of our marine resources, two Amendments to developments in this sector must be stressed. The Government has got a promotion for the consumption of fish. It is, however, a big concern that fish and fish products are too expensive, thus rendering it unavailable in the shops.

One has to be conscious that fish comes to the market unprocessed with no value addition, but fish is just as expensive as meat. One does understand the fact that cattle are reared, that they are fed, vaccinated, water is developed and diesel paid for, they are transported to the market, slaughtered and skinned. One may therefore understand the price of it, but fish?

The second problem with fisheries is the treatment of small fishermen who catch fish with hooks. These poor Namibians are conditioned to stringent bureaucracy of permits and are daily harassed. When permits are obtained, they are only for a few months.

This is suppressing entrepreneurship and the creation of self-employment. I would, therefore, call upon the responsible Minister to critically look into the regulation of issuing of permits to smaller fishermen. Of course, I understand some of these things are being abused by particular people from South Africa who come here with *bakkies* and use these hooks to take a lot of fish, but they can be controlled and treated differently from our own people.

Finally, I would like to talk about discovery of new mineral resources.

Comrade Speaker, the discovery of fabulous additional rich mineral resources beneath the soil and opening of new mines in our country in recent years has

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

opened up excellent opportunities for economic development of the country. This economic boom is a positive and welcome development in our country.

However, we must be careful and learn from the history that the discovery of resources in the past, both in Namibia and the southern African sub-continent did not bring about the desired empowerment of the masses of our people and improvement of the condition of life of the majority of our population.

In fact, the truth was that these discoveries and economic boom at that time brought about ascendancy of monopoly finance capital in our countries and above all, enhanced the splitting of our societies into two opposite classes, namely the haves – representing the whites- and the have-nots – representing the black majority.

Financial giants from countries like Britain, USA and others flocked to our countries to dig these mineral resources, backed by powerful apartheid machinery, thus helping the colonial regime to consolidate immense political power at the expense of the indigenous people of our countries.

That was that time. Now we have political power in our hands and must use this political power to make sure that the masses of our people are the beneficiaries of these new discoveries. We must put affirmative action in action so that our people...(Intervention)

---

**HON KAIYAMO:** Comrade Speaker, I am sure the Minister understands perfectly the class analysis. Now he is telling us the haves are representing a certain class. According to Max there are also some of those classes that are represented by Mono Capital, so not all the haves are representing the have-nots, some of those have-nots are representing haves. Which one are you referring to, Comrade Minister?

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I did not really think that I would have indulge in class analysis. What I was trying to say that these discoveries were used in such a way that they split the populations of those countries into two – those who have everything, who were benefiting from these

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIERGAARDT**

discoveries and who were the whites who have captured our countries through colonialism. The rest were receivers of whatever fell from that table and those were the blacks. This is what I am talking about.

Thus we must put affirmative action in action so that our people who have been subjected to poverty and discrimination and denied the right to benefit from the resources of their country, to have access to these newly discovered resources.

As I have said earlier on, our people are alienated from natural resources by, among others, ignorance and resultant slow pace towards taking ownership of the means of production. We must work hard to reverse this trend.

This time around, when SWAPO is in power, the Government of SWAPO, through its prudent policies, will make sure that the Namibian people, particularly those who have been down-trodden and discriminated by apartheid colonialism are benefiting from what this country is capable to offer or produce.

Comrade Speaker, I shall talk more about the Ministry of Veterans Affairs when we come to the Vote concerned. I rest my case and I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Diergaardt.

---

**HON DIERGAARDT:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me from the onset to congratulate our very able and dynamic Minister of Finance, her Deputy and their entire team for a job well done regarding this year's Budget.

Almost all Members who spoke before me on the Budget made mention of the exciting positive aspects of the Budget and I wish to concur with them.

It comes as no surprise that the biggest chunk of the Budget again goes to Education, because our SWAPO-led Government has, over the years, in no uncertain terms, made Education a top priority, for obvious reasons.

**Education** is not a partisan issue, it is a moral and national issue. Men and women of goodwill and generosity should be able to unite around it regardless of political affinities.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIERGAARDT**

I believe we can use Education to enlighten our young and to instil in them self-confidence and a desire for righteousness, fair play and justice. Furthermore, I contend we can use the education Debate not only to assail untenable philosophies and concepts, but to establish universal values and eternal standards which, when accepted for education, must perforce lead on to apply in the political ordering of things.

Education must foster a clear understanding that power lies in the preparation of the mind, body and spirit. It is a vital element in the totality of the human experience.

Through education we must seek to build a society in which every individual can attain the true levels of his or her own potential; a society from which the forces of greed, hate and fear are eliminated, where the quality of the person counts.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as I have said in this august House before, **national reconciliation** is paramount to peace and development. Much has been done at political level to entrench national reconciliation in this great Nation. However, as a member of one of the very large number of Churches in Namibia, I am of the opinion that the Church in general has a very important role to play in this regard. It is, therefore, with pain and shame that I have to admit and paraphrase the words of Dr Martin Luther King (Jnr) and say that *“Sunday mornings are still the most segregated hours in the lives of Namibians.”*

Honourable Speaker, inasmuch as this is a very distressful and depressing situation, I wish to reiterate my appreciation for the very critical role the Church has played in the life of the Namibian Nation, especially during those dark and twilight days of oppression and apartheid. Our Churches must continue to sustain the hope of people who have been tempted to grow despondent.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I still maintain that the Capital Budget can be a vital instrument in the fight against unemployment and in the reduction of poverty, if implemented vigorously and diligently. I, therefore, welcome the assurance given by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the implementation of the Capital Budget will be closely monitored.

**Unemployment** shackles national productivity. Worst of all, it rots the human spirit in as deadly a way as disease ravishes the body. Unemployment and under-employment are twin players which must be tackled and conquered.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIERGAARDT**

While I am on the subject of **poverty**, allow me to say the following: An argument is made that children born after Independence should not be beneficiaries of the Affirmative Action policy of the Government because they were born in a free and independent country. However, Honourable Speaker, the poor child is not only born into poverty but it is also born of poverty, says A. J. Thembela of the former University of Zululand in the Republic of South Africa. Poor children run a risk of infection even before birth. Mothers, themselves exposed during their childhood to poor conditions, come to maturity less well-grown and at greater biological risk as producers of children. These mothers begin too young to produce children, repeat child-bearing too often and often continue too long.

Throughout their pregnancies their health is often poor, their nutrition sub-minimal and their medical care non-existent. Born of such conditions, the children of such mothers are smaller at birth than normal children, generally in poor condition and their illnesses are more frequent, persistent and severe. Because their general lack of nutrition is determined by the mother's health, age, income level, education, habits and attitudes, they may die more easily.

This is a typical township child. We cannot afford to behave as if all our children come from a normal environment and are, therefore, able of coping with life's demands in a normal manner.

Honourable Speaker, the message should thus be clear and simple: Poverty was neither born, nor terminated at Independence.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the topical issues of the day is the **energy situation southern Africa**. We are fully aware of the potential damaging effect the looming power crisis can have on growth and development in Namibia.

Government has transferred hundreds of millions of dollars to NamPower to, N\$250 million 2006/07, N\$500 million 2007/08 and plans to transfer N\$610 million over the next three years – N\$250 million in 2008/09, N\$120 million in 2009/10 and N\$120 million in 2010/11.

Mr Speaker, I am too aware of the looming power crisis and the fact that, if left unattended, the consequences would be too ghastly to contemplate.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIERGAARDT**

However, Sir, I have a few questions: Does NamPower have a costed investment plan that ensures this money is used to properly address the energy crisis in the country and ensures power security? What is the plan and when is construction of new generating plants likely to start?

Is this money to subsidise NamPower's use of coal for Van Eck Power Station or is it for investment? What I cannot understand, Honourable Speaker, why does NamPower go and help establish a new mobile telephone Company when it claims its balance sheet needs strengthening? Is it not possible for the Minister to encourage NamPower to go to the market...(Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** I am sorry to agree with you hundred percent. They still have N\$2 billion in surplus and in addition to that it is N\$600 million. What happened, what did they do with this? Or did it go somewhere else?

---

**HON DIERGAARDT:** Honourable Speaker, I think I am not in a position to reply to that question, because I am not the person to do so.

Honourable Speaker, I am asking if it is not possible for the Honourable Minister to encourage NamPower to go to the market for funds, as he did last year, with its first Bonds? Why does NamPower pay dividends to Government and I understand the rationale behind the paying of dividends, but at this stage, when it is supposed to use all its resources to invest in new generating capacity? Is our regulatory framework clear and credible enough so that private investors are encouraged to come and invest in new generating capacity and make an adequate return on their investment?

My last question in this regard, Honourable Speaker, is: Should Parliament not convene a special session to discuss the power crisis and what Namibia's strategic response to it should be?

Honourable Speaker, a lot has been said about our **youth**. Some of us are flabbergasted by our young. Some of us heave a sigh that we do not understand the young anymore. It is important that we not only understand our young, but that we fully fathom what they are saying.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIERGAARDT**

Aristotle talks of young people hating and loving too much. The real question is, what do they love and hate? I suspect our youth do not excessively love the world created for them and I suspect that they hate many things that are well worth hating and not difficult to hate excessively. I have a hunch that they hate poverty amidst affluence, promises without fulfilment, empty words and empty gestures, hypocrisy in stating one set of values and following another, rhetoric instead of action. These are qualities they often find in the society they are encouraged to become part of.

If we genuinely believe that the future belongs to the young, we shall have to allow them the latitude to make decisions about what is theirs.

Another issue I wish to address is that of **political tolerance**.

We certainly have the right to question the principles, motives, tactics and aims of others. If we claim to be democrats, we do not have the right to impose our opinions, motives, tactics and aims on others.

The SWAPO Party has long accepted that it can never be all things to all people all of the time. As a democratic organisation, dependent on voluntary membership, it can never hope for 100% endorsement or support. In a sense it is good that it should be so, for it allows for an atmosphere of constant questioning and debate and above all, it challenges every individual member of the Party to step forward and be counted.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, let us go forward with a firm commitment to engage vigorously and perseveringly in making Vision 2030 a reality – a reality which will mirror as closely as is humanly possible, what Jesus portrays through the teaching of His parables as the kingdom: the Kingdom where truth, justice and love prevail.

Let us humbly pledge ourselves from day to day to do that which is right, to be fired by our idealism for others and to see the duty we may render to our fellowmen and women and our Nation as the greatest challenge, and esteemed service to our brother or sister as the final reward. I thank you.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Honourable Prime Minister.

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. May I join the previous speakers in conveying my condolences to Honourable Shihepo, the Deputy Minister of Safety and Security for the passing on of his dear sister, and also in the same breath, extend my sympathies to the SWAPO Women's Council and also to the community of Ongwediva. May her soul rest in peace.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate sincerely the brilliant maiden speech of our new Member of Parliament, Comrade Honourable Eunice Iipinge. Welcome! Knowing your interest in the issues related to gender, I have no doubt that you are going to bring value to the Debates in this House.

Honourable Members, Government is comparable to a household when it comes to resource mobilisation and allocation. A prudent household ensures that expenditure does not exceed its income.

Honourable Ms Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila must be congratulated and, indeed, be commended for managing the Namibian household prudently. The robust Budget she presented to this House on March 5<sup>th</sup> 2008, is a pride to all the Namibians, including Honourable Tsudao Gurirab who was trying to make a mockery of it. We must all thank her for a job well done.

Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and Honourable Helmut Angula must be further commended for the extensive and detailed documentation on the Budget they provided to this House. These documents include, the Government's Accountability Report for 2006/07; the Macro-Economic Framework 2008/09 to 2010/11; the Estimates of Review and Expenditure for the years April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011; the Development **Programmes – Estimates of Expenditure; the Medium Term Expenditure** Framework for 2008/09 to 2010/11; and the statement for the 2008/09 Budget. This extensive documentation provides detailed information on the Budget process, resources mobilisation and expenditure, programme implementation, the economic outlook, and sectoral and regional allocations. Honourable Members in this august House will do well if they can spend some time to read these documents. I would also recommend the same to the public-at-large.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

The extensive documentation is a concrete proof that the SWAPO Party Government – not the SWAPO-led Government - has nothing to hide, nothing at all. All the information is there. Together with annual reports from sectoral Ministries, Offices and Agencies, the Budget documents strengthen the capacity of Parliament and the public-at-large to exercise effective oversight function on the executive as provided for in our Constitution.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:14 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, before we went on the time-wasting break...(Intervention)

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Right Honourable Prime Minister, in a democracy where you have division of powers, could the Right Honourable Prime Minister please tell us what is the difference between a SWAPO Government and a SWAPO-led Government that the Right Honourable Prime Minister is talking about?

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** A SWAPO-led Government is a coalition, a SWAPO Party Government is a SWAPO Party Government. That is the difference. (Intervention)

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask a follow-up question? Honourable Prime Minister, why do you call it the SWAPO Party Government while last year the people referred to the mighty SWAPO Party Government? (Laughter) My question is, who took away the mightiness? (Laughter)

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** The mighty SWAPO Government refers to Parliament where SWAPO has got a two-thirds majority. The SWAPO Government refers to the Executive where some Public Servants are not members of SWAPO.

I was saying that the extensive documentation is a concrete proof that the SWAPO Party Government has nothing to hide. The Budget documents strengthen the capacity of Parliament and the public at large to exercise effective oversight function - that is your responsibility – on the Executive as provided for in our Constitution. Therefore, if you are not exercising your oversight function, do not blame the SWAPO Party Government, the documentation is there with all the information.

In this regard, the Office of the Prime Minister will redouble its efforts to ensure that Offices, Agencies and Ministries will develop their strategic plans within the framework of NDP3, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and the annual Budgets. This will enable the Prime Minister's Office to subject the entire Public Service to Performance Management Procedures in order to enhance implementation of Government programmes. The goal is to nurture a culture of efficient, effective and accountable service delivery in the Public Service.

Honourable Members, let me now turn to **the achievement of the SWAPO Government** during the last three years as far as resource mobilisation and allocation is concerned.

The Minister of Finance and her team worked very hard during the last three years in order to achieve fiscal consolidation and prudent expenditure management. This strategy has produced moderate debt levels, expenditure control measures and improved tax revenue collection.

On the **tax revenue collection side**, all components of tax revenue performed above the projections during the Budget period 2006/07. Taxes on individuals, taxes on diamond mining companies and corporate tax on other mining companies recorded a healthy return. Even the State-Owned Enterprises increased their contribution to the State Revenue Fund by a sizeable margin. For example, in 2004/05 the State-Owned Enterprises paid into the State Revenue Fund N\$14,5 million only. However, in the Budget year 2007/08, the State-Owned Enterprises contributed N\$66,2 million to the State coffers. While it is

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

fashionable to vilify the Minister of Finance when she extends financial support to some State-Owned Enterprises, Honourable Members conveniently ignore the contribution of some of the State-Owned Enterprises to the National Budget.

The Minister of Finance further scored highly on her Budget expenditure side. The year-on-year total expenditure increased by more than N\$2 billion in 2006/07 to N\$15,2 billion. At the same time, the overall expenditure as a percentage of the GDP reduced by 0,1%. In the same breath, the overall expenditure was one percent less than the Budget estimate. This situation came about because of improved revenue collection, a measure which required courage and determination on the part of the Minister and her staff.

Overall, Honourable Members, the improved revenue and expenditure led to Budget balances to turn from N\$85 million deficit in 2005/06 into a surplus of N\$2,3 million in 2006/07. This was possible because the Government reversed the trend of rising expenditure as a percentage of GDP by expanding the revenue base and collection. This, you will agree with me, is a feat. Such a feat could only be achieved by a SWAPO Government.

All in all, Government total debt stock was expected to reduce to 21.7% of the GDP at the end of 2007/08 Financial Year.

This brings me now to **the Budget**: Honourable Members, the total National Budget of the Financial Year 2008/09 is N\$22,464,453 000 of which N\$17,400,369,000 is allocation to recurrent expenditure and N\$5,064,084,000 are earmarked for the Public Sector Investment Programme. The Budget increased by N\$4,637,118,000 compared to 2007/08 Financial Year.

The main beneficiaries of the 2008/09 Budget are: Education – N\$4,782,761,000. That is more than 9% of the Budget. Finance – N\$4,149,250,000; Health and Social Services – N\$2,130,873,000; Defence – N\$2,371,780,000; Police – N\$1,289,985,000; Works Transport and Communication – N\$1,027,319,000; Labour and Social Welfare – N\$946,336,000 and Agriculture, Water and Forestry – N\$948,063 000.

Honourable Members, at this point in time I wish to comment on allocations to the Votes of Education and Defence.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

Much has been said within this august House and outside about the performance of our education system. Some of such comments are not well informed. The Honourable Members will recall that the Constitution of our Republic mandates that the children between the ages of 6 to 16 should receive free and compulsory education. In fulfilling this mandate, Government has been investing heavily in Primary Education.

Of the total amount of this year's Budget of N\$4,782,761,000 allocated to the sector of Education, N\$2,216,599,000 is devoted to Primary Education, that is close to half of the Vote of Education.

Meanwhile, allocation to secondary education is N\$815,329,000. The difference between the two amounts clearly shows the bottleneck between Primary and Secondary education provisioning. Whereas success has been recorded at Primary School level in terms of access, the same cannot be said at the secondary level. The problems experienced at the secondary level call for the diversification of post-primary education in order to cater for different learning needs and aptitudes. I am happy to note that this august House recently passed the Vocational Education Act. The Act provides for the expansion of skills development and Vocational Education. We are therefore moving towards diversification of post-Primary Education.

The education system has also experienced low performance rates in certain Regions. Historically, performance differences were determined by urban rural divide. It is not the case now. Rural schools are competing with urban schools, especially those in urban townships.

In order to improve learning success, Government has decided to invest in head-start programmes for the 4-5 year olds. If such programmes are implemented successfully nationwide, learning outcomes are likely to improve over time. Another programme the Sector of Education should consider is Remedial Education (Honourable Dr Ndjoze-Ojo). Remedial Education should target slow learners in order to avoid meaningless automatic promotion or meaningless repetition.

In short, challenges in the Sector of Education are as a result of success breeding other challenges. To enrol half a million children out of a population of close to two million people in schools will surely result in more problems, unlike in the olden days when you had less children in schools. Now you have masses number

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

of children in schools and you expect more problems – high failure rate, repetition rate, dropouts and that type of thing.

Honourable Members, those who see these challenges as a failure of the education system are missing the point, like Honourable Tjihuike, he is missing the point. (Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question, please? You are talking about mass kids entering the Education system and you mentioned a figure of 500,000. If you have 500,000 kids at Grade 1, then obviously you would expect that Government has planned in advance that by the time that these kids are going to be in Grade 12, the possibility of half of these kids reaching Grade 12 is there. How is it possible that we have a problem of space in Schools while you rightly said that at the beginning that we have 500,000 kids? Is that not lack of proper planning by the Ministry of Education?

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** The answer is *no* for the following reasons: Every year in Grade 1 between 80,000 to 90,000 children are enrolled. The Constitution says these children should complete at least six years of Primary Education. In terms of educational design, they should receive 7 years of Primary Education.

Now, the N\$2 billion I am talking about, out of N\$4 billion is going to primary education, they are going from grade 1 to 7 and one should take out N\$2 billion out of N\$4 billion to share the other billion between different programmes – secondary education, Grade 8 to 12, University, Polytechnic, Vocational Education, Teacher Education, name it! Thus the reason why you have these imbalances is because the allocation to different levels of education is not the same. I have tried to inform you, it is not because of lack of planning.

Secondly, in order to implement a programme, first you must have the policy, that policy must be translated into a law and the law comes to Parliament, National Assembly, National Council, and that is why the Vocational Education Act was only passed this year while it has been on the Floor of this House since last year.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

Therefore the diversification of Vocational Education could not take place until that law was out. Now that we have the Act, I expect that the Budget for Vocational Education next year will expand in order to absorb those kids who could not proceed to Grade 8 or to Grade 11 or those who after Grade 12 could not go to the Polytechnic of Namibia or University of Namibia or any other University. That is the challenge we have, the diversification of training opportunities. It is not lack of planning.

If you read the ETSIP document, all those things are there, but you do not read, that is your problem.

I was saying, those who see the challenges in education as the failure of education are missing the point and I hope that Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase is not going to miss the point like Honourable Tjihuike. (Intervention)

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, if I heard you correctly, the Right Honourable Prime Minister says the total school-going population of Namibia is approximately 500,000 of which 80,000 to 90,000 are Grade 1. That is almost one-fifth. Does that mean, therefore, that for the next eleven years only four-fifths are in those classes and if that is the case, what happens in any case to the rest of the 500,000 before they get to Grade 12?

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Member, when your grandchild comes to enrol in Grade 1 in 2008, we expect that child to move to Grade 2 in 2009 and then to other grades subsequently, so that the half a million children we are talking about are the total number from Grade 1 to 12. You will always have an up-surge from the lower grades up and it is very difficult to allow children to repeat because that will result in overcrowded classrooms. I am not quite sure whether I understood your question properly, perhaps I didn't understand. Perhaps I will ask the indulgence of the Chair that you reformulate your question in the ordinary teacher's language, not philosophical language.

---

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Can I say it in French? What I am saying is, if approximately one-fifth of the total school population is in Grade 1, 80,000 to 90,000 of 500,000, it means the approximate 400,000 are spread from Grade 2 to Grade 12 over eleven years. If that is the case, when we get to the top of the pyramid, what has happened to the large numbers in Grade 1? Because as I say, one-fifth are in Grade 1, four-fifths are spread over eleven years, where have all the children gone long time passing?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Can we take fifteen children and demonstrate?

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Member, your arithmetic is not quite up to date. If you were saying enrol 80,000 in Grade 1, but when I go to Grade 12, I find ex-number, if you say that I find x-number of students, then you can ask me what happened to these ones.

Of course, we know that at Grade 10 almost half do not proceed to Grade 11. You know that, it is not a secret you also know at Grade 7 surely some children do not go to Grade 8. I do not know how many because there is no formal examination. Therefore, there is a dropout in the system. It is not as big as it used to be, but still there is a dropout.

What I am saying, when it comes to Grade 10, the only way you can address that problem is to diversify the training opportunities, especially through Skills Development and Vocational Education, so that those children who are not inclined towards academic education can go for skills acquisition. That is the point I am making. We still have to get there.

I know that Honourable Tsudao Gurirab sees only problems all the time. These are challenges and we are addressing them.

Now, having said that on education, this brings me now to the allocation to the **Ministry of Defence**.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

Honourable Members, the Defence Ministry is a new institution in Namibia. The establishment especially of the Air Force and the Navy Wings requires initial heavy investment in these areas. The Navy will help to defend Namibia's marine resources, especially in the Exclusive Economic Zone. The Air Force will boost Namibia's peacekeeping missions with the United Nations and African Union mandates and we have been doing very well there. The Air Force is also crucial to disaster management and mitigation. If we did not have helicopters during this flood crisis, I can tell you we would have been in trouble and would perhaps have gone to Angola to appeal to them, as we did the other day when we went to Zimbabwe. (Interjection)

---

**HON MEMBER:** Do they have helicopters?

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, that time they had. They came to Caprivi and they rescued people there. The point I am making is that capacity must be built so that we can deal with some of these disasters.

This means for the Army you require expensive equipment and the public should understand these facts appropriately. That is why this big allocation to Defence. (Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Mr Speaker, may I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? I highly appreciate the explanation on the need for us to spend billions in our Defence. My question is: If you have a situation where you have a crisis in your Health Department, your Education, as you rightly put it, unemployment and you are talking about spending money because you want to comply with United Nations requirements of sending peace-keeping forces to Liberia and Comoros, what is our priority? Where does our priority lie? Because I believe that once you have got your priorities right, it is only then that in the long run you will be able to meet those requirements you are talking about.

If you spend more money on Defence now and neglect the other sectors that could have kept the system in place, then I think you are missing the point. Where are our priorities? Is it Defence or Education and Health?

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** This is a typical Bantu thinking. Look, I told you that Government is just like your household. It does not mean that if one member of your household is in hospital, you are not going to buy food from whatever shop, you are just going to spend all the money for the member of the household who is in hospital. It does not mean that, the same with Government. You have to try to cover all the competing needs, because they are competing, but the reason why I read out those long figures of billions and millions and thousands and hundreds, was to show you where the money is going and if you combine the sectors of Education and Health, Labour and Social Services, Agriculture, the amount is huge, those sectors are commanding the priority of Government.

We are only saying that since we are starting this institution called the Army, the initial expenditure will be very high. That is what we are explaining. It is just like when you are a good farmer, when you buy a farm, the initial expenditure of stocking that farm is very high, but once you have stocked the farm, you are just going to spend on production. It is the same thing with Government institutions.

Once you have built the Marine base in Walvis Bay or Lüderitz or somewhere else and it has been built there, it is just to maintain it, but initially you must build it. That is what I have explained, and the need to have those two Wings, so that you know why this is so.

I hope that the public will now accept these allocations in their true context.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, the SWAPO Government was able to present a robust Budget, because of successful implementation of a meaningful fiscal policy. That can only be done by the SWAPO Government, not by anyone else.

Having implemented a meaningful fiscal policy, it is the time now, for now the Government feels confident that its management ...(Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I am terribly sorry to interrupt my boss, but I am compelled to interrupt him because there was a rumour that was repeated here and this rumour has been spread on

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
RT HON ANGULA**

Radio Otjiherero by the very Honourable Member, Honourable Tjihuiko and now he is confirming it here.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Let us hear the rumour.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** The rumour is on the question of priorities and the Right Honourable Prime Minister has answered it and I want to add that Honourable Tjihuiko is trying to put the priorities of Defence as if Government is prioritising on Defence, but the overall Budget is spread, just like other Ministries. It is a Point of Information. It is not allowed, read your Rules and procedures.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Can you get to the point?

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** The point is that the money allocated for Defence is covering specific purposes which were explained by the Right Honourable Prime Minister and as for priorities of Government, Government is also spending money on capital projects and other projects. Therefore, the rumour that has been spread by Honourable Tjihuiko which portrays this Government as spending on Defence does not hold any water.

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, I think Honourable Tjihuiko got the message, but one Herero friend of mine who listens to the Otjiherero radio regularly told me that they have a special name for Honourable Tjihuiko on that radio and the name is "*Mr Misinformation.*" (Laughter) (Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, it is quite interesting to note that even the Right Honourable Prime Minister is getting into this rumour thing. If the

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MOONGO**

Deputy Minister was saying that Honourable Tjihuiko was on the Radio, saying “*bla-bla-bla*”, that is a factual statement. Now the poor Honourable Deputy Minister has stated, “*that I have heard a rumour.*” There is no name and the Honourable Prime Minister has fallen into that. That is the problem, a rumour is a rumour if nobody is asking you to confirm or to deny it. I will wait until somebody asks me whether I can confirm or deny it. Thank you.

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** No, I never said a rumour, I said I was informed by a colleague who regularly listens to the Otjiherero Radio and they have decided to give you a special name in Otjiherero, but it translates into English like “*Mr Misinformation*”. (*Omupurukise*)

Honourable Members, I was saying that at this point in time, Government is confident that its management of revenue mobilisation is sound. Now it is time to deliver goods and services to the people. This is the political meaning, Honourable Members, of the 2008/2009 Budget, goods and services to the people. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Prime Minister for his contribution. Honourable Moongo.

---

**HON MOONGO:** First of all allow me to congratulate the Minister of Finance on the somehow reasonable amount of money allocated to Defence. I hope it will now advance the ordinary soldiers who are receiving little money and have no benefits. WASCOM was not implemented in the Force and I hope with this allocation it will be implemented. (Intervention)

---

**HON DR GEINGOB:** On a Point of Information. When I was out for tea-break, one Colleague of mine who speaks Damara told me that the Debate has been very high level since yesterday afternoon. They have been complaining that Parliament is very, very low in Debate and the SWAPO side did heed that call. I am appealing to the other side to heed that call.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MOONGO**

**HON MOONGO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, distinguished listeners the ticking of the time bomb has started. The unnatural disaster of water flood from Angola is one time bomb which destroyed the lives of many Namibians. It destroyed the businesses and economy. The schools and hospitals were closed, agriculture and cultivation of mahangu was totally halted. There will be a lack of food this year.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, did the Government investigate as to what had happened, whether the flood was caused by global warming or it was deliberately done from the side of Angola who diverted the water in the direction of Namibia? If it was done deliberately, then the Government needs to demand compensation on behalf of the Namibian people. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information, I want to assist Honourable Moongo. The floods ravaging our country is not because of the Government of Angola has deliberately done something, it is purely heavy rains, natural floods. That is just to assist the Honourable Member, it has nothing to do with the Government of Angola, it is a natural catastrophe. Thank you.

---

**HON MOONGO:** The hearsay is that the Government of Angola is building a bridge and caused the water to go in the direction of Namibia. That is the hearsay. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, in your Geography lessons, if you had any, have you ever heard of the Cuvelai water course system? Have you ever heard about that system?

---

**HON MOONGO:** Yes, if you would have patience I will come to that point.

They were supposed to consult with the Namibian Government first, therefore I propose that the Government establishes an emergency committee to investigate

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MOONGO**

the true cause of the flood.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if the Government plans to prevent future flooding, they already failed in Mariental and failed already in Caprivi, are they now planning now to halt it on the border at Oshakati? (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is speaking on the Floor of this Honourable House and his speech can be understood by people who are not properly informed to mean what he is saying now. Honourable Moongo knows that Angola is the lifeline of our population, especially those who live in the North. The water they drink anywhere and everywhere comes from Angola. *Ikundu*, of course, I know is another matter. That water comes from Angola the same way this water is also coming from Angola. If Angola stops that water, there will not be any life at *ikundu* and other places. Please stop blaming the Government of Angola for nothing.

---

**HON MOONGO:** I propose huge; bridges to be built in the Cuvelai River to allow much water to flow. The river must be enlarged to allow much water to flow freely to the south. Sand must be brought to every affected community to the level of the tar road. I am speaking as an affected person. The valleys and pans in Oshakati, Ohangwena and Oshikango should be filled in with sand, and walls must be built to prevent the water entering low-lying residential areas, towns and villages. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** May I ask a question? I want to follow. Honourable Member, did I hear you correctly in order to avoid these floods we must build bridges? Does it mean that the water will flow on the bridge to go somewhere else?

---

**HON MOONGO:** Colleagues, I am coming to that point. This must be done with the help of the UN because this is a natural disaster and the Namibian

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MOONGO**

Government alone cannot afford it. Therefore we need assistance from the world and friendly Governments and countries to prevent more floods in the future. (Intervention)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I am pleading with the Honourable Members, you have enough time, you have enough hours on your side as the Ruling Party. Let the Honourable Member finish what he wants to say and you can take the Floor afterwards.

---

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a deadly hidden agenda or trick after the flood. Listen well. The municipalities of the affected towns have a plan to remove everyone who is affected by water in the small towns and to take their plots so that the municipalities can sell it to the rich and big companies and earn much money. (Interjections). This is a warning to you, I know what I am talking about.

---

**HON DR ANKAMA:** On a Point of Information. I think the Honourable Member, Honourable Moongo, is misinforming this House and the Nation at large. Mr Moongo is well aware, I think he has heard of what is being done by the task force, but he is then trying to tell the story the other way around. He is, therefore, misinforming this House and the Nation and he should not be allowed to do so.

---

**HON MOONGO:** You have Councillors in that area, you can ask them whether I am talking the truth. Therefore, you lack information. The use the flood as a scapegoat to become richer and relocate the poor communities to become poorer. Some of the affected plots are at good strategic places for business. I, therefore, condemn it in the strongest terms. Let everyone vacate on consent and not be forced or be paid less money while the municipalities become rich by selling their plots to the richer. This is another exploitation and corruption.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, if the flood was caused by natural phenomena, then the international community and the friendly Governments have to assist. (Intervention)

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MOONGO**

**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member two questions, please? Honourable Member, it is a very interesting Debate, can you tell us from where were the snakes in the water released and secondly, what proposals do you have for the Government to make sure that the snakes will go back where they are coming from?

---

**HON MOONGO:** As a community member I know there are a lot of snakes in the forests. Of course, during the floods the snakes move to dry places and they are leaving their holes and swimming around. This is natural. They are also looking for a dry place to live.

We are all aware where the water comes from, but did the Government investigate where the water is going? We know the water comes from Angola, but you never investigated where it is going, because the big *Ponono* and *Inakulu's*, the pans are about to become full and if the floods return, it will be stronger and more dangerous and destroy everybody.

I appeal to the Government to, as a matter of urgency, do something as the water is about to return now and when it returns, it will have wipe everybody.  
(Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Information. The information given in this august House by Honourable Moongo about the Regional Council and their so-called hidden agenda has no truth whatsoever and we dismiss it with the contempt it deserves.

Furthermore, on the issue of the Disaster Management Unit, the Regional Councils have Management Units who are coordinating with the Office of the Prime Minister's Disaster Management Unit and again, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Comrade Negonga, is at the moment coordinating on the ground with other Government officials, investigating and coordinating the Government teams on the floods there. Whatever Mr Moongo is saying has no basis whatsoever.

---

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MOONGO**

**HON MOONGO:** The Colleagues should only go and investigate where the water goes. The pans are already full, my dear, the water is already standing and there is no more space where to go. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Moongo, as you are an expert on floods and the returning water, can you explain to this House the concept of gravity?

---

**HON MOONGO:** I want to address the danger of the water and not be forced to address that point. Honourable Members, if this water could flow to the Atlantic Ocean it would be better, but if it only goes to the big lakes of *Ponono* and others, those pans are already full. Therefore, the water will return and where will it go? It will wipe out everybody. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Speaker, I am rising on a Point of Order. I realise that the Honourable Member there is an orphan, his colleagues have deserted him. If that is the case, I am looking at our Rules. If what I have just said is true, then I take it that the Honourable Colleagues from the DTA do not want to associate themselves with the statement that the Honourable Member is making. Again, if that is correct, is it not perhaps in order that the Honourable Speaker invokes Rule 108(g) of the Standing Rules which says that "*it is forbidden for an Honourable Member to make a statement unless that statement can be authenticated by facts*". If the Honourable Members of the DTA do not want to associate themselves with what the Honourable Member is saying, is it not in order to invoke that Rule?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I think the Honourable Member should be allowed. Continue.

---

**HON MOONGO:** For your information, my Colleagues did not desert me. As you know and everybody knows, this is the commemoration

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MOONGO**

day of Chief Clemens Kapuuo and there are a lot of functions which we are preparing. I think you get my message.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the other time-bomb is **lack of tolerance** of some of the Parties in Namibia that has already started to show its ugly face in the by-elections in Omuthiya and Eenhana – and they know who they are. I appeal to them that Namibia is a country of rule of law and if you do not want to obey law and order, you will not be voted for. I appeal to the voters not to vote for those power-hungry Parties with lack of tolerance, namely the SWAPO Party. I think your time is limited because you have already shown your ugly face before the forthcoming national election. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is talking about tolerance, I wonder whether the Member is aware of the fact that some of us have suffered at the hands of DTA. My parents, because I happened to be a SWAPO member, were physically terrorised during the elections and told that we are going to swallow the flags of SWAPO which were hanging at our house. Is that the terrorist you are talking about?

---

**HON MOONGO:** I was not part of DTA that time, but you can listen to me as a cadre. I do not tolerate nonsense because when SWAPO came in, how many people did you kill on the DTA side? How many of them? (Intervention)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Moongo, I think you have to continue with the flood information.

---

**HON MOONGO:** The DTA is not that cowardly not to face you, they will face you if you provoke them. They will face you all the time. (Intervention)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** We will do that when elections come. Continue.

---

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MOONGO**

**HON MOONGO:** I appeal to especially SWAPO to obey the Code of Conduct that you signed, that you will not harass, you will not intimidate any other Party. You must obey it! You know that regulation very well. We want you to commit to it. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, is it allowed for a Honourable Member to engage this House through noise pollution?

---

**HON MOONGO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank the Minister who allocated little money for the Grade 10 learners to repeat, but according to my information, you will only allow the under 16 to repeat. What about those students who are over 16? You sent them home not to have a future. Are they also included? I hope the Minister will answer me. I appeal to the Minister that those students older than 16 also be allowed to repeat. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** On a Point of Information, Honourable Moongo. The age is not a factor in repetition and my Minister actually said that right here in this House.

---

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Members, State cleaners, Party secretaries and messengers working here at Parliament are underpaid. How on earth can you survive on N\$1,000 per month, a man with a family? How can you really survive on N\$1,000 per month? They are underpaid and I appeal to the Government to look into their benefits and to increase their salaries, so that they could also benefit. Even N\$3,000 is better than N\$1,000. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Is it allowed for the Honourable Member to appeal to the institutions which do not control Parliament? Did he appeal to the Parties itself to pay these people properly?

---

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MOONGO**

**HON MOONGO:** Because some of the Colleagues here are talking about their own salaries and their own benefits. I am not afraid to talk because I do not steal, I work for it and I was elected by the people to represent them and not to be hungry all the time. Therefore, I appeal to you, those who are uncomfortable with their own salaries and the salaries of the cleaners and messengers at the Parliament should be increased. (Interjection)

---

**HON MEMBER:** How much is it that you are getting?

---

**HON MOONGO:** You mean Uumkumwe? Uumkumwe is now under water and I do not want to answer you.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the high charges of newly proclaimed towns are exploiting the poor communities to the extent that they become poorer and have to vacate their only homes in the towns. The municipal charges of Ongwediva and Oshakati are higher than that of the City of Windhoek and Swakopmund. Imagine such small proclaimed towns such as Ongwediva having higher charges than Windhoek and Swakopmund! They are looking for fat salaries, which I totally condemn.

Honourable Speaker, imagine that you charge a person when the plot is green. Even if it is not green, you are charged. You need a garden at every household. Even if you are poor, unemployed, you are charged N\$300 for gardening. (Interjection)

---

**HON MEMBER:** Who is charging?

---

**HON MOONGO:** The municipality! That is why I am saying you do not know your own house. I must teach you what your house looks like. I am saying it is a shame to overcharge the poor people.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON RIRUAKO**

If you elect SWAPO in Omuthiya and Eenhana, they will also be overcharged. The people of Omuthiya must be warned that those SWAPO Councillors will become richer and richer and the people will become poor. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. I was trying to look at these Rules, but I do not see where it is mentioned that we can campaign in this House. Are we allowed to campaign in this House? The elections are tomorrow and can we all now have our rallies here?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Campaigning itself is not allowed.

---

**HON MOONGO:** I think my Colleague accepted that I am politically man enough and sufficient to handle all of you. Thank you very much.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Chief Riruako.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Mr Speaker, I have to ask this House to allow me to express myself on the National Budget which I regard as an essential Debate, because to our membership in the Common Monetary Area, the Namibian Government has been left with its fiscal policy as the only tool to effect the allocation of scarce resources in the economy.

Mr Speaker, let me start with commending the Honourable Minister of Finance for having seriously taken some of the concerns I raised in my comments on the Budget statement for the Fiscal Year 2006/07. For instance, I have noted that some of the critical institutions, such as AgriBank, was just left in debts. However, I am a bit disappointed that no specific amount of resources has been devoted to these institutions which experienced financial problems. However, this time around the Honourable Minister has devoted funds to these institutions.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON RIRUAKO**

Having said that, Honourable Members of this House, I would like to draw your attention to the theme of the Budget speech, namely "*Pro-poor, Pro-Growth.*" With the current high level of Value Added Tax (VAT), Botswana 10%, South Africa 14%, I think your objective of reducing poverty would not be easily achieved. This is mainly due to the fact that poor people spend more than 80% of their income on consumable goods. You cannot deny that.

Mr Speaker, in the same vein, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Finance that the corporate tax in Namibia remains very high compared to Botswana's 25% and South Africa's 29%, with whom we are competing for foreign investments. However, it is worth to note that there is an increase in the tax threshold from N\$24,000 to N\$36,000, which means that people earning up to N\$3,000 per month will no longer be required to pay income tax. I am appealing to the Honourable Minister to still increase the tax threshold from N\$36,000 to N\$40,000.

Furthermore, the Honourable Minister should also be commended for using the excess revenue in such a way that the debt stock has been reduced to a lower level by HIPC standard. That is commendable. Nevertheless, the continuous pumping of millions of Namibian Dollar into Air Namibia, which is suffering from financial losses every year, is not economically viable. It is high time for all of us to find lasting solutions to the Air Namibia situation. One possible solution available to the Government is to sell some shares of Air Namibia to a well-established airline. That would serve the same purpose.

Mr Speaker, it is high time for the Government not to add some property for national pride but to consider economic viability of its politics.

My other question is the pumping of more than N\$610 million into NamPower. There was more than N\$2 billion Budget surplus. The Honourable Minister said he was going to explain on that and I expect that to happen. Then why are we still pumping more money in? Is it going to Zimbabwe? That is a question.

In the same vein, in order to enable the Disaster Management Unit to efficiently take care of its mission, it must be adequately funded to prevent it from falling victim to a situation such as rotten food donations. People give us rotten food. Let me put it this way, some rotten food was in Caprivi and the officials put it in some warehouse. (Interjections).

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON RIRUAKO**

Mr Speaker, it is really interesting to note that significant public funds will be devoted to unlocked, untapped opportunities, especially in agriculture and tourism. One of the projects that we have embarked upon more than five years ago is the Green Scheme. The results of that Green Scheme have not been satisfactory in terms of its contributions to the domestic consumption as well as exports, with expectations of the table grape in the southern part of our country. My humble advice is that the respective Ministries should do a proper research on why the Green Scheme has not significantly contributed to the reduction of poverty in rural areas.

The Namibia Tourism Board is not marketing very well. Countries that are going to take part in the year 2010 World Cup, the Tourism Board should put some advertisements on CNN, CFI, BBC, etcetera. The other countries do that and you look at that and Mr Prime Minister, every day your eyes are on that but you do not even advise your colleagues. Why?

I have also noted that some significant amount of resources have been allocated to the Health and Education sectors, as has been the case in the past. I am a bit disappointed by the performance of these two sectors in terms of service given to the Nation.

In the health sector, as I cited in my contribution last year, lack of medicine, in the rural areas. For instance, in the remote rural area there is only one nurse at a Clinic. If the nurse falls sick or is not working during the weekend, the needy citizens have no medical staff who can attend to their problems.

Mr Speaker, I also want to say at this point that due to too low remuneration for medical personnel, the work ethic of these people have gone down. The allocation of resources within the health sector should address this critical problem and you ought to know of this, Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, the Minister has again informed us that the Budget is aimed at developing the rural areas. My comment of last year is still valid, I am not going to withdraw that. Regional Councils function on Budgets of the Line Ministry and do not have adequate resources and power to implement programmes that will develop the rural areas and subsequently, reduce poverty. They do not have a free hand, they are just cohorts. I am sorry about that. If you do not have money, you must have a programme to advise them how to do it.

27 March 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON RIRUAKO**

Lastly, but not least, we have also learned that revenue will be declining due to the reduction of taxes on international trade that will start from the various free trade initiations, including SADC Free Trade Area which is expected to be in place by 2010. My main concern is that the Honourable Minister did not inform us how the Government is going to cope with this challenge. That is another query.

In conclusion, the creation of the Financial Ombudsman's Office as at present the banks are raping the ordinary man on the street, for instance banks in SADC are the only ones which charge people when they deposit money in their accounts. I hope this office will look at this matter. Why I am saying that, once you deposit your money in the bank they charge you, your money reduces every day and you as lawmakers allow that to happen, as you allow the lawyers to do what they want in this country. You do not have to allow even the lawyers to change your own decisions and ideas. You know what I am talking about, they rob you, they rob me, they do not know who is who, Member of Parliament or member of public. Everyone is equal. They do what they want with our money, they are the richest people here, the banks. We do not deny this, but decisions and ideas to other people.

These things happen every day but we do not care. We make a law to be obeyed, not to be changed by any individual outside this House. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I still have some announcements to make, Honourable Members. I would like to inform the House that the memorial service in honour of the late Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Honourable John Alfons Pandeni, will be held tomorrow, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008, in the Parliament Gardens as from 14:00. All Members and family members, friends and neighbours are invited to be there.

Tomorrow, according to our tradition, is a regular working day for this House. We are still debating the Budget, but just looking around in the House I am not encouraged that we will have the necessary quorum tomorrow. Now, there are so many things happening. For all the good reasons some Honourable Members would feel compelled to be absent, so is it the sense of the House whether I should count on you to be here 09:00 tomorrow morning or what do you propose, Right Honourable Prime Minister?

27 March 2008

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I am advised that perhaps to be on the safe side, why do we not adjourn up to Tuesday?

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Honourable Speaker, I am mindful of what the Right Honourable Prime Minister is saying, but there are some of our Parties that are supposed to contribute to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill tomorrow. If we do not sit tomorrow, are we going to have a chance at another time?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** The decisions are within your hands, Honourable Members, that is what the Whips are here for. We should let them meet and advise us accordingly. On that note the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2008 at 14:30.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.04.01 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
01 APRIL 2008  
WINDHOEK**

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? Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services.

---

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2005/2006 OF THE  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

---

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report 2005/06 of the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

I so Move.

---

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the Report, Honourable Minister. Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Dienda.

---

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

---

**QUESTION 47:**

**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare the following:

01 April 2008

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON DIENDA/HON TJIHUIKO**

In the Government Information Bulletin of March 2008, the Honourable Minister in an interview on the progress of gender equality is quoted as follows:

*“The Opposition, such as the CoD, came in Parliament with more women, but at the moment the Party has only one woman representative. Other Political Parties do not have any women representatives in Parliament.”*

I am very disappointed.

1. Since the Honourable Minister has not corrected her statement, who between Honourable Schimming-Chase and myself is a woman?
2. Is Honourable Tjombe in the understanding of the Honourable Minister also not a woman?
3. Since the Minister in an answer to the question whether women in Parliament contribute to the Debate in the House, where the Honourable Minister talks about the work done by women in the Executive only, is the Minister aware of the fact that women regularly put questions, table Motions and participate at all times in the Debates in this House?

---

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the questions. Further Notice of Questions? Honourable Tjihuiiko.

---

**QUESTION 48:**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on April 10, 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security the following questions:

1. Would the Honourable Minister confirm or deny what was reported in the *Namibian* newspaper of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, that there is a serious tribal mistrust between local police and villagers in Bethanie?

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

2. Is it true that the true causes of frustration of the villagers there are the language barriers, as 98% of the officers based at the village are Oshiwambo-speaking Namibians while 95% of the village residents speak Nama?
3. Can the Honourable Minister explain in simple English to this august House your recruitment, selection and appointment system of your Ministry in terms of equitable distribution of opportunities?
4. Can the Honourable Minister provide this august House with detailed information, case by case, of the following people who claim to have been beaten up by the Police Officers in Cells: Moses Julius, Bruce Fredrick, Wilfred Hanse, Gert Boois, Pieter Robert Kruger, Marvin Goliath, Manfred Swartbooi and Marvin Goliath.
5. I was wondering Honourable Minister, whether it is coincidence or a well-calculated Government strategy to promote one language group at the expense of the others. Recently it was reported that even new cleaners employed in Government Ministries in the South are from one language group. Now, 98% of the Police Officers at a place like Bethanie are also coming from the same language group. What is going on, Minister?

---

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Table the questions. Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

---

**RESUMPTION OF  
SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

---

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 on Thursday, 27 March 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any further discussions?

---

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

**HON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Firstly, let me express my profound sympathy to SWAPO, the bereaved families as well as to the CoD and the bereaved family in the case of the first bereaved family of our dear revolutionaries of the liberation struggle, the late Comrade John Pandeni as well as Comrade Nico Bessinger and Comrade Julia Nepembe, in the case of the CoD, our sympathy to the bereaved family of the Honourable Reinhardt Kala Gertze, Member of this Honourable House.

Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. Once more it is this time of the year when the Executive must account to the people of Namibia the result of the programmes they were entrusted with by the Nation during the course of the Financial Year. As usual the process has two formats, namely the reporting on past performance and motivation for the new request. In motivating for the new request, it is necessary to be informed of the current global trends that are likely to influence the local conditions. These conditions determine the kind of decision to be taken by the decision policy-makers. Invariably these decisions affect the communities. Hence the keen interest of the populace in the Budget Debate.

Let me congratulate my Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Finance, for a job well done in the planning and execution of this Budget for the current Financial Year which, indeed, have gone in the history of this country as being a Budget for the future.

What are the global economic trends that impact on our domestic socio-economic conditions? What comes to our more foremost is the US economic slowdown. It is common knowledge that diamond prices are largely determined by American consumers, the largest buyers of our precious stones. Currently the US economy is not doing so well, thus a slump in diamond prices.

The continued wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have led to the spiralling of world oil prices to unprecedented highs thanks to the insecurity of supplies around and from the Persian Gulf area. The negative effect of the skyrocketing oil prices on the world economies, not to talk of Namibia, is catastrophic and we all bear witness to it.

The continued stalemate in the WTO Doha Round negotiations; its aftermath, the constraints on market access to poor developing countries like Namibia, and the

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

notoriously large trade distortions caused by agricultural subsidies provided by wealthy nations are among the worst nefarious elements of globalisation. The rush by economic super powers of today to redraw the world map and gulp up their sphere of influence a la 15<sup>th</sup> and/or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, can be attributed to the failure of the Doha Round.

The imposition of interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAS) by the European Union must be seen in this light. The challenge to the developing world is how to forge unity with strength to resist their absorption into the bellies of the empires without risking world peace and especially their own sovereignty.

The only good news is that on the global scene, emerging economies are rising on the horizon. The Braz-Indi-China phenomenon, is exerting unprecedented economic influence on a global scale. The up-scaled demand for carbon fuel, mineral energy and base metals have not only placed Africa once more in an enviable position, but are helping the continent to get out of its long slumber, thanks to Braz-Indi-China economic growth.

**International Economic Situation:**

As a fairly free market-oriented economy, Namibia's economic activities and growth prospects are highly dependent on export of raw materials and import of consumer goods. Thus the global economic situation will impact on the former. After several years of robust growth, the world economy is now facing some serious challenges in sustaining its brisk pace of growth.

The growth of the world economy slowed from 5 percent in 2006 to 3.9% in 2007 and it is expected that the growth will slow down further in 2008. Namibia's major trading partners are South Africa, the European Union, the United States of America, China, Japan, India and a few other Asian countries. In 2007, China, India and South Africa grew by 11.4%, 8.9% and 4.9% respectively, while the USA, Euro Area and Japan experienced modest growth rates of 2.2, 2.6 and 1.9% respectively. The economic growth is decelerating in the USA, Euro area and Japan while it is being sustained in emerging economies, that is China and India.

It should be noted that Sub-Saharan Africa experienced an economic growth of 6% in 2007, while Namibia's GDP growth was 4%.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

The slowdown in the USA started in 2005 and now the USA is said to be in a recession. The slow growth in that country's economy is adversely impacting on growth in the Euro area and Japan. In particular, the weakening banking sector in the Euro area is an added concern. Recently, the US federal Reserve cut interest rates substantially a few times to cope with the situation and this was followed by the Central Banks of the Euro Area, Canada and New Zealand. It is expected that pumping more money into the domestic economies will stimulate the global economy as well. It is also expected that increasing loans to the banks will trickle down to the non-bank financial intermediaries that are really at the core of the problem.

Also the USA introduced substantial tax cuts to stimulate the economy. However, continued depreciation of the US Dollar against other major currencies, growing trade imbalances, increasing oil and basic metal prices might threaten the sustainability of global economic growth in the short and medium term.

The impact of the turbulence in the USA economy and the Euro Area and on the Namibian economy may be significant. First, the **consumer spending in the USA and the Euro region** on the basic goods such as meat, fruits and clothing will reduce. Therefore, Namibia's exports to the USA and the Euro Area might be affected. Second, the **demand for our mineral exports** is stable and no significant impact could be anticipated, thanks to growth in the emerging economies. Third is the **foreign aid**. If the recession in the USA deepens, a reduction in foreign aid may be expected.

**Official Development Assistance:**

The present landscape of Official Development Assistance – in Spanish ODA and in English ODA – is based on the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002 at Monterrey Summit in Mexico, which marked a milestone in International Development Cooperation. The Monterrey Consensus resolved to address the challenges of financing for development around the world, particularly in the developing countries. The main goals of supporting the developing countries were to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote environmentally sustainable development as the world advances to a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system. The donors reaffirmed their commitment at the conference to the United Nations target of 0.7% of the Gross National Income (GNI) to be provided as Official Development Assistance and this commitment gathered momentum at the G8

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

summit held at Gleneagles, Scotland, in 2005. Reaching this target is of critical importance to achieving the goals of Monterrey Consensus.

The net ODA disbursements by Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD/DAC) Development Assistance Committee member countries declined by US\$3 billion in 2006 and were projected to decline further in 2007. It should be noted that Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden have reached the UN target of 0.7% of GNI, while ODA from the largest donors, such as the USA and Japan, fell considerably.

Accordingly, aid from the USA aid fell from 0.22% of GNI in 2005 to 0.17% of GNI in 2006 ; and Japanese aid fell from 0.28% to 0.25% of GNI over the same period. The overall result is that the average aid declined from 0.33% of GNI in 2005 to 0.30% of GNI in 2006.

A noteworthy feature of the changes in international development cooperation is that, although the DAC member countries continue to account for roughly 95% of the total ODA, aid flows from the emerging economies (China, India, Brazil, Chile, Malaysia and Thailand) have increased rapidly in recent years. This can be attributed to the South-South Cooperation. This trend is expected to continue in line with the rapid and stable economic growth in the emerging economies particularly in China and India. Furthermore, it should be noted that the African continent is a primary destination for these aid flows and Namibia will continue to benefit substantially from development cooperation with these emerging economies, particularly from China.

Another aspect is that ODA from the emerging Nations has, so far, been noticeably oriented towards stimulating productive activities, in stark contrast with the framework underlining the ODA of DAC donors. Funding from the DAC members is disbursed under the poverty reduction and growth facilities, with governance conditionalities and strong orientation towards social spending within the broader context of the Millennium Development Goals.

**The role of the emerging economies:**

The countries outside North America and Europe have grown rapidly over the last decade. China, India and Brazil host 2.5 billion people or 40% of the world's population. These emerging markets are no longer solely dependent on selling things overseas because of growing domestic demand. In terms of the

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

Purchasing Power Parity GDP, China and India are ranked second and third in the world. In other words, China, India and Brazil share 25% of the world GDP, while they account for around 40 percent of the world exports. In 2007, economic growth in China was 11.4%, the fastest growth in eleven years, while India's economic growth was 8.9%. Economic growth of these two countries will be stable in 2008.

Thus, these emerging economies are important for Namibia for several reasons.

First, there are ample opportunities to increase trade with China and India. If SACU becomes a free trade area with MERCOSUR (Common Market of the South-America comprising Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay as full members and Chile, Bolivia and Venezuela as associate members), it will help not only to diversify our markets but all the export products.

Second, Namibia should reduce its reliance on the Euro markets, since Economic Partnership Agreement or interim Economic Partnership Agreement will constrain our economic growth and development, due to non-competitiveness of the Namibian products compared to the European products. In this respect, the emerging economies are good prospective markets.

Third, due to the steady growth of these economies, particularly China and India, Namibia can expect to obtain increased grants, concessionary loans and export credits from them. This is vitally important since the traditional donors are reducing and in some cases withdrawing their grant assistance to Namibia.

**The oil price:**

Soaring oil prices affect the health of the world economy, particularly oil importing developing countries. The oil price was around 12 US Dollars per barrel in early 1999 and it rose to 22 US Dollars per barrel in 2003 and to 94 US Dollars in January 2008. Now it is 107 US Dollars per barrel and it may increase further, in spite of the fact that the US economy is weakening further.

The global oil supply is estimated at around 73 million barrels per day, but the demand is around 88 million barrels. The increasing demand for oil as well as cuts production has affected the present price level. The global oil consumption climbs by 3.5% yearly because of the buoyant economic growth in China and

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

India. Also, increasing oil prices have increased investments in bio-fuels, such as Jatropha, sugarcane and palm oil.

With rising oil prices, the most vulnerable countries are those with low economic strength and high oil dependency. If oil prices remain high, it poses an unforeseen challenge to the achievement of the MDGs, the overarching goal, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The threat to the MDGs depends on the duration of prevalence of high oil prices and on the level at which the prices stabilise. In fact, the oil price was US\$25 per barrel when the MDGs were formulated.

Thus, the increasing oil prices have already slowed industrial production in many countries. A highly energy dependent economy of Namibia will face economic slowdown through rising inflation if the current high price prevails for a longer period.

The major policy issue for Namibia is its inability to cushion the adverse impact of the change in terms of trade shock due to increasing import prices of oil and food. In the absence of additional concessional assistance, the finances for the adjustments to the soaring prices would have to come from reductions in Government expenditures in real terms. In other words, the adjustments would most probably require a combination of fiscal tightening and depreciation of the Namibian Dollar. These measures would be difficult to adopt because any policy measure to contract the economy will affect the growth targets of the NDP3, including the employment and poverty targets.

Rising food prices in the world market and its impact on developing countries is a matter of great concern. Namibia imports nearly 70% of its food requirements. According to the World Food Programme, annual food price increases around the world account up to 40%. One of the main reasons is the rising demand for animal feed to meet the increasing demand for meat from the prosperous populations in China and India.

Conversion of land for bio-fuels, such as Jatropha and palm oil, reduces food production. Another factor contributing to the rising food prices is production subsidies of developed countries that discourage food production of the developing countries. Further, unprecedented flooding in West Africa, prolonged droughts in Australia, and unusually severe snowstorms in China have impacted enormously on the food production.

With the backdrop of increasing food prices, high dependency on food imports, recent conversion of land for bio-fuel crops, such as Jatropha and cotton, the floods and droughts are matters of serious concern for Namibia, because a considerable part of the Namibian population can be classified as vulnerable and food insecurity with an estimated 23% of the population suffering from under-malnutrition in 2003. The main contributing factors to food insecurity and under-nourishment are the high poverty rates, very high inequality in income distribution and relatively high incidence of HIV/AIDS.

The increasing food prices urge has to do with the following: First, **to think seriously about becoming self-sufficient in food production**. Second, food insecurity needs comprehensive planning and strategies, because in 2003, one-third of the population was identified as in need of humanitarian food assistance. Third, a mechanism should be in place to ensure that food output, particularly from the Green Schemes, reaches a majority of the people directly.

**Rising demand for base metals in the emerging economies:**

Gold and silver may get all the glory and look pretty, but when we want to build an economy, it is the industrial metals such as steel, aluminium, copper, zinc, lead, nickel, tin and uranium that steal the show. In fact, after steel, aluminium is the most widely used base metal on the planet.

Over the last five years, metal prices have increased strongly, rising much faster than the prices of other commodity groups, including energy.

Among the many factors responsible for base metal price increases are the increasing demand for base metals in the emerging nations, particularly China. For instance, as China is building new factories, bridges and Airports and apartments for Olympic 2008 games, it needs iron for the trusses, copper for the pipes and aluminium for the appliances. Rising prices generated significant investments and speculative trading in base metals, including in the future market.

Price increases in the base metals will influence the Namibian economy in several ways: First, the increasing and expanding construction industry will demand steel, copper and aluminium in large quantities. As a result, Namibia will need to spend extra foreign exchange and the total cost of imports will increase.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

Second, Namibia's export of copper, aluminium and zinc ores will receive stable, but increasingly high prices, but the benefits will be marginal since we do not add value to the ores.

Third, the increasing demand for base metals will provide an opportunity for Namibia to think seriously to add value to the raw minerals, since currently we help the rest of the world to engineer their economic development with our raw materials.

Electricity crisis in southern Africa or SADC Region is basically demand exceeding the supply. The Southern African Power Pool was created based on the inter-Governmental Agreement in 1995 to ensure the availability of sufficient, reliable, least cost energy that will assist in the attainment of economic efficiency and the eradication of poverty, while ensuring the environmentally sustainable use of the energy resources.

The SADC energy ministerial taskforce meeting a few weeks ago indicated that the implementation of SADC Power Pool transmission and interconnector projects categorised as rehabilitation and related infrastructure as a top priority. SADC said that the projects require US\$46.4 billion. In the short term the region requires US\$5 billion to complete short-term energy projects before 2010.

Namibia's annual demand is 480 megawatts. While about 200 megawatts is imported, that is 42%, 280 megawatts is produced by NamPower by utilising fossil fuels, the prices of which are increasing. The electricity alternatives for Namibia include the proposed 800 megawatts combined cycle Kudu gas-fired power plant, but as we all know by now, South Africa has pulled out and the projects seems to be in limbo.

South Africa's position as an engine of growth in the region means that any slowdown there may have considerable ramifications for its neighbours and their growth. Already Namibia and Botswana have been suffering blackouts attributed to Eskom's power cuts. Therefore, SADC needs to find short, medium and long-term solutions to the power crisis.

**The case of Middle Income Countries.**

About 41% of the world's poor with less than 2 dollars a day live in the Middle Income Countries . In recent years the Middle Income Countries have been

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

emphasising that this group of heterogeneous countries have been neglected by the international community. As a result, they may not be able to meet the international agreed development goals, especially the Millennium Development Goals.

A salient truth behind the Middle Income Countries is that these countries face similar problems like the rest of the developing countries. For example, the Middle Income Countries status of Namibia deprives its access to and utilisation of much needed concessional funding from the International Development Association (IDA) even though Namibia is ranked as one of the countries with very high unequal income distribution in the world.

It is necessary to understand that international cooperation is an integral support system for the social and economic progress efforts of developing countries. This requires conversion of international aid into an incentives framework compatible with the development goals, which should be a system that is able to consolidate economic and social achievements and guard against possible economic downturns and setbacks. This is just a theoretical possibility. The experience of the last three decades shows that socio-economic regressions are frequent in Middle Income Countries due to growth instability, external shocks or national crises.

Basically the Middle Income Countries need assistance and cooperation from the developing countries.

**Unemployment and its impact and solutions:**

The rising unemployment is one of the critical challenges facing Namibia. Out of 1.9 million people, the labour force is 494,000. The labour force has been increasing by 2.8% annually. In 2000, unemployment was 33.8%. The current unemployment rate is estimated at 36.7% or nearly 182,000 people unemployed. Among the unemployed, 59% are females and 42% are males.

The age group most affected by unemployment is those between the ages of 15 to 24 years, which constitutes about 60% of the total unemployed in the country.

What are the causes for rising unemployment? During the past decade, although the Gross Domestic Product has grown more than 4% per year, the expansion of

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

employment did not keep pace with the GDP growth. In fact, the average growth was modest but it had been volatile.

A substantial part of the growth was generated in the capital intensive sectors, such as mining and quarrying. Since the skills or educational achievements of the labour seemed to have risen, this may raise the question whether 4% GDP growth was sufficient to absorb the people with higher educational achievements.

Utilisation of appropriate technology to absorb unskilled labour is also a matter of concern.

What are the impacts of rising unemployment and the solutions? Poverty and inequality in wealth and income distribution are our main concerns. Accordingly, the rising unemployment is contributing to aggravating poverty and inequality in wealth and income distribution. When people are unemployed, they do not receive regular income to meet their basic needs – food, clothing, shelter, education, etcetera. This means that all economic, social and political problems are anchored around the rising unemployment and those problems are aggravating.

The only way to break the vicious circle is to stimulate economic growth through committed policies and strategies that generate jobs. In this respect, pro-poor, pro-rural and pro-agricultural development with the help of private investment, including foreign investors, is essential. While the Government increases its investments, broader participation of the private sector needs to be facilitated by creating a conducive environment for expansion of the private investment.

Human Resources Development or supply of skilled labour to meet the demand in the labour market is a part and parcel of socio-economic growth and development. At present, investment, production, economic diversification and expansion of exports have been constrained by the scarcity of skilled labour. We talked about rising unemployment and some improvement in skills development over the last decade or so, but both factors cannot increase at the same time unless there is a mismatch in the labour market in such a manner that the education and training system in the country does not produce skills demanded by the labour market. In this respect, it should be noted, the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme has been implemented to improve the service delivery of the education and training systems in the country even though it does not address the link to labour market/jobs immediately.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

Regarding human resources development, we need to take several critical steps. First, we need to take stock of the skills that already exist in the country and how they are being utilised in the economy.

Second, we need to identify the types and extent of the skills in demand. Based on these, we need to estimate the surplus or deficit in the different skill categories in the labour market.

The next step is the necessity to prepare a Human Resources Development and Utilisation Plan based on demand and supply of skills derived from the estimated GDP and sectoral growth rates. This will minimise the skills gaps in the labour market. The preparation of a Human Resources Development and Utilisation Plan has been initiated.

The effective utilisation of available skills is an integral part of the Plan so as to ensure that the skills supplied by the education and training system of the country will be utilised in an optimal manner by employers by placing the skilled people only in the areas of their specialisation. For example, doctors should not be in Parliament. The teachers and engineers, their place is in the industry.

**The role of the Diaspora:**

The developing countries, including Namibia, are looking for alternative sources of skills, expertise and investment funds, which are complementary to their development efforts. The Diaspora is a hidden treasure abroad. If the right policies and implementation strategies are adopted, Namibia will be able to tap this treasure, which will provide substantial amount of combined resources to augment the country's development efforts to reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs.

China and India have utilised the potential, capabilities and capacities of their Diaspora in stimulation of economic growth and development. (Intervention)

\_\_\_\_\_

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask a question?

\_\_\_\_\_

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

**HON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:** Well, out of respect, but it is unusual because it is a maiden speech.

---

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are an old Member of Parliament, you do not need to give a maiden speech. That is done by newcomers.

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Comrade Angula, you are talking about the untapped intellectual resources in the Diaspora. Are you aware that there are many Namibians with PhDs who are looking for jobs within Namibia but they cannot find any? Are you aware of that?

---

**HON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:** Yes, indeed I am aware of that fact, but unfortunately the situation is such that in their pursuance of education they were mis-oriented. They did not pursue those PhDs in respect of what is demanded in the Namibian market.

Other countries that are looking for alternative sources of skills, expertise and investment funds can learn a lot from the experience and achievement of the Asian countries. Formulation of policies and implementation strategies to tap the Diaspora are profoundly important for Namibia.

The engagement of their Diaspora in India, China, South Africa, Nigeria and Ghana has been undertaken based on well-articulated policies and implementation strategies. Similar articulated policies are required to encourage Diaspora with implementation strategies for their smooth participation in our national development efforts. I want to add that this case, in fact, is not only unique to Namibia, even far advanced countries are doing exactly the same, they are hunting for skills.

I am told that the British are around in the hotels here hunting for nurses. They are recruiting our nurses from here and there are so many of them now in the UK.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

In NASA of America, one of the very highest educated and technical people is a Namibian from Outjo.

I also recently met a highly qualified pharmacy technologist who is living in the United States, but he keeps on writing to different entities in Namibia, but no one is giving him encouragement on what he can do for the country. Very recently I met another doctor from the UK and he is a specialist dentist. He comes here at his own cost for consultations and he carries out operations here in Windhoek, in Gobabis and also in the North, but he has been sent from pole to post and he has been asking for land and support to set up a high institution for his business in dentistry? (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, with due respect, I did not want to disturb the Colleague, but in the best interest of the public, may I give some information?

The information Honourable Helmut Angula is trying to give on this Dr Itula is not true. We have some information, he had been running around, as you are saying. As a Namibian he should have known better, he should have consulted with the Authorities. We have a Ministry of Health and Social Services with a Minister in place and Deputy Minister and Permanent Secretary. In terms of the laws of the Republic, the correspondence goes through the Office of Permanent Secretary, but this is not what this man is doing. He is running around, not consulting with the relevant Authorities. Thank you.

---

**HON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:** Well, I do not know what is not true if this man has come here, has operated on people here, has asked for joint cooperation from the Government of Namibia to set up his institution and for the last two years he has been coming and he did not get an answer. I am not saying anyone is responsible. He has seen me, he has seen many other people, I have seen correspondence between him and other Authorities. It is not that I have any intention of belittling anybody, I am just saying we must adopt a friendly policy towards the Diaspora for the sake of the country, not for the sake of one institution. Because the contribution of such people to the economy of this Nation is not to

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON H ANGULA**

the advantage of one unit of the Government, it is for all of us and these people are available in the market. The reason they may not be here is because they may not be aware of the benefits they might be able to get by investing in Namibia.

The encouragement, attraction, recruitment and engagement of the Diaspora require the involvement of Offices, Ministries and Agencies and other stakeholders who need to work collaboratively and constructively to create a conducive environment, address and decide on an array of issues in selecting the right skills and expertise based on qualifications, experience, gender, age and character clearance by the law enforcement Authorities; decide on appropriate numbers to be recruited per annum; and engage and retain the required qualified Diaspora.

It is important to expeditiously formulate the policies and implementation strategies based on stakeholder consensus. (Intervention)

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** May I ask a question? Honourable Angula, having said what you have said, will you continue to be of the opinion that people are not finding jobs because they are trained in fields in which they were not properly orientated or is it because there is something else?

---

**HON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:** Thank you very much, it is a good question, but ask my son, Dr Abraham there. When I was in charge of something, Mannetje came to me to say, "*I want to study this.*" I told him I will not allow that because that is not a priority in Namibia, do this and you will not look for a job. When he arrived in Windhoek, the first person who called him was the Head of State to guide him where to go. If you have the right qualification, the right orientation, you will not have a problem finding a job in this underdeveloped country. Orientation is very important, but sometimes we choose careers because we want to be famous or we want to be in the village.

In conclusion, the Government intends to help accelerate economic growth, expand employment and promote rural development. The Government will act as both facilitator and a provider of important services, most of which would not

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

otherwise be provided by the private sector. The Development Budget is the main instrument to implement the Public Sector Investment Programme, while the operational Budget facilitates the delivery of public services and the running of the Government. This year's Development Budget draws upon and links with the NDP3, which is in turn linked to Vision 2030. The programmes and projects in the Budget focus on results that contribute to achieving the NDP3 goals, which help us to make progress towards realising the objectives of the Vision. Through this process we have further strengthened the links between the Budget, the NDP3 and the longer-term Vision 2030. I thank you very much.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40  
HOUSE RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT AT 16:13**

---

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable De Waal.

---

**HON DE WAAL:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I will be very brief.

Since the end of last year and the beginning of this year the people of Namibia have been hard hit by the rapid increase in interest rates, the skyrocketing fuel prices and the knock-on effect of these two issues on the living standard of each and every Namibian, especially regarding food prices for lower income groups.

Every Namibian, therefore, was looking forward to the Budget statement of the Honourable Minister of Finance to hear Government's position on these very serious matters and what relief would be offered. It was, however rather a let-down, because while we were all waiting for the Honourable Minister to come to these serious issues, she concluded without even discussing them.

As one journalist remarked to me afterwards, "*we were still waiting for the serious part of the speech and the next moment we were drinking tea.*"

This Budget, although financially sound, was a real disappointment for most people in Namibia, because it failed to address any of their real concerns. Instead of offering relief, all we heard in the Budget speech was

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

that the tax base must be broadened. The words, "*broadening of the tax base*" appears on almost every page of the Budget document. In the light of the lack of relief measures it becomes clear that the Government has no sympathy whatsoever with the man in the street who is bearing the brunt of the high interest rates and fuel prices and souring food and consumer product prices.

Honourable Speaker, the Minister in her statement said that inflation will settle at around 7% over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. That means that prices in general will increase by 7% per year. However, the latest inflation figures show that in South Africa inflation stands at approximate 9.5% and the prediction is that there will be at least two more interest rate hikes in the very near future. In addition, oil as far as we are concerned, will not stabilise below 100 Dollars per barrel, in contrast to the Honourable Minister's rosy estimate of 87 Dollars per barrel.

These two factors, together with their knock-on effect on prices in general, will nullify any salary increases granted this year. It is, therefore, sad to see that the Honourable Minister has made little effort to cushion these effects on the living standard of the general population. One gets the impression that if Government has looked at pensioners and orphans and vulnerable children, they believe that they have done enough, forgetting that there are also other people in the country who are poor and could use some relief.

In this regard, it becomes almost unbearable to see the slow pace of bringing the thieves, who have stolen millions of dollars from state funds, to book. I am, therefore, no longer convinced that we are serious with corruption.

It is not rocket science to follow the money trail of stolen funds and bring the culprits to book. One gets the impression that some of these people are somehow protected. Why else do these cases never come to court? It is totally unacceptable that we must pay tax at the current rates to Government, pay higher prices for everything we buy and in addition, also fund the crooks and the thieves in this country. I would, therefore, urge Cabinet to become serious about these issues and make sure that we get our money back.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, why do we not collect the stolen money like we collect taxes by spending millions of dollars on forensic investigations and by taking people to court? Why do we continue to finance loss-making parastatals? Why do we have to spend over the last two years N\$21.2 million on NAMPA,

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

N\$9 million on New Era, N\$5.3 million on the Southern Times, if all of us know very well that nothing, absolutely nothing will happen if these entities are privatised or even closed down? Why do we continue to give money to the NBC, over the last two years N\$178.7 million when we know that the NBC is potentially one of the most lucrative businesses in the country if it is managed according to basic business principles?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is interesting to note that last year we complained bitterly about the outdated financial statements of State-Owned Enterprises that were published in last year's Budget documents. One would, therefore, have expected that the Honourable Minister and the State-Owned Enterprises Governing Council would have put pressure on the State-Owned Enterprises to provide up to date financial statements in time for publication in this year's Budget documents. Instead Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Finance chose the easy way out by simply omitting them completely in this year's Budget documents. Instead, she now tells us that State-Owned Enterprises will be asked to publish information about their expenditure and she says that this will provide a more complete overview of the scale and scope of public investments.

The question is: **How on earth does the Honourable Minister expect State-Owned Enterprises to publish up to date information on their expenditure if they cannot even publish up to date financial statements?** Is this just another way the Honourable Minister has thought of to get past the problem of State-Owned Enterprises in general, coming with a new plan every year? This also makes me wonder what role the State-Owned Enterprises Governing Council has played since its inception and how many meetings it has actually held since the law was passed. My information is that very few, if any, such meetings took place and this makes me wonder further whether this "*Super Board of Directors*" will make any real difference to the profitability of State-Owned Enterprises.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, another issue that the Honourable Minister of Finance raised is that she is going to encourage State-Owned Enterprises to borrow money directly on the domestic capital market. In theory this sounds like a very good plan; however in our experience of State-Owned Enterprises paying back loans, like for instance the Windhoek Country Club and Air Namibia, it seems fairly certain that these loans will only be granted if they are guaranteed by the Government and this means that the long-suffering taxpayers will in the long run have to repay them anyway. According to the Honourable Minister, the total guaranteed amount defaulted increased from N\$21.6 million in 2005/06 to

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

N\$212.5 million in 2006/07, mainly due to the need to pay off the guaranteed loans of Air Namibia and the Windhoek Country Club.

I would therefore, propose that the Honourable Minister continues with this proposal but should refuse to guarantee any of these loans. I say this also in the light of the revelation by the Honourable Minister that repayment of on-lent loans fell short of the estimated schedule by N\$48.7 million. They are therefore not even repaying their on-lent loans.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, this year we will subsidise the Government Medical Scheme by N\$839.9 million, next year N\$909.2 million and in 2010/11, N\$942.2 million. In anybody's book, these are huge amounts that are clearly growing every year. Government employees do not always receive very good salaries, but one perk that they must all appreciate is the fact that they are members of the Government Medical Aid Fund. It, therefore, angers me to see that people are blatantly stealing from this Fund every day. Not only are the members stealing from it, but some of the service providers see it as a milk cow.

In this regard, I was shocked to see the other day that Government has lost its court case against one such service provider. I have looked at the documentation and want to make the following recommendation to the Honourable Minister of Finance:

We have now appealed this case, but we must make absolutely sure that we do not lose it again this time round. We, therefore, need to appoint the best private Legal Practitioners possible, no matter the cost, to argue our case and make use of all available information and evidence, including information available from people no longer in the service of the State, because if we lose this case again, we will probably have serious problems bringing the rest of the involved service providers to book.

In the same vein, our investigations into the claim patterns of certain members must be sharpened and those who are abusing the Fund must be brought to court and made to pay back the amounts that they have stolen from the Fund.

The Honourable Minister puts a lot of emphasis on people who are not paying all the tax they are liable for and she spends lots of time and money on the issue of better tax collection. However, Honourable Deputy Speaker, there is absolutely

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

no difference whether you steal from the taxman or whether you steal from the Medical Aid Fund. Let us therefore put the same effort into both.

I, therefore, want to appeal to all the members of the Government Medical Aid Fund to see this perk as something that is of such value to them that they should look after it to the best of their ability, otherwise the Government will in future be forced to drastically increase the contributions that are paid by members at present. I even want to go as far as to say that it is the responsibility of each and every member of the Fund to report the abuse of the Fund to the Authorities instead of helping one another to find new loopholes how to milk the Fund. I think the Civil servants must listen to what I am saying here, because if we continue like this, it is simply not sustainable.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, moving from the Medical Aid Fund to the Government Institutions Pension Fund: We support in principle the Amendments to Regulations 28 and 15 regarding domestic asset requirements that were Gazetted in 2007/08. However, we are concerned that there may not be enough profitable investment opportunities locally to absorb these amounts of money that must now be invested locally.

This may lead to further losses for a pension fund like the Government Institutions Pension Fund, which may bring us to a situation in the not-too-distant future where Government will have to start subsidising this pension fund. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask Honourable De Waal a question, please? Honourable De Waal, there is always this question that comes up, that investors cannot absorb investment, what do you we really mean by this? Do you mean that we have exhausted all the opportunities where this money can be invested in order to expand and widen this economy or what does this statement really suggest?

---

**HON DE WAAL:** I hear what you are saying, Honourable Deputy Minister. It is not a question of all opportunities having been exhausted, it is a question that if you work with other people's money, in this case we work with the money of the Civil servants, we must invest that money in such a way that they get a pension

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

when they retire one day. You can therefore not play around with that money, you cannot give it to the abattoir in Witvlei and then lose five or six million or whatever the case may be and then just turn around and say, “*sorry, we lost six million, let us continue.*” It does not work that way. Just listen to what I am saying here, then you will understand.

They will have to start subsidising this pension fund and they in fact did a study and they say that if this thing is implemented, Government in the near future will have to subsidise the Government Pension Fund because they will not have enough money because we have lost too much from the taxpayers money or drastically increase the members’ contributions. Now listen to what I am saying.

I will, therefore, urge the Honourable Minister not to enforce these regulations rigidly, but rather to engage the industry and to implement these regulations in such a way that our pension funds, especially that one of civil servants, will not get into a situation where they will experience a shortfall.

We agree we need to invest here in Namibia, there is no doubt about that, but we should do it responsibly.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in addition – listen to this one – in addition to the above...(Intervention)

---

**HON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Honourable De Waal, of course all of us will condemn any misuse or poor planning in the use of public service resources in given projects. You quoted Witvlei and a few others, but I have never heard you quoting those other investment portfolios outside this country that failed dismally with the Namibian investments. Why are we biased, why do we only want to point out the loss on the Namibian side and not that were lost in South Africa, for example?

---

**HON DE WAAL:** That one I will come and see you about, because I will be very interested to hear what we have lost in South Africa. That is news to me, so I will come to you, Honourable Minister, and then we can discuss that one.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in addition to the above, I am also concerned about the influence regulations 28 and 15 will have on the property market in Windhoek and a couple of other places. If a fund manager cannot find profitable investment opportunities... (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I ask a question? Honourable De Waal, Honourable Angula has put part of my question, that our problem as Namibians is an inferiority complex. How on earth can Honourable De Waal say that money must be invested here with caution? Are you aware that the hundreds of millions of ODC were already invested in South Africa and the N\$30 million of Social Security Van Rensburg is based in South Africa and they are the ones who are cheating our people here? The problem Honourable De Waal, we must make sure that we are patriotic. Are you patriotic?

---

**HON DE WAAL:** I am a very great patriot, I do not think you have to doubt that, but the answer to your question Honourable Deputy Minister, is so long that I will need an hour to explain it to you, so we will do it outside after the meeting tonight.

I said I am concerned about the influence regulations 28 and 15 will have on the property market in Windhoek. If a fund manager cannot find profitable investment opportunities, then the next best thing would be to start buying land and properties in Windhoek and one or two other places in the country and that is what is going to happen. If millions of dollars have to be spent and these millions end up buying properties, then we are in for a serious increase in the already very high prices of properties in especially Windhoek, putting serious pressure on the cost of living.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, coming back to Air Namibia, I would be failing in my duty if I do not make some remarks about this major drain on our economy. It is especially the fact that is due to Air Namibia's shortcomings that the already hard-pressed Namibian taxpayers are subsidising the air travel of foreigners outside our borders, but also have to make a contribution to very handsome

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

profits of South African carriers on the different routes between Namibia and South Africa.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I hope that people will take this as read, all I am saying is that Air Namibia is insufficient and because they are insufficient, we are paying through our necks for a ticket between Windhoek and Johannesburg and Windhoek and Cape Town. If you look at the price of a ticket between Johannesburg and Cape Town, which is exactly the same distance and Windhoek and Johannesburg and Windhoek and Cape Town, the one is about N\$1,700 but we pay N\$2,900 and on the Walvis Bay route, it is more than N\$3,000 because there Air Namibia does not even compete (they cannot). I am not going to read all that.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Information. It is bread and butter now and this issues really needs to be addressed. This thing of encouraging our money to flow only to South Africa needs to be addressed. I will agree a hundred percent with Honourable De Waal if he says the money of the taxpayers of Namibia should not be kept here because our market cannot absorb it, but the Namibians could choose to invest that money even in London or New York in profitable portfolios. However this thing of confining our money, we invest only on route and that route invests in the global market to expand their portfolios is totally wrong.

---

**HON DE WAAL:** I agree with you. Honourable Deputy Speaker, we have once again seen that our income from the SACU pool makes up approximately 40% of our income. Any reduction in this income source would therefore have serious consequences for the country. The current negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union is, therefore, of the utmost importance. I am happy to say that our negotiating team is doing its best to negotiate the best possible deal for Namibia. Honourable Deputy Speaker, they are however under tremendous pressure from the EU to accept certain issues which cannot be in the interest of our country.

I, however, still do not understand how the European Union can continue to pressure us to accept free and fair trade as a general principle, while they continue

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

to subsidise their agricultural sector. Every time I see Irish butter on the shelves in our supermarkets in Windhoek and in Swakopmund, I am asking myself the question: *How on earth is this possible?* It is only possible because of subsidies.

In this regard, I hope that the so-called Doha Round of Global Trade Talks will soon be positively resolved. For as long as these subsidies continue to exist we cannot talk of fair trade. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** May I ask Honourable De Waal a small question? Honourable De Waal, do you not think it is the right time now, while we are facing problems with the European Union, that we should now look towards other destinations, for example the East where we will have favourable terms in trade, where we can speak on equal terms on an equal platform, rather than being subjected to all these pressures. While they are subsidising there, they want us to stop our subsidies and get our things free of charge.

---

**HON DE WAAL:** If I answer that question, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will be giving away some of our strategies and I do not want to do that, but in principle we have to look at the whole world. That is what it is all about, we have to look at the best possibilities everywhere in the world, including the European Union for very good reasons.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in the same vein, I see no reason why we should negotiate on the so-called Singapore issues because as far as I am concerned, we are not obliged to do so and it will not be in the interest of our country at this stage.

I must also stress that as long as we in the so-called SADC EPAS group are divided, we cannot hope to get the possible deal. I, therefore, hope that Cabinet will do everything possible to unite the SADC EPAS group and negotiate with the European Union as a united front.

At the same time, we as a Government should endeavour to make our agricultural sector more productive. In this regard, I am happy to see that funding is now

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

being made available to enhance the agricultural sector in general. However, Honourable Deputy Speaker, bush encroachment remains one of the biggest problems of this sector and it does not seem as if we are making any progress in this regard.

Last year we exported approximately 9.8 thousand tons of beef to the European Union. If we could get rid of the bush in this country we could easily double this amount and solve Meatco's problem as well. Therefore, I cannot understand that we cannot make progress in solving this problem. If we can spend N\$2.4 billion of taxpayers' money on Air Namibia since 2000, then surely we could spend a couple of million dollars on bush encroachment where we know, in contrast to Air Namibia, that the result will be positive and that it will be money well spent.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am concluding with general remarks. Turning to the electricity situation, we will have some questions for the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy during the Committee Stage. However, I would at this time very much like to know from the Honourable Minister of Finance, given the uncertain situation of electricity supply in the SADC region, how is it possible that after 18 years of Independence, we have not reached an agreement with our comrades in Angola to repair the Cuvelai coffer dam? By repairing this dam we will have a much better output from the Ruacana Hydro-electricity scheme.

There are two issues that we can solve almost overnight. In the agricultural sector, get rid of the *Swarthaak bush*; in the electricity sector, repair the Cuvelai Dam and you have immediate reaction. But we do not do it, sixteen years have passed. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** On a Point of Information. Honourable De Waal, are you aware that Gove Dam is in that situation because of you bombing the dam and you were happy when you bombarded it with planes. Are you aware of that?

---

**HON DE WAAL:** You cannot change the history, but you can influence the future if we just get off our asses and start doing something.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DE WAAL**

I would also like the Honourable Minister of Finance to provide a breakdown of what the Contingency Fund was spent on last year – my favourite question every year.

Thirdly, I am concerned about the Foreign Direct investment flows over the last three years. Although the Honourable Minister indicated in the Budget documents that these flows should continue at recent levels over the next three years, I would like her to indicate to the House what the actual Foreign Direct Investment was for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Order. I want to ask Honourable De Waal to withdraw one remark he made there. It is unparliamentary.

---

**HON DE WAAL:** I withdraw. I will also be grateful if she could split these flows into mining investments and other investments, because I know we are getting investments in the mining sectors, but are we getting any other investments apart from Ramatex which has run away?

We have recently received lots of complaints about the red tape involved in establishing new companies in Namibia, especially about the pathetic situation in the office of the Registrar of Companies. We have also learned that the negotiations on the US Millennium Challenge Account grant have been slowed by technical aspects of the contract. It would be appreciated if the Honourable Minister could enlighten the House on what the current situation is concerning this grant.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, if the King collects what is due to the King, then the King should not use the money to finance thieves and thugs, neither should the King use the money to finance fruitless and unnecessary expenditure. That, Honourable Deputy Speaker, is the problem with this Budget. I thank you.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMATHILA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Due to a very urgent request, I would like to jump the gun and call on the Deputy Prime Minister to make her contribution before she leaves.

---

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, for giving me the Floor.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I at the onset pay homage to our fellow heroes and our SWAPO Party stalwarts, namely Honourable Minister John Alfons Pandeni whom we have just put back in his resting place, Honourable Nico Bessinger, former Minister of Environment and Wildlife. In the same vein, I would also like to pay tribute to our stalwart, Honourable Councillor, who is also SWAPO Women Council Regional Coordinator, Comrade Julia Nepembe, who passed on recently and may their souls rest in eternal peace.

Having said that, as somebody who was assigned the responsibility to explain to the family of Bessinger, I want to explain very briefly that the Government had decided that they wanted to bury Bessinger at the Heroes Acre, but the family's and his will has prevailed that he wanted to be buried in Khomasdal next to his mother and his mother has apparently also made such a request while she was alive. Therefore, we are not burying Honourable Bessinger at the Heroes Acre, although the Government has decided so. We will give him a full official State funeral, but we will bury him at the place of his wish in Khomasdal. I just wanted that information to go out.

Having said that, I also wish to congratulate the rank and file of SWAPO Party for the resounding victory in the Eenhana Regional Council elections. I also want to congratulate us as Namibians that we do things peacefully and I am very happy about that. (Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister a question? I just wanted to find out, some time back it was reported that a decision was taken at the recent SWAPO Congress that the Secretary General of SWAPO will be a fulltime employee of the Party. My question is: Is the Secretary General of SWAPO, Honourable Maria Ithana now

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMATHILA**

at head office of the Party or is she still in this House, and if she is still in the House, how is she being paid? By the taxpayers' money or by SWAPO or two sides?

---

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** It is the responsibility of the SWAPO Government and the SWAPO Party to take that responsibility.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to give my contribution to the Debate on 2008/09 Appropriation Bill. I wish to express my appreciation to the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for tabling yet another progressive, pro-poor, pro-growth bill. Quite evidently, the National Budget represents the Government's priorities and programmes as set out by the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and subsequent development plans. This year's Appropriation Bill demonstrates, in no uncertain terms, that the Government's compact is first and foremost with the people of Namibia.

The Appropriation Bill further focuses on stimulating economic growth and job creation, while effectively catering for the social sector. The expenditure on the social sector includes the water veterans, the elderly, the health sector and the education sector, to mention but a few. In this regard, the amount of N\$2,000 per month allocated for the war veterans is an investment in peace and a recognition of the brave and selfless sacrifices made by the veterans for the freedom and Independence of this country, Namibia.

The increment in the old-age social pension is in line with the constantly rising cost of living, while giving expression to the Government's commitment to care for our senior citizens. The health sector has been doing quite well in addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly with the introduction of free ARVs in all hospitals and district health centres in Namibia.

I would like to thank the Honourable Minister because when I left we only catered for twenty hospitals and now all the hospitals, clinics and health centres will now have ARV provision for the people.

People's lives are being prolonged and many HIV-infected persons are living productive lives. However, more work needs to be done to address TB, given

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMATHILA**

that Namibia is ranked number two in the world after Swaziland *vis-à-vis* TB infections.

I urge the Ministry of Health to pursue awareness campaigns, especially about infectious diseases, so that our people are conscious about risky behaviour that is dangerous to their health. In this regard, emphasis is needed to teach the general public that:

- TB is curable;
- Default on treatment can lead to resistant TB which is very difficult to cure;
- Alcohol is prohibited while on TB treatment;
- DOT, which is the Direct Observed Treatment, is crucial to assist the patients to take their treatment regularly as prescribed.

Sometime patients give us and there must be people around the patient to take his or her treatment.

I also wish to congratulate the Minister of Health for giving the Cardiac Unit a facelift. This Unit is my brainchild, which I started already in 1998. Although the renovations were only completed in 2004 and twelve nurses were already trained in Kenya, we still had manpower and equipment shortage, particular at the Dr Barnard May Centre. Over forty patients were operated in Kenya while we waited to man our Unit. I wish at this juncture to express gratitude to the Kenyan Government for the assistance rendered to the Namibian people in this regard. I am pleased that the Ministry of Health has taken the next step to equip the Unit and I look forward to July when the Unit will be operational. With the opening of this Unit, after-care, even if patients are operated elsewhere, will be possible to be provided at that Unit. No matter how successful an operation is, the patients can die if there is no aftercare. Thank you Honourable Kamwi, for the good work of that Unit.

On sanitation, there is a need to improve on this score, given its importance on overall health provision. Our Local Authorities must take up the challenges of sanitation seriously. The size of the plots for our informal sector or even squatter camps must be bigger to allow at least for ventilated pit latrines to be built on the

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMATHILA**

plots, which is better than nothing and much better than these plastic bags people are using as toilets.

A countrywide study must be done urgently, particularly in peri-urban areas to find a lasting solution to continued sanitation problems. We are all aware that just recently we had polio and now we have a cholera outbreak, which are faeces related infections.

Let me move to **education**. The SWAPO Party Government has since Independence given premium priority to the education and training of our citizens, especially the youth. The allocation of N\$4.78 billion to education and training is an indication of the Government's effort to ensure that the national human resource base is further boosted to allow Namibia to effectively draw investments for development. Often, Foreign Direct Investment is curtailed due to a shortage of skilled manpower in almost all sectors of the economy.

I, therefore, call upon the young people to occupy themselves with education and training, and to ensure that Government investment in education reaps the expected dividends. I also call upon the grade 10 repeaters to work hard this year so that the second opportunity granted to them does not go to waste.

School learners, parents, teachers and principals should all work harder to ensure that their money invested in education helps society to make quantum leaps towards greater development and prosperity.

I wish to talk about community hostels, Honourable Minister and Deputy Minister of Education. The hostels are in a very poor state where poor communities are still expected to provide the necessary funding for the maintenance and upkeep of the infrastructure. My view is that community hostels are not affordable to parents and now I am talking about the San parents in particular, because I find that the community hostels are mostly for them. The San parents cannot afford N\$200 per month and it seems that many of these community hostels are meant for the San people. I have taken up this matter with the Minister and Deputy Minister of education, but the programme is still continuing.

I call upon the Ministry of Education to scrap this programme and take full responsibility and control of these community hostels.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMATHILA**

Furthermore, the dilapidated state of many of our rural schools and hostels and the lack of sanitation is a concern. Hostels in Opuwo, Khorixas and Tsumkwe are cases in point, just to name a few. I call upon the Ministry to embark on a renovation project of these facilities as a matter of priority. Failure to renovate these buildings will mean that we deny rural children proper access to good education.

Let me touch a bit on **alcohol abuse**. I congratulate the Minister of Finance for increasing the tax on alcohol and alcoholic beverages. Frankly speaking, we must act to ensure that the mushrooming of illegal shebeens and alcohol outlets must be checked. At some towns, shebeens are next to churches and across from schools and learners and teachers have free access to buy alcohol during school intervals and return to classes afterwards. If we are not careful, the proliferation of shebeen, be these legal or illegal, will have and is already having negative consequences on the lives of our citizens across all age groups. It is prudent that we impose a moratorium for an indefinite period on the issuing of shebeen licences, Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** May I put a question? While I listened to the attempt to sabotage the shebeens in the future, I would like to know why the SWAPO Party Government is always celebrating and congratulating the winners of Eenhana, a small little town in small elections held there, a small Party which was formed within a short time before elections. Is it a sign of trying to intimidate the voters in the future?

---

This is not related to what I am saying now, I have passed that a hundred years ago. Eenhana is not the issue now.

I know the Honourable Member's shebeen is under water, so he does not make any money from the shebeen now.

We must put a moratorium for an indefinite period on the issuing of shebeen licences while we do more to sort out the legal shebeen outlets. Alcohol abuse has never had any good effect on any Nation that wants to develop itself. As a result of alcoholism, incidents of rape, murder and the spread of HIV infections occur. Also the reason why people default on TB is because of the nature of

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMATHILA**

alcohol. Once they drink alcohol, they are weak and they do not take their tablets.

The SWAPO Party Congress resolutions make it clear that we must curb alcohol abuses. I call upon our youth to take action to institute peer-counselling among the youth in order to stem the tide of alcohol abuse, which seems to be defining our society these days.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me move quickly to the **public service**. The public service is the conveyer belt for implementing all Government programmes, projects and activities. Implementation of programmes and projects is fundamental to redesigning and redressing structural economic and social manifestations in our unequal society. For this reason, the Namibian Government has been at the forefront of implementing various strategies to enhance service delivery to citizens. Apart from the envisaged Performance Management System aimed at fast-tracking service delivery, the Office of the Prime Minister has been celebrating the 23<sup>rd</sup> June every year as the Africa Public Service Day on a yearly basis under specific themes and areas that require to improve the intervention.

Last year we focused on the promotion of anti-corruption efforts and building of an ethical public service. This year our theme is: *“From Policy to Result-based Implementation.”* This theme tries to draw attention to the essence of moving towards implementation of policies, while ensuring that citizens are satisfied with the results of the implementation. It also acknowledges that whereas we have good policies in place, implementation is often completely lacking or is sub-standard. In this regard, I wish to draw your attention to some Offices, Ministries and Agencies where a simple thing like answering a telephone call seems to be a major undertaking. Receptionists are simply not picking up the phones or they are not there.

The private sector and the banks have put in these answering machines that tell you, *“hold on, you are in the queue, press this and press that.”* They can keep you waiting into eternity. Some days you call for three days, you cannot get the bank unless you have the cell phone number of your manager, otherwise you stay in the queue. You cannot even ask these answering machines for how long you have to hold, they cannot talk. They give you that information and you hear this awful music playing. If they put Pepe Kale then perhaps it would be nice to listen to him.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR AMATHILA**

I call upon Offices, Ministries and Agencies to support the Africa Public Service Day celebrations for this year, because effective policy implementation is central to achieving Government objectives.

I am going to move to my favourite subject and that is the **San, Ovatua and Ovatjimba communities**. These communities have been at the fringes of our social and economic order for a long time. It is against this background that the Government, through my Office decided to act to mainstream the San and Ovatua.

Additionally, His Excellency President Pohamba tasked me to resettle the Ovatua and Ovatjimba people late last year and to move them from the mountain and that is actually his baby project. The latter two communities have been resettled, corrugated zinc houses were constructed for each of the families while a means of subsistence through a community garden and seventy-seven heads of small livestock were provided, three per family. Kindergartens for the little ones and a primary school as well as community clinics are now fully functional.

The Directorate: Emergency Management in the Prime Minister's Office is providing food aid to these communities until such a time that they can reach self-sustainability status. Today these communities have a place to call home, thanks to the Government's commitment to social justice for all. I can report to you that the one hectare of land ploughed per village is now bearing fruits, they are waiting for me to come and taste. I think once we give them help, these communities can help themselves. We still have one village left, because the rivers are so full, but by the end of April when the rivers have stopped running, I will go and finish the last village for the Ovatua in Kaoko.

The San communities have seen numerous programmes designed to benefit them. Recently 38 families consisting of 306 people have been resettled at Farm Uitkoms. I want to specifically thank the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement for allocating that farm to the San Development Programme. What we are planning there is a community centre, a community garden, fifty houses and a clinic are on the card to be constructed at this farm. For this I thank the Minister Ekandjo and his team.

With the assistance of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism a community conservancy will soon be launched. It is important to inform this august House

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

that my Office has enrolled sixty five San learners and students at various schools and tertiary education institutions.

Thirty-five of these are at tertiary level, including at UNAM, Polytechnic, National Health Training Centre, International University of Management, teacher colleges and VTCs. More work needs to be done to satisfactorily mainstream the San, but a beginning has been made. I want to express my deep sense of appreciation to all the Offices, Ministries and Agencies, private centre entities, individuals, development partners, institutions and organisation that have extended a helping hand to the San programme. Their contributions have made a huge difference in the lives of many San people.

Honourable Members, for ease of reference, I have included a report entitled, "*The San Development Report 2007/08*" and this part of the annex to my speech and it will be distributed now.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members in conclusion, may I express my wholehearted support to the Appropriation Bill tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance because she has also given us an increment for our San Development Programme and I thank you all for your kind attention and I thank you.

---

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Schimming-Chase.

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise once again to participate in the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for 2008/2009.

As I said during the same Debate last year, I believe and am convinced that we as the elected representatives of the Namibian people, are honour-bound to speak out for our people without fear or favour.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we have just celebrated the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our beloved Republic. We have matured. An 18-year old youth can vote, he/she can become a soldier who can defend his/her country. At 18 years, a young person is deemed ready to embark on tertiary education.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to look at this Budget and to judge it on the basis of its maturity. We are no longer novices in the business of Government. Inexperience is no longer an excuse and the mere fact of having liberated the country politically 18 years ago is no longer a reason for patting ourselves on the back, but a reason to interrogate how far, if at all, we have marched on the road of the economic liberation of our country.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me at this juncture to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her staff, for tabling the Budget timeously. In my eight years in Parliament, this is the first time that this has happened and I hope it sets a precedent for the years to come.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Minister in her motivation speech stated that, *“This MTEF is another bold attempt towards the realisation of Vision 2030.”* If indeed this is the case, I welcome it. Many of us, however, are concerned when we talk of Vision 2030, that for something so cardinal to our Nation, there is no institution which has as its sole responsibility to review progress, or lack thereof on an annual basis and to report to this House how far we are progressing in the realisation of those goals.

Allow me to elaborate. We have 22 more years to reach 2030. We know what we are supposed to accomplish by then. Do we know whether in order to do so we have to accomplish so much by 2030, for example, or by 2019 or by 2029? What mechanism of review do we have? What have we put in place to investigate whether we have reached the set interim goals? If we do not, what remedies are we developing to catch up where we fail? There are many specialists who are already warning that Vision 2030 is a pie in the sky. That on present analysis of where we are, there is no chance that we will reach where we should be in 2030.

Madam Deputy Speaker, according to the Honourable Minister the three focal areas for this Budget are:

- *“To improve the social safety net to relieve poverty, particularly in the rural areas;*
- *To foster human health resource development, through better health and education;*

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

- *To invest in improving competitiveness and promoting growth with new jobs.”*

These are the benchmarks against which we must analyse and judge this Budget. Let us therefore look to the facts with regard to what is referred to as “pro-poor Budget”. During the Debate last year, I emphasised that what is pro-poor for one, may not be necessarily be pro-poor for the other.

The Honourable Minister says that the increase in social grants will improve the welfare of vulnerable groups. Let us interrogate this assumption in real terms.

Allow me to look at just one of these groups for lack of time, the old-age pensioners. No doubt, they are very grateful for the additional N\$70 they will receive per month, it seems as from next year, but what does this N\$70 mean in real terms? Will it really relieve their poverty? (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** On a Point of Order. It is not N\$70 additionally, it is N\$80.

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Thank you very much. I am asking whether it will relieve the poverty of the old people?

The biggest problem of our elderly these days is their inability to pay municipal bills, to pay water and electricity. Many of them are losing their houses because of arrears in this field and the N\$80 will not enable them to pay off these debts. What greater social safety net is there, but the assurance of a roof over one’s head, food to eat and water, which is life? A pro-poor Budget, in my mind, would have been to do something about the spiralling cost of electricity, water and rates and taxes.

Recently Cabinet decided to cancel the debts of those car owners who have not paid licence fees. It goes without saying that car owners are not the poorest of the poor. If we are pro-poor and we can do this, why can we not cancel the municipal debts of the elderly so that they can retain their houses?

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is a rationalisation making the rounds that causes me great concern. There are those who, during any discussion on increasing old-age pensions, try to compare these to the amounts paid by the apartheid regime and the fact that there were discrepancies based on race.

I am perturbed and surprised. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to pose a question to you. Does it mean, in your understanding as the Opposition Parties, that you have the monopoly over old-aged people or how do you understand it?

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Actually what it means in my understanding is what I am going to explain now. If the Honourable Member can please just bear with me, I would appreciate it very much.

What I am saying is that we compare it to the amounts received from the apartheid regime which ended 18 years ago, a regime that was based on apartheid. What perturbs me, therefore, is: Is that not what apartheid was about, treating whites better than blacks? How can we compare ourselves 18 years after Independence and set our benchmarks to that of an apartheid regime that we fought and sacrificed so much to get rid of? (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Information, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I think it is unbelievable that Honourable Schimming-Chase will compare the SWAPO Party Government with the South African racist regime. The example is during the apartheid regime our pensioners, the black people, were receiving N\$35. Today our pensioners are all receiving an equal pension of N\$460 and we should really appreciate that because we have adopted a capitalist system here. When SWAPO was saying, let us have a capitalist system so that we can provide roofs over the heads of our people,

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

provide clean water, provide health free of charge, you were opposing. This is happening in Cuba today, but Honourable Kaura and the others. (Interjections).

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister, you are making exactly the point that I am making. I am saying, what disgusts me is that this argument seems to want to compare a SWAPO Government with a racist Government. That is exactly the point I am making.

I have two daughters who are lawyers, I now realise why I sometimes have problems understanding them. There seems to be a difficulty for lawyers to understand politicians.

What I am saying Honourable Deputy Speaker, is that apartheid was about separation, apartheid was about oppressing the blacks by giving them worse education, worse health services, worse pensions, all of that and if we want to say that our liberation struggle served the purpose, then we cannot today want to use that as a benchmark under a SWAPO-led Government or a SWAPO Government.

What I am therefore trying to say is that if we are indeed pro-poor, should we not rather take into consideration the exorbitant rise in the cost of living over the past 18 years? For me that would be a more sensible comparison. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I ask a question? Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase, are you aware that in a capitalist system you never earn a cost of living unless if you could have control and make market rules. Even if you were to give everyone N\$1 000, that amount will remain the same as the N\$370. Therefore, we must talk about something else, you cannot talk of inflation under capitalism, you will never stop it. Whenever you increase the money, they increase the price. You know exactly that whenever they hear that we are getting a little bit, they push up their prices. Let us therefore not talk about inflation, let us talk about how we can reach a stage to say enough is enough, we must control the price. That could be something on which I will support you.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister I am very grateful for the lecture. Maybe the Honourable Deputy Minister could have told the House and the people out there what was the salary of a Deputy Minister 18 years ago and what it is now. However over and above the lecture, there is something known as the bread basket which has to do with inflation. In international organisations as well as Governments, the bread basket is measured as to how much you can buy with a certain amount of money. Thus, apart from capitalism, socialism and what other “isms” we may have, which I am happy to discuss when we have a political Debate on systems of Government, with regard to this Budget, I would prefer to say that I would support anyone in this House... (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** I am so sorry to disturb the Honourable Member, mother, but actually when we talk about the safety net around the old-aged, it is actually not a pension, it is a grant. When we talk about the grant, it is a Constitutional right and there is no way that one can discuss something without referring to where you are coming from and where you are going.

What is mentioned there is not comparing, but it is a reference case and those years, especially the people from Khomas and further up, except those people who were in Damaraland and the Nama's and the Coloureds, they were the only ones who benefited from the N\$35 which was mentioned. However in our case, we as SWAPO never said that this N\$370 or the N\$450 after the Budget is enough.

Honourable Kaura was the Chairperson and I was the Deputy Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee when I was an ordinary Member of Parliament and we got the plight of the old-aged people which we brought here and immediately after that, a decision was taken that after every two years there will be an increment. Apart from that, there is a package, we are overlooking things. For example, in Local Authorities we have economic housing, even here in Windhoek, where the old-aged people are staying, which is benefiting them, giving them shelter. Also when our old-age pensioners show their cards on public transport, they are getting discount. When old-aged persons go to a hospital or clinic, they are also getting discount or are even treated free of charge. These eye operations and hip operations for the elder people are free of charge. The caring

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

communities are not only looking to the Government. I would like to salute the Bishop of the Lutheran Church, Dr Kameeta. Instead of saying the Government must just do this and that, they came up with that Big Brother grant to assist our old people. Also in my community we have certain schemes from the side of the church. It is a package and we must look into what is there, it is about a package.

Therefore, the people must know that we are just talking about that little grant, but it is a package and we must have a holistic approach. This information is needed for the people to know.

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Honourable Minister, with all due respect, you have so many chances per annum to try and sell your Ministry – ministerial statements, you are part of the Executive and now honestly, to want to take the little time that we have to speak, but let me just remind the Honourable Minister, let me please read Article 95(f) under Promotion of the Welfare of the People, and I am doing this because we had the same discussion last year, you made the same statement last year and the old-age pensioners were very upset about what the Honourable Minister had to say. Let me read the Constitution, Article 95 under Promotion of the Welfare of the People and I quote from the Supreme Law:

*“The insurance that senior citizens are entitled to and do receive a regular pension” – not grant – “adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living and the enjoyment of social and cultural opportunities.”*

The Honourable Minister swears to promote and defend the Constitution. Let us please not try and change the Constitution, it does not refer to a grant. It refers to a pension and it goes on to state clearly, *“the maintenance of a decent standard of living.”*

The Honourable Minister goes on to thank Bishop Kameeta for the basic income grant. So do I, but if the Honourable Minister would have taken the time to read the Election Manifesto of the CoD...(Intervention)

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, I rise to contribute to the Debate. Thank you for the opportunity given to me to also contribute.

---

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Deputy Minister.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Information. I just want to mention to Honourable Schimming-Chase that she must not distort the sound principles embedded in our Constitution.

These are sound principles towards which we are striving. We are attempting to achieve those noble objectives and we are working hard to achieve those objectives, but the resource constraints will sometimes not allow us. I am in agreement with her, this is what we want but unfortunately we do not get what we want for our diamonds, prices are determined elsewhere, we do not get what we want for our fish, we do not get what we want for our copper, for our mineral resources. If we can turn the tide around and get what we are truly entitled to, then we will be able to meet those noble objectives.

However, in the meantime, the SWAPO Party Government will relentlessly pursue those objectives, so that we achieve those objectives and that is what we want for our elderly citizens. I want them to understand that now we are constrained by financial means. Otherwise we will do that.

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** The Honourable Deputy Minister is very fortunate that he is protected by sitting in a Ministry, because if the Honourable Deputy Minister would stand in a court of law and say that a quotation from the Constitution is a distortion thereof, the Honourable Minister would...(Interjections) ... the Honourable Minister would lose every case in the court of law. Every case! He is saved here.

Before I was interrupted, I was trying to answer to the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality. If the Honourable Minister would read the Manifesto of CoD

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

for the last election, the basic income grant was a demand of the CoD. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is unparliamentary for a Honourable Member on the Opposition side to think that this Governing Party is ruling on the basis of their Manifesto. We have our Manifesto according to which we are governing this country.

Secondly, may I asked the Honourable Member whether she thinks they have the monopoly over old-aged people? For the Honourable Members to think all of us here are orphans, we do not have old-aged people, either mothers, fathers or grandfathers and grandmothers is really out of this world. We therefore, as responsible lawmakers, should not take the issue of old-age pension out of context to make political propaganda. The old-age pension is part of the programme of addressing the vulnerable and the vulnerable in this country are not only the old-age pensioners. The orphans, the vulnerable children are all in the same category. Why do they not look at the allocation made in its global form? They are taking only one sector in order to make propaganda. That is not allowed.

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Thank you, Honourable Minister. Two problems: If every Honourable Member from SWAPO can get up and say “*as per the Congress decision of the SWAPO Party*”, in a democracy I can get up and say, “*as per the Constitution or the Manifesto of CoD.*” In a democracy that should be allowed.

Secondly, the Honourable Minister may be so strong that she is the political incarnation of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, using three position, but she is not strong enough to read what I think. Let me say what I think the Honourable Minister would know. The definition of cheap political points, I think it is an insult because my political points are not cheap, because I am not cheap, I have not been bought. I make a political statement, which is my right as a Member of the Legislature and I am still answering the question, Honourable Deputy Minister. I am answering the question! (Intervention)

---

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Information.

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** You cannot give information, you cannot teach your grandmother to suck eggs!

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Is it allowed for an Honourable Member to refer to another Honourable Member as "*the Son, the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost?*" (Laughter). Is it allowed in Parliament to refer to another Member as "*the Son, the Father and the Holy Spirit?*" (Laughter)

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I said I would support anyone who displays the courage and honesty of someone who would provide a shopping list and compare what you could buy with the pension in 1998 and what you can buy with N\$470 today after you have paid the water and electricity and for good measure, compare the cost of water and electricity then and now.

At food prices today, this is what you can buy: Five kilograms of sugar is over N\$30, 5 kilograms of bread flour over N\$40. In other words, as poverty alleviation and taking care of the old, we allow them now to buy five kilograms of sugar and five kilograms of bread flour. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** May I ask a question? Do you think after 2009 you will be back here?

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** I will, for all intents and purposes, not be back here. I will possibly seek for other avenues to have my say in a democracy. There must be something anticipated in my speech that makes you so nervous that you do not want me to make my point.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I welcome the increase in coverage for veterans. At least they will be able to cover these costs, but, and this is a big but, how long will our fragile economy be able to sustain this? Just last week this House approved the Veterans Bill...(Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** May I ask a tiny question? Is the Honourable Member aware that if you are addressing the people, some of them who do not respect their elderly people and again, not only that, they will never understand that in 1950 the people working in the Government received only forty dollars during that time. They cannot understand that because they were in Lubango that time, they got no salaries. If you are talking about fifty dollars during that time, it had value.

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I say I welcome the increase in coverage for veterans. I am however asking, how long will our fragile economy be able to sustain this? Just last week this House approved the Veterans Bill, which includes dependents. I am wondering whether research has been done with projections of how many dependents the State will have to support and for how long? Are there attempts to “*teach them how to fish instead of giving them fish?*”

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the next focal area is **Health and Education**. Let us look at the allocations of these two Ministries over the last five years from 2004 to 2008:

For Health, we have moved from N\$1.7 billion and came down to N\$1.3 billion approximately, then we went up again from N\$1.3 billion to N\$1.6 billion and now N\$2.130 billion.

For Education we moved from N\$2.3 billion to N\$2.783 billion to N\$3.192 billion, in 2007, N\$3.699 billion and this year, N\$4.782 billion.

There have been considerable increases in the Health Vote annually except for the decrease from 2004 to 2005. We have moved from N\$1.7 billion in 2004 to

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

N\$2.1 this year and this excludes sizeable contributions in money and kind from our development partners. The question is, what value are we receiving?

Health services are becoming less available and accessible; clinics and hospitals are filthy. Sometimes you have to buy your own medication if you can afford it. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I ask a question? Honourable Schimming-Chase, you put a very good question, what value we are getting. Did you ask your CoD members who are working in Education and the Health sector how they utilise that money? They are in fact sabotaging. Therefore the value is not to be seen because they sabotage for you to come and tell the public the way you are talking now.

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Honourable Deputy Minister, I will leave my awareness to you and hope that you will get up and take the Floor and talk.

What I am saying is, the fact of the matter is that the more we spend on health, the worse services become and no protestations of “*job well done*” or rationalisations can cloud this fact. We are paying more for less and we see this daily. We raise these issues in the House on a regular basis. Even the Head of State raises concern from time to time.

Let me come to the allocation for **Education**. I will not go into all detail at this stage because I have tabled a Motion on Education in this House and will do so then. Suffice it to mention at this juncture that whilst the Health Vote caters for the whole Nation, Education caters only for a small section of our population of two million. And yet the Vote for Education has jumped from N\$2.399 billion in 2004 to N\$4.782 in 2008. In fact, it has more than doubled and we have development partners injecting millions and the Global Fund billions into these two Ministries. But the quality of education seems to diminish as we allocate more funds. Grade 10 dropouts remain a problem. Lack of schools, books, libraries, science laboratories, to mention but a few, remain a serious obstacle to the provision of quality education especially for the poor. The proof in the pudding is in the eating.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

A clear conclusion that can be drawn from these statistics is that spending more money on Health and Education alone is no guarantee for improvement. I said in my maiden Budget speech eight years ago and I repeat today: *“It is the stewardship of the money that is of essence.”*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Minister mentions, as the third focal area, to invest in improving growth with new jobs. I vividly remember the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of the year 2000 and the promises of 50,000 new jobs. Ramatex was hailed as one of the providers of some of these jobs. They were given such good conditions to encourage competitiveness. How many unemployed has Ramatex created in such a short time? Now we are all critical of Ramatex, but I vividly remember one of the most heated Debates in this House a number of years ago when Honourable Kaura and the former Minister of Trade and Industry almost got involved in exchanging blows on the Floor of the House when Honourable Kaura raised concerns about Ramatex. (Interjections). The chickens have come home to roost! You should know better because he is your Comrade, not mine.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, as young socialists years ago, we welcomed Ujamaa and the creation of parastatals. We believed that this was one of our weapons for job creation, wealth and development. We all thought that money injected into parastatals within a foreseeable time would make profits, make them self-sufficient and provide jobs in order to alleviate the burden of Government. After eighteen years of Independence, what do we have?

With a few exceptions we have bankrupt parastatals that are further away from being able to sustain themselves than when they were created. Many parastatals have completely failed to make a noticeable dent in the labour market, with Parliament having to endorse financial injections on a regular basis to keep them afloat whilst they fail, to raise money to pay their managers.

The time has come for us to make a cost benefit analysis of these parastatals, to jettison the ones that cannot carry themselves and look at other ways to create jobs. Since it is a pro-poor Budget, we must look at alternative uses of the exorbitant salaries of management of parastatals that have failed.

Let me turn to the **corporate world** who should be our partners in development and providers of employment.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

Madam Deputy Speaker, for once I must say, in this regard I am in complete agreement with the sentiments expressed by Honourable Kazenambo last week. If we are to create wealth and employment and offer a financial haven to the many companies who want to invest, we have to make it possible for Namibians to be appointed at top management levels. After all, charity begins at home and after 18 years there are Namibians who can do the job. If you however look at the advertisements in the Newspapers today, you cannot fail, but to see that there is a deliberate effort to put qualifications at such a level that Namibians do not qualify and that affirmative action is being sidestepped. 18 years ago we did not have qualified Namibians, but the non-Namibians were supposed to train those who were working under them. Today, eighteen years later, it is still the same ones who get the jobs. {*“When I leave for South Africa, my brother takes over.”*}

The time has come for us, when talking about competitiveness, to create possibilities and conditionalities that will allow companies that are based in Namibia to commit themselves to the training and appointment of Namibians at decision-making levels before we allow them to become operative or continue their operations in Namibia. The odd black male CEO is just not enough.

And if we look at the lower levels, in most of our businesses today, blacks who have worked for many years, be it in the building industry, be it at garages, everywhere, have gained experience and today you will often find that they train formerly advantaged Namibians and foreigners who are then appointed in those companies as their seniors, earning much more than the trainers do. The time has come for our respective Standing Committees to investigate on the ground and to do something about the lot of our people who may not have qualifications, but they have experience which is commensurate with university qualifications.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to look at our own Vote. There is a saying in recent years that democracy is expensive, but our founding fathers and mothers deemed it fit to write a Constitution which is very democratic and emphasises the separation of powers. If we were to draw an organogram of Government, the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary are on the same level.

Let me make a small comparison between the Offices of the President, the Prime Minister and the National Assembly.

In 2004 the Presidency got N\$190 million, the Prime Minister N\$78 million and the National Assembly N\$52 million.

01 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

Year	Presidency	Prime Minister	National Assembly
2005	<b>N\$186 Million</b>	<b>N\$171 Million</b>	<b>N\$54 Million</b>
2006	<b>N\$244 Million</b>	<b>N\$270 Million</b>	<b>N\$58 Million</b>
2007	<b>N\$230 Million</b>	<b>N\$115 Million</b>	<b>N\$64 Million</b>
2008	<b>N\$253 Million</b>	<b>N\$420 Million</b>	<b>N\$90 Million</b>

Madam Deputy Speaker, these figures speak for themselves and are an indication of our failure to recognise the importance of the Legislature in exercising our oversight functions. But more than that, it is indicative of our own weakness as Parliamentarians to realise that it is us who approve the Appropriation Bill year by year. There are countries, even on our own continent, where Appropriation Bills are not approved if it does not make it possible for democracy, that means the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary, to operate properly.

Now before I hear shouts both here and outside to the effect that parliamentarians just want to sit around and be paid high salaries, let me make my point clear: I am talking of constant shortages of funds to carry out the work of Standing Committees, which is the main work of Parliamentarians. I am talking about using old and slow computers. I am talking about the total lack of researchers and the possibilities for research to enable us to give the type of service and to raise the level of Debate here, based on having these resources and support services at our disposal.

The talk of salaries is facetious. Parliamentarians are paid less than a Deputy Director in the Civil service. A Deputy Director is ranked fifth after the Permanent Secretary, the Deputy Permanent Secretary, the Under-Secretary, the Director and the Deputy Director.

In closing, let me say that some people have said doctors must leave and go and work as doctors, engineers must leave and go and work as engineers and teachers must go. Let me honestly state that if those doctors and engineers and professors were to leave and go and teach, they will earn much more than the pittance they are getting here where everybody thinks we are being overpaid.

I left Government at the rank of Acting Permanent Secretary, today I am being paid six times less. After having done the comparison with the civil service, I do not have the time to make the comparison with the heads of parastals but I think it is more.

01 April 2008

I am saying in conclusion that after eighteen years, Parliament must have matured and it is our right and duty to make sure that we get the funding that would enable us do our work as the oversight body in this State. I thank you.

---

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. In terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, the House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until tomorrow, 14:30.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:50 UNTIL 2008.04.02 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
02 APRIL 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER** took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

---

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I would like to inform the House that a memorial service in honour of the late Comrade Nico Bessinger will be held in Parliament Gardens on Friday, 4 April 2008 as from 14:00. Members of Parliament are scheduled to arrive at 14:30 and the memorial service will start punctually at 15:00. All Members are invited to attend the memorial service on Friday as indicated.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Dienda.

---

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

---

**QUESTION 49:**

**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Honourable Maria Iivula-Ithana the following:

1. How many cases of statutory rape were reported in the Rehoboth district for the past three years?
2. Were any judgments given or are all the cases still on trial?

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUTORWA**

3. Where are these girls being kept after it was reported that they were impregnated by their biological fathers?
4. If they are still staying with the culprits in the same houses, what kind of protection do we offer to them to make sure that these abusive sexual relationships between father and daughter will not continue?
5. What happens to the children born from these shameful and scandalous practices?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the questions. Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

---

**RESUMPTION  
OF SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

---

**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill*.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 yesterday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Any further discussion? Honourable Mutorwa.

---

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. Permit me, first of all, Comrade Speaker, to join you as the head of this institution and also all other Honourable Colleagues who spoke before me during the Second Reading Debate of the 2008/09 Budget in conveying my personal condolences to the bereaved families, relatives and the political colleagues in their respective Political Parties of the late Comrade Minister John Pandeni, the Honourable Kala Gertze, Comrade Nico Bessinger and Comrade Meme Julia Nepembe. May their souls find rest in eternal peace.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUTORWA**

I am rising from my humble seat here to make a contribution to the Second Reading Debate of the 1008/2009 National Budget. Both the Honourable Finance Minister and Honourable Director General of the National Planning Commission, in their forewords to their Budget documents that were circulated here, underscored important principles and values that characterise the 2008/2009 Budget. Some of those values are accountability, transparency, good governance, democracy, openness. My contribution will essentially centre around those issues.

Article 63(2)(a) and (b) of the Namibian Constitution articulates the power and function of Namibia's National Assembly as follows: *“(a) to approve Budgets for the effective Government and administration of the country; (b) to provide for revenue and taxation.”*

From the aforementioned quotations, it is abundantly clear that the National Budget must be seen, treated, debated and accepted as a very important policy instrument and a management tool to ensure effective Government and administration of the country. In short, as clearly elucidated by the Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Namibia's Finance Minister, a Budget is nothing else but a plan or method that clearly outlines and shows how much money a person or an organisation (Government) has available and how it should be spent. Thus, a Budget is simply a particular planned way, that must clearly demonstrate or show how certain clearly worked out programme activities, that have been carefully and meticulously planned beforehand, are funded and eventually, practically achieved.

The Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and Honourable Helmut Angula and their colleagues in the Finance Ministry and in the National Planning Commission deserve our appreciation and commendations for tabling the 2008/2009 Budget in good time, indeed, before the end of the 2007/2008 Financial Year which ended only two days ago. Furthermore, the Budget strategy, as summed up on page 3 of the Minister of Finance's Budget Statement, namely:

*“To improve the social safety net to relieve poverty, particularly in rural areas;*

*To foster human resource development through health and education;*

*To invest in improving competitiveness and promoting growth with new jobs;”*

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUTORWA**

are not only in line with the provisions of the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, which is a contract document with the Namibian voters, outlining policy objectives on the basis of which the Namibian people, through their democratic votes, elected the SWAPO Party into power with more than a two-thirds majority, but are also, at the same time, in line with the main policy objectives as outlined in Articles 15, 20, 95 of the Namibian Constitution, in NDP III and also in Vision 2030.

Namibia's Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, Dr Sam Nujoma, put it absolutely clear when he wrote in the foreword to the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto as follows: *“Commitment to peace, unity, security, progress, economic growth, sustainable development and prosperity with equity and social justice is the SWAPO Party's driving force.”*

The allocations meant to improve the welfare of vulnerable groups in our Nation, particularly the orphans and vulnerable children, pensioners and the veterans of Namibia's Independence liberation struggle, must be commended. In this regard, Comrade Speaker, the Bible teaches us and reminds us wisely as follows: *“Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he himself (herself) shall cry out but shall not be heard.”* (Proverbs 21:13).

Therefore, the SWAPO Party-led Government, through the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Director General must be commended for not only talking about the principles, values and virtues of accountability, democracy, fairness, justice, openness and transparency, but by actually and publicly practising and implementing those noble principles and policy pronouncements. Honourable Finance Minister, your tabling of the Government's Accountability Report, which I hope Honourable Members have gone through, and your Budget documents are clear testimony of what I am talking about here. I further agree with you that, *“Budgeting is not primarily about fiscal policy, it is about what we can achieve to better the lives of Namibians.”*

You are also hundred percent correct in stating that: *“By reporting achievement against each of the targets set in the 2006 Medium Term Expenditure Framework, also demonstrates the Government's ongoing commitment to openness, transparency and accountability.”*

A democratic, open, transparent and accountable Government is what SWAPO Party promised the Namibian people in the 1989 UN supervised Constituent

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUTORWA**

Assembly elections, also in 1994, 1999 and 2004 Presidential and National Assembly elections. In this regard, the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto puts it succinctly as follows:

*“Good governance implies service to the people. Measure of good governance is how far we are able to improve the quality of life of our people. Democracy, accountability, honesty and commitment to service are the requirements that the SWAPO Party considers necessary for delivering good governance.”*

The Honourable Director General of the National Planning Commission, Comrade Helmut Angula, puts the issue of transparency and accountability unambiguously clear, when he argues as follows:

*“This Budget document provides the citizens with information on the exact amount of public funds earmarked for their livelihoods, welfare and prosperity, while assisting the development partners in the private sector to reach their business decisions in a more informed manner.”*

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, let me say something on Political Parties and multiparty constitutional democracy in our country. Article 1(1) of the Namibian Constitution defines the Namibian State as *“sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary, founded upon the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all”*; whereas Article 17 of the Constitution *guarantees the right to participate in peaceful political activity, intended to influence the composition and policies of the Government, including the right to form and join Political Parties.* We do not have any quarrel with that provision, it is very, very good.

Comrade Speaker, by definition, a Political Party is an organisation whose members have similar aims and beliefs, usually an organisation that tries to get its members elected to the Government of the country. It is interesting, curious and, at the same time, confusing, how in recent times Political Parties or rather pressure groups, appear to be so easily formed by individuals in our country, without such groups having any common policy preferences, any political programme, any similar aims, any common beliefs and/or a general shared ideological policy orientation or position. As such, I argue that such groupings are short-lived. They are usually factional and opportunistic. Their leadership and membership easily get disillusioned and frustrated. As such, such groupings can easily become destructive and retrogressive forces to multi-party constitutional democracy itself, in any given country, when elective party and/or

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUTORWA**

Government office become elusive and out of reach. In this regard the wise advice from the Bible is certainly in order, Reverend Konjore: “*A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways*” – and it includes women. And furthermore with reference to Political Parties which just come up: “*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*”

I do not think we will reach that stage, but the signs are there and we should not just....(Intervention)

---

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, since you are quoting so profusely from the Bible, did you go to church on Sunday and read the Pastoral letter about how he should behave? If the Honourable Minister did not go to church, did the Honourable Minister have a chance to read the Pastoral letter in the newspapers today, because it has direct reference to some of the things that the Honourable Minister is saying which may encourage reactions that we do not really like.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I take it the Minister knows the Pastoral letter.

---

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I took time to write this statement, I said Article 17 of our Constitution is very good. It talks about the right to join Political Parties, to participate in political activities. We must encourage that. All that I am arguing is that when doing so, especially with reference to Political Parties, which are not forbidden, it is important for us as leaders, even us sitting here, to make clear the political, ideological objectives of such a Political Party, so that in the process we do not confuse followers and members of those Political Parties. That is all that I am saying. There is therefore nothing that I have said, that contradicts the Pastoral letter, there is nothing that signifies any intolerance whatsoever. Absolutely nothing that implies any intolerance whatsoever!

Comrade Speaker, I rest my case. Thank you very much.

---

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister for his contribution. Honourable Dienda.

---

**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am so glad that this pro-poor Budget will come to an end now. There is no poor Pupkewitz Mega Buildings, no poor Shoprite, no poor Pick-n-Pay and no poor Woermann & Brock in Namibia. All people, rich or poor, are buying from the same shops. We only have cheap China shops whose products do not even last twenty-four hours after you have purchased it.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, while now on the topic of China shops, how does the Minister deal with the issue of taxation from China shops? They are selling everything from a needle up to the US Dollars without giving any receipts for it. Since this is their way of operating in Namibia, is the Government not losing money, taking into consideration the fact that they cannot account for transactions they had done without proper record-keeping. Money is leaving the country illegally or are they also registered as Banks in Namibia?

The overall increment for Civil servants of 13% over a period of three years is nothing but a joke. This year Civil Servants will receive an increment of 5% as was announced. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope that trade unions will negotiate for a better deal in the next Financial Year. If all the affiliated Trade Unions can prove to me that they had received the same salary increments for the last three Financial Years, then I will be a happy Member of Parliament. *“Do not do to others that you do not want others to do to you”*.

A salary increment of 5% for a director might mean something, but if one looks at the 5% increment for a cleaner in the Government, we are talking about 5% of N\$800, which is N\$40. What difference will N\$40 make to the high living cost of our Nation?

Honourable Members, we should not have double standards and try to fool ourselves. On the one hand, we go all out in securing the votes of the electorate and on the other hand, we are not able to ensure the same working conditions that we accused other employers of, while we are using State machinery. We are delaying ourselves in curbing corruption and ensuring a conducive working attitude with Civil servants.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

Since the increment that we have approved now was negotiated three years back, while there was a change in petrol prices, inflation and interest was also experienced. We should stop using numbers to eliminate the reality from this august House and lose track of the needs and aspirations of the voters that secure our seats. One reality is that even the transport allowance that we have given to the Public Servants is far less than what taxis and buses charge. That is why the people are walking every day from their homes to work and back.

Honourable Speaker, on **teachers and nurses:**

There are so many complaints about teachers and nurses these days. Teachers and nurses are professionals who studied for more than three years, but yet they are being treated worse than the clerks of parastatals who only hold matriculation certificates. I find it hard to believe that the Government, which claims not to have money to pay their employees, can have money to continuously bail out failing parastatals who make sure that their staff are very well-paid. I think time has come for Government to seriously consider their priorities. First things should come first.

Nurses and teachers are leaving the profession because of low salaries, long working hours, bad working conditions, just to mention a few. Without teachers there will be no ministers, no presidents, no doctors who are able to read and write. Every child needs a teacher, but if we continuously fail to create an enabling working environment, our children will be the ones suffering.

Looking to all the challenges that we face in education and the schools in particular, is the treatment of teachers and nurses by their employers not the major contributing factor to the status quo? In most households we have a scenario where parents, like us, would go to a workplace while our kids are in the hands of the teachers who are faced with personal and professional challenges. Here we have the opportunity to ensure that our children are not exposed to the negativity of their teachers, but what we are in fact doing is to ensure that the secondary parents of our children are subjected to an environment that is not necessarily conducive to their development. We need to re-look into the teachers' salary bill.

We can build all the beautiful Hospitals and Clinics, but if we do not look after our medical staff, the Nation will die. We need doctor and nurses. Time has come for us to respect the votes of individuals and realise that the circumstances

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

that we subject others to, were the same as where we came from, were was changed by the votes of those whom we now regard leftovers as sufficient. (Intervention)

---

**HON DR GEINGOB:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Thank you, Honourable Dienda, for a very good statement about the importance of the vote. The other day I listened to a call-in programme where a person said they are not going to vote anymore, because if they are going to vote, they must get something for that vote and you seem to be saying the same thing. Are you now, therefore, saying that from now on the SWAPO Government must only cater for those who voted for it? Because if the vote is very important and we must respond to the vote, it means that I now have to look around who votes for me and only take care of them.

---

**HON DIENDA:** I am so glad that the leaders of the SWAPO-led Government are not small-minded people, so they will never think of doing things like that.

**Unemployment:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as long as we do not invest in our youth, Namibia will remain a poor country.

It is time for us to move on to the next stage and to realise the importance of the youth, not only to vote us into power... (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Dienda a question? Honourable Dienda, what did you mean by what you said in response to the question by the founding Prime Minister? What did you mean?

---

**HON DIENDA:** It was so clear, I said that the leadership of SWAPO are not small-minded people, so I know they will not be capable of doing these types of things. (Intervention)

---

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Can I ask the Honourable Member to withdraw that statement?

---

**HON DIENDA:** No, I will not! It is a compliment! (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** It is not a compliment. What you are saying is that SWAPO are not as single minded as you are. It is what you are saying.

---

**HON DIENDA:** No! In simple English, I said the SWAPO leadership are mature people. Yes, this is what I said! Do not change my words, Katali! Maybe I must ask the Honourable Hage Geingob to explain in the SWAPO language what I said.

As leaders it is vital that we encourage and use the positive and good of the youth to the advantage of the economy of this country. More jobs should be made available to boost our domestic economics, using the skills and energy of our young people.

Namibia, especially Windhoek, is extremely quiet and unproductive during weekends and evenings. 90% of the shops close their doors between 17:00 and 18:00 in the evenings. 90% of the shops close during weekends at 13h00, only to open on Monday morning again. If we are serious about the economy of our country and the high rate of unemployment, a revisit of the operational hours of retail shops should be done.

As Members of Parliament who travel abroad, we are testimony to the benefits of getting shops open while our businessmen and women are sleeping. What if we, who are custodians of the law, could initiate for shops to be open at least until 20:00 in the evening and during weekends until 17:00, to give those who are working in offices a chance to do some shopping and not to make use of the employers' time during official office hours. As leaders we ought to have foresight. I hope that the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Minister of Labour will share these sentiments with the other stakeholders.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

**Parastatals:**

The winding-up of the activities of NDC was cancelled by the highest Authority in the country, but no report was presented to this Honourable House. Whether this was a good move or not, only time will tell us. A lot of questions regarding this parastatal still needs to be answered. As for today, Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, I will focus on the financial part of it.

The NDC financial report for March 2007 shows a loss of N\$266,168,000. For 2006 it was N\$263,109,000. For this Financial Year there is nothing Budgeted for the NDC. How will they manage to pay salaries and overdrafts, outstanding debts and all other expenses? Will the status quo of this parastatal now change? Maybe the Honourable Minister of Finance needs to update us on how she intends to save the NDC from bankruptcy.

**Medical Aid:**

I said it in the previous Budget Debate of 2007 and I will repeat it again: The Minister needs to look into the contributions of Civil Servants. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** It seems there is confusion among the minority Parties, because now it appears the CoD policy has shifted drastically. If I heard the Honourable Member correctly, is she advocating that we must bail out the NDC and yet the other Political Parties are saying we should not bail out any parastatal? Should we Budget for the salaries of the NDC employees? Is that what she is trying to say?

---

**HON DIENDA:** I will repeat myself. The winding-up of the activities of NDC was cancelled by the highest Authority in the country, but no report was presented to this Honourable House. Whether this was a good move or not, only time will tell us. You did it and you did not inform us what will happen.

Honourable Speaker, the Minister needs to look into the contributions of Civil Servants. If you pay peanuts, you will receive the kind of treatment we are currently receiving. For those members who want to contribute more, the Minister has to see how to accommodate such persons. Patients with chronic diseases, like myself who has asthma, are heavily affected by those low

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

premiums and at the end of the day, we have to pay out of our pockets for our treatment. Alternatively, Civil Servants are forced to take out additional medical cover to have access to better equipped hospitals and services.

**Political Party Funding:**

During the Debate of 2007, I asked this Honourable House to consider legislation that will ensure all Political Parties who are receiving Government funding to account for it and I will say it again. Maybe the Honourable Members thought that I was joking. It is unfair for lawmakers to want others to account for money that they received from taxpayers, but are quiet about the funding that we receive for the votes we got. Public Accounts Committee has to look into this matter and see how we can change the current way of doing things – CoD, SWAPO, all of us.

**Donor Funding:**

We are approving donor funding through the National Budget, but we do not receive any reports on how the money was spent. We heard of money of donors being sent back because we did not spend it all. Why ask for money if we do not need it? Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, reporting to the donors is not enough, we also need to report to this House.

**World Cup 2010 and the African Cup of Nations:**

It is not clear what the Minister is actually Budgeting for. Is it only to renew the current infrastructure that we have or building new ones? Is there a report available of the Committee that was tasked to deal with the World Cup 2010? Without a team we will not meet all these things, Honourable Mutorwa. Our current team needs to be uplifted. We need to start approaching the game like professionals and not amateurs. The time for Namibia participating to get experience is over, we need to win. Look at the current performance of the Namibian team against Malawi. This was a joke! Why can we not invest more in the players to boost their self-esteem? I salute our players who are playing for charity, representing their country. (Intervention)

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Do you not think that the ancestors will not take you kindly by disparaging Malawi?

---

**HON DIENDA:** With what? I will assist by being the co-coach of the team.

Honourable Members, Honourable Speaker, all Namibian sportsmen and women need to be invested in. One of our young talented ladies won the South African marathon recently, but what will happen to her as from now on, she will just become like Luketz Swartbooi and the rest before him. Please let us do something before it is too late for crocodile tears.

We must also invest in our artists who must start preparing songs for these events. We want to hear Namibian songs including all of us. We are free and will never be oppressed again by anybody.

**Service delivery:**

I do not know what happened to service delivery in our country. Whether it is the Government, parastatals, Private Companies or Banks, the service everywhere is poor – if there is service at all.

Honourable Peter Iilonga, the CoD does not have any members occupying Permanent Secretary positions in this country. These positions are only filled by SWAPO card-carrying members. The people who are destroying your Ministries are not CoD members but your own Comrade who want you to fail. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

Comrade Speaker, I just want to ask what went wrong that my name is mentioned in her speech? I never said anything to her about Permanent Secretaries. Why did she bring my name into her speech?

**HON SPEAKER:** Deputy Minister, at an earlier opportunity you told us earlier, that you were her labour teacher.

---

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

**HON DIENDA:** I will answer him. Yesterday when Honourable Schimming-Chase had the Floor, he stood up and said, “*it is you who are trying to destroy the Ministries, our people are giving information.*” It was you who said that, that is why I say we do not have people in these positions. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. I will repeat what I said yesterday: The people who are sabotaging the services of the Government are the members of the Opposition, not the Permanent Secretary. I never said that. Those who are instructed do not deliver, so that you could have a point when you campaign.

---

**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Member, you just confirmed what I have said.

Honourable Minister of Health, Honourable Minister of Education, Honourable Minister of Works and Transport, just to mention a few, you are doing a great job, you are not useless, but your management teams want you to look useless on the outside.

What happened to performance appraisals in this country? People must be rewarded...(Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? I think you are doing well, but I just want to know, you mentioned the three Ministers and you were saying that they are not useless. Does that mean that there are some others who are useless?

---

**HON DIENDA:** The three of them are always in the Newspapers, that is why I mentioned the three of them.

What happened to performance appraisals in this country? People must be rewarded for a job well-done and not for any other reason. I am part of this SWAPO-led Government, but I do not want the Nation to think that we are

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

useless and that we are just incurring our pension payouts. Please let us get rid of the deadwood and bring in professionals to lead our Ministries.

The Public Service Act is very clear that employees working for the Government can be reshuffled to other departments within the Government at any time. We have all the necessary laws in our favour, but we do not make use of it. Transfer all the teachers teaching at Jan Möhr to A Shipena, the ones from Windhoek High School to Augustineum and the ones of Academia High School to Jacob Marengo and see whether these teachers will have the same year-end results. (Intervention)

---

**HON BOHITILE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a short question, please? Honourable Dienda, speaking of recycling, are you proposing that deadwood should be recycled? And if you so propose, what is the solution that it is bringing?

---

**HON DIENDA:** I said, and see whether these teachers will have the same year-end results. With the reshuffling you will see whether it was the fault of the learners or whatever. Just reshuffle them first.

The teachers of Jan Möhr, Academia, Windhoek High School, just to mention a few, are sitting with the cream of the country, not much input is asked from them, because these learners were born with a high intellectual capacity, while the other schools are sitting with all those learners that are not acceptable to the so-called better-off schools.

We as Parliamentarians only have five years to prove ourselves to the Nation. I, therefore, feel that school Principals also need to be appointed on a five-year contract, the same with Permanent Secretaries. I do not know where this word, Permanent Secretaries, comes from (Intervention)

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

**HON NAMBAHU:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Concerning the deadwood, if you went into a race and you performed very badly, what wood would you be?

---

**HON DIENDA:** I have not yet tested myself even to feel whether I am dead or not.

We need leaders in our Government structures, not bosses or owners. (Intervention)

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** It seems that you did not get my question. I am kind of implying that if you went into a race, like at Eenhana, and you performed dismally, what kind of wood would you be?

---

**HON DIENDA:** No, there was no wood available, you lost. We just lost because we were not prepared. That is why we got twelve votes.

**Police Force:**

Honourable Speaker, I do not know why we are ignoring this Ministry, but believe me, crime will never go down in this country. Insufficient police vehicles, telephones always cutting off, low salaries which led to our policemen and women, according to newspaper reports, finding themselves busy with unethical conduct. If this is the way we want to do things, please do not blame these people.

Honourable Speaker, it seems like there will be a directive on who qualifies to be a politician in this country. Honourable Helmut Angula, Honourable Konjore, please if you do it, just include everybody and hear their views before making a final decision. I would also like to add my opinion. Teachers will not be the only ones affected by this change. (Intervention)

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DIENDA**

**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to see the Executive not contributing during the Second Reading, because it is their Budget. (Intervention)

---

**HON VILJOEN:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? My intention was to ask the question before the break, but then there was enough time to think about her answer. I want to ask something on education, may I please? Honourable Speaker, it was said that schools like Jan Möhr, Windhoek High and Academia took the better learners. It is true, it is the choice of the parents, not the choice of the school or the Principal, but does the Honourable Member agree that the teachers at those schools have to work harder because they have to meet the expectations of the more clever learners and their demands? Do you agree?

---

**HON DIENDA:** They do not do anything, they do not prepare harder because those learners are already in an advanced stage, so they are the ones doing nothing. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information, Honourable Dienda. Two weeks ago I was invited to the Windhoek High School on the day of Independence and I decided to leave a lesson there, civic education. It was a lesson about the national symbols and I did not find those learners to be as bright as you are saying. I found them to be just ordinary like any other learner or perhaps they do not learn about the national symbols. Perhaps that is the problem. But the impression I got from there is that they are not something special from the other learners I have interacted with. That is the point of information, thank you.

---

**HON DIENDA:** Thank you for the information. I was a teacher myself and I know I worked very hard to make sure that my learners will continue to the next grade.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Honourable Speaker, as I have said, the Executive can defend themselves when motivating their individual Budget Votes. Currently they are the ones taking the opportunities from the backbenchers while they are the ones submitting this Budget to us. Please Honourable Members, give a chance to the backbenchers. I support this Budget. Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. Honourable Dr A Iyambo.

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to associate myself with the most pertinent views expressed by the Right Honourable Prime Minister as well as other Honourable Colleagues who concluded that the Honourable Minister of Finance deserves accolades. Commendations are befitting for tabling such a sound and robust Budget.

To the Honourable Colleagues of the Opposition, we have been listening carefully to you and I would like to appeal to you to accept that this was a good Budget. The rest is more cosmetics for discussion.

The Budget promotes macroeconomic stability. It provides sufficient safety nets to the most vulnerable segment of our society. It is a caring Budget by a caring SWAPO Party, a Party with a living political and ideological programme to systematically address the ills facing our Nation – as the Honourable Mutorwa just mentioned. Yes, we are not saints, but I think we are doing what is right.

The projected Budget deficit for the 2008/09 is well within international norms. It is gratifying to note that for the ensuing year a Budget surplus is anticipated. In addition, national debt in relation to the GDP is forecast to recede to levels below the Government target of 25% of GDP. This is true enhancement of macroeconomic stability to ensure human progress.

This pragmatic Budget is a mirror image of a visionary SWAPO Party Government. It epitomises its clarity of vision and judicious approach. The Budget ascertains that its citizenry enjoys the fullness of justice. It addresses with precision the numerous daunting challenges that distress the country. This is evidenced by colossal additional allocations, well-directed towards priority

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

sectors such as education, health and other social services. Moreover, old-age pension and child welfare grants have been hiked.

May I say that our ill-fated political rivals or pressure groups in all shapes should just concede and kindly accept that Namibia is in the safest hands of the SWAPO Party and is poised for a bright future.

With respect to the issues of Air Namibia, Honourable Comrade De Waal, I hope this year you agree that you are a Comrade now – last year you said no. Comrade De Waal, on the issue of Air Namibia, I hope you have noted the data, that yes it is going to be a gradual decline of the allocation to Air Namibia because of their new strategic plan. (Interjection)

---

**HON DE WAAL:** You said that five years ago!

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Yes, we will continue saying what is right at the right time.

Honourable Speaker, While continuing to maintain macro-economic stability and providing safety nets to vulnerable members of our society, we now need to step-up and consolidate our efforts in order to raise economic growth with a view to safeguard the dignity of our downtrodden youth. It is with this in mind that I wish to make some pronouncements with respect to the imperatives to foster economic growth.

Honourable Speaker, this afternoon I would like to concentrate on **economic growth** for us to be able to make a dent in poverty alleviation.

On economic growth and the way forward, Honourable Speaker, it is a matter of grave concern that the healthy macro-economic developments did not translate into instant job creation and deeper poverty reduction. This, I believe is now our common challenge and a moral obligation to address the virulence and severity of underdevelopment. In order to achieve the desirable and noblest objectives, such as more jobs, wealth creation, poverty reduction at sustained level to provide equal opportunities to our citizens, we now need to look at how to grow our economy. We should, therefore, continue pursuing policies and craft new ones

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

which will ensure that this growth delivers urgent employment opportunities and conquers poverty. This requires a shift in the traditional growth sources from the highly capital intensive sectors that do not necessarily absorb immediate huge quantities of labour.

Emphasis should be put on more balanced sources of growth, with the ability to generate more jobs. Moreover, more needs to be done to ensure that the fruits of growth are shared in a manner that will lead to further reduction in poverty and severe inequalities that still plague the country. It should be a must that no low skilled work will be given to foreigners at the expense of Namibians.

Given the above backdrop, the question arises: What can be done to unleash the energy to meaningfully stimulate broad-based accelerated economic growth? Can we solve the problem together within our limitations? I emphatically say yes, we can. An unemployment rate of above 35% is severely sickening.

A plethora of opinion surveys conducted by the World Bank and World Economic Forum confirm that there are a number of micro-economic impediments to accelerate growth. We must with urgency and head-on aggressively address these roadblocks. These include, amongst others, skills deficit, the cost of doing business and technological readiness. Prospective entrepreneurs and managers should, therefore, be assisted in order to start and grow businesses. Innovation spirit in Namibia is extremely low and should be supported and encouraged.

Honourable Speaker, I will now attempt to dwell on the issue of employment creation and economic structure.

Despite respectable economic growth, unemployment, as I lamented earlier on, is above 35% and remains our big concern. This untenable truth is partly related to the economic structure of our country. Growth has been relatively capital intensive. The challenge would be for us to get excited and support economic sectors that have huge potential to absorb large quantities of labour.

One sector that is heavily pregnant with the potential for rapid growth and an obvious job creator is tourism. We are on the right track. We should continue to strengthen this sector and come up with a well-coordinated strategy on how to increase tourism's contribution to GDP through employment creation. This includes increasing air and land transport capacity.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Honourable Speaker, if a small country such as Singapore could attract over 7 million tourists a year, surely a splendid vast and diverse country such as Namibia has a chance to exceed this figure. The Government, together with the World Tourism Organisation commissioned a study on the potential of the tourism sector in Namibia. The recommendations in this study will inform Namibia's holistic strategy on how to grow the tourism sector with a view to creating more jobs, but Namibia is on the right track.

Two sectors with infinite potential and fertility to create jobs are the **agriculture** and its twin, **aquaculture**. There are some niche products that Namibia must harness to create employment from these two sectors. These include, for instance, horticulture to produce dates and grapes. In this connection, the implementation of the Green Scheme should be fast-tracked. Both the agriculture and aquaculture sectors have well-thought policies that should take off. Skills deficit and finance to the private sector are the key hindrances. Namibia should not shy away from adding value to its raw materials, but must increase the forward momentum.

The emerging growth of diamond cutting and polishing sectors as well as more value addition to our fish products is something we are all proud of. We should, therefore, continue to promote, assist and facilitate value addition in mining and fisheries sectors. This is the only certain way for us to create more jobs.

On the issue of **investment in physical infrastructure**, Honourable Speaker, reliable state of the art physical infrastructure has become a key competitive edge for many countries. Namibia is generally praised and has a modern and reliable physical infrastructure, including good roads, railways, electricity and telecommunications. Nevertheless, there is a need for some key physical infrastructure, especially power supply to be expanded and maintained adequately, as absence of this could pose a serious constraint for accelerated growth.

On the issue of **energy and mining**, the forward-looking Budget recognises the importance of energy for economic growth. Recently the power shortage in the region has started to pose a significant threat to the domestic outlook at a time when there are many opportunities to propel economic growth. Namibia has been haunted by the potential repercussions of electricity shortages. This situation comes at a very unfortunate time when prices for most of Namibia's commodities are very high. The cost of living is too high. Our call and challenge now is to

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

invest in own generating capacity in order to avoid dependency. We have restructured the electricity industry; what is now needed is significant generating capacity by building new generating capacity which can deliver competitive power that will sustain a potential mining boom and deliver security of supply to all sectors of our economy.

As with other disasters, we should continue working on our clear and forward strategy on how to deal with the power crisis.

On the issue of **transport**, Namibia is blessed with a vast coastal line. This positions the country well for both sea and land transport. Namibia must continue using this competitive advantage to provide transport services to our neighbours, especially the land-locked countries. We are on the right track.

The phenomenal growth experienced by NamPort over the past few years clearly demonstrates Namibia's growth potential in this area. The upgrading of the Walvis Bay Airport will be a big economic boost for the country. We look forward to its finalisation before the end of this year.

For the country to fully leverage its competitive advantage in this area, more investments are needed in the transport sector.

Our detractors have scorned and belittled our efforts on rail extension. We are doing the right thing and let us remain focused on our agenda. To our tired adversaries: rail and roads are a must for economic growth. (Interjection). I said, "*to our detractors.*" Our detractors have scorned and belittled our efforts on rail extension. We are doing the right thing and let us remain focused on our agenda. To our tired adversaries, I say the following: rail and roads are a must for economic growth.

To further enhance the country's potential in the transport sector, the following should be considered and cemented. The viability of rail links along the Trans-Caprivi and Trans-Kalahari roads should be investigated. The expansion of port facilities envisaged by NamPort is a step in the right direction and support in this regard should be continued. Similarly, the work of the Walvis Bay Corridor Group aimed at removing bottlenecks in the transport infrastructure, deserves further support.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

On the issue of land, we have exercised our minds on this in the past. Most of Namibia's poorest people live in the subsistence agricultural area where they own few assets and no title to land. We have exercised our minds on this in the past. Our people could be assisted if they were given title to the land they farm, which would allow them to use it as collateral. This would be a far more tangible and effective way of helping the rural poor. Such a far-reaching policy could start off through limited experiments in appropriate parts of the country. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I am sorry to disturb my very learned Colleague, well-reasoned, well-structured, but I have a small question. Honourable Abraham Iyambo, do you not think that if you give the land title to the rural poor they will behave like those who were given fish quotas and sold them to the Spanish? Do you not think there is a likelihood for that to happen?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** The Spanish are good friends of Namibia.

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his question on this issue of the title of land in the communal areas. I do believe it is very important, the more we stay without giving security of land to those in rural areas, the more we cement poverty. The more we do not do anything, the more poverty will eat us to the core of our hearts.

With respect to the comparison, I want to agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister that whatever we do for economic empowerment, as we go with our journey of development, we should look at our history, what has happened on different areas. With this rich experience we can avoid different things, Honourable Prime Minister.

I would like to address the diversification of **export markets**. Namibia's export markets remain heavily concentrated and based on colonial ties, especially South Africa and Europe. Relying heavily on one market for exports for some of our commodities, Honourable Speaker, exposes our country to the vagaries, whims as well as political and economic hegemony of those countries. A case in point is the disagreements in EPA negotiations at the moment.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Market diversification, therefore, is a necessity. We must, therefore, invest in exploring markets for our various export products with a view to lessening dependence on few market countries. Anything else will stagnate and become perilous to our economic growth.

**Access to affordable finance** remains a significant hindrance to economic emancipation and growth. This is partly so because many of our financial institutions are branches of parent Companies, which are foreign. Government has set up development financial institutions, such as AgriBank, the Development Bank of Namibia and the National Housing Enterprise to provide development finance. This, of course, is to be applauded. However, these institutions continue to be adversely affected by low economies of scale.

Given the emerging nature of the private sector in Namibia, the Government will still have to play a significant role in the economy. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Comrade Speaker, may I ask my Son a small question? Honourable Minister, talking about our financial institutions, those that you have just listed, are you aware that one of these financing institutions which this Government has created for the sole purpose of financing small-scale businesses, has assigned that important responsibility to another Commercial bank? Do you know about that?

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Thank you very much, Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General and Secretary-General. I am very much aware that the Development Bank of Namibia has for operational reasons assigned some of its responsibilities to a Commercial Bank.

Honourable Speaker, I am saying that the lack of capital is a big problem for Namibia. We can have the best ideas, best proposals, well-crafted, but nobody will eat those policies. What is required are resources, be it mining, be it in fisheries, be it in agriculture, aquaculture. The private sector or the individuals who will need money and the poor communities will not succeed. Therefore the

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

original idea of the Development Bank, which is the same, was to give cheaper money for development to many members of our society.

Of course, to avoid constraints of collateral, part of the money is now at the Commercial Bank and I think with time we should continue discussing this so that our people can have access to cheaper money.

Honourable Speaker, given the emerging nature of the private sector in Namibia, the Government will still have to play a significant role in the economy.  
(Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister of Fisheries a small question? Honourable Minister, you are talking about Government making it easier for the poor people to access money and you mentioned the Development Bank that was meant to do exactly that. I remember that there was also Credit Guarantee Trust that was meant to give cheaper loans to us. Are you aware that the Development Bank as well as the Credit Card Scheme has employed Commercial Banks to give loans to the very same people that you are talking about at cost? Can you explain to us what is the cost that the Banks are now requiring from the small business people?

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** I thank you very much, it is becoming quite interesting. I thought of going through very fast, but I think I should stop a little bit and talk.

Honourable Speaker, the good thing about this Government is that it is a Government that listens. The bad thing about the Opposition is that when they are listened to, they make it difficult to listen tomorrow. If you say something about something and it is changed from a Government that listens, then you make it something else. I am therefore requesting the Opposition to become also a listening type of Opposition.

The Government has been listening to the outcry of the public in terms of the lack of finance, particularly affordable finance. At the moment the Ministry of

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Finance is working on issues of micro-credit, to look at how to assist people without sufficient capital, including in the rural areas.

The question that the Colleagues have posed, whether I know about the relation between the Government institutions and the Commercial Banks? We are saying that we have been listening to that and started to look holistically at the whole issue of micro-credit and that will be part of it. Just say that you have a good Government, concede to that, a Government that listens and when we listen, we do not want you to come and say that was our idea. Fine, but it is a Government that listens to its citizens.

Given the emerging nature of the private sector in Namibia, the Government will still have to play a significant role in the economy. I am tempted, Honourable Speaker, to advocate the view that an Equity Fund to finance strategic and important development projects be considered and established. Many young people with great intellect and qualifications roam our streets. We have encouraged them to consider self-employment. That is fine, the reality is that this is at times impossible if no start-up capital is made available. It is unfortunate that lack and rigidity to access finance is a stumbling block. I equally feel that graduates, after completion of their studies, should be accommodated by entities such as Mines, Banks and Fishing Factories to gain experience while in search for a permanent employment.

The private sector should take up this challenge and work with Government. I am also of the view that the Financial Services Charter that is being formulated by the financial sector should be finalised as soon as possible. This will possibly help to improve access to finance in Namibia.

Also, given the smallness of our economy, we should consider to consolidate the development of financial institutions. There is too much fragmentation of financial institutions that are linked to Government. A consolidated development finance institution should have an equity arm which will serve as a Government instrument to promote and kick start key strategic sectors that could propel the economy to new heights. We should also look at the issue of investment and exchange control, if it is investor friendly at the moment.

And finally on the issue of **disasters**: Honourable Speaker, let me leave the subject of economic growth and briefly touch on disasters that haunt us. These include devastating floods of unprecedented proportions in the Northern and

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

North-Eastern parts of the country. We have witnessed that many critical places, such as schools, clinics and hospitals, became inaccessible due to floods. What the Prime Minister said, *Omagongati*, is where my mom lives. I should admit that I cannot even go there anymore for a very long time because of this unfortunate situation of floods.

At the moment we have witnessed that many critical places, such as schools, clinics and hospitals, became inaccessible due to floods. It is, therefore, important Honourable Speaker, as we think about the future, to be mindful that the cost of reconstruction will be massive. Parliament should already start anticipating allocation of sufficient funds to invest in roads and other infrastructure in the affected Regions. Other disasters included, for example, the devouring drought and environmental impact at sea. I am in agreement with those voices calling for a fixed disaster fund for the country.

Honourable Speaker, we are on the right track. We would like our Colleagues from the Opposition to agree that this is a good Budget. Let us sometimes agree when things are good. I listened very carefully to Honourable De Waal. Honourable De Waal, this year, I take it that he did not have much to say with the exception of Air Namibia this year, and the same with Honourable Schimming-Chase. I think I know you by now. You are sometimes very provocative. That is why I am speaking as the last person today. I was waiting for you, but then I thought, "*no, what do I do now?*" Honourable Dienda the same thing. You were just saying that those in the Executive should not speak, but you are from a democratic type of Party where you are supposed to practise democracy. I am using the wrong term, Honourable Speaker, not from a democratic Party but from a "*so-called*". I was just advised to use the right term.

We are therefore on the right track. We have a common powerful weapon which is our conviction to liberate Namibia from economic disempowerment. Thank you very much.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister for his contribution.  
Honourable Basson.

---

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON BASSON**

**HON BASSON:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. Allow me to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary, staff and also Honourable Comrade Helmut Angula, Director General of the National Planning Commission and his team for tabling the Budget for 2008/09 Financial Year and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework covering the period 2008/09 to 2010/11.

Comrade Speaker, as Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, I also want to express my sincere gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for adhering to the request from the Committee and adding additional money to the Defence Ministry for infrastructure maintenance upgrading, operations and equipment.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I must also congratulate the SWAPO Party Government for the transparent manner in which the annual Budget is analysed and debated. The aspect of transparency starts with the tabling of the Budget. Public analysis of the proposed Budget by, amongst others, Economists, Opposition parties, Auditors and Accountants. Furthermore, lively Debate in the Parliament, Budget Breakfast Meetings and Workshops are convened where the Honourable Minister of Finance and other staff members are required to answer questions on policies.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I know that most of us, as we are sitting in this august House as Honourable Members and the people outside are concerned about the development of our country and we equally know that development projects are Budgeted for by all the Government Ministries and Agencies.

Comrade Speaker, I will join those who are concerned about the implementation and monitoring of Government projects and plans. Therefore, Comrade Speaker, I only want to quote the Minister of Finance on page 17, number 65 of her Budget statement and I quote:

*“We shall introduce new measures in order to further improve the Budget implementation. Firstly, regular reports on the implementation of projects will be required from Organisations, Ministries and Agencies. This should allow the identify bottlenecks in a timely manner and to correct the problems if possible.”*

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON BASSON**

Secondly the Minister says:

*“Ministries are urged to prepare their tender documents well before the new Financial Year. This will enable them to start with early implementation of projects after the Budget has been approved.”*

Comrade Speaker, allow me to say something about **land** and in particular, resettlement.

Comrade Speaker, to be honest with myself and to all Honourable Members, we have fought and...(Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question?

---

**HON BASSON:** Honourable Speaker, I decline. Comrade Speaker, we have fought and liberated this country ...(Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker. I would like to inform the Honourable Member that, having been a long-serving member of the Ruling Party, SWAPO, it will not help to try and come to Parliament to show your SWAPO colours. People should know and know the place where she is standing up in Parliament. I think it is unparliamentary to try and do those things.

---

**HON BASSON:** Comrade Speaker, to be honest with myself and with you, Honourable Members, we have fought and liberated this country for the most important aim, and that is to own land. I have respect for the manner in which the SWAPO-led Government handled the land issue, however I am disappointed about the way how the resettlement programme is handled in our country.

Comrade Speaker, favouritism, tribalism and regionalism will never solve our land problems (Intervention)

---

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON BASSON**

**HON /UI/O/OO:** May I pose a question to my Neighbour? Honourable Basson, what do you mean when you are mentioning tribalism, nepotism and regionalism? Do you want to tell the House that there is a certain group which is benefiting more than the others?

---

**HON BASSON:** Comrade Speaker, that is not what I want to say. What I want to say is that I come from the Southern part of Namibia and I know what I am talking about. I am however sorry, if you contact me in my office, then I will explain to you what I mean. (Laughter).

Therefore, I appeal to the Government, through the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, to review the current resettlement policy. I understand that the Government can resettle people who do not have anything to start farming with, but we should also know that not everybody in Namibia are farmers. Therefore, let us resettle people who can farm on some of the commercial farms and resettle people who want to make business in urban areas if we really want to develop our country constructively.

According to my knowledge, the Traditional Leaders have no powers to resettle their people, nor the Regional Resettlement Committee. Now my question is: Who is to resettle the people in the Regions?

Comrade Speaker, I am asking these questions because I am representing people in this House and they are really frustrated. Therefore, the resettlement policy should be reviewed and let the Traditional Leaders be given the power to resettle their people together with the Resettlement Committees in the regions.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the next one is **communication**. Comrade Speaker, communication is very much important but if some people in Namibia are totally excluded from the rest of Namibia, it is dangerous. Comrade Speaker, I want to be specific. I am coming from the Hardap Region where I was the SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator and I know what I am talking about. The communication that I was referring to is based on the following settlement areas: It is Klein Aub-Hardap, Schlip-Hardap and Nawaseb-Hardap. The people in the mentioned communities are totally in darkness when it comes to news. No single radio contact are in these places, 18 years after Independence it is a shame.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON BASSON**

This is not a new story, I have already mentioned it last year during the Budget and I repeat it again. I have gone through the development programmes in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, this thick document, but no single abovementioned settlement areas are Budgeted for. I have seen Sesfontein is Budgeted for, but not for ours.

Therefore, I once again remind the Minister of Information and Broadcasting that Klein Aub is not far from Rehoboth, Schlip and Nawaseb are in Rehoboth Rural Constituency in Hardap Region and I know that my sister knows what I am talking about.

I appeal to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting that Hardap Region is big enough, we have activities in all 6 Constituencies. Therefore, we want our own NBC in Mariental, the capital of the Hardap Region as a start of the decentralisation process and we also want our own TV camera so that activities in our Region can be fully covered, because sometimes we see it is only when the Governor is speaking, but it is not all the activities in our Region because we are sharing cameras with Karas or Khomas Region. I really appeal to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion....(Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I listened attentively to the problems and I think the problems occurring in Hardap are occurring all over the 13 Regions. I just wanted to know what are your Village Committees doing, your District Committees and your Regional Development Committees. These are the key structures where they have to feed the information for Budgetary purposes, for national planning, for everything. If those people in those very, very important structures are resting on their laurels, nothing will happen. We should not always blame, but we should also re-examine what we ourselves are doing. Sometimes we are not doing and then blame the Central Government.

---

**HON BASSON:** I was maybe one of those hardworking Regional Coordinators, that is why I say I know what I am talking about. I have, together with the Regional Councillor in Rehoboth Rural Constituency, approached the

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON BASSON**

said Ministry about this communication. I personally approached both Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and I was advised to approach a certain Ruben Prinz and all those people. We have consulted all these people. I am only talking after I have done research and then I come back to say something in this House. So really, we have done our best and I just want to again remind the Minister that what we have asked has not been fulfilled.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion ... (Intervention)

---

**HON VILJOEN:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

---

**HON BASSON:** Question declined.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. I agree with what the Honourable Member said, but I am worried about the poor people in the South. The question which I intended to ask was that there are many projects, there is Aussenkehr, Rosh Pinah, there is Skorpion, is it the local people who work there or who works at all these places?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Basson is answering the question.

---

**HON BASSON:** No, I am not answering because it was information. This information is wrong information to the wrong person, because I am settled in the Hardap Region. Those things are from Karas.

Comrade Speaker, in conclusion, I know that the SWAPO Party Government is implementing the SWAPO Party Manifesto of 2004. (Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question, please?

---

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON BASSON**

**HON BASSON:** Question declined. In conclusion, I know that the SWAPO Party Government is implementing the SWAPO Party Manifesto of 2004. Over the past 18 years we have made significant changes in terms of development, improving the quality of life of all Namibians. Therefore, I am confident that we will successfully implement the development projects for the benefit of our people.

With these few remarks, I support the Appropriation Bill and I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Minister Kamwi.

---

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I take the Floor to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Deputy and their efficient team for tabling a Budget that addresses the diverse needs of our people. I am aware of the demands put on the National Budget to allocate the limited resources and the dilemma the Honourable Minister faces in trying to achieve an equitable allocation of our limited resources.

This is an enormous task that you, Comrade Minister, have executed with fairness. Thus, I join others in congratulating you for doing an excellent job and for ensuring sustainable fiscal policy and macroeconomic stability, so that the next generation does not inherit debts from us. Over the past few years she demonstrated to us that this, indeed, can be done by bringing a deficit of as high as 7% to a surplus of 3.3%. This is an achievement that all of us should applaud.

I am aware of the risks we face in sustaining our expenditure in light of the likely decline in SACU revenue. I have no doubt that under her able leadership the Ministry of Finance is well positioned to ensure that the Government has enough revenue to carry out its programmes as we head towards the realisation of Vision 2030.

Indeed, the Honourable Minister and her team are worthy of the highest and most sincere praise for sticking to the SWAPO Party programmes, in particular for addressing the priority areas of health and education. Two striking examples are

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR KAMWI**

the provision of funds for the construction of classrooms in terms of education, and for the advancement of the fight against HIV/AIDS in terms of health.

The Honourable Minister has been consistent and persistent in her translation of the required means to address these urgent needs into measurable amounts with which we are implementing dedicated plans of action.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Minister of Education for his resolute response to the calls of the SWAPO Party Youth League, SWAPO Party Elder's Council and SWAPO Party 2007 Congress in permitting Grade 10 students to repeat the academic year should they not succeed in passing their final examinations.

Clearly, for the Honourable Minister and his team to accomplish and sustain this mammoth task, they require unwavering support and commensurate financial resources.

Indeed, to put it simply, health and education are as important as they are expensive. It is no wonder, then that both Ministries "enjoy" the same amount of public attention, concern and commentary. Happily, our shared overlap does not end there.

The balance of the National Budget and its component allocations require cooperation between Ministries. The Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Education remain partners in the training of much-needed health professionals.

18 Years along the line has not been sufficient for this country to have her own medical practitioners to accommodate all our 33 Hospitals, 257 Clinics and 43 Health Centres. Therefore, while we rely on our partners and friends to assist us, we are embarking on an aggressive training and re-training programme for Namibian health professionals. Currently, we are training 29 categories of health professionals from medical doctors, pharmacists, dentists, registered nurses, social workers, environmental health workers, optometrists, medical rehabilitation workers, clinical engineers and so forth.

Until last year students in these fields pursued their studies through loan schemes at the expense of Government and were expected to pay back their loans after completion of their studies. Indeed, through this provision we recognise the

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR KAMWI**

positive results that have seen numerous young Namibian health professionals return from their studies and enter the workforce to the service of our Nation. However, we take note that Government's investment has been at a loss in efforts to hold up their end of the deal and repay their loans. A good number of medical professionals have entered the private sector.

Therefore, thanks to Cabinet and my Senior Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Education, as of last year, students receiving financial assistance from Government to pursue studies in the medicine will sign a contractual agreement, binding them to repay the financial investment in them through service to the Nation. That is, upon graduation, medical doctors are now expected to do community service for two years and serve within the Ministry of Health and Social Services for up to six years.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this brings me to my next point. Indeed, the Ministry of Health and Social Services remains one of the most complex Ministries in Government with a diverse composition of professionals. In order to administer these professionals, provide the Namibian Nation with quality service and protection, Government, through the Ministry of Health and Social Services, established the Health Professions Councils under Repeal Act No. 3 of 2004. The principal function of the Health Professions Councils is to protect and promote the interests of all Namibians as it relates to health and social services care.

Prior to the assumption of duty within or alongside the Ministry of Health and Social Services, any and all medical professionals, be they Namibian or foreign, are required without exception to apply for registration with the relevant Health Professions Council. These councils are Medical and Dental, Pharmacy, Nursing, Social Work, Psychology and Allied Health Professions. Clearly, therefore, bogus, dubious, unqualified or unidentified doctors in whatsoever name or capacity are not allowed by law to practise in Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to return and remain on this point, the well-being of the Nation.

Despite the fact that the Ministry of Health and Social Services ranks number 2 in terms of Budget priority, we remain constrained with challenges related to the ailing, wear and tear of our infrastructure, coupled with the need for more new health facilities, clinics and mortuaries, in particular. For this, we remain

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR KAMWI**

grateful to the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Director General of the National Planning Commission for the consideration made for the financial resources in addressing these important projects.

Honourable Speaker, there is a general consensus that the current rate of economic growth averaging between 3.6% and 4.5% is not sufficient to address the socio-economic challenges we are confronted with, such as unemployment, poverty, disease and skewed distribution of wealth.

Indeed, we are faced with an immense challenge as relates to the disease burden of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the TB emergency. As many of you are aware, the Ministry of Health and Social Services employs the primary health care approach in addressing these challenges. This approach involves the community in decision-making and implementation of programmes designed to improve the quality and quantity of health care services.

In this regard, I would be remiss not to most sincerely thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for her understanding and prompt response to us when we approached her last year regarding constraints for outreach and emergency transport. To our great delight, the Honourable Minister impressively acquiesced to and assisted the Ministry with an earmark of N\$44 million for Ambulances alone. Further to this, we are grateful that the 2008/09 total transport Budget has almost doubled from last year to the tune of some N\$70 million.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we are united in our goal as delineated in Vision 2030 and progressively outlined in each of our National Development Plans. I wish to urge ourselves to stay the course, following the notable example of the Honourable Minister of Finance. First and foremost, we must learn from, and reflect on, NDP2 and ask ourselves whether there was indeed sufficient structural transformation of the economy over that period and if not, why not, and how we can improve upon the shortcomings, if any. Then we must implement NDP3 with speed and efficiency and ensure we have competent people to drive the monitoring and evaluation process to fast-track our socio-economic development.

Honourable Members, we all have a responsibility towards the Nation and, therefore, need to support the Government and the Honourable Minister of Finance in her effort to diversify our revenue base and sustain our national programmes.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR KAMWI**

I would have failed in my duty to inform the Honourable Members that we are currently faced with an epidemic of cholera, never before seen in this country. To date we recorded a total of 896 suspected cases, with 16 confirmed as cholera and 4 deaths.

It is equally important to note that all along it was confined to Engela district, whereas of last week we are recording cases of cholera in Eenhana district where we had the fourth death. More than 15 health facilities are inaccessible and the means of drug supply and transportation of patients on referral is heavily reliant on the Ministry of Defence's two helicopters. For this I wish to use this opportunity, on behalf of the Ministry and indeed myself, to thank the Honourable Minister, his Deputy and the uniformed men and women who are engaged in this very important task.

Having said that, it is bothersome to note that of the pilots serving in this regard, only two are Namibians. There is a need to value what they are doing and to consider adjustments to the salaries and allowances of these young pilots. If we have to keep intact with this most needed resource, the time is now for consideration. I, therefore, place an urgent appeal to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources and Community Development to intervene.

Honourable Members, with this impressive Budget without efficient and well-motivated Civil Servants who should be on the ground, we are likely to score very little in terms of service delivery. Public servants owe it to the general public. With my wide experience, as I travel in this country, by and large the commitment by some Civil Servants remains questionable. In my view, this is because accountability is not in place. As political office-bearers, we find ourselves time and again on the receiving end while we do not operate independently – we rely entirely on those tasked with implementation.

For this reason, I wish to conclude by appealing to my most Senior, the Right Honourable Prime Minister to consider expediting the Amendment to the Public Service Act No. 36 of 1995. The Act should enable the actual service we as public servants render and the marked benefits thereof, to be the true measure of the quality of our work. In addition, the Act should allow that those who are not delivering be chipped and booted out.

I support the Appropriation Bill, 2008. I thank you.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his contribution. Honourable !Nawases.

---

**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to give my input in the Debate on the 2008/09 Appropriation Bill. However, I would like to pay my homage to our fallen heroes: Late Comrade John Alphons Pandeni, Comrade Nico Bessinger, Comrade Meme Julia Nepembe and Honourable Kala Gertze. Their legacy of hard work and national pride and their selfless dedication to the good of this country are examples that we will strongly emulate. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

I am delighted that this Appropriation Bill tabled by Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, our Minister of Finance, addresses the contemporary social and economic challenges in the Namibian society. I, therefore, wish to express my congratulations to the Minister of Finance and her staff for tabling and economic-growth oriented Bill, while accurately capturing and balancing the social sector needs effectively within the limited resources available.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, before proceeding with my contribution, I wish to salute the rank and file of SWAPO Party for a sweeping victory in Eenhana Constituency by-election. This magnificent, but expected, victory for our Party reaffirms without doubt the popular support that SWAPO Party enjoys, while demonstrating the general satisfaction of the citizens of this country with the leadership, policies and programmes of this Government.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the 2008/09 Budget is tabled at a time when the global economic outlook appears to be entering a recession. The USA sub-prime crisis, coupled with the volatile oil prices and the weakening US Dollar are important indicators of the health of the global economy. It is uncertain how deep this possible recession could be in the USA, but the economies of China and India seem moderately affected and could drive the global economy through this difficult period.

Quite naturally, these global incidences have a direct bearing on the economic performance and outlook for Namibia. In this regard, the rising cost of living, where basic commodities are becoming unaffordable to many of our citizens, is a point of concern. For example, the cost of 50 kilogram of maize meal stands at

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

N\$295,95. The cost of brown bread stands at N\$5,60 in Windhoek, while it stands at N\$6,50 at Gobabis and N\$6,95 at Keetmanshoop. These costs of basic commodities are affecting the household economy negatively. We may want to find creative ways to stem the tide of rising basic commodities.

It is appropriate Comrade Speaker, that the relevant Ministry speeds up the implementation and expansion of the Green Scheme to all parts of the country to ensure food security. There is already an outcry that only certain consultants from one section of society is being used in the implementation of the Green Scheme. This must be looked into. The land reform policy must explicitly address the need for more of our young people to access resettlement farms to ensure that production is maintained and even enlarged at these farms, as called for by the SWAPO Party Youth League.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, let us also refute the notion that our young people are incapable of venturing into these farms. I have met young people all over this country who are ready and determined to make a success of these farms when given the chance.

It is also correct to assert that the primary market for meat industry cannot only be the EU and South Africa. The Asian markets of China and India, as well as other markets in the Middle East, should be explored aggressively to ensure better pricing structures for all players in the industry. This will benefit many of our communal, farmers.

The use of solar power must be broadly expanded and our rural communities must draw benefit from this renewable source of energy. These include schools and hostels in rural areas that often have to use school learners to collect wood for cooking and so forth.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the allocation on education since Independence speaks volumes of the commitment by the SWAPO-led Government to educate Namibians in order for national development to be facilitated. Our youth must take the opportunities available to access educational facilities with both hands. It is, therefore, appropriate to commend the Ministry of Education for allowing grade 10 learners a second chance to show what they can do. I call upon parents, teachers, all educators and the learners to work very hard this year to succeed. I also take this opportunity to call upon UNAM and Polytechnic to do more to expand access to education to as many Namibian

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

youth. I also urge the parastatals to do more to award bursaries to our youth, with a view to leapfrog Namibia into a Nation of well-educated and competent citizens.

The amount of N\$4.78 billion for this Fiscal Year must mean that more and more youth access education.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to join the Deputy Prime Minister in her call to ensure that the multiplication of shebeens and alcohol outlets in Namibia is a cause for concern. As she rightfully pointed out, schools and churches are neighbouring shebeens these days, with our youth excessively exposed to the opportunity of sipping alcohol.

On the question of youth empowerment, any national development effort that does not consciously invest in youth beneficiation and empowerment cannot be sustainable. While the SWAPO Party Government has laid good policies in place to create an enabling environment for young people to realise their potential, resources constraints and support linkages are not always in tune to drive the process forward. Often, youth with great entrepreneurial ideas and drive are turned down and discouraged from pursuing their dreams and aspirations.

We are too aware, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as stated by the SWAPO Party Youth League Congress, that *many of the major companies in this country are making millions from State tenders*. Thus, as resolved at the SWAPO Party Youth League Congress, the procurement policies of the Government must address the need for joint ventures with youth enterprises on a meaningful shareholders basis.

Parastatals must also join the fray in promulgating deliberate strategies for youth enterprise development and support. This is the time to act. The poverty and unemployment of our youth cannot continue unchallenged, while there are resources and avenues to mitigate and eventually eliminate this social and economic pandemic.

Equally, also the National Youth Council of Namibia requires further support from the Government. This body is an important melting pot for youth ideas and interaction. The National Youth Council has grown so significantly since its inception that the subvention from Government is not sufficient for the National Youth Council to carry out its mandate. I echo the sentiments of the SWAPO

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

Party Youth League that the National Youth Council must at least be given N\$10 million. I also salute the commitment of the Government to the National Youth Service which aims to empower young people through various training. We are particularly pleased about the increase in the number of recruits for this year.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to congratulate the Ministry of Health and Social Services for a good job done to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and other diseases in the country.

Above all, Comrade Speaker, this Budget will be measured by how practically it would uplift the standard of living of the ordinary people of our country in the villages, like Bethanie, Leonardville, Groot Aub, Otjimbingwe and many other places. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? On that point of closing of shebeens in Namibia, does the Honourable Member have another plan to create jobs for those unemployed shebeen owners or will they just close the shebeens and leave them in the streets?

---

**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Honourable Speaker, I will come with suggestions on that.

It is my wish that when the Financial Year ends, the Honourable Minister of Finance will report on how social amenities have been provided to our people. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** May I put a question to the Honourable Member, please? Thank you very much. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Member, would you agree with me that by all means, even if we go by statistics, the employment provided by shebeens to whoever cannot be compared to the destruction shebeens are causing to our Nation. Is it really useful to defend shebeens on the basis of providing employment to people? Is it justifiable?

---

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** The answer is loud and clear: I fully support you, Honourable Konjore and I hope Honourable Moongo has followed your question. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** Is the Honourable Member aware that shebeens do not pick up liquor from the streets, they are buying it from the big Registered Companies, allowed by the SWAPO Government in this country and now you are afraid to suppress them, you only want to suppress the ordinary person in order to rule better.

---

**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Honourable Speaker, I do not want to repeat myself on that one.

I was saying that it is my wish that when the Financial Year ends, the Honourable Minister of Finance will report on how social amenities have been provided to our people. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I am sorry to disturb my dear Colleague. Honourable Speaker, is it allowed for an Honourable Member who I suppose has declared his interest to the Speaker, the Honourable Member is a shebeen baron and he is supposed to declare his interest in that business, is it allowed for the Honourable Member to take part in this Debate about shebeens?

---

**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** I continue, Honourable Speaker. Comrade Speaker, I am simply advocating that the Capital Budget should not only benefit a few select people, but it must truly benefit all the entrepreneurs from across this country. I thank the Honourable Members for their attention.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. Honourable Tjombe.

---

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJOMBE**

**HON TJOMBE:** Honourable Speaker, it is my honour to contribute on the 2008/09 National Budget. I promise that I will not dwell too long on this annual event, but will rather take part when discussing specific Votes in the Committee Stage.

Honourable Speaker, as we all are aware, Namibia formulated so many policies and enacted numerous legislation in the shortest period of time of eighteen years. We have a policy on almost every issue, which is a good thing. For example, the Policy on Aids, Policy on National Youth Service, Policy on Orphans and Vulnerable Children, on Rural Development, just to mention a few. I understand these are like guidelines and regulations. Talking about regulations, we have also regulations which are or can directly be signed by the Ministers of management in the case of private sectors. These regulate again certain rules at the different working environments.

Every year the Budget process the Appropriation Act is enacted where we usually find funds appropriated to different Ministries and Agencies. Whether the process is done fairly according to the wishes of the Namibians or done on the prerogative of the Executive arm of Government, it is still fine. My problem today is with implementation. Are we, the Governors or, for that matter, Legislative Authority, taking enough time to see that these well-researched policies or appropriations we are enacting do benefit our Nation? And are our implementing agencies doing enough to benefit our people?

Honourable Speaker, very often I wonder whether some Civil servants in the Regions understand their duties and responsibilities. Many of them all over the country easily forget that as a matter of fact, we, including them, are servants of the people. They grow a sense of over-importance and become arrogant and oppressive in their attitude to the people whom they are supposed to serve.

With the above I want to demonstrate and ask the question how some Regions managed to return unutilised funds to the Central Government while we have responsibilities which were meant for those specific funds which are not carried out. Does it mean that an Accountant who does not utilise such funds is regarded a good one by the Government? The colonial policy was that the Commissioner who managed to spend as little as possible, but keep the people in the reserve peaceful and under control, was awarded a special allowance at the end of the year. Is our policy also the same?

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJOMBE**

Allow me to turn my attention to AgriBank during this general Debate, Honourable Speaker. Too much blood was shed in this beloved country of ours for land and we are indebted to our countrymen and women to allow them to acquire a piece of land through buying or otherwise. After many Namibians bought land on the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme they experienced difficulties. Some beneficiaries feel that the grace period of three years before repayment is too short, considering also the many droughts regularly being experienced in Namibia.

Some believed that it was good to graduate from being a communal farmer to the commercial farming system, but realised that they are worse off because of the absence of a support system for farming. Some of us may argue that it was the person's choice, which is also true, but is it not for our Namibian implementing agencies to review specific policies when experiencing difficulties or are we more interested to see ourselves failing? Or is it not our policy to see our countrymen and women self-reliant so that we can be proud of them? Always remember that Namibia is our country which we must all help to build.

While I am concluding, Honourable Speaker, let me share with you the little chat I had with my children. Last week when I returned home, I found my children waiting for me after the death of Honourable Nico Bessinger was announced. One asked: *"Mama, is it true that another Member passed on?"* I explained that unfortunately it was true, not knowing that further questions were still forthcoming: *"But if so, why do you not resign"*, the first one asked. The next one asked *"why the Honourable Speaker does not consider closing the Chamber because it seems that all Members of the House will ultimately pass on."* I myself even heard the jokes around, asking *"who is next?"*

Then I explained to them how God loves us and was saving us all these years and that nobody noticed it. Again, we must understand they are ten and eleven years old learners.

To fellow Honourable Members I want to say: Some of us are Christians, if not all, we must have faith and trust in God. He loves us and never wants bad things to happen to us. That is why He allows us to enjoy the sunshine today and our responsibility is just to love our neighbours.

To our fallen beloved Colleagues, let their souls rest in eternal peace and our Saviour be with them. I thank you.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. Honourable Tjihuiko.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity. However, before I start, I just wanted to make a humble request to the fellow Parliamentarians that I will very much appreciate and entertain any questions, but I will only be able to answer them after I have finished my paper.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for granting me some minutes to express my views on the 2008/09 Budget presented by Honourable Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amathila, the Minister of Finance, on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Is it allowed for the Honourable Member to speak several times on the same Budget? When I was speaking he was interrupting, when SWAPO members were speaking he was interrupting.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** The Honourable Minister of Finance started her statement by quoting His Excellency President Pohamba for having stated at the occasion of the first Cabinet meeting for this year that: *“In order to ensure sustainability and long-term viability, implementing agencies are required to sustain their involvement over a long term.”*

We have indeed accepted macroeconomic sustainability as the overriding policy directive which by now is firmly in place.

Allow me, once more, Honourable Speaker, to quote from the SWAPO Party at its last congress. The SWAPO Party at its last congress re-emphasised the Ruling Party’s commitment to remain a people-centred movement. I am not sure about that. Her speech was focused on improved qualitative outcomes in the education sector, accelerated economic growth translated into improved and equitable wealth distribution, affordable and reliable health services, enhanced food security, value addition of and beneficiation to our resources and the improvement of welfare of Namibians.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

Looking at the statement, it sounds very good, realising that we should make a distinction between her Budget statement and the Budget and it is very clear that that was a very good Budget statement.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, when we analyse this year's Budget, let us be guided by those two expressed policy statements, a statement by His Excellency the President and the statement by the Ruling Party, SWAPO.

The Honourable Minister went on and stated that another bold attempt to move our country towards the realisation of Vision 2030 is to embark upon a major expenditure programme designed to protect the poor, to stimulate growth and create additional work opportunities. That is what the Minister said, that is the good statement that I am talking about.

Now let us look at translating this good statement into the reality.

The Minister did not mention which major programme she was referring to. If you take the Budget and you look at it, you will see that the money that has been spent on the productive sector is so little, to the extent that the expressed statement that was mentioned by the Honourable Minister will never be realised. So, that is why I am saying, let us make a distinction between a good ministerial statement and a good Budget.

This is a good ministerial statement but it is not a good Budget.

She was also referring to sustainable growth that we have been experiencing was mainly due to favourable conditions for the primary sector. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question, even if he is going to answer later. Honourable Tjihuiko, I am made to understand that you are some kind of Economist. You expect Government to play the role of the Private Sector. I think that is what you are trying to say. Government is only there to level the playing field by providing good education, good roads and security and other things so that the private sector can play its role.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

Now the type of economics you are trying to propagate here is what is called “*voodoo economics*.”

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, that was not a question, that was a statement. What I am referring to here is the statement made by the Honourable Minister of Finance and I believe, still a member of SWAPO. This is the expressed view of the Ruling Party, SWAPO.

The Honourable Minister was talking about the primary sector, especially mining. This is the sector that is driving the economy. Performance of growth in the secondary sector was generally weak with the construction sub-sector being positive with a mere 12% growth.

If you look at the construction sector which is now being controlled by the Chinese, which I believe, looking at the Chinese business people here, I would be surprised to see that they are paying tax because all the Chinese businesses here are not paying tax. We were told in this House this afternoon that they also trade in US Dollars. Whether they have been allowed by the Minister of Finance or by the Minister of Fisheries or other Ministers, I am not sure.

During the colonial time, Honourable Speaker, the South African apartheid regime intentionally neglected the secondary sector, making Namibia so much dependent on South Africa when it comes to the basic necessities. That was a strategic move by the South Africans that they were not going to invest in the secondary sector. It was intentionally.

Now, what happened is that eighteen years down the line, the SWAPO-led Government is still continuing with the same strategy and policies. 18 years down the line nothing has changed – *Aluta Continua*.

Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Finance, after many clear directives by His Excellency, the Founding President, the current President and the Ruling SWAPO Party, through her numerous Election Manifestos, etcetera, etcetera, the Honourable Minister of Finance proudly informed this august House and the public out there that the performance of the most important sector of the economy, the sector that was supposed to create employment, the sector that was supposed to get rid of poverty, is nearly performing the weakest. It is very clear

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

that here we are following either wrong policies or confused policies when it comes to development.

It is indeed obvious and a known fact that the Honourable Minister decided not to give any reason for that poor performance. The Honourable Minister, of course, seems to be very much economic with the provision of factual information. Honourable Speaker, allow me to help her by providing the missing information.

Apart from the various costly documents produced ...(Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask the Honourable Gentleman a question? Honourable Member, do you know or have you heard what the public say, that after your departure from the Ministry of Trade and Industry all the papers of that Ministry were gone?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** If that were the case, I could have been arrested by now.

Apart from the various costly documents produced through the National Planning Commission, such as NDP1, 2, 3 and 5, the various development strategies and policies that have been developed within the various Government Ministries, the Government has failed to live up to the expectations of the people.

The expressed intentions of Government to address the burning issue of unemployment, poverty and other social evils facing our country today, with all those expressed commitments in place, how come that after 18 years of Independence Namibia still depends on the primary sector, as it used to be under colonial South Africa? (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** You will be allowed to continue the Debate tomorrow as time has lapsed now.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** I would appreciate if I would be allowed to start afresh.

02 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

The reason why we are finding ourselves in this situation, Honourable Speaker, Colleagues, is simply because we have all the documents, most expensive documents in place, we have bought the best vehicle, policies, programmes, etcetera, but the problem is that we have the wrong people in the wrong places and the reason why we have these people is because of the expressed position taken by the Ruling Party... (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** On a Point of Order. Since I cannot recall whether any extension of time was made, is it proper for the Honourable Member to keep the House hostage after the official working time? Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, I request the Colleagues to bear with me, because what I have to say is so important for them to know. (Interjections).

---

**HON SPEAKER:** On that harmonious note, there was an appeal for the Speaker's usual generosity and the Speaker was in the business of chipping a bit in favour of the complaint that the smaller Parties are being ignored because the majority Party has more time to speak, but generosity also has limits. On that note the House shall stand adjourned until tomorrow 14:30 under Automatic Adjournment.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:53 UNTIL 2008.04.03 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
03 APRIL 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER** took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I will ask the Whips to advise us after tea-break about tomorrow's sitting, whether we will extend today's sitting to some late hour. On Friday's we meet in the morning and the memorial services is in the afternoon, so that should not be the issue. It is more that we ensure, should we meet tomorrow, that we have everybody present. I would want the Whips to consult on these matters and to advise me when we return from tea-break.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

This being Thursday and we have delayed questions for so long, we will take questions until tea-break and continue with the rest of the Order Paper. Question 3 is one by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

---

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS**

---

**QUESTION 3:**

**HON DIENDA:** I put the Question.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Comrade Speaker, honestly, I had the answers ready, but knowing that we are going through the Budget Debate, I thought we were going to skip that for now. I do not have the answers here. Thank you.

---

03 April 2008

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA  
HON DR KAMWI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Question 5 is one by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

---

**QUESTION 5:**

**HON DIENDA:** I put the Question.

---

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to give answers to the Honourable Member's questions.

The uniformed men and women at the Katutura State Hospital are a part of the NAMPOL state machinery and are there to safeguard Government installations. Their responsibilities include the following:

- Protect and secure life of staff members, patients and visitors within the hospital premises;
- Protect and guard Government properties (fixed and mobile) from vandalism and theft;
- Prevent visitors from parking their private vehicles in front of the Casualty and Labour Wards; making provision for Ambulances and Emergency Vehicles;
- Physical search on visitors, patients and staff members when entering or leaving the hospital building to prevent theft or bringing in of dangerous objects;
- Assist staff members with maintaining order and preventing unruly behaviour in Casualty, especially after hours, weekends and at month-end;
- Escort staff members from the hospital when banking hospital revenues;
- Stop all hawkers and vendors from conducting door-to-door sales of all sorts of items and commodities;

03 April 2008

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA  
HON DR KAMWI**

- Control crowds and provide necessary assistance in case of disasters;
- Generally assist the hospital Authorities in keeping law and order in and around Katutura Hospital premises.

Honourable Speaker, as regard the street lamps at the Katutura State Hospital, I am informed that there are two factors that are contributing to the street lamps at Katutura State Hospital not functioning.

First of all, the underground electric cables supplying the street lights were damaged during the construction of the gates and road system that enters the hospital. As a result, the Department of Works installed some bridging cables running across the gates at the main entrance to supply the street lights on the periphery. While this arrangement worked for a while, by November 2007 the constant flow of vehicles over the main gate had disrupted the flow of electricity powering these lights. This was reported at that time to the Department of Works. Regrettably, the response has been very slow.

It should be noted that it is not just the bulbs but the electric cables which were not properly laid underground, resulting in constant power drips.

We are consulting with NamPower to address the problem. Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his reply. Question 6 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

---

**QUESTION 6:**

**HON DIENDA:** I put the Question.

---

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Honourable Speaker, once again, I take this opportunity to give the Honourable Member the answers.

03 April 2008

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA  
HON DR KAMWI**

I wish to advise the Honourable Member to acquaint herself with the word “volunteerism”. Home-based care workers are volunteering their services to those in need. Within the Ministry we understand volunteerism as being built on the most basic of values, of “*people helping people.*” In the midst of the serious disease burden of HIV/AIDS and while managing the meagre human and financial resources, we certainly encourage, promote and greatly appreciate this genuine assistance. In confirming that despite limited resources for compensation of volunteers, they are making a huge contribution to improving the quality of care for those living with HIV/AIDS.

However, increasingly, Honourable Dienda, the need to acknowledge the contribution of volunteers has been noticed and is being addressed. As a result, the Ministry, through the Directorate of Primary Health Care Services, conducted an assessment on “*Community Volunteers and Community Based Health Care Programmes*” in November 2006.

The aim of the assessment was to determine the status of Community-based Health Care Programmes, specifically looking at numbers, types of volunteers, training and supervision of volunteers. In addition, this assessment looked at volunteer incentives and community ownership of and strengthening the concept of volunteerism.

The findings indicated that “the country has at least twelve different types of community volunteers who support Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other interventions under which Home-based Care initiatives feature more prominently.

Furthermore, it was found that 96% of the organisations assessed indicated they provide their volunteers with incentives as part of training. 58% of organisation provide in-kind incentives, which include, amongst others, clothing, recognition of tasks done (certificates), food items, etcetera and 42% provide monetary incentives.

It became clear from the report that there is a lot of variation in the means with which to compensate or reward volunteers across and within organisation.

According to the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS 2004-2009, it is clear that people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS, all of us, including Honourable Dienda, have a role to play in counselling and support.

03 April 2008

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA  
HON DR KAMWI**

Honourable Speaker, finally, the recent WHO Conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Task Shifting discussed amongst others, whether people living with HIV infection serving as counsellors should be employed by respective Governments as counsellors. However, there was no resolution taken as Member States and development partners objected to the idea and Namibia was a participant to this important meeting. I thank you.

---

**HON DIENDA:** Just for information to Honourable Kamwi, I am a volunteer for the Catholic AIDS Action, so I am already busy doing my part.

---

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Honourable Speaker, we appreciate her assistance, but regrettably, we will not give her a cent for that.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his reply. Question 7 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

---

**QUESTION 7:**

**HON DIENDA:** I put the Question.

---

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** First and foremost, let me state that I extended my heartfelt condolences to the parents of the deceased baby on behalf of the Ministry and, indeed, myself. As a parent myself, this case is most unfortunate.

The following progress has been made:

- The matter is being investigated by both the Medical and Dental and Nursing Councils in terms of the existing pieces of legislation as stated here.

03 April 2008

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA  
HON DR KAMWI**

- Sworn statements were received from all doctors, nurses and other support staff who were present when the said unfortunate incident occurred.
- The Councils traced the biological parents of the late baby Maria Fiite Munetumba and met with them for the first time on Tuesday, 11 March 2008.
- The parents agreed to provide written statements on what transpired on that fateful day, the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

The parents indicated that they would need to be assisted in having their statements written in English. An interview to gather information from them was held on the same day.

- A draft joint statement of both parents was compiled on 12 March 2008.
- A meeting was held with the Dental, Medical and Nursing Councils and the parents on 13 March 2008 for them to go through the draft joint statement and ascertain whether the information was correctly captured. The parents then signed the joint statement before the Commissioner of Oaths.
- The parents brought along one of the key witnesses of the incident who was also prepared to provide her written statement on the incident.
- About 5 witnesses, including the one who provided the statement, were identified by the parents. We managed to obtain statements from 2 more witnesses, made in a local vernacular language, that is Oshiwambo, and the process is underway to have them translated into English. Two more witness statements are still outstanding, as the persons identified as potential witnesses are still in the North. Efforts are being made to trace them and find out whether they are willing to provide statements on the incident.
- Some crucial information was requested from MTC pertaining to phone calls made on that fateful day. We received some crucial information from MTC pertaining to phone calls made to and from the father's mobile phone on that day.

03 April 2008

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON GURIRAB  
RT HON ANGULA**

- The entire case file was presented to the Preliminary Investigation Committee of the Medical and Dental Council on 20 March 2008. The Preliminary Investigation Committee will study the case file, determine their satisfaction with the information, records and investigation and then present their findings to the Health Professions Councils for decision.

Based on this, the Councils will establish whether there is *prima facie* evidence that constitutes a Professional Conduct Inquiry in terms of Sections 39 of both the Medical and Dental Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) and the Nursing Act (Act No. 8 of 2004).

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I trust that you will find this update in order and please be rest assured and remain calm as we reach resolution on the matter. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his reply. Honourable Dienda, satisfied?

---

**HON DIENDA:** Yes, I am very much satisfied and I will wait for the final outcome from the Minister, I will not ask you anything, I will just wait now. Thank you very much.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Question 9 is one by Honourable Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

---

**QUESTION 9:**

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** I put the Question on his behalf, Honourable Speaker.

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** The question is put by somebody who is not a member of that Party. That is just a comment.

03 April 2008

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY HON GURIRAB  
RT HON ANGULA**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I thank Honourable Gurirab of the main CoD for his questions. The answers are as follows:

1. All the five staff members involved in what you have called “*rotten food scandal*” at Mpacha Airport in Caprivi Region were charged with misconduct and the disciplinary hearing was already concluded last year. The recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee were received by the Ministry which, in turn, forwarded it to the Public Service Commission for final determination in this regard.
2. Following the conclusion of the investigation, the Governor was subsequently suspended without pay for a period of one month.
3. The Caprivi Regional Council has renovated the storing facility in question to an acceptable standard to prevent food from getting rained or rotten. Furthermore, measures are in place to ensure that as soon as food has been sent to Caprivi Region, the Caprivi Regional Council is in a position to send Health Inspectors who will satisfy themselves that the food items in question are fit for human consumption and that all available logistics are mobilised to the smooth distribution of the food items in question to the intended beneficiaries in the Region.

Thank you for your question again.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Prime Minister for his reply. Question 10 is one by Honourable Gurirab. Does Honourable Chase on his behalf put the question?

---

**QUESTION 10:**

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** I put the Question.

---

03 April 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON GURIRAB  
HON MBUMBA / HON DR N IYAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Speaker, let me respond to the question of Honourable Tsudao Gurirab as follows:

As a preface, the Ministry of Education has one policy in the readmission of Grade 10 learners to schools. This policy which has been in existence for a number of years states that Grade 10 learners who are 17 years old or younger on the day that the application is being scrutinised by the school may be considered to repeat Grade 10, preferably at the same school, provided that there is space and the necessary equipment.

The question does however not really address those things, this question is: Which one of the two is Government policy and I must say there is only one President who is ruling this country. There is only one Ruling Party and there is only one Government. Technical people can always come up with technicalities, in terms of history, in terms of practice, in terms of whatever, but that should not create any doubt in the mind of any reasonable citizen who is in charge of this country, an Under-Secretary or an elected President. End of the answer.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his reply. Question 11 is one by Honourable Gurirab.

---

**QUESTION 11:**

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** I put the Question.

---

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Honourable Speaker, the answer to the Honourable Member:

1. There are no better preparation than what it has been so far in connection with the operation of the Mariental Dam. As a result, instruments have been set up in all the catchments areas that bring water to the dam to monitor the quantity of water where it rains and to forewarn the operators at the dam fourteen hours before the water is actually at the gate of the dam itself.

03 April 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON GURIRAB  
HON MBUMBA**

It is for that reason that when it was decided the dam to be allowed only 70% full capacity, any additional water that pass the gate, the sluices has to be opened. Even in the Newspaper today you will read that they opened the sluices yesterday when the dam was 71.8% full.

The precaution that is being taken is not to allow too much water to be released at the same time, but to release it gradually in order to allow the water that they will be feeding in the riverbed without overflowing its banks.

2. Apart from Central Government, NamWater which is the operator of the dam, is responsible for making sure that the dam is kept within that maximum allowed amount of water, 70% that is. The other is to be in touch with all the stakeholders and everybody else involved should there be evacuation needed, that people are informed early enough.
3. It may appear to have taken too long for anything to be done, but any good work, professional work, takes some time because it has to take all the variables into account and it is what happened in this case. Therefore, the immediate attention was already done, now people are busy with the medium-term and that is by spraying the reeds in the river which was scheduled to start in this month of April. I have not checked whether it has actually started, but it is meant to start this month.

Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his reply. Question 12 is by Honourable Tsudao Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member put the question?

---

**Question 12:**

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** I put the Question.

---

**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Speaker, the question relates to whether the Minister is aware that some lecturers at the University of Namibia have recently received letters amounting to banning orders, owing to them being leaders of Political Parties, the emphasis should be on **being leaders**.

03 April 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON GURIRAB  
HON MBUMBA**

The answer is as follows and this is coming from the University.

The University of Namibia has not given letters amounting to banning orders to any of its staff members, but merely enforced a policy that was always in place. The policy in question states:

*“Participation in Politics: General principles in respect of political participation: A staff member may:*

*(a) be a member of a legal Political Party.”*

Therefore nobody is preventing them from joining legal Political Parties.

*“(b) attend a legal public Political Party meeting and take part in the discussion, but may not preside or act as a speaker at such a meeting;*

*(c) not conduct his or her political activities in such a way that he/she becomes an embarrassment to the University;*

*(d) not conduct Party politics on campus or use bodies, meetings, etcetera, to promote specific political oriented aims;*

*(e) not compile or deliver public addresses to further or prejudice the interests of a Political Party.”*

In addition, UNAM Council shed light on the above policy. In terms of current policies staff members of the University shall not hold office in Political Parties. Can you imagine if one Nangolo Mbumba is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia and at the same time he is the Deputy Secretary General of the SWAPO Party? Will you allow that?

Then the next one is, is he aware that the leaders of SWAPO Party also held positions as lecturers, researchers at UNAM without rescinding the same? The answer from the University is as follows:

The staff members at the time – whoever they were – took unpaid leave from the University of Namibia, they did not receive letters as these staff members were aware and had respected the University’s policy in this regard and the need to remind them thereof, as it is the case now, was not needed. They complied with

03 April 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON GURIRAB  
HON MBUMBA**

the policies of the University of Namibia. Further to this, when Council shed light to the abovementioned policy, all UNAM staff members who held offices in Political Parties, including SWAPO Party office-bearers, were requested to comply with the University's policy on politics.

Remember Dr Peter Katjivivi, Ambassador, was a member of this House and any other structure. When he was appointed to be the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia, he relinquished all those wonderful positions and titles to devote his full time on University management and to accept all students, irrespective of their political affiliation and lead them in terms of education.

Is the Minister aware that those measures at UNAM are akin to draconian measures of days gone by?

Staff members are allowed to participate in Party-politics, but not as officials of Political Parties. The University in fact guarantees their employment after they return from their active involvement as an official in Party-politics and this, in our view, is not draconian.

If you cease to be a Member of Parliament and you want to go and teach and have the necessary qualifications, you are not forbidden.

Is the Minister aware that our institutions of higher learning are unique in the democratic world with this kind of nonsensical Regulations?

Most Universities in the region and world-wide, while allowing staff and students to participate in politics through Political Parties of their choice, do not allow them to hold national Party positions while being in the employment of an educational Institution. There are very good reasons for that. When national Party leaders are allowed to operate on campus, this often does not stimulate academic interaction, but rather raises tension and creates confusion among students and staff alike, sometimes leading to violent clashes which hinder development of good future citizenry.

Does the Minister intend to correct this?

The University is an Autonomous Institution established by an Act of this Parliament with its own Council that regulates and runs its own internal affairs. It was in good interest of the University and the Nation-at-large that these

03 April 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO  
HON KAZENAMBO**

regulations were made. I want to repeat the fact that the University of Namibia has not prevented its staff to participate in Party-politics, which is the fundamental right of all citizens.

What the University has done is to ask its staff not to engage in national Party-politics as leaders while being in the employment of the University as this might interfere with its mandated functions. Any Party leader is expected to operate from the Party headquarters and not from UNAM offices.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, with this policy and in its great wisdom the University Governing Council want to prevent a situation whereby leaders of national Political Parties are based at UNAM, running their parties' business from UNAM, using UNAM time and facilities, being paid by UNAM while not doing UNAM core businesses as provided for by the UNAM Act. Parliament must rather support the University's Governing Council in its efforts to keep UNAM staff focused. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his elaborate answer. Question 13 is one by Honourable Tjihuiiko.

---

**QUESTION 13:**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** I put the Question.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I would like to give a response to the question asked by Honourable Tjihuiiko to the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and I will give the answers as they were prepared by my late Minister. The answer of the Minister is as follows:

03 April 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO  
HON KAZENAMBO**

Notice of Questions were raised in this august House by Honourable Tjihuike of NUDO Party on the issue concerning traditional matters in Etanga in the Kunene Region and I now wish to respond as follows:

**Question No. 1.** The report in the *Namibian* Newspaper dated 13 February 2008 regarding the issue of *Kakurukouje* Traditional Authority's recognition is totally misleading and distorted information. The Government of the Republic of Namibia, led by the Ruling SWAPO Party, regards all citizens of this country as equals irrespective of their political affiliation.

Membership to SWAPO Party must not provide recognition to Namibian traditional communities. That is why all members of the Council of Traditional Leaders who are representing their people do not belong to the Ruling Party.

Joint and separate meetings were held with both Ms Katjambiaa Tjambiru and Mr Vemuii Tjambiru in order to advise and encourage them to solve their dispute on chieftainship, but they have totally failed.

Finally, they have submitted a petition, some printed and signed by both Mr Vemuii Tjambiru and Mujaverire Tjambiru and sent it through to the Ministry. According to Section 12 of the Traditional Authorities Act, (Act No. 25 of 2000), the Minister on receipt of the petition may appoint an investigating committee which will investigate and report back on findings with recommendations. The Minister shall, on receipt of such report, take such decision as he or she may deem expedient for the resolution of the dispute in question. As provided for in the Traditional Authorities Act (Act No. 25 of 2000), the Minister received the said petition, appointed a Ministerial Investigation Committee which visited Etanga in the Kunene Region and submitted a written report to him.

The final decision that Mr Vemuii Tjambiru is the rightful chief, designated to lead *Kakurukouje* Traditional Authority, is based on the findings and recommendations of the Ministerial Investigation Committee as well as taking into consideration that communities, customary laws and traditional practices should take precedence.

Ms Katjambiaa Tjambiru will not be excluded from the *Kakuru Kouje* Traditional Authority. If she agrees, she may become a Senior Councillor and enjoy recognition as well. The decision to recognise Mr Vemuii Tjambiru as the

03 April 2008

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON TJIHUIKO  
HON KAZENAMBO**

rightful leader of Kakurukouje Traditional Authority has never been politicised as alleged and reported in the *Namibian* newspaper of 13 February 2008.

**Question No. 2:** My late Minister continues to answer as follows:

There is no truth in it that the Minister and his Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development were involved in disunity action of the leadership of Kakurukouje Traditional Authority. The story of smuggling in of Mr Vemuii Tjambiru into chieftainship of Kakurukouje Traditional Authority is based on thumb-sucking, which does not carry effect.

**Question 3:** I do not know the gentlemen that were allegedly brought to Windhoek from Opuwo with the intention to be recognised. What I am aware of, however, were the ongoing consultations between the Ministry and the two opposing groups of Katjambiaa and Vemuii Tjambiru with an attempt to resolve their differences.

There have been several of such meetings between the Government and the two groups, either together or individually with the purpose of finding a solution to the issue of leadership succession in this regard. The issue has also been highlighted in the statement that was issued to the media. There is no secret about it.

**Question 4:** Following the High Court Ruling in the case of Chief Riruako and the 39 Herero Chiefs, there has been consultation between the Ministry and the affected parties. Some of the chiefs did in fact apply while others opted to apply afresh, as directed by the Court. I should, however, point out that applying for recognition is not an automatic thing, there are laws, rules and procedures to follow when communities are applying from Government to be recognised as Traditional Authorities. After the rules and procedures are followed, applicants have to meet the requirements as stipulated in the Traditional Authorities Act (Act No. 25 of 2000).

In the case of Chief Riruako and others, their applications were received, scrutinised and forwarded to the Council of Traditional Leaders for deliberations and recommendations. Those that applied for recognition are well aware of the progress made so far in this regard as far as their applications for recognition are concerned.

03 April 2008

In conclusion, what causes delay of applications for recognition from traditional communities are in general disputes for chieftainship and communal land border disputes, also ignoring directives as prescribed and provided by law in the Traditional Authorities Act No. 25 of 2000. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Good time management Honourable Deputy Minister, you have done justice to the legacy of your Minister and we will continue to remember him in the House for the excellent lawmaker that he was. The House shall now rise for refreshments and we return and get into the business for the day.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**  
**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:13 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

---

**RULING**

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, as I indicated this earlier, the Whips have consulted and I have been informed that the proceedings on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 94 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not be interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. **I so Rule.**

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

---

**RESUMPTION**  
**OF SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

---

**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill.*

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 yesterday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Tjihuiko may continue.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before I conclude, let me say one or two more things.

I wonder whether it is possible that after 18 years of self-governance, that Vision 2030, NDP1, 2 and 3 and the sector that was supposed to drive the economy towards achieving those noble objectives only contribute 12%. The question is, what has gone wrong? This is the question that we need to ask ourselves.

In order to answer this question, let us look at the SWAPO Party priorities.

SWAPO is a Party that is still living in the past, concentrating on things that are still in the past, things like talking about, "*we have liberated this country.*" Everybody knows that, yes indeed, all of us have contributed, but what we need to look at now is how best can we liberate the economy (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a tiny question? Honourable Tjihuiko, you are saying that SWAPO lives in the past because SWAPO talks about the liberation. NUDO, through the Honourable Chief, Honourable Riruako, is demanding reparation for things which were done in the past. Is that living in the past?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** I do not think that one can compare apples with tomatoes and with due respect, I know that you asked the question just for the sake of it, Right Honourable Prime Minister. It does not need to be answered. (Intervention)

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. NUDO is not for reparation alone, I made it possible for you and other participants in this country's actions. This action was adopted by this Parliament through this Mr Speaker and therefore, it is not a Herero issue anymore, it is a Government issue. (Interjection). Oh yes, I initiated it but this is not for me to conclude. (Interjection).

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Chief. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information. I want to totally agree with Honourable Riruako that the past is very important, therefore it is not to be put aside and forgotten. That is why there is legitimacy in asking for reparation. There is also legitimacy in singing the liberation songs.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** I may say this, what I am going to say to this august House, that is not the past. What I wanted to bring to you is patching of the wound and for you to accept the norm of our existence as the black indigenous people of this country and if you are not one of them, and the Germans who are here too, the special initiative was brought to us, including the Germans, the young people. Do I live in the past? I did this for unity but not for individual groups.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, I think it is very important for the Colleagues to give me just three minutes for them to understand what I meant by that. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Information. Once you provoke – like Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase said, “*moenie krap waar jy nie krap nie.*” (Laughter). I just wanted to tell the Honourable Member there that if you look at this history of the First World War and the history of the Second World War, it is continuously being celebrated, the victory against Fascism, against Hitler and a huge effort is being made to celebrate at Normandy

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

in France where the Allied Forces were victorious over the forces of darkness. They are celebrating up to this day and the children are being taught their history so that they do not repeat the mistakes of the past. We learnt from the past in order to create a better future for our generation.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much. I think we need to take the Floor and present papers, that will help. The critical issue of job creation, youth employment, especially the Grade 12 ....(Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. The Member is talking about the past. Every Sunday the Christian churches speak about the past, which is more than 2008 years ago. We celebrate Christmas. If Jesus was alive, He would have been 2008 this year, but we still continue celebrating the birthday and Easter Holiday, Good Friday, Good Monday, etcetera, because if there is no church only for one year, Christians would go back to square one. Now why do you not complain? We pray here every day for Jesus Christ, 2008 years ago but you do not complain. Now what are you talking about?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, listen carefully, there is a difference. If you remain in the past to the extent that you are taking resources that were supposed to be doing something for the youth of this country and you are spending N\$80 million on a few and you are saying “*yes indeed*”, these are the things I am talking about. If you are saying you are talking about setting up a Ministry...(Intervention)

---

**HON P MUSHELENGA:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. I listened on various occasions to the speeches of the Honourable Member, now and then referring to when he was working for the Ministry of Trade and Industry. I never got an impression that the Honourable Member is living in the past by talking about when he was working for the Ministry of Trade and Industry. I took it as the Honourable Member citing history in order to build on the future.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, let us listen very carefully. The point that I am trying to refer to, if you are trying to help, for instance, all the ex-fighters and instead of putting money on the table to help those people, you are setting up a Ministry. The money that you could have given to these people, you are setting up a Ministry to accommodate those who were in the past in the leadership of SWAPO who could not have been given positions and you continue doing these things at the expense of the young people of this country. This is the history that I am talking about. Let us move forward, the priority should be to look at what will happen to our education, health and these things, not look after our colleagues. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is talking about a film which celebrate the past. That film is about Chief Katjukururume Hosea Kutako. It is about Sam Nujoma, it is about Andimba Ya Toivo and many others. Now, are you condemning Chief Katjukururume Hosea Kutako? Is that what you want to do? Is that acceptable?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** I am hundred percent sure that if you have asked His Excellency the Founding President whether he wants N\$80 million to be spent on him to depict the history and the role that he has played or the N\$80 million to be spent on education or health, I am sure that the Founding President would have said, "*spend it on health.*"

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, any sound-minded Economist... (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Information. Any competent Economist, not a half-baked Economist from the University of Okahitua, any competent Economist who knows the importance of organisational behaviour and organisational structure will not question and condemn the establishment of a Ministry, because that is part of good governance and you need structures to govern. And it is no surprise that this is

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

coming from an Honourable Member representing NUDO, NUDO which was part of the DTA. You cannot find their legacy because in their so-called Government they used to spend money unplanned on hotels, like the one in Rakotoka in Okahandja. One is not surprised and that is why money going to NUDO is not accounted for. The first day they were given money, it was dished amongst themselves because there was no structure.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, any sound-minded Economist will advise that before you start distributing or sharing resources among the people, first and foremost you must build a strong, sustainable economic base or foundation. You must expand the cake, so much so that the sharing of the cake will be as it used to be.

If you want to continue supporting population growth, these are the basics of any sound-minded Economist. This is what we are seeing in this Republic of Namibia under the leadership of the Ruling Party. (Intervention)

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Before you sit down I want you to be on record, is NUDO condemning the film?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** It is what I am saying, it is a question of priority. The question is not whether we are condemning, the question should be, what could have been the NUDO priority, whether to spend N\$80 million on a film or to spend N\$80 million on education or health. NUDO would have spent the N\$80 million to try and uplift the conditions and standards in the health sector today. The film is not a priority, the dying of the people right now is a priority as far as NUDO is concerned. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Member, the film depicts what transpired during the struggle. If, for instance, you have these two flags, the film is about this flag and this flag. Because they are identical I am going to explain the reds. The red in

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

this one means between oppression, slavery and freedom we have to cross the river of blood, thousands had to die, thousands had to disappear, thousands had to go to jail, property had to be destroyed in order to reach freedom and it was only SWAPO which was prepared to swim through that river of blood, others wavered. The red here in the National Flag is not to forget the past, for the future generations to know that the freedom of this country did not come on a silver platter. Do you want us to forget that freedom did not come on a silver platter? That is why you have this red in the Namibian National Flag – do not ever forget the past!

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Let me continue. The Right Honourable Prime Minister was saying, “*do not forget Katjukururume Hosea Kutako. Katjukururume Hosea Kutako has never been a SWAPO member. Now you are standing up as a Minister and you are saying, “no, in fact this film is about SWAPO.”* This is a contradiction. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING:** Does the Honourable Member believe and agree that a Nation without a history is not a Nation and a history that is not known cannot be a history? And if you agree, when are we going to document that history? Do you want us to document it when it will be distorted or should we document it now while we can put it in the right perspective for future generations? That can be done in the books as well as through documentary films.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Minister Fransina, the history that you are talking about, whether you want to document the history or whom, the people who are supposed to enjoy that history are the young people. They are hungry. You have thrown 380 000 of them into the streets since 1990. You are sitting on a time-bomb! These young people are hungry. Therefore the priority should be for them to eat before they see the film. (Intervention)

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, you are almost doing well, but you are off the road. You are contradicting yourself, because you said money spent on the film should have been spent on education and other things that you mentioned. In your view, is the few not part of education?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Before I conclude, Honourable Speaker, allow me to mention... (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. Honourable Members, the Members' Party does not have a history, they are ashamed of their history because of what they have done in the past. We are proud of our history. We do not want our history to be distorted like the one written by Dr Vedder about the Nama and Herero genocide. We have to write our history while we are alive. Our forefathers, the Mahareros and Mandume's, the Witbooi's and Marengo's do not have their history because they went to their graves with their history. The one we are reading in the books was written by the Germans, especially Dr Vedder. NUDO does not have a history, your history is a shame. Ours is pride, so we have to talk about it. If you do not have a history, forget. We who have a history, let us talk about our history.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Before I conclude, let me just remind... (Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. To say we have forgotten the history of NUDO, Mr Tjihuiko, tell the gentleman of the way I took 155 soldiers to the Honourable former President of this country in Lusaka. I took 155 soldiers whom I have trained and handed them over to him just like this. What happened? Some of them ended up in jail in Tanzania. I stopped SWAPO soldiers because I was in that jail, they were given just like a present and I stopped it and I have witnesses.

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, if the Minister was not a Minister for eighteen years ...(Intervention)

**HON SCHIMMING-CHASE:** May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, Honourable Ekandjo is making a very big argument for us to write the history while we are alive and I support that, but is it not the same Honourable Member who prevented the late Kala Gertze from writing his history when he tried to move a Motion in this House and he was the one who moved that it be thrown out?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, before I conclude, let me try to answer the Honourable Minister.

Honourable Minister, the reason why you are saying what you have said is simply because of the fact that if you were not a Minister for 18 years, if you knew how it feels for a child to be on the street, because all your kids are in private schools, then you would not have said that. You could have said, let us take the N\$80 million for the kids of the poor people who voted us into power, but since you have been in power for eighteen years, you do not care about what happens to these people. (Intervention)

---

**HON DR ANKAMA:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question, the self-styled Economist? When Honourable Tjihuiko was working for the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Having been there for some time as a so-called sound minded Economist, what has he done to prove that he is a sound-minded Economist?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, allow me to mention something that has been going on for the last three to four years. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Tjihuiko should not distort our history. Since the SWAPO Government came to power in this country it has allocated the highest Budget towards Education. What are you saying? We are now again debating this Budget of more than four billion for Education. It is a fallacy to say that this Government does not cater for

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

its youth. That is what we are debating here. We are allocating money towards the youth projects, we are allocating money towards education, towards health and that is the reality.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Member, to answer your question, for eighteen years His Excellency the Founding President has been talking about engineers, doctors, scientists coming out of our schools. How many of them do we have? We are importing nurses from Kenya. When you look at your investment, look at output of your investment, you have to know that you are putting it into a bottomless pit, my friend.

Let me conclude, Honourable Speaker, that some time back...(Intervention)

---

**HON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:** On a Point of Information. Information to the Honourable Members and especially to the young Honourable Members of the Opposition is that the reasons for the decline of numbers of Members of Parliament from the Opposition in the House is because they engage in irrelevance. Everybody outside sees and hears the irrelevance and there is no reason why they should ever support such irrelevance.

You could expect a further decline, a serious one for that matter.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** I am not sure about whether the decline is because of members of the Opposition engaging in irrelevant Debate, but it could be that it is because of the rigging of elections by the Ruling Party.

Some time back a Presidential Commission ...(Intervention)

---

**HON IIPINGE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? If my ears gave me proper information, the Honourable Member informed this House that

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

there has been unemployed youth since 1980, meaning that SWAPO came to power in 1990, so DTA was in power since 1980 and it means that we found those youth on the street. What were you doing?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** A Presidential Commission was established through an Act of Parliament - I want to answer that, let me finish answering that – to look into the salaries and benefits of the Political Parties. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Information. We cannot sit here in this House and listen to history being distorted. Honourable Tjihuiko asked whether Chief Hosea Kutako was a SWAPO member. No, Chief Hosea Kutako was not a SWAPO member, but Chief Hosea Kutako was a true nationalist, he was a true Namibian nationalist who accommodated through the Herero Council, which was deemed in its action from political manipulation. He accommodated all Namibians, be they SWANU, SWAPO and he is the one who aided the Founding President to go to Botswana and Tanzania and a number of the youth by then, including Meme Nora Chase here and many others, the Katjuongua's and them and maybe the Speaker and many others. He was a true national hero and then what happened to NUDO? NUDO was distorted and it became a collaborator to the DTA South African surrogate.

Briefly on the ludicrous innuendos created on the Ministers, the Ministers and Deputy Ministers, just like Honourable Tjihuiko, are not stealing this money, they are remunerated just like anybody. Therefore, they solve national problems, like unemployment and others. It would be ludicrous to link it to the (interjections).

---

**HON SPEAKER:** At one point it was history, at one point it was personalities, now where are we now? Is it economics?

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** I am trying to conclude. Before I conclude, Honourable Speaker, allow me something that has been going on for the last three to four years.

Some time back a presidential commission was established through an Act of Parliament to look into the salaries and benefits of political office-bearers. (Intervention)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** For the dignity of the House, I am imagining sitting and watching on the television screen what is going on in the House at the present time. If I were listening to my elected representatives, I would make sense out of what is being discussed in the Parliament at the present time. We can do better than that, is it not? Let us try to do that. I do not know what topic is being discussed, except that we are debating the Budget. Are we discussing the history or are we discussing what the different Political Parties were at different times, who belonged to which Party at a given time? Is that what we are debating? I thought you were going to take the Floor and stick to what you want to say.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. The Honourable Members can present their own papers and stick to that.

Before I conclude, Honourable Speaker, allow me to mention something that has been going on for the last three to four years. Some time back a presidential commission was established through an Act of Parliament ... (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Speaker, I normally do not interrupt Honourable Members, but in the interest of the public, the Honourable Member made a very serious comment here and I do not know whether it is the position of NUDO. He was answering the question about why did the Opposition numbers decrease and he said it is because of rigging. I think that is very serious. In 2004 the NUDO President made a statement after elections and he said that from NUDO's point of view, the elections were free and fair. Now I do not know why the Honourable Member comes up with this different story of rigging and rigging

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

is a very serious thing which diminishes democracy. It dilutes whatever is taking place. Can you just withdraw or can you say that is the position of NUDO that the mere fact that we have the number of Opposition Members declining in the House is because of rigging? Can he just qualify that statement?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, when he is presenting his paper I am going to answer that question because he is just wasting my time.

Some time back a presidential commission was established through an Act of Parliament to look into the salaries and benefits of political office-bearers. I understand, Honourable Speaker, that the reason why Parliamentarians decided to refer the matter to an independent Commission, was not because they were lazy or incapable of looking after themselves, but it was a deliberate action.

Honourable Speaker, it was a conscious decision not to decide on their own benefits, a Commission was established three or four years ago and no report to date. A report could have opened people's eyes and compared the salaries and benefits...(Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** I would like to ask a tiny question. Is the Honourable Member aware that SWAPO is doing good because it misuses the money of the Members of Parliament, the benefits that are supposed to be paid to them and now they are not paid and SWAPO is using all those funds for the benefit of SWAPO?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** I am a political office-bearer, let me compare the salary of a political office-bearers, a Member of Parliament with that of a Civil Servant, for instance, the salary of a Deputy Director in Government and the salary of a Member of Parliament. If you look at these two, a Member of Parliament is getting less than a Deputy Director and then I am talking about Members of Parliament. Before you become a Minister you are a Member of Parliament. It means that all of us are getting less than a Deputy Director.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

The topping-up of Member of Parliament because you are a Minister or Deputy Minister is something that is coming on top of your basic salary. So, when I am making the comparison, it tallies for each and everybody sitting in this House.

Allow me also to compare a salary of a Cabinet Minister with that of Chief Executive Officers of one of these non-performing parastatals. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuiiko, at that point in 2004, was the salary of a Deputy Director lower than that of the Member of Parliament or why did you decide to join the Parliament?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** The point that I am trying to make here is that let us compare a salary of a Minister. The Minister, with two offices, from 08:00 to 13:00 they must be in their offices, 14:30 they must be in Parliament and the Chief Executive Officer ...(Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, we have assigned this responsibility to a very diligent Commission which is seized with the matter. I do not know what we are trying to achieve by debating this issue or bringing it to the Floor of Parliament before their Report has even been brought here. What is it that we are trying to achieve?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Yes Minister, I think you are correct. Without getting to details, the Honourable Member should be addressing that we are desperate and all that to have the Report come here. We do not know what is in it. Discussing details or what might or might not be in the Report is probably out of order.

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, I am not discussing what is in the Report, I am highlighting the point...(Intervention)

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON //GAROËB**

**HON SPEAKER:** I am trying to assist the minority Parties. Because of your generosity you run out of your time, you do not get to make your point and then you think it is the Speaker who denies you to speak. Your time is up, it has been up for a long time. Continue, finish what you have in two sentences. Why do you not summarise?

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** What I wanted to say is that with this valuable contribution I thank you very much and I support the Bill.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable //Garoëb.

---

**HON //GAROËB:** Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. Honourable Members of this august House, it is again my privilege to make a meaningful contribution to this general Debate.

May I, first and foremost, thank and congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Meme Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, and her crew for the Budget outlook and political maturity and wisdom behind it. Of course, there are still some complexities...(Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** I just want to be clear on the procedure. We do not recover the time not used. UDF was supposed to speak on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> April and yesterday. They did not use anything. Today they do not have time.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I go by the advice given by the Front Office, that because of the deferments we had, we readjusted the times, I was told. Let us just continue and I will get the information from them and clarify the situation. I however understood that adjustments were made. If what the Deputy Minister is saying is correct, quite obviously what is on the paper and what the Deputy Minister is saying cannot be reconciled. Continue.

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON //GAROËB**

**HON //GAROËB:** Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. May I first and foremost, thank and congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Meme Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her crew for the Budget outlook and political maturity and wisdom behind it all. Of course, there are still some complexities and complications, but that is what this august House is all about, to iron out what needs to be ironed out.

May I, before I come to the general Debate, air my voice on the disasters which caught us on the wrong footing.

2008 is a leap year. In the English-speaking world it is a tradition that women may propose marriage only in leap years. In Greece it is believed that getting married in a leap year; is bad luck for the couple. These beliefs differ from one Nation to another traditionally. With the Damara's we believe that anything extremely evil, or extremely good is likely to happen to you during a leap year. Therefore we usually live with great expectations every leap year.

This time it did happen with us in this august House. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2008 my cousin and fellow Member of Parliament, a devoted young Member of the CoD, Honourable Reinhardt Kala Gertze, passed away. He was a young man who had a strong Lubango case against the Ruling SWAPO Party, but he was too gentle and had firm conviction to the well-being of Namibia to cause another division and conflict.

As if one day was enough for us to contain ourselves, the second disaster struck again. On 14 March 2008 the SWAPO stalwart, Honourable John Alphons Pandeni, the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, succumbed in a car accident. The freedom fighter, a Unionist and a true friend of all those who were part of the struggle is a great loss for Namibia.

I was geared to take up a serious !Ao//aexas issue with him should he have lived a week after his untimely death.

As a long-time politician and a Governor of the Khomas Region, the late Pandeni knew that the !Ao/aexas issue was a political hot spot which later caused the /Khomanin to join the freedom struggle.

A little longer than fifty years ago these people were forcefully removed to Sorris-Sorris area by the colonial Government, but this land, wrongly, I believe,

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON //GAROEËB**

was now given to another group of people without prior or any arrangement of replacement land for the !Aoxax group about a month ago by our own Government.

Both these clans are my people, but the situation is as good as accommodating two different married couples with children in a single room. As much as we are all out to maintain peace, the situation is becoming more and more unbearable. Comrade Pandeni is now no more, but Honourable Kazenambo Kazenambo who now emerged as the incumbent is equipped and qualified enough to handle the case.

Again, before we could brace ourselves after these untimely deaths, another disaster struck. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008, Honourable Nico Bessinger, our Founding Minister of Nature Conservation and Tourism, passed away.

Again we were caught on a wrong footing, because never before did we encounter so many deaths in less than a month, as if in one car accident.

Not many people know that Nicolas Bessinger hails from the Goreseb clan, closely related to our Goreseb Royal House. We, therefore, feel together with the bereaved family and next-of-kin on the tragic death of late Nico Bessinger, which we learned with great shock and disbelief.

The untimely exodus was followed by Meme Julia Nepembe and young Nokukure Murangi , which left us with so many questions.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as a Christian, I believe that the good Lord wants to focus our hearts and minds on something we fail to recognise or see. What is that?

To my mind, time has come for us as leaders to come closer to the Lord. Only a believer can serve his/her people with conviction, love and tolerance. I repeat: Only a believer can serve his/her people with conviction, love and tolerance.

Let the souls of our Comrades rest in eternal peace and may their bereaved beloved ones get solace in their achievements and legacy.

Every time the son of the soil, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, now the Minister of Lands and Resettlement, sung from the pulpit, saying: "*Ngatu uane , Ngatu*

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON /UI/O/OO**

*uane, Menara Namibia*”, my heart was bleeding because I know where we are coming from and how we were singing all the way throughout those trying times.

The leap year also inherited a great deal of drought from last year in which over 4,000 livestock perished. To add salt to injury, the drought was followed by heavy rains and subsequent devastating floods.

While the threat of floods in Caprivi and Hardap became common phenomena for the last few years, a new dimension addition came in the four O-regions, causing devastating loss of property and lives by drowning and attacks by reptiles in the flooded oshanas. These floods also became a health risk, preying on community deficiencies.

These unprecedented sequences of events and untimely hazards took the spark right out of the Budget Debate. It dampened the enthusiasm and focus and put us in an uncompromising situation where we shift our focus to the Committee level. Thus I can only give input and our assessment in the various Votes during the Committee Stage. I thank you and I support the Budget.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Chief for his contribution. In response to the question put to the Chair by the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Services, I asked my people here and they are telling me that Members of the different Parties exchange speaking turns amongst themselves due to the fact that they were not available on their scheduled speaking days, for example RP, CoD and UDF. Parties that forfeited their times when we had no session last Friday, asked to be given a chance to speak and this is one of the reasons why the time has been extended. Honourable /Ui/o/oo.

---

**HON /UI/O/OO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Sir.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, I rise to make my brief intervention to the general Debate and discussions regarding our national, Budget of 2008/09 and beyond. Before I start my intervention, allow me to do what other colleagues who spoke before me did by observing and registering their deepest condolences and sympathy to our fallen heroes and heroines, namely Honourable John Pandeni, Honourable Nico Bessinger, Honourable Kala Reinhardt Gertze,

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON /UI/O/OO**

our beloved sister and mother Meme Julia Nepembe, Councillor of Ongwediva, the late Honourable Chief Tjikuua and Comrade Murangi. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Coming to Parliamentary proceedings, it is very necessary that we Parliamentarians showcase to the public our maturity. We are to respect the Opposition because they too are Namibians. We are also to respect their Motions because they build a Nation.

I also want to congratulate the Ministries for a job well done. By way of example I will mention but a few for a lack of time.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Dr Libertine Amathila, does a very good job for the marginalised communities, like the Ovazemba, the Ovahimba, the Ovatwa and the San community. The Office needs to be supported by all of us.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, Honourable Rosalia Nghidinwa, speeded up the processing of identity documents, passports and birth certificates since she took over.

The Ministry of Education has a policy in place which is meant especially for the marginalised communities, which is a step in the right direction.

The Ministry of Environment is doing well by promoting conservancies, even if there are shortcomings like the absence of a compensation policy for human deaths and destruction of property caused by problem animals. However, the costs of staying at NWR camps and Etosha are so high that Namibians cannot afford to stay there. It is a humble appeal to the Honourable Minister to reduce the prices or Namibianise the prices for us to go there.

The Ministry of Defence should be commended for transporting deceased soldiers to their places of origin and for helping with the funeral arrangements. The Ministry of Safety and Security needs to emulate this example.

The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement has done a lot when it comes to resettlement and affirmative action policies, but needs to do more. The national body which is to approve applications for resettlement should consist of all

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON /UI/O/OO**

stakeholders in all society. If there is only one stakeholder represented, it will be difficult for others to be resettled. For example, for the San it is very difficult, but I think I will also congratulate the Honourable Minister for the farm which he recently gave to the San people. I am proud of that. The Ovahimba are suffering in this regard.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, I would now like to draw the attention of the House to Article 45 of the Constitution, which states that “*the National Assembly Members should be the representatives of all our people.*” This means that all Members of the House represent all the people of Namibia. Even the Opposition is there to serve the people.

Now I would like to say a word about the Budget and let me thank the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Nandjila Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and the National Planning Commission for a pro-poor Budget. The Budget has increased pension money to N\$450. This is a very commendable step.

The taxes levied by the Revenue Office are too high, because the lowly paid people suffer as a result. Taxes should be reduced and the elderly should be exempted from paying tax so as to alleviate poverty.

The tendency of municipalities to confiscate the houses of the elderly and the poor who cannot afford to pay must be stopped or discouraged. We must respect those people one way or the other.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, also the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication needs to work hard in order to upgrade roads like the ones damaged by the recent floods in the North.

The other roads that need upgrading are at places like Aroab, Omaheke, Aminuis, Otjinene, Gam, Tsumkwe, Grootfontein, etcetera.

I am of the opinion that we all should support the idea of a basic income grant (BIG), because it will alleviate poverty. I am thus following in the footsteps of Honourable Dr Hage Geingob who also supported the idea.

I further support the idea of the Ministry of Health on circumcision of men, because it will reduce disease, especially HIV/AIDS.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON /UI/O/OO**

Furthermore, I thank Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, our Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, for a smooth transfer of power to His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Lukas Pohamba. This good example is unlike what happened in other countries like Kenya and Zimbabwe. Botswana's former President, His Excellency Festus Mogae, supports my statement very well, as he said: *"Let me advise those leaders in similar circumstances: leave when the time for you to leave comes and you will be embraced with love by your people."*

Honourable Speaker, Sir, what His Excellency Mugabe is doing to our fellow Africans, forcing them to take refuge in other countries like Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, is deplorable, but we still support him. (Interjections). Yes, he is my Comrade and I do not listen to what he said and they will tell you maybe another story. There is a saying in English that says: *"Straight talk does not break any friendship."* We are very much biased because had the same been done by a white person, we all would have teamed up against him or her. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** May I ask a question? While I am appreciating the understanding for true democracy, I would like to ask whether he is not busy overruling the policy of the SWAPO Party and by doing that, you will harm your future political career?

---

**HON /UI/O/OO:** My former Comrades, Honourable Chief, I said that *straight talk does not break any friendship*, so I am straight to the point.

In conclusion, Comrade Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, I am in agreement with Honourable Schimming-Chase when she said that backbenchers do not have enough resources to do their work. I would like to add that we need to assist our Deputy Ministers, Ministers and therefore we need only one vehicle to pursue this work and staff members to give support. Therefore, I would humbly ask Cabinet Ministers to allow us to have our own resources so as to do our work independently. We are also less paid, as other speakers have said and the example was a Deputy Director in the Public Service and I think I am not the only one who is mentioning this. This was also said by Honourable Tjihuiko.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MANOMBE - NCUBE**

With these few remarks I support the Budget and I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution.  
Honourable Ncube.

---

**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to add my voice in support of the Budget tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. Before that, Comrade Speaker, allow me to join the other Colleagues to give my words of condolences to the bereaved families of our recently departed Veterans and Colleagues, of whom most were Members of this august House. They are:

Honourable Comrade Meme Julia Nepembe, Honourable Kala Gertze, Honourable Minister Comrade John Alphons Pandeni, Honourable Comrade Nico Bessinger and Mr Nokokure Murangi.

I acknowledge their selfless, tireless sacrifices and contributions towards our quest for Independence and self-determination. They may not be here with us any longer, but their legacy will continue to inspire us as we forge towards socio-economic development of our Nation. Without the sacrifice and contributions of selfless individuals such as them, we would not be where we are as a country today. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to raise a few issues that are of concern, I believe, to the entire Namibian Nation.

I sincerely appreciate the commendable action taken by the Honourable Minister of Finance to increase the rate of social grants for needy sections of our population. In particular, I wish to compliment the step taken to afford a monthly grant to our war veterans, many of whom have no jobs. This is in fulfilment of the election manifesto of the mighty SWAPO Party. I hope that this grant will help to cushion them against the hardships many of them are facing. I have no reason to doubt that the Comrade Minister will continue to raise these grants within the Medium Term Expenditure Framework until such point where it will correspond with inflation in our country.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MANOMBE - NCUBE**

**Black Empowerment:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there is no question that all legal and necessary steps should be taken to increase the stakeholder-ship of our indigenous people in the economy of Namibia. It may not appear obvious, but increasing the involvement of our people in order to have a meaningful stake in the economy is an investment into future peace and stability in our country. Keeping our people on the margins of our economy is like attempting to build on a less than secure foundation.

While I support, obviously, the principle and practice of black economic empowerment, our people must also know that it is only them and the way they perform in the economy that will help secure a firm position on which they and all of us can continue to build. Honourable Speaker, professional delivery is key, quality delivery is essential, timely delivery is a must. Poor delivery is only self-destroying of not only the economic players in question, but the entire Nation as a whole.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, black empowerment, should not be seen as condoning poor performance, but as enabling capable people to play a meaningful role in creating jobs and growing our economy. There are, however, many examples where our own people have not performed satisfactorily when it comes to delivering good work on a consistent basis.

I now turn to a subject which this House need to take note of when we are discussing matters of economic nature. The continued service by Banks to provide the finance required to house our Nation's needs to be supported. As a result, huge sums are invested annually in the building industry as it constructs housing for different sections of our population.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as many others may have noticed what I have also noticed, Banks do not appear to exercise sufficient care, diligence and supervision when it comes to the delivery of quality housing into which they invest huge sums of money. Securing a loan with a Bank means that until the loan is repaid, the house belongs to the Bank.

If construction is below the standard expected, the value of the property for the investment made will be less than could be otherwise realised. Once they have

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MANOMBE - NCUBE**

given a loan, some banks appear to forget that it is their money that purchases or builds a property. It remains their money until it is fully repaid.

It seems necessary that banks should have a capacity in their supervision of ongoing construction to ensure that quality construction right through to completion is maintained. They should be able to withhold progress payment if building quality is not up to standard. Most of the responsibility for delivery of good quality building projects seems to rest with the one who has been lent money by a Bank, and if this is an individual family or person, they may not be assured to get a good quality project delivered by a builder. At the time you decide to sell the property to someone else, the same bank or in some cases, the quantity surveyor will evaluate the house at a lesser price than you paid for, due to misconstruction that the bank previously ignored.

**Education:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to commend the SWAPO Party-led Government in general and the Minister of Finance and her staff for allocating the amount of N\$4,782,761,000 which will enable the Grade 10's to repeat, since this was an issue which was a bone of contention for the general public, hence the positive reaction from the Honourable Minister.

One issue that particularly needs to be remedied concerns the withholding of school reports for non-payment of school fees. Children should not have to be traumatised for failures of their parents. The pressure should be put on parents rather than the children who in any case are not responsible for their own fees.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the school in turn can apply other measures to obtain the outstanding fees from those parents who can afford, but deliberately default, for example, taking legal actions if they so wish, approach debt collecting establishments or arrangements can be made for debit orders from the bank account of the parents. I think this is more practical than children having to go through this heavy strain and uncertainty with regard to the outcome of their results. Children have the right to know whether they will proceed from primary to secondary or tertiary level of education, whatever the case may be.

We should also be mindful of the fact that this mostly affects the children from the poor background. Are the teachers not aware of the constitutional provision that a child should not be denied education on the basis of non-payment of school

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

fees? Are the examination results not part of this provision? This issue must be taken up seriously with the schools, Honourable Minister of Education.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, another burning issue is the sending off of children who arrive late at school. I have been observing this several times and this is apparently to collect their parents. This is a practice that is being perpetrated at some schools both in Katutura, Khomasdal as well as town and elsewhere. This practice is questionable and worrisome, in the sense that that child will end up losing the day's work.

Can the schools not apply punitive actions against the child as they may normally apply? By the way, some children are dropped off by taxis at the closest rank to avoid double charges if the child should be dropped at the school. Since the taxi leaves immediately, how will this child go back to his/her parent, who may already be at work by that time? This is really worrisome and the Ministry of Education should take it up with the schools.

Honourable Speaker, the use of school children, particularly primary school ones, for selling raffle tickets is also a practice that needs to be questioned as it exposes children to dangers of being robbed and it also indirectly borders on child labour. Instead of embarking on this way of fundraising, schools can employ more safe and child-friendly fundraising events, such as school bazaars, family fun days, etcetera.

**Health issues:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to draw attention towards an issue which I would like to raise from a personal experience having been an employee in the health sector, mostly working at Clinics and Hospitals. Firstly, the manual registration of patients is very cumbersome in the sense that it is not only time-consuming, but also let the patients wait too long in queues. I suggest the Ministry of Health and Social Services that should the registration of patients be computerised, it would allow for smooth and efficient registration process.

Secondly, the general attitude of some of our health workers at some health institutions towards patients leaves much to be desired. In this regard, I would like to agree with those Honourable Members who spoke

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR GEINGOB**

about performance appraisals. Perhaps this will encourage public servants to render effective and efficient service to the public. This may not only apply to the Ministry of Health and Social Services, but to the entire Government system as a whole.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my distinguished honour and privilege to extend my deepest gratitude and thanks to the Honourable Minister, Deputy Minister as well as the entire staff of the Ministry of Finance for a very well researched, well-structured and, of course, well-presented National Budget. I have no doubt that the Minister, through her Medium Term Expenditure Framework Budgetary provisions that expands over a three-year period, is well on track and that regardless of the difficult economic situation under which she operates, things can only get better. I support the Appropriation Bill.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for her important contribution. Honourable Dr Geingob.

---

**HON DR GEINGOB:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members.

Earlier in March, the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila had tabled the 2008/09 National Budget in the National Assembly.

I congratulate her for the job well done. The Budget document shows that this year's Budget is very different and forward-looking. Government's revenue has improved, and there has been significant improvement in the allocation of resources to Education, Health, Security, Welfare, infrastructure, job creation initiatives, and rural development. I am also very happy that we were able to find resources to address the veterans issue. It was a long-standing commitment that, I am glad, we are now able to fulfil.

As I went over the Budget, I sought to establish some parameters. A Budget is defined as "*a quantified, planned course of action over a definitive time-period. It is an attempt to estimate inputs and the cost of inputs along with associated outputs.*"

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR GEINGOB**

A little research showed that ideally, the Budget helps one to carefully consider the expected demand for the Government's services, and the resources required to meet that demand. It also prioritises Government's services, and seeks to secure appropriate resources to achieve those priorities. It also, hopefully, creates a baseline against which actual results can be compared.

For the Economists note that although a Budget has economic, political and technical basis, it is not entirely designed to allocate scarce resources for the best economic use. It also has a political basis wherein different interests push and pull in an attempt to obtain benefits and avoid burdens. The technical element is the forecast of the likely levels of resources and expenses.

The Budget has addressed all these issues. We have, thus come a long way. Going forward, we hope to strengthen the baseline parameters against which actual results can be compared. This would require strong statistical base. We are therefore focused on strengthening our statistics gathering and analysing capabilities.

Our primary focus remains poverty reduction. The World Bank defines poverty in these words: *“Poverty is hunger. Poverty is a lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.”* I would say poverty is the absence of well-being. Scholars identify three challenges to well-being:

- Poverty, defined as whether households or individuals have enough resources or abilities today to meet their needs;
- Inequality in the distribution of income, consumption or other attributes across the population; and
- Vulnerability, defined here as the probability or risk today of being in poverty or falling deeper into poverty in the future.

And to the above, let me add my favourite definition of poverty: Poverty is relative deprivation. One is poor in relation to someone else or say, to your neighbour. Bill Gates is rich, his neighbour is poor.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR GEINGOB**

We are sitting here, somebody may be rich and your next-door neighbour is poor. That is why we talk about relative deprivation.

In Namibia, unemployment has remained stubbornly high. Inequality in the distribution of income is very high, as is evident from high gini-coefficient. Colonisation and apartheid over most of the last century had entrenched poverty in the black population. There was no employment security for them. These two measures added to the inequality.

As a result of apartheid, well-being of the black population suffered and suffered badly compared to their white compatriots. This tragedy caused by institutionalised poverty will take a long time to dismantle. This relative deprivation of the black population deserves recognition, empathy, compassion and solution. Yet, any time anyone speaks of the wrongs of the past, the Colleagues on the other side fall back on the cliché and I quote: *“But that is history. We cannot blame the past for today’s problems.”* They are either dreadfully ignorant or dreadfully naïve. Or alternatively, taking such a position suits them.

Today, all politicians, black and white, can go to black areas or to Katutura’s of our cities or to rural areas of our country and since they now – that is the white colleagues – regard the blacks as human beings, because I do believe poverty was always there, they used to drive past there going to Etosha Pan, but they did not go around to realise people are there who are poor, but today because of the freedom we have, they regard the blacks now, I hope, as human beings and they are shocked by the poverty in which those people live, and they can see and they come and say people are really poor as if it is a new things.

In fact, they put the blame on the SWAPO Government. They actually act as if the SWAPO Government invented that poverty on Independence day. I am particularly distressed when I see the black members of the Opposition subscribing to such thinking, as done earlier by Honourable Tjihuiko, despite the fact that they can empathise with the poor and are from a poor background, as they have walked that same road.

This is where one is forced to quote late Malcolm X, when he was talking about – and I was misquoted earlier, so I want to correct it here – house niggers and the field niggers. He was saying that the house nigger will say, when the house of his

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR GEINGOB**

master is on fire, “*master, our house’s on fire*”, our house’s on fire, yet he is sleeping outside that house. When the master is sick, he says, “*we are sick.*”

The field nigger, when the house is on fire, says, “*I want more wind to come.*” When our brothers stand there and say what they were saying, first saying nothing has changed in eighteen years, poverty is worse now than before, then I get the impression that “*master, our house’s on fire.*” (Intervention)

---

**HON DR ANKAMA:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask my Senior Comrade a question? Comrade Dr Geingob, what would you say of people who created poverty for others, for all those years and only come to realise the poverty now? What would you say about this kind of naïve hypocritical attitude?

---

**HON DR GEINGOB:** Yes, you have answered yourself. I am saying we are saying we are together in this country. It would honestly be dishonest for anybody, all of us, black, white, to say that things were better before Independence for black people. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? On that point, while I am really encouraged by the words “*to be honest*”, some people from the other side are preaching, “*do not allow them to buy in their shops*” and many others. I do not want to stick to one so that you may realise I am saying something against somebody. But somebody is talking anger while you are talking honesty. Are you really addressing the issue?

---

**HON DR GEINGOB:** Whatever the Honourable Member was trying to say is the typical way of not trying to be honest, to give credit where it is due, to always try to cry foul wherever things are happening and that is not going to lead us anywhere.

The Government’s focus, on the other hand, has been to overcome obstacles to the citizens’ well-being. Transfer payments are an essential ingredient for the

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR GEINGOB**

household to meet their needs and expansion of grants to OVCs, pensioners and veterans and provision of free education and there seems to be a deliberate confusion about “*free education.*” There is free education in this country. For example, all of you know we send our children to Convent and St Paul’s. At Convent, where there is a fee charging institution, my son is there, I pay N\$9,000 per year. They are paying tuition fee. When your child goes to St Paul’s as a Namibian, you are paying N\$25,000 and foreigners are paying about N\$50,000. That is a fee charging institution. Government schools are free. Please, we should not confuse ourselves and talk like that, Government schools are free. There is free education, but you deny that it is not free, you say there is no free education and we influence our people outside. The call-in programmes say there is no free education. What are you trying to do, Colleagues? We are Honourable Members, we are the ones to lead the people, to build them up to unite. If you instigate them by telling them untruths, they will believe that and hate the Government that we are doing nothing. It is true, education is free.

Health services are heavily subsidised. If you are a State patient, what do you pay at the hospital? About N\$30. It is highly subsidised. We should not distort things, if we do not know it, let us find out the information.

Development of infrastructure throughout the country has brought the market closer to the people. The Windhoek of 1989 and the Windhoek of today are worlds apart. I think when you are alone in your house, when you go abroad, you talk about these things, but we are confusing people. Windhoek is completely different, the whole country, the beautiful country with beautiful people.

When I go on trips I drive deliberately and look how people are in intermingling in a country which just thirty years could not do that. White, black and yellow are walking the streets. When I came here in 1989 you would not see blacks on Kaiser Strasse. You could count them. Today you see them at the end of the month in big masses, proudly walking that street. (Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** I am not here to blame us, I am here to blame the tools that we use. To blame ourselves for nothing does not help, but I blame the tools we use, the mind, the logic, the approach, I blame that. The nigger blames himself, he says we are sick because the boss is sick, now I do not know what difference to make. The cost of living is high and everything is so expensive.

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR GEINGOB**

**HON SPEAKER:** Chief, do you agree with Honourable Geingob or do you still want to add.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** I do understand but he is deviating from the truth. Tell the truth, a spade is a spade. Call a spade a spade, it is simple.

---

**HON DR GEINGOB:** Thank you, Honourable Chief. I called a spade a spade, we are better off now than before, you and I. That is calling a spade a spade. But I am not saying everything is perfect, therefore we are not resting on our laurels, we are seeking to promote investment to create jobs.

On the other hand, the Churches took the initiative, they started to implement the Basic Income Grant. I like the idea. That is why I am supporting it by paying N\$100 for one year for three beneficiaries. I hope all of us who talk about poverty of people can join, just N\$100 for one person for a year. Let us walk the talk. Chief, I am calling a spade a spade, can you join me to do that so that you can join the Churches, a private sector Church effort, not Government and I will also invite the private sector, individuals, to support this effort of the Churches.

I also say, if we join it, that we must now come to the Katutura's, the ghettos, the slums of our cities. Poverty is equally rampant there and if these people could get N\$100 a month, I think we are starting to address that problem.

The only thing I disagreed with the Churches is that each and everyone in Namibia, whether you are working or you are rich, must get N\$100. That I disagree with, but they are saying that is going to be taken care of by taxation. However we are supporting the principle, as a private sector, as a Church effort to be joined by the private sector. That is an effort we can undertake.

We are also trying to reduce inequality in the distribution of income.

Regrettably, in the Government we have not succeeded to do that because we had inherited a large white Civil service whose salaries were pegged to the Civil service salaries in South Africa. This is calling a spade a spade. We inherited that.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR GEINGOB**

Then we had two options. One could have been to cut the salaries, saying our country is poor, we are going to pay you all affordable salaries of Africans and reduce it. Would that have been fair? Could we have been happy with that? We could have said to the blacks, since you are blackies, we are going to pay you *kaffir* salaries. Could we have said, let the whites maintain their high salaries and since you are newcomers, we are going to pay you the African salaries. Could that have been better? No, we retained those who were at that level and brought up the newcomers to the same level. That is why there is inequality. This is calling a spade a spade, Honourable Chief.

Namibia of 1990 that we had inherited seemed to be a little white enclave with development limited to Windhoek and a couple of hamlets. However, in these 18 years we have made enormous progress. We must be proud of that, all of us. Namibia of 2008 is vibrant. There are roads being extended and about 98% of children of school-going age are going to school. Are we denying that? These are achievements. This is calling a spade a spade, Chief and telling the truth. Hospitals are accessible regardless of one's race.

This morning I went to the Central Hospital, I went to what is called Nuclear Medicine. When I heard that word the first time I nearly collapsed, because I said I am now being sent to Nuclear Medicine Centre, I must be very sick. I however was told, "*do not get excited.*" Dr Barnard May Cancer Centre – when I walked in there I was proud, because we are always saying our Hospitals are falling apart. We are our own worst enemies when it comes to propaganda-making against ourselves. I walked in there, I saw the cleanest place I have ever seen. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** May I ask my Vice-President a small question? Comrade Vice-President, you mentioned that we Africans are our own worst enemies. I agree with that statement because earlier you referred to the house nigger and so on and it is so disturbing, it is so sad that this crusade is being led by our own African journalists, those who are employed by the white media. You will find them here and when an article is written about the bad Government, it is our journalists from the *Namibian* or *Informante* or the others. They are just there being fed with the truth and then they write. (Interjection)

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR GEINGOB**

**HON MEMBER:** It is the editors.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** The editors? So, the editors give them this information. They edit what has been written? So, this is what I wanted to confirm, that our own African journalists, we are our own worst enemies of this country.

---

**HON DR GEINGOB:** Well, let me just make one statement very clear, what I am seeing in this country. When we are talking about the State House, talking about the Heroes Acre, these are monuments of Independence, monuments of liberation. Now I do not expect my white brothers, who were fighting against, to be happy about these monuments of victory. I understand their anger, I understand them saying we are wasting tax money. Go to the horse here, that is a monument.

When you condemn their monuments, their victory, every country, I went to South Africa the other day, President Thabo Mbeki asked me to come to his residence, we were with Comrade Ben there. When you are entering there it is a whole town by itself with houses and so on, until you come to the big house. They do not complain about that, there are many of them like that in South Africa, but those are the monuments and they are happy, they say, "*we gave them this.*"

Here you were creating your own monuments and we left them therefore the anger from those who lost out. What is your problem with a black person? Your own symbols, everybody must have symbols as a Nation, but I do not understand the anger of those who lost out – "*our taxpayers' money is wasted.*" Some are unemployed but they are paying taxes - "*master, our house's on fire.*" That is the concept. (Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Mr Speaker, we do not create a kind of instigation against what is good, we value our sentiment and for that matter, if that monument happened to be a problem, what about our land price? It was not bought from us but taken just like that. It is N\$700 per hectare to N\$800 per hectare and the Minister concerned never raised this issue in this House, never-ever! He is a man

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON DR GEINGOB**

who is critical of everything on earth, but he has never, ever raised this issue. What happened?

---

**HON DR GEINGOB:** Honourable Chief, we completely agree with you on the land question, but we have adopted our own policy, that we had a Land Conference and we agreed, you and I. We did not agree on everything but we compromised. We are following our policy.

We are a country with enormous renewable and non-renewable resources that are making a valuable contribution to the economy. However, we feel that non-renewable resources need to make more contribution towards overcoming income inequality. We have diamonds, uranium and everybody is coming here for uranium, gold. Like Nkrumah was saying, "*Africa is rich, but Africans are poor*". Namibians have resources, but Namibians are poor I think the time has come that these resources must be used to benefit Namibians. We have to use our own resources so that we can reduce poverty or eradicate poverty completely. We cannot be a country with diamonds, uranium, gold, name it, and two million people and we keep on talking about poverty, poverty. Now the time has come that a law can be passed, we can revisit our legislative procedure instruments to see to it that Namibians benefit directly from these resources through equity participation .

We also want to promote broad-based black economic empowerment. I want to quote from this book, it is very interesting, I can recommend it to all of you. This book is dealing with this issue and the Deputy Prime Minister already asked me. Vuyo Jack, in his book, *Broadbased BEE- The Complete Guide* says that: "*The need for economic equality is based on three imperatives. One is a moral issue.*" Why Namibians must be brought into the economy is a moral issue, because apartheid which pushed us out from the economy was immoral, it was a crime against humanity. Therefore the first issue is morality. That is therefore to correct the imbalances created by apartheid. The second imperative is a social issue. "*The wealth divide is a problem in all capitalist societies. A wealth divide denoted by racial categories further complicates South Africa's problems, hence Namibia's problem. It is the cause of various social ills. It also forms grounds for a political uprising of the poor.*"

*"An objective of black economic empowerment is to introduce poor people into the mainstream economy, thereby allowing them to reap the*

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

*benefits of the capitalist system by which the country is run. Perhaps the third and most compelling reason for BEE is economic growth. The unemployment rate in South Africa (and in Namibia) is reported to be between 35 to 37%, which implies that the economy is running at two-thirds of its potential. Labour is a resource and ineffectively used it becomes a redundant resource that costs the country money rather than contributing to growth.”*

*“A forth issue is the skills level, of labour. South Africa relies on raw material exports and exports little in the form of value-added goods.*

*Value-added exports represent higher economic stimulation from a country. Increasing the skill level of labour will result in increased value-added activities which, in turn, will create more employment opportunities.”*

If you do not manufacture to add value, you just get the stones from Karibib, send them to Italy, they go and create jobs there, cut them and send them to us again. That is going to create jobs, that is what we call value adding.

*“I have often said that citizens can be a valuable asset or a serious drag, depending on how well they are prepared to take up the challenges of today and tomorrow. They need to be educated, and they need to be provided with health care. They need to have access to clean water. They need to have jobs. They will then be valuable assets.”*

Our focus is to make every citizen a valuable asset of Namibia. That I hope is the Government’s plan as presented in this Budget.

Therefore, let us not despair. If we can maintain peace, unity and inclusivity in Government, Namibia would be ensured a better and bright future. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Dr Geingob for his important contribution. Honourable Minister of Justice.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I thank you for the opportunity to

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

once again stand to contribute to the general Debate on the National Budget, 2008-2009. I also thank the Almighty for the privilege to be with you today, during a time when this august House sits with two vacancies of late Colleagues and during an even sad period for Namibia which has in a space of one month lost four distinguished national and Local Authority leaders and Civil servants, namely late Comrade John Alphons Pandeni, late Honourable Kala Gertze, late Comrade Nico Bessinger, late Comrade Julia Nepembe and late Mr Nokokure Murangi.

Our thoughts go to the families of the deceased Comrades and Colleagues. As we are reminded of our mortality, we are also called upon to make productive use of our time on this earth and in this august House.

Comrade Speaker, Africa, as we know, has the challenge of having to ensure hope and a brighter future for its children, amidst a number of challenges, and I need not lament how diseases such as HIV/AIDS, developmental challenges posed by infrastructural inefficiencies, shortage of skills, lack of affordable capital, compounded by failing democracies and inept leaderships compound this challenge even more.

It was, therefore, painful to see how at the beginning of the year, one of Africa's performing economies, namely Kenya, plunged itself into a regrettable and deplorable internal situation, leading all of us on the continent and beyond to take a step back and to realise that the maintenance of peace and stability is just as imperative as is the performance of a country's economy. In fact, performance by industry in the thick of an instable democracy only leads to embedding unnecessary costs in the output methods and distorting value and is generally unsustainable.

At home, we witnessed how irresponsible behaviour led to a death at Omuthiya and how self-serving and ever two-faced commentators were quick to frame His Excellency the President, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, also the President of the SWAPO Party and other SWAPO Party leaders, myself included, as having incited violence and intolerance.

The wise words of the Right Honourable Nahas Angula, Prime Minister, sometimes known as Citizen Angula, ring very true, that the picture of an arrow in the head of the Kenyan boy could have well been of a boy from any country on

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

the continent and that problems of a political nature are not only unique to Kenya, but they are to be found everywhere, provided you probe hard at it.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, It seems that with the advent of certain Political Parties not elected into Parliament yet, somehow Namibia has been able to accept the claim that we are intolerant, particularly those of us on this side of the House, that we are over-reacting to the advent of these Political Parties yet to prove themselves, so much so that people are *ad nauseam* calling in the radio programmes, particularly leading to the Omuthiya elections, now postponed, literally attempting to rewrite history and demonise some of us.

Well, believe me Comrade Speaker, it is with great confidence and conviction that I as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Republic of Namibia, stand before you and unreservedly reject the notion that Namibians, or more precisely, SWAPO Party members and their leaders, are not tolerant. Quite to the contrary!

Those claiming lack of tolerance seem to have stumbled into a busy political, kitchen, running all pots on full power and as the saying goes, "*if you cannot take the heat, you better just get out.*"

As Eenhana has demonstrated, democracy, which I have indicated to be key to economic performance in Namibia, has flourished in our country.

As your Attorney-General, I thank the SWAPO Party members for their discipline, I thank the Congress of Democrats for having tacitly conceded defeat in their dozen votes and as far as the RDP is concerned, I can only comment once their principals become available for comment to concede defeat, which will preserve peace and stability in our country.

It is the duty of all of us as leaders to instil the humility of political discipline in our Parties, to know when to act in our partisan interests and to know when the common good will be served by some restraint, some hard decisions and some dignity in defeat.

Comrade Speaker, we now confidently, eagerly await the outcome of the landmark combined Zimbabwe polls and caution that we act responsibly and commit to accepting the outcome of the poll. And yes, the elections could

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

perhaps not have been perfect in every sense, but neither was ours if my memory serves me correct.

However, the duty for Namibians particularly, knowing all too well how hard we have worked on our democracy, is to avoid wild conjecture on Zimbabwe and engage our friends with a view to assisting in the reconstruction of that economic giant, Zimbabwe.

A healthy Zimbabwe domino effects positively on our economies within SADC. A wrecked Zimbabwe bears more suffering for its citizens and burdened civil responsibilities upon the region. Let us, therefore, urge our friends in the media fraternity to hold their horses and wait for the results.

Comrade Speaker, permit me to congratulate the Minister of Works, Transport and Communication on a successful completion of the Office Complex of the New State House compound. As we all know, former President Nujoma was castigated by journalists and public commentators throughout his political career, but never to the extent that he was accused of having commenced this grand project to serve his own interests.

For those of us who were privileged to have toured the office compound, do join me in acquitting former President Nujoma and thanking him for his great vision, for we have built Namibia an office befitting the constitutional mandate of the President of the Republic of Namibia.

As if the timing were synchronised, we have also had the opportunity to see the film, "*Namibia – The Liberation Struggle*" and whether it is due to the awards it has received internationally, even the harshest of critics now concedes that the film is not all about Sam Nujoma. Comrade Netumbo, congratulations to you and congratulations Comrade Prime Minister for your leadership.

Yes, those close to the film process will recall that I was not the greatest of fans of the project in its proportions, which this august House has appropriated and in the story-telling. However, as this is not a documentary, I was able to concede that because every scene in that film is a potential film on its own, it is important that Namibia portrays something positive to the world and bequeaths its future generations a rich historical picking field, grounding their future in meaning, for no Nation can pride itself with no historical identity.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Over the years it was the interventionist objective of our Budget in the economy, *albeit* somewhat restrained at times, to ensure that those projects that will identify our nationhood, such as the State House, the film, the railway, the establishment of Local Authorities, etcetera, are completed to lay a foundation for greater pride and confidence in our future.

Yet Comrade Speaker, yet much remains to be done through society's buy-in into the national projects espoused in the Vision 2030 Master Plan, the National Development Budgets and time and again in the appropriations made by Parliament.

As a communal farmer myself, I must once again record my view that we have not yet done enough to bring the two parallel land tenure systems closer, Comrade Jerry Ekandjo – commercial and communal land. Doing so will restore pride in our rural communities who currently continue to under-realise the value of their land, Independence or not.

We, therefore, look forward to the initiative of the Prime Minister on the Transformation of the **Economic Social Empowerment Framework (TESEF)** for BEE in its objective to bring more people into the fold of economic activities. I am just echoing what the Vice-President of SWAPO just said. We also encourage the Ministry of Agriculture in its efforts to have even communal farmers of capacity for part of Team Namibia's meat exporters.

TESEF should however create the support structures and financial vehicles much needed by marginalised entrepreneurs, but it should not shy away from the notion that it is not unintended that people will amass wealth in their participation in the Namibian economy.

TESEF and for that matter, any policy of Government should not destroy the entrepreneurial spirit and replace it with the lame expectation of deserving reward for no sweat. It is for this reason, I thought, that Government tabled in this august House the establishment of certain institutions, such as the Development Bank, the National Youth Service and other initiatives, to underpin our long-term objective of having all Namibians capable of accessing the wealth of this Nation.

The day will come, if we plan properly and together, when the residents of Opuwo or the residents of Rehoboth will feel just as part of this economy, without the fear of the artefact merchant from Zimbabwe or the bricklayer from

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

China. Yet we must empower them now and plan to keep them empowered today.

Let us analyse where there have been cracks in the Namibian dam wall which was intended to keep poverty and hopelessness at bay and fix those cracks now, because if we fail, the valley will be flooded.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, speaking of floods, the rain we have dearly prayed for has served us a curve ball. Yet we are thankful. We are even more thankful that Namibians of all ages, shapes and sizes and background have been at the forefront of helping their fellow countrymen and women with provisions to ease their predicament. We should thank all of those Good Samaritans and urge others to dig into their kind hearts to assist. God will replenish to the depth we have dug in giving to those in their needs.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, allow me to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance and her staff and the Director General of the National Planning Commission and his staff for a well-balanced Budget, a promising Budget, a Budget that has given us confidence for the future. I, therefore, support the Budget.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for her contribution. Honourable Ulenga.

---

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, having listened to especially the last two speakers, I think perhaps it is time now to have a slightly different kind of dose and I hope, Honourable Speaker, just as the House had listened and with great dignity and respect to the last speakers, the same attention will be accorded to me.

Honourable Speaker, the dark and sombre cloud of death still hangs low over our Parliament and, indeed, over the entire Nation, since within days of one another, in the month of March, the Nation lost two dedicated serving Members of Parliament and a former member and Minister who was also one of the founding

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

father of the Namibian Parliament. Of course, I am referring to the passing of the Honourable Kala Gertze, John Alphons Pandeni and Nikolaus Onverwag Bessinger. Honourable Speaker, their passing, so untimely and unexpected as it has been, has robbed not only their respective families but indeed the whole Nation of strong and dedicated workers for national prosperity, development and progress. May their families, friends and co-workers find solace in the fact that each in his own way had contributed to laying the foundation of a better Namibia we all hope to see one day, and may their souls find rest in the eternal bosom of the Lord.

Mr Speaker, history seems again to be in the making in southern Africa, in so far as, it seems, that in one of our SADC neighbours, namely Zimbabwe, the torch of national political leadership is again being passed on, hopefully in a peaceful and democratic fashion.

Honourable Speaker, while I would like to congratulate the Movement for Democratic Change for having won the recently held Parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe, I must say it is extremely essential that all leaders in Zimbabwe and, indeed, in the neighbouring States, including our own Namibia, behave in the most statesman-like fashion and desist from any inflammatory conduct that may precipitate a chaotic situation, as we saw recently in Kenya. Needless to say, Honourable Speaker, we should all wish the entire people of Zimbabwe a peaceful, stable and secure transition as they go about dealing with important and, indeed, critical national issues facing that sister Nation.

Mr Speaker, I must say I was surprised when Honourable Geingob spoke a few minutes ago to find myself agreeing with almost 40% of what he was saying. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** May I ask Honourable Ulenka a question? Honourable Ulenka, my question is: You mentioned that the Movement for Democratic Change has won the elections in Zimbabwe. I just want to know, where did you get this information from since the body established by the Constitution of Zimbabwe, the Electoral Commission of Zimbabwe, has not officially announced those results. Where did you get this?

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I hope my Nephew is not just trying to lure me away from my speech. Honourable Uutoni, the results for the parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe are officially out and they were announced by the official organ in that country, ZEC. It is called the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. It has announced that the parliamentary results are completely out, hundred percent of them and, indeed, the MDC won that parliamentary election. I did not talk about any other because I did not want to precipitate the people who are responsible to make that announcement.

Honourable Speaker, our Nation has just turned 18 a couple of weeks ago and we must, as a Nation and as political leaders, take a critical look of the state of the Nation and the progress we have made into mature nationhood, at this important milestone in our history. This is what I intend to do, although just in summary, seeing that we do not have too much of the time we should be having.

Honourable Speaker, I regret to say that this year's Budget and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework figures tabled in this House a couple of weeks ago by the Minister of Finance again indicate just how for eighteen years the SWAPO Party Government has failed to deliver on the three main projects of national liberation, namely, number one, *nation-building*; number two, *democratic transformation*; number three, *socio-economic empowerment of the formerly colonised people*. Honourable Speaker, the SWAPO Party has a tendency to pay lip-service to important socio-economic and development issues, while all the time pursuing, in my view, wrong and irrelevant policy objectives and priorities.

Namibia, at 18 years, is characterised by poor and, indeed, worsening social and economic conditions, with unemployment, landlessness and hopelessness being a common condition amongst the Nation. Yes, indeed, there may be a crust, a very thin crust uppermost of our society who may be comparatively well-off, who may have decent salaries, who may have housing, who may have land, however in general the land resettlement programme has failed and after 18 years has not even taken 50% of the people who were intended to be resettled.

Honourable Speaker, we keep talking about education day and night. Somebody was saying here in this House, and they repeat it many times outside, that for 18 years every single year of those 18 years we have wondrously managed to pass less than 50% of our scholars. It would therefore be flogging a dead horse if I perhaps talk any further about the failures in the education system.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

**Malnutrition** is now common amongst not only rural families, but our own town dwellers here in Windhoek. Honourable Speaker, I had the dubious privilege at the end of last year to visit somebody that I knew who had their baby in hospital in Katutura. That was at the beginning of November. The two year old baby was lying there, listless, bloated belly and I was wondering what was wrong with the baby. Is it HIV, is it TB? I asked the parents, they said the doctor was not telling them anything. I decided to approach the doctor myself and the nurses. The doctor told me straightforward, the baby was malnourished and by the time he was brought to hospital, there was nothing that could be done to help him.

Within a week the baby was dead. These are residents of Okahandja Park in Windhoek, Khomas Region.

Honourable Speaker, there is no indication that these things may turn around soon. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Comrade Speaker, I did not intend to interrupt the Honourable Member in his lament against the Ruling Party, but as an Honourable Member, as the President of his Party, I thought when he issues a statement, he should quantify at least what he is saying. Malnourishment is a broad term, a child can suffer from malnourishment on account of so many things – wrong food can cause malnourishment, lack of food can cause malnourishment, disease can cause malnourishment and lack of care by the parents, but the Honourable Member is painting a blanket picture. Malnourishment cannot cause instant death to a child.

I have seen a malnourished child whom I took care of myself and without even taking that child to a doctor, I turned that child around. This statement of the Honourable Member rings so hollow unless he tells the public the truth.

---

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, it is so unfair for the Minister to take a chance to give a second speech. I did not interfere even a second when the Minister was speaking.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

Honourable Speaker, let me just correct one thing. Definitely malnourishment when it appears in this country, has not been caused by SWAPO or its Government, so do not misunderstand me. As elected political leaders our duty is to take up and react and take action against these conditions. It is a different thing to say we are the causes of the conditions. I therefore am not lamenting, it may be coming across to you as a lament against the SWAPO Party. I am not going to sing praises to the SWAPO Party, I am not even going to sing praises to myself. I have also done a few nice things in my life, but that is not my attitude, that is not my purpose of standing here today. I said at the beginning that at eighteen years in our national life we should, if we are serious about ourselves and our country, we should take a critical look at the state of our Nation, our society, the maturity of nationhood. Eighteen is mature. There are different roles for different people. Some will have the role of singing praises and some other roles. Therefore mine today is definitely not to sing praises, but do not misunderstand me, I am not lamenting your Party, I am talking about the real conditions in this country which need to be acted on.

I am not an expert on malnutrition and what causes it and how it can be turned around. I observed with my eyes, I listened to the people who claim to be experts – welcome to the group, you say you are also one – and I weigh the statements made. In this particular case the doctor told me that the baby was brought too late. Actually, the doctor said a number of things about the parents. Anyhow, what he said that the baby was brought too late to the hospital and there was nothing that he could do to turn the situation around and indeed, the baby died.

Honourable Speaker, the collapse of our country's main infrastructure is like a time-bomb that awaits to explode. Most of the country's major structures, such as the Katutura Hospital and I was wondering whether Hage Geingob is describing the same ...(Interjection)

---

**HON MEMBER:** Doctor!

---

**HON ULENGA:** No, Hage Geingob. I know about all the titles but I can also say Hage Geingob. It does not take us further of his "*doctorness*" and all the

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

other accomplishments. He does not have a worry as he stands there, it is you who are worried. Honourable Geingob does not have a worry if I say Hage Geingob, but of course he is Honourable Geingob.

Mr Speaker, as I said, I was wondering whether when Honourable Geingob was talking about this Hospital that he visited, he was indeed talking about the very same hospital that I also visited last night. Let me however tell you about an incident that I also experienced at Katutura Hospital.

A few months ago, a year ago actually, I was there, I had an accident, I had to bring somebody to hospital, but let me tell you what I experienced a few months ago or during the wintertime.

There was an old resident of Katutura who was brought to hospital and early the next morning the aunties from Katutura came, hoping to come and bath the patient. When they came to hospital, they were confronted by the nurse, "*what have you come to do?*" "*We have come to wash the patient.*" "*Where is the water?*" "*No, the water must be here at the hospital.*" "*No, there is no hot water in the hospital.*" They were told to go back home to boil water. (Interjection)

---

**HON MEMBER:** Stories!

---

**HON ULENGA:** It is not stories, do not call it a story when it involves members of our own family. (Interjection). Yes, some conditions are much better than others, but there are situation when there is not only hot water, but not even a drop of water in the hospital and the persons have to come with stuff from home.

Honourable Speaker, I was talking about most of the country's major structures, such as the Katutura State Hospital, the Windhoek Central Prison, major public school buildings, such as the Augustineum College, Ongwediva College of Education and even the school up here, the Windhoek High School, buildings which were constructed 35 to 45 years ago, are now crumbling and they need replacement and not just renovation. (Intervention)

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

**HON MEMBER:** What about the Parliament?

---

**HON ULENGA:** Yes, also this Parliament and it was built even far earlier than the buildings I am talking about.

In 1973 I had the dubious privilege again to be incarcerated in the Windhoek Central Prison. That building was most probably only ten years old then. I tell you, you could not believe the solidity of that building and it is a huge structure. I am sure if you have to reconstruct it or replace it today, it will easily cost another N\$1 billion.

I went last year to this prison, I can tell you, every cell is leaking from the ceiling. Prisoners have to move when they sleep in the cells in prison because when it rains, the water oozes into the cells. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Do you remember in 1973 when you were arrested, you were locked up in a cell and then the police said, “*wait, we will release you just now*” and do you remember you could not sleep the whole night, you were just waiting around, thinking that you will be released any time, only to find that you spent days there. Why did you believe such propaganda? They put you in and said, “*do not worry, you will come out just now*” and the whole night you were just waiting.

---

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I told the Colleague the story when we were on Robben Island, but he has forgotten some of the details. No, I was not told by the police I would be released, I knew I had done nothing wrong. I could not believe that I would be locked up for days for having done nothing, so I did not sit down, I was standing all the time, I expected that I would be released, because I have not done anything and it is true, as it happened, I spent forty days in that prison.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

Honourable Speaker, that is however not the issue that I want to talk about, I am talking about the crumbling infrastructure amongst our public infrastructure that will cost us billions of dollars very soon and I am talking about this not because I want to lament the state of the SWAPO Party Government, I want to say critically that the responsibility to look after this infrastructure is with Government and there is nothing wrong with that and it is my duty to talk about it. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Ulenga, I do not expect you to sing praises, I listened attentively to your statement, you made some criticism and if I got you right on the issue of malnutrition, you have asked the doctor and the doctor gave you the information, which I think is very important, that the child was brought too late. Then I was expecting you, Honourable Member, as a concerned citizen and representative of the electorate, to have a word of caution to the members of our society. You however continue just criticising on the side of Government responsibilities. What words do you have to advise so that what happened to that poor child, does not happen again in future?

---

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, fortunately I did not criticise Government on the issue, I just related the story to illustrate the presence of that situation.

Honourable Speaker, now comes the criticism. This year, on the occasion of the Nation's eighteenth Independence Anniversary, the Government had chosen to inaugurate that hideous symbol of national chauvinism, what you call the New State House. This action alone has symbolised the wrong policy objectives the Government has persisted with for more than 18 years. I do not have to remind anybody, Mr Speaker, that the CoD has vehemently been against the construction of such an immoderate and exorbitant structure in a Nation that is reeling in poverty and in deteriorating social conditions, amidst which the lack of housing is a prominent one.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

For more than once since the introduction of State House on the Budget, the CoD and, indeed, other Opposition Members have voted against the Budget on account of allocations...(Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Are you aware Honourable Ulenga, that the house prices are hiked by the house Agencies who make a lot of money, like a bomb and this Parliament is silent. The song they sing is, “keep silent, silent for ever.” Why do you think they sing that?

---

**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Comrade Alphons Pandeni is no longer there, everybody like to tell anecdotes about people who cannot talk for themselves, but I must also add that, like Chief //Garoëb said earlier on today, just before he died he was engaged in talks with a group of Katutura residents who have a Committee that has an issue with the taking away of housing from residents of Katutura by the Municipality of Windhoek. Indeed, there was going to be a demonstration on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March and the late Honourable John Pandeni convinced these people to call off the demonstration because he was able to convince them that together they will be able to reach a positive and amicable solution to this whole issue. Unfortunately, and I must say it was amazing how this Colleague, Comrade of ours had turned in such a wonderful way that, even though he did not like very much the fact that I decided to leave SWAPO, he had come as a professional to work very professionally with some of us, although slightly on different sides, to work on an issue like this one.

I am therefore aware of the issue of the exorbitant prices of houses. That is why I am saying here, it was ironical that at eighteen, one thing that this Nation could boast with was a house for its President, while millions of its residents are houseless. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I know some of the family members of Honourable Ulenga, not all of them, I know that many of them do not live in a

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

house like the one he lives in. Can he tell the House here why he chose to live in that posh house while his relatives are living in stick houses? Why?

---

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, no one knows yet how much money poor Namibians have been made to cough up to pay for that embarrassing building out there. (Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Ulenka, the stick houses were around the whole so-called native area before anything was taking place and we cannot remain at one issue, the State House. *Kova Roma*, Romans verse 1 and 2. Let us face the reality, let us go ahead and forward. Tell your Colleagues, “*let us do this.*” You were here before as a member of SWAPO, then you established your own mission. Now let us face reality and create a common economic step-up. We have to take our people up, it is our duty to do that now. Let us face the reality. Your words are quite good, but let us face what is good, how it is to be done and where to go.

---

**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Chief. Another persistent indication that our Government is on the wrong path is the increasingly; exponential; Budget allocations...(Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Ulenka a question for clarity? Honourable Ulenka, you are the president of a Party which aspires to capture state power. Question number one: In the unlikely event that you capture that power, where are you going to live and work from? Number two, you are sitting there in your posh chair in this massive building built by Germans when they were massacring Namibians. The time when they were building this, they were massacring Namibians. Now, can you explain to this House the rationale, if you truly abhor, as you characterise that house as an embarrassment, are you not embarrassed to sit where you are sitting in a place that was built on the blood of our forefathers and foremothers?

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I welcome the comments and the rhetorical question that the Prime Minister is putting. I would say I think you should improve, with all due respect, your historical knowledge a little bit and go back into the history of this building and know exactly when it was erected. (Intervention)

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Ulenga, I really respect you and I think you are articulate, you are intelligent, but there is one thing, why do you keep shifting your goal posts? When you founded the CoD the question and the goals were the troops in the Congo, the DRC. Then came the third term. All these did not seem to have worked very well. Is your next battle ground going to be State House?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulenga, you have four minutes left. How you manage those four minutes is entirely up to you.

---

**HON ULENGA:** I think the Colleagues must minimise their questions, I have been very generous, I have allowed all the questions.

Honourable Speaker, as I was saying, another persistent indication that... (Intervention) No, that is not nice, I am left with only four minutes.

Honourable Speaker, by the way, this I should have said right at the beginning. SWAPO Party needs to be congratulated for the victory you achieved in Eenhana. That was quite handy.

As I was saying, Honourable Speaker, another persistent indication that our Government is on the wrong path is the increasingly exponential Budget allocations to the Defence Force. Now honestly, now let us look at this. What the Budget figures have indicated over the years is that it is not only the inadequacies in education and in health that worry the Government, rather the Government seems to be so preoccupied and indeed, obsessed with defence

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON ULENGA**

expansion. Lip-service. Whereas the Defence Vote was only just below N\$200 million, exactly N\$181,842,000 out of a total of...(Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Ulenga, you know Onkanji. The water stretches all the way from Oshikango gate to the gate of Kashamane, through Okani to the Etosha. One of the problems is to reach Okani. They need a helicopter, they say that the two helicopters which are there are not enough. Now, how much do those helicopters cost, if you can tell us, in order for them to rescue Okani?

---

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, whereas the Defence Vote was only N\$181,842,000... (Intervention) That is not good, you must sit down and listen. It is not good. Why do we sit here and listen to what you say and when we get up to talk, you do not listen?

Honourable Speaker, that was in 1991, just about 6,5 percent of the total Budget. Now this year we see a whopping N\$2,4 billion allocated for Defence. That is about 12 percent of the National Budget. The Education Budget, on the contrary, has remained more or less constant at between 21 and 23% of the National Budget. It is time, Honourable Speaker, that Government stops the wild geese chase, that is your spending on the military.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** You have run out of time, finish your last sentence.

---

**HON ULENGA:** The Ramatex debacle is another example of the chickens slowly coming home to roost. Without indulging in, "*we told you so*", I only want to say that Government must now ensure that the idle infrastructure be employed for something more down to earth and not the fly-by-night partners that Government officials have seemed to relish so far.

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

**HON SPEAKER:** Your time is up. Honourable Mudge.

---

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, this year I will start at the back. (Laughter). I will conclude before I start, because I have been trying to say this now for two years and I cannot get to this page.

I have listened very attentively to you all and I really expect the same from you, since I have one chance to also make the statement of my Party.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am serious, I am starting with the last section: We are a big country with a small Nation, only about 1.8 million people and we have a multitude of natural resources, like diamonds, gold, uranium, copper and zinc, to name a few. We have fish, we have cattle, sheep and above all, we have precious people, most of whom were oppressed for a long time.

Despite the dark days of apartheid, our people showed their character by deciding enough is enough and the past is now history. We should reconcile for the sake of every Namibian, but most of all, those who have still not tasted the fruit of an Independence which is supposed to put right the wrongs and to create opportunities for those who were deprived of proper standard of living and also to enable the haves to assist the have-nots to improve their situation, all for the sake of a better Namibia, because if it goes well with Namibia, it will go well for every living and working person in our beautiful country.

What are the key words, Honourable Speaker? No doubt, **true forgiveness and true reconciliation**. Combine that with not only willingness but also an eagerness to learn more about one another's history and culture and then as important, total respect for each other demonstrated in our daily activities and doings.

There is no doubt in my mind that Namibia can become the jewel of Africa because we have it all. The only ingredient still missing is the political will to make it work, because then we will have to set aside our differences and put our heads together, it does not matter to which Political Party we belong, to find lasting solutions to the problems facing us as a Nation.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

Now the introduction. It was a nice conclusion that one, it is good. Honourable Speaker, it is again the time of the year when we are being presented with a National Budget and as history has shown, not necessarily for contribution that would influence the allocations, but merely for comments and subsequent rubber-stamping. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Honourable Speaker, when we were on the island and were taken to the hospital and entered the consulting rooms of the doctors, the people around know that you are coming from the island and they want to show you the news. They start reading from sport and holding it so that you can read. Now you remind me of that, because you are reading from the back.

---

**HON MUDGE:** I will, therefore, briefly refer to certain items in the Budget as presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance, but rather concentrate on issues of national interest, the real bread-and-butter issues.

As I have said on many occasions that the biggest asset we have in Namibia is the fact that we are only two million people and I am not counting the Chinese and the Koreans and other partners of SWAPO who have apparently received Carte Blanche to settle in Namibia and to openly take away the jobs from local Namibians.

While talking about this, it seems as if there are different sets of Laws and immigration rules. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** The Honourable Member did the unexpected and I was going to clap hands for it, but now he starts showing his true colour of apartheid. Apartheid is now facing the Chinese and the Koreans. How about the Germans and the rest of the whites who are here? Why do you not mention them? They are also foreigners just like all others.

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, I can say nice things but I can also criticise. I represent people who want me to say what they think. That is why we are standing here. It is not for the white people, but for everybody in Namibia.

While I am talking about this, it seems as if there are different set of rules, immigration laws being used to accommodate these people. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, is it allowed for the Honourable Member to introduce cold war in this House, the struggle against the Asians, which is being waged by certain people because of what they take to be their influence being penetrated by other people? Is it allowed in this House?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Let the Honourable Member continue and we will see.

---

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, I said there are different rules and immigrations laws being used to accommodate these people to be issued with not only temporary and permanent residence and work permits, but also even Namibian citizenship.

It is my submission that we should introduce a Motion during this session to discuss this issue, because it seems as if complaints about the presence of these people are just being flatly ignored by the SWAPO-led Government and I think it is time to discuss it in depth. But this just by the way.

Honourable Speaker, I said that our biggest asset is the fact that we are only two million people, which means that with all the natural resources and other resources available to us there should not be one unemployed or one poor person in Namibia, and I think Honourable Geingob also said that. There should not be.

My concern is that this SWAPO-led Government is so busy reaching for the skies with international treaties being signed, numerous overseas meetings be attended not only by Parliamentarians but a host of Government officials, that the Government's head is currently in the cloud and they cannot see their feet

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

anymore. They have lost sight of what is going on the ground and that is exactly where...(Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Mr Speaker, I am not just speaking for myself. That House we are talking about was a grant, but we do not mention how much the Chinese have given for that house or how much the Koreans have given for that house. Those who take all the cream of this country did not contribute to that. Why? We are talking about money, a billion, it is not our billion, it is granted money and who can say no for a grant? This is something one has to think about. The fact remains there are shortcomings. Do those who have offer to sell some land to us, offer some money to buy some land and offer a portion of land?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Do not make a speech, Chief.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** No, but he also must be somewhere else. It is a fact, it is not the SWAPO Government, they do not have money. You say, okay we are going to help the poor on this amount, they donate from somewhere else.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** You have made your point, Chief.

---

**HON MUDGE:** I said the Government has lost sight of what is going on on the ground and that is exactly where the grassroots level of our population is busy suffering. I will come back to this later.

Allow me to mention an issue that has been debated on various occasions and that is the amount of N\$370 paid to pensioners. This Government decided that minimum wages should be introduced and in the case of farm workers it was calculated that a farm worker...(Intervention)

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Honourable Speaker, it is not my custom to interrupt Honourable Members, but can the Honourable Mudge allow me to put a question? Honourable Mudge, will you enlighten this House, these resources you are referring to, when did they arrive in this country and the grassroots people suffering, since when are they suffering? Are they only suffering now under the SWAPO Government?

---

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, the natural resources were here for a long, long time and people have been suffering in this country for a long, long time. The point is, and I want to show this if you will allow me to carry on with my speech, I will come to the point that I actually want to make. Just give me time to say this.

I say that this Government decided that minimum wages should be introduced and in the case of farm workers it was calculated that the farm worker needs to earn at least N\$600 per month to be able to sustain a decent living. He/she is however not paying for accommodation necessarily apart from other perks that vary from farm to farm.

In Windhoek and Katutura we all know you pay at least N\$500 for a single room. In other words, if this Government would have been consistent, then pensioners should get not less than N\$1,100 per month in order for them also to sustain the same living conditions and standards as a farm worker. (Interjection). You put that figure yourself.

Every time this issue has been mentioned, the Honourable Minister of Finance had the excuse that Namibia just does not have the resources to increase pension monies. The fact is that in a time of tight Budgets the right choices have to be made to ensure that our limited resources are spent on priorities and this is where I have a serious problem with the priorities of this Government.

Honourable Speaker, let me try and explain this like this: It is immoral and totally unacceptable for the father and mother of any given household to spend money on luxury cars, designer clothes, overseas trips if there is not enough food for the children to eat, let alone to buy clothes. But while the Honourable Minister said there is not enough resources available to increase the pension money, I see hundreds of new Government vehicles and not the basic models or

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

your more economical cars, no it is Land Cruisers, Audis, Toyota double cabs, 4x4's, fitted with CD players, pickups with magnesium rims, metallic paint, tinted windows and many pickups even with canopies. Has the Honourable Minister ever considered what the additional cost is to buy these luxury vehicles? (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On Point of Information. Everybody in this House knows that the Democratic Media Holding was built with slush puppet funds. When is the Democratic Media going to pay back those funds? I understand now the Company is a family Company, when will those monies be paid back to the public?

---

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, the Right Honourable Prime Minister will not derail me if I want to finish my speech. Let us stick to the real issues, do not try and derail us from the real issues that I want to talk about.

While I am on the subject, I would like to hear from the Honourable Minister whether this Government has any directives regarding the purchasing and using of Government vehicles by officials of the different Ministries, because one gets the impression that a large number of Government officials have access to vehicles that they can also use, legally and illegally, for their own private use. Have you ever calculated the cost...(Intervention)

---

**HON DR ANKAMA:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Mudge, I know you were born a long time ago, before Independence you were here and you have seen people suffering. I know you know what we are talking about. The question is, having witnessed people suffering during those days and having witnessed your own Government buying expensive cars, even giving to what we used to call "*puppets*" in those days and having all these machineries, what did you do so that the ordinary people could get their share as well? Have you only now discovered that there are poor people?

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, I am talking...(Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Colleague a question? Seriously speaking, we are here the whole night and you are interjecting the Colleague. Is that the system we have? Is that what we call democracy? That is why I was answering the Colleague here that they have double standards. Today they have a sword, tomorrow they talk peace. What is the reconciliation you are talking about? Why do you not allow the Colleague to speak freely? This is a House where everybody has the right to speak! Leave him so that he speaks!

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Interjections are allowed in any democracy and Parliament.

---

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, I have one opportunity and I would have thought that you would give me the opportunity to say what my supporters want me to say. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** If the Member believes in democracy, may I ask him a small question?

---

**HON MUDGE:** My time is limited, so I can unfortunately not. I am asking the Honourable Minister, have you ever calculated the cost of fuel...(Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** The Honourable Member is coming to mislead this House and I am always wondering when I see him on television, addressing only one village in Kavango and then he said, "*when we come to power, when I come to power.*" How do you come to power if you just address one village in the whole of Namibia? Do you really expect to come to power next year with only one village?

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

**HON MUDGE:** I hope Honourable Ekandjo will be here when I finish, because then I have to talk to him about Kavango. I do however not think you are going to like it.

I am asking the Minister whether she has ever calculated the cost of the fuel these vehicles use, not to mention the repairs and damages inflicted by these officials. Just give us the number of vehicles being allocated to each Ministry and the total cost per Ministry regarding fuel, repairs and how many vehicles were written off or damaged during the past Financial Year.

Namibia must surely have the biggest number of Government vehicles per capita of most countries in the world, but we do not have money to pay pensioners, those veterans who have built this country to what it is today, a decent amount for them just to maintain the most basic standard of living.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to mention another example: Let us look at the situation of the residential areas like Okahandja Park, Babylon, Havana, Kabila, Greenwell Matongo, One Nation, Agste Laan, the new one near Daan Viljoen. (Interjection). I am sure you do not know, you must find out.

Those areas have no sewerage systems, hundred of those residents are expected to use a system worse than the bucket system, a total unhygienic communal sack system, with the result that most of them therefore choose to walk hundreds of metres to the bush between the Monte Christo Road and the highway and this also at night, with the result that many women and children have been molested and raped when they only wanted to visit a basic thing like a toilet.

To make matters worse and what makes it even more unsafe, is the fact that they have no electricity, not even street lights apart from a light mast here and there. Even if they have trouble at night and they call the police, the police refuse to assist them because it is too dark. They have no running water and have to walk in some cases a great distance just to get water.

Honourable Speaker, at the same time the City of Windhoek, which is controlled by SWAPO, the CEO, the Councillors, claim that they do not have the resources to provide even the most basic services, but while they are saying this, they have started with a programme and tarred and resurfaced almost all the existing tarred roads in Windhoek, which should have and would have cost millions. I think it is not only unacceptable, but blatantly immoral to expect from those residents to

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

live under such conditions. I thought it is because of, amongst others, such atrocities... I would like to hear what the Deputy Minister has got to say about this. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Information. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has not neglected areas like Havana and the rest that have been listed here. In fact, if you go to those areas now, they are provided with the basic services. Under the circumstances you may say “*ag*”, but that is the reality and the Government of Namibia, through the Shack Dwellers Federation and in collaboration with the Shack Dwellers Federation are providing money through the Budget where they are assisting those dwellers to come up with decent housing. Thus the Government is working around the clock with those people.

Let us face it, the problem in this country is the private sector which is dominated by the Honourable gentleman who is saying that he is talking for his Constituency, who do not contribute to a cent to housing provision, to basic services like it is done in different countries of the world. So, your private sector is evil.

---

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, I invite the Honourable Deputy Minister to go with me tomorrow to these places and to have the media available to go with us and then he will tell me whether he had visited those place. It is a blatant lie! It is a lie! (Intervention)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** You can use another word.

---

**HON MUDGE:** It is an untruth, blatant untruth, yes. I thought it is because of, amongst others, such atrocities that the SWAPO-led Government claims to have liberated this country, but when it came into power and became responsible for issues like this...(Intervention)

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Honourable Speaker, I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member again, but I think it would only be parliamentary and proper for the Honourable Member to withdraw the word, rather than to change it to another one, but to withdraw the word that was not parliamentary.

---

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, I withdraw but it is still untrue.

I say when you came to power you became responsible for issues like these. You all of a sudden ignored it and just pretend as if it does not exist. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Speaker, the Honourable Member said that SWAPO claimed to have liberated this country. The country got Independence because of SWAPO. If it was not for SWAPO, Racist South Africa would still have been here. We fought on three fronts – politically, diplomatically and militarily and the aim was Independence. We do therefore not claim, we own Independence, we did it. It is because of SWAPO that today the country is independent, not because of South Africa.

---

**HON MUDGE:** You all of a sudden ignored it as if it did not exist. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Mudge is raising a very serious issue. I want to assure him that both the Central Government and the Municipality are aware of the issue he is talking about. Just yesterday I had a three-hours meeting with the Municipality of Windhoek, attended by the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, the Khomas Regional Council and others to consider to work out a strategic plan how to address the provision of services to the informal settlers in Windhoek. Therefore, the Government is aware of that and the plan is being worked out. Thank you.

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, I will be the first one to congratulate the Government if they do that and I am serious if I say this. I am not trying to make small politics of this, these are serious issues and I am glad that you also acknowledge that and that you are doing something about that.

The only issue that kept your attention, as I said, was to have your Comrades in charge and for them to get the massive salaries the officials at the City of Windhoek are getting. The fact is, this was not our making, this was your making. You cannot blame the colonial Government or anybody else. Either this SWAPO Government just do not care or another possibility, while I believe is more true, is the fact that your Comrades at the Municipality of Windhoek are just not capable to manage the affairs of this City. It seems as if the only priority is to keep Windhoek clean, and that goes for Windhoek proper and the main street of Katutura, those places where all the foreign dignitaries are taken to see, but just beyond the main street where they are not taken, nothing is being done, especially in the so-called informal settlement areas which is just a fancy word for, as it now and looks now, squatter camps.

Hopefully after the next election we will have a City Council who will do whatever necessary to improve the living conditions of especially those who are still waiting to taste the fruit of an independent Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, on National Reconciliation, I have said on many occasions, and I want to repeat it ... (Intervention)

---

**HON CHRISTIAN:** May I ask Honourable Mudge why is he now worried about the condition of our people if he knows the situation was created by his colonial time rulers. Why are you worried now? What is your problem with that?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** It might not have been Honourable Mudge personally, but maybe his associations on that side.

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, if I had more time I would have elaborated on this for hours, but I just do not have the time to do it.

On national reconciliation, SWAPO should have realised since Independence that we as a Nation have embraced peace and national reconciliation and that the vast majority of the Namibian population is only interested in stability and nation-building. It was, therefore, quite surprising to have read about the threats by senior SWAPO leaders that campaigning by other Political Parties could be a threat to peace and stability. There was even talk of a possibility that it could result in civil war. How totally irresponsible even to say that!

The Constitution is very clear where it says in Article 21(1)(e) that “*all persons shall have the right to form and join Political Parties.*” Just accept it and act accordingly and since when are certain areas in Namibia out of bounds for other Political Parties except SWAPO? (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. Once again, it is not my habit, but since things mentioned are really challenging, does the Honourable Member know that he is talking about national reconciliation that, without becoming racial and tribal, the portion of our Nation that the Honourable Member is mostly representing, apart from a few others joining, that these people are not even attending national events like Independence celebrations? And whenever there is a national event, even addressed by the President of this country, they do not go to these events. Is that a demonstration of National Reconciliation on their part? How long does the Honourable Member want only one side of this Nation to portray national Reconciliation to the detriment of others, while the others are just enjoying the previously advantaged situation and still misuse the goodwill of the people of this country?

---

**HON MUDGE:** Mr Speaker, I smell a lot of racism in those remarks, but be that as it may, talking about national days, just the past few days when the State House was inaugurated, I sent my people there to attend it, I was not in Windhoek, but they left because it was seen to be a SWAPO rally. It was

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

supposed to be a national monument, as it was said, but SWAPO people came there with their SWAPO colours. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, the time when the Republican Party was still in the DTA, a question was asked in this august House: Can the Political Party go with their colours and it was said yes, anyone can attend national celebrations in their Party colours. It was stated in this august House. If your members do not go with your colour and now you do not attend national days, but when there is a buffet at Safari Hotel, why do you come in thousands? Is it because there is food or what?

---

**HON MUDGE:** The people that I am talking about that left were not white people, for your information.

I am saying that I was quite surprised ... (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** On a Point of Order. That is hypocrisy! How come say you have got the Republican Party, you only address a small section of the people, especially black people and you do not bring people from the town along, not even your cousins in the Republican Party? Is it true? And those people are not yours, nobody can claim it is your people, you have not created them!

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I urge the Honourable Minister to provide a good example. Honourable Mudge, continue.

---

**HON MUDGE:** It was, therefore, quite surprising to have read about the threats and the threats about the mentioning about civil war. The Constitution, as I said, it is very clear and I said just accept it that people can form and join

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

Political parties and I have asked the question, since when are certain areas in this country out of bounds for other Political Parties except SWAPO and who was guilty of instigating their supporters?

Not the Opposition Party, SWAPO themselves. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Mudge, nobody in this country has prevented you to go and campaign in any corner of Namibia. Do not tell half-truths here! You have been going to one village in Kavango and you leave your cousins behind, but the truth is, you can go anywhere. We have won the election in Eenhana, a sweeping victory, and the problem with the Opposition is that when you lose, you always cry crocodile tears.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** But they are not in the same camp, they are minority parties.

---

**HON MUDGE:** I say, who were instigating there supporters? Not the Opposition Parties but SWAPO themselves. Why threaten the innocent when you are the guilty ones? Rather practise what you preach when after every election you lectured us to accept the outcome of elections because we are a democracy.

I would suggest that the SWAPO leadership stop threatening others and educate their supporters about what democracy really is. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, during the year I will bring a Motion because sometimes these smaller Parties come here on our leftover votes, so that we change. Some of you here are not even elected by the people. Even the votes you got is not even equal to one seat. It is leftover votes and we have to change the system.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, at least I know that I am properly elected, not like some of those Members who were appointed. I was elected. (Interjections).

There will be no more wars in this country, you will not threaten anybody about wars and whatever and anybody who instigates such atrocious acts must be held fully accountable and be brought to book and be severely punished, if not by our own judicial system, then the International Court of Justice. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Speaker, in 1989, during the drafting of the Constitution, when in the SWAPO Draft Constitution we mentioned the word "*reconciliation*", it did not mean that we are cowards. One cannot come here and now start threatening with civil war, civil war and also be arrogant in this House.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** If there is any arrogance I will judge.

---

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Okay, I will withdraw that one.

---

**HON MUDGE:** I want to get to another point. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** On a Point of Information. I would like to say that Honourable Mudge should know that there is a constitutional provision for people to be elected as well as to be appointed. I do not think that it is a very good statement to say, "*I am one of the elected people, but not like those people who are here who are appointed*", because I am an appointed person of this Parliament, covered by an article of the Namibian Constitution and I have not been appointed here because of any other reason. I feel insulted and I feel that he should recognise that just as they were elected, we were also appointed constitutionally.

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON MUDGE**

**HON MUDGE:** Honourable Speaker, that was a very good contribution and if I have said anything that would have upset the Honourable Deputy Minister, then I apologise because people like her were appointed because of her expertise. It is not you that I am talking about, it is the rank and file of the SWAPO people that were put on the list, appointed by the President. That is what I am talking about. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** If it is a question of questioning people's background, academically and otherwise, why they are elected here, some of the people, the murderers who were burning people, Pilots trained to kill, they could not have entered this House. It was on that basis. SWAPO members do not feed criminals, it does not feed people who are not educated, we are elected and we are elected from different backgrounds and appointed from those backgrounds. Whether you are educated on how to kill, it is your own business.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Mudge's point has been amply rebutted by the Deputy Minister, so that matter is settled. Continue.

---

**HON MUDGE:** I have two short issues that I want to address.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** He has not said anything yet, Minister. He has not said anything.

---

**HON MUDGE:** Why does the Honourable Minister not take his own time and say what he wants to say, rather than always interrupting me?

I want to talk about Air Namibia, Honourable Speaker. This issue remains serious and despite everything, it seems as if nothing positive is happening. (Intervention)

---

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SHIFETA**

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** On a Point of Order. Everybody in this House is elected except the six appointed Members.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister, the Deputy Minister explained it very articulately and clearly.

---

**HON MUDGE:** Again what happened to the so-called turn-around plan, I want to warn the Government that the time is running out for Air Namibia. We are keeping on throwing money into this seemingly bottomless pit. Honourable Speaker, I do not want to sound arrogant by giving advice to the Minister of Finance who is the caretaker Minister for Air Namibia. (Intervention)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Mudge, one minute.

---

**HON MUDGE:** What I want say about Air Namibia in one sentence is, I have to say it otherwise I am going to say it out of context. Honourable Speaker, Air Namibia is being run by people who are not capable to run it. It is causing a safety risk. Listen to what I am saying to you today, it is causing a safety risk. I tell you today that the days are near when Air Namibia will be blacklisted and it will be very difficult to get it back.

---

**HON SPEAKER** Strong point. Your time is up. Honourable Deputy Minister Shifeta.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me first congratulate my Party, SWAPO, for having won the Eenhana elections overwhelmingly and convincingly.

Let me join all the Colleagues who spoke before me to congratulate the Minister, the Director General, the Deputy Minister and also the Governor of our Central Bank. Furthermore, I am profoundly pleased with our macro-economic situation, coupled with a well-disciplined and prudent fiscal policy.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SHIFETA**

The aim of appropriating public funds is mainly to address socio-economic challenges facing our people, especially the poor. It is a response to the country's demands for sustainable human development and it is equally a response to the call of our National Development Plans and Vision 2030.

These measures are aimed at removing the structural inequality which has been constructed for decades by the apartheid regime. The Budget provides the fulfilment of meeting the socio-economic needs of our people, especially focusing on rural development.

Education and training, health, rural electrification, clean rural water supply, agricultural development, roads and communication infrastructure are the biggest tools for human empowerment and economic growth. Thus the Budget's aim is to give impetus and accelerating the achievement of those goals in our NDP3 and Vision 2030.

Increase in the capital development projects is needed and this is the Development Budget which is very necessary for our economic growth.

It is also logical that with the limited resources and unlimited needs which usually overtake the resources, proper planning, efficiency and effective measures in handling those resources are in place. In the Minister's statement these measures are clearly outlined.

All in all, the Budget is unequivocal in answering human development needs, such as the education of our children, increased social services, health for all and employment creation.

Honourable Speaker, our economy performed relatively well in those years up to date; however there is a serious concern because up to now primary industry sectors remain the biggest contributor to our economy, thus leaving the secondary industry sectors, with the exclusion of construction, not performing well. Though the primary industry, especially the mining sector, continues to contribute much to our revenue due to the increase in mining output and increase in exports, the concern is on the value addition, because much of the mining outputs are still exported unprocessed and the recipients of our unprocessed mineral resources benefit more than we do, this means creating job opportunities outside.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SHIFETA**

We all know that due to the advanced technology today, mining activities are more capital intensive as opposed to labour intensive. This means even big Mines today employ fewer workers and deploy technology to replace mass employment. Value addition means strengthening our secondary industry in the manufacturing sector, thus creating more job opportunities.

The performance of our tertiary industry sectors, which are mainly services, depend on the performance of the other sectors in both primary and secondary industries. Hence, for us as a developing country, strengthening our secondary Industry sectors will be our safety net, so to say.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the global economy performance depends heavily on the global political situation. We have to admit that as much as we continue to have unresolved political conflicts in the Middle East, the inflation rate will continue to rise due to volatile oil prices and other commodities. This is something beyond our control as players in global politics. It is a pity that those major powers who, some of them, are *conditio sine quo non* of this, are less willing or have less desire to cause a solution thereto. As long as we have conflicts in Iraq and elsewhere, a military threat against Iran and uncertainty and the problem of the State of Palestine, the global economy will negatively influence the national economies, including ours.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the effects of climatic change could be felt today in southern Africa and Namibia is no exception and it is therefore imperative for us to provide funds in order to improve our metrological services. This is essential for early warning measures. As a matter of fact, a lot of our people affected by the flood or continue to be affected by it year by year, are in flood-prone areas, some of them took the settlements contrary to planning and engineering advice, some due to unforeseeable circumstances. Those people who settled in flood-prone areas have to be advised. It just makes economic sense for these people to be moved to higher land permanently. This will save us more resources that have to be deployed every year to evacuate and take care of the flood victims. It is a must that we seek and find a permanent solution to this.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, HIV/AIDS is assuming catastrophic proportions in Namibia. As a matter of fact, we are faced with a double threat to our human capital development which is essential to economic growth and sustainable human development. On top of the already lack of developed human capital, Namibia is faced with a serious

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SHIFETA**

threat of HIV/AIDS which kills people in their productive age, the youth. It is a combination of all multiple challenges, because we are losing the backbone of our human capital which is essential to accelerating NDPs and our Vision 2030. Thus the fight against HIV/AIDS is a moral imperative and I am pleased to know that the Budget responds to this imperative.

Honourable Speaker, education and training remain the key elements to the realisation of our Vision 2030. The most important and effective way of adding value to an individual and in return, that individual to his community, is skills development and the authorities to further recognise those acquired skills. Thus the National Training Authority, together with our training institutions, have the daunting task to ensure that all skills training programmes are properly screened and are earning recognition by the Authority.

Indicators in our labour market clearly show that graduates with technical skills are more in demand than their peers with academic certificates. This logically demands that the country needs more technical institutions and vocational training centres in all 13 Regions. The ideal of allowing repetition in Grade 10 is a pretty good one, but the question still remains *whether future Budgets will be able to sustain this*.

If we had for instance enough technical institutions and vocational training centres, learners who fail Grade 10 and Grade 12, respectively, will have alternative routes and concomitantly be able to improve their academic points. For example, it makes economic sense if a learner with 20 points is afforded an opportunity to go for skills training and at the same time improve the academic points, instead of repeating all nine subjects.

I, therefore, submit that in future let us consider those learners who failed with less than 20 points and put resources in skills training programmes aimed at increasing the intake capacities of our existing vocational training centres and building new ones.

The introduction of a pre-entry programme for tertiary education is a positive move as this will enable Grade 12 learners who failed to attain higher academic points to enter tertiary education institutions to improve their academic points.

Honourable Speaker, Information and Communication Technologies represent one of the most powerful tools in the development of all spheres of human life.

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON SHIFETA**

For instance, private business benefits because ICT helps to improve access to markets or supply chains, provide for a broader-base for decision-making, thus making risks more calculable. Equally, many local communities can experience an increase of civil society participation in the decision-making process and public debate and may expand the reach and accessibility of Government services. This is more essential to our academic community, especially with the searching of information for academic purposes. Teachers and the students both need the use of ICT daily in order to possess accurate and correct information and in return disseminate this to their respective communities.

Expansion of our television network, radio waves, telephone facilities, mobile telecommunication network and installation of internet lines in our rural communities, especially schools and public offices, will contribute immensely to the struggle against poverty eradication because many rural people will now save the money they use daily in transport to centres to access those facilities. I am, therefore, pleased that rural electrification Budget doubled in this Budget, as this will accelerate ICT development in rural areas.

I am equally pleased to learn that the Ministry of Education is providing computer facilities to rural schools. The NBC, mobile telecommunication companies as well as Nampost have to play a vital role in realising these objectives. To this effect, the NBC received at least more than before. This will enable the Corporation to expand its television and radio services to peripheries.

Honourable Speaker, a child's first line of protection is the family.

Thus for a child to develop her personality, the environment where she/he is being brought up should be conducive. Most importantly, the atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Some children are fortunate enough to have both parents who can provide them with the basic necessities. However, there are some children who live without one or both parents due to HIV/AIDS. Some children left family homes due to conflict in families or economic hardships. Thus the welfare grant to orphans and vulnerable children is the fulfilment of commitment towards a safer world for all our children.

However, I have a concern, as many others may have, whether the whole grant given is used in the interest of the intended beneficiary or is used for something else by the guardian. There are reports that some children who are beneficiaries or supposed to be beneficiaries are not actually benefiting. I submit, therefore,

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON NUJOMA**

that teachers, traditional leaders and our Councillors should be in possession of a list of these beneficiaries in their care as teachers or in their jurisdictions as Councillors or Traditional Leaders and monitor their material conditions time and again. Then all of us in our neighbourhoods should equally do our civic duty to report to the authorities any possible suspicion of embezzlement of welfare grants by some guardians.

Honourable Speaker, there is a current dilemma which is confronting the youth daily, as to how to respond to the new value systems of industrial and technological advanced societies that they are exposed to in varying degrees. There are some tensions the youth experience daily between potential conflicting aspects of old and new value systems and the ways of doing things. All of these do not necessarily require that the young people should not retain their true cultural identity. Our youth ought to know, first and foremost, where we came from in order to effectively plan their direction for the future. Hence the promotion of our history, heritage and cultural programmes is an essential element in the strength of our Nation.

With these few remarks, I support the Appropriation Bill.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I just want to say that I really appreciate the speech of my Seniors, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General, the senior SWAPO members and I think they have adequately covered the field I wanted to cover.

Therefore, I propose that we just hand in our statements. My statement is ten pages, so I urge my Colleagues that we hand in these statements and then we call it a day.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** A lot of things can be said in three and a half minutes if somebody wants to use the remaining time. Otherwise I will just appeal to the remaining speakers to yield to the wisdom of my family member above.

The House shall therefore stand adjourned until Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2008 to allow the Honourable Minister of Finance to reply. I thank the Honourable Members for their patience and for very constructive contributions you have

03 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON NUJOMA**

made. We are a civilised House in comparison to some very ancient Parliaments where people

actually box and shout each other down. It is just that we should practise fairness and mutual respect. Being noisy is not a disservice to Parliament. There are much more noisier Parliaments than we are. We should however not emulate them, but we should also not be too depressed if occasionally emotions run high. We are using a foreign language and sometimes we misunderstand what is intended when some words are used and because of misunderstanding, react differently. The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2008.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:32 UNTIL 2008.04.08 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
08 APRIL 2006  
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 Kawana.

---

**TABLING: REPORTS OF COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY  
INTO LEGISLATION FOR COMBATING OF CRIME**

---

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Volumes 1 and 2, Reports of Commission of Enquiry into Legislation for the More Effective Combating of Crime in Namibia.

---

**TABLING: REPORT OF COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY  
INTO MATTERS RELATING TO CHIEFS AND HEADMEN**

---

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** I also lay upon the Table, Report by Commission of Enquiry into Matters Relating to Chiefs, Headmen and other Traditional Leaders.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Honourable Mbumba.

---

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, 2005/06.**

---

08 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of the Ministry of Education for the year 2005/06.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

---

**RESUMPTION  
OF SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

---

**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders on Thursday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Debate was concluded and I now have the pleasure to give the Floor to the Minister of Finance for her reply.

---

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House.

The month of March 2008 will go down in our history as one of the darkest months for our Nation. We have lost two Members of Parliament, the Honourable John Pandeni, the former Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, and Honourable Kala Gertze. We have also lost one of the founding fathers of our Constitution-giving Assembly, Comrade Nico Bessinger and we have lost a distinguished Local Councillor, Comrade Julia Nepembe. I wish to express my deep condolence to the bereaved families of the Comrades and the Nation at large. We shall remember our deceased compatriots for their immense contributions towards nation-building and the development of our people.

Just a few days into the Financial Year, this august House is about to conclude the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2008/2009. While this is significantly earlier than in previous years, we shall strive to further improve on it.

08 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

This requires close cooperation from all stakeholders from the Executive Offices where planning and compilation takes place to Parliament where the Budget is debated and approved.

While the Budget Debate traditionally covers a wide range of issues, it should be focused, first and foremost, on fiscal issues. Only then can it enrich fiscal planning. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Honourable Members who, through statements on the Floor or bilateral consultations, expressed thoughtful and sincere views and comments aimed at improving our efforts to meet the needs and aspirations of our people.

The valuable comments from the public are also greatly appreciated.

Government always welcomes constructive criticism, which is done in good faith and with the interest of the Nation at heart. As before, I stress here again that a well-informed Debate is most useful, but paramount to this process is that it is substantive and objective – then, and then only, can it improve and add value to policy development and the legislating process.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as is practice, I shall not dwell on issues relating to specific programmes under individual Votes. The Committee Stage of this Debate, which commences in a few days' time, is best suited for that kind of detailed discussion.

As a departing point, let me once again reiterate that given the improved revenue situation and present macroeconomic conditions in our country, the fiscal stance in this Budget is indeed the right policy choice.

The fiscal space created over the past few years has allowed us to expand the resource envelope significantly, whilst keeping public finances under control. As a result, we can scale up allocations to address the priority needs of our country. These include, enhancing the productive capacity of the economy, improving social welfare for our people and safeguarding the stability of our economy.

The main thrust of our fiscal policy is to promote accelerated economic growth which translates into equitable development that, in turn, lifts the living standards of all Namibians. This is to be achieved within an environment of macroeconomic stability. With improved social conditions at the centre of our economic policy, it follows logically that the available fiscal space is utilised by

08 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

expanding the resource envelope in order to strengthen Government's intervention to address developmental priorities.

The argument against Budget expansion, in spite of the achieved fiscal consolidation, is at odds with this policy on which we ought to have a national consensus, and it is at odds with basic economic theory. The creation of fiscal space is not an end in itself, but a means to optimise the role of fiscal policy in the overall agenda of development. It is, therefore, perfectly in order to run a manageable deficit to maintain stable public expenditure during declining revenues.

I noted the concerns regarding the sustainability of our expenditures given the anticipated decline in SACU receipts. While increased trade liberalisation may result in reduced customs revenue initially, lower tariffs should also promote increased trade volumes, which would be associated with improved revenue streams from customs and excise duty and domestic taxes.

Further, through the tax reform programme that we have implemented during the past years, we have introduced several measures to broaden and deepen the tax base. It is important to emphasise here that our tax policies must strike a balance between promoting economic growth and enhanced investment, on the one hand, and satisfying public revenue needs, on the other. Therefore, any tax revision must be evaluated against these twin objectives and cannot be arbitrarily introduced. This goes for all types of changes, from provision of tax relief to the increase of rates and introduction of new taxes.

This House approved during the latter part of 2007 a number of legislative Amendments providing for tax relief for the lower income groups. Further, this relief benefited all other individuals and households, as well as some businesses. The tax policy proposals under this Budget should, therefore, be viewed together with the abovementioned initiatives. As indicated in the past, we shall continue to update the tax policy to ensure that it remains sensitive to the prevailing economic situation and responsive to our developmental needs.

Let me now turn to some of the issues raised on the expenditure side of our Budget. One of the important questions raised is to what extent this Budget, and previous ones, has addressed the priority needs of this country and how has that impacted on the quality of life of Namibians? My Budget statement elaborated on how the Budget addresses the national priorities, so I shall not repeat that here.

08 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Suffice it to say that the social sectors have continued to receive a major chunk of the resources, with infrastructure and the productive sector also receiving a significant boost. This is to promote economic growth and employment creation and to improve the social welfare conditions of our people. The allocations to the police and justice have also seen improvements in order to enhance good governance.

In my Budget statement I have also indicated some of our Government's achievements. The Accountability Reports provide further information on outcomes realised with the resources appropriated by this House. They show that we are making significant progress in terms of socio-economic development. This is supported by the latest National Household Income and Expenditure Survey which shows a reduction of the gini-coefficient from 0.7 to 0.6. This is estimated to have improved further in recent years.

As to whether Government policies on value addition are yielding any results, I wish to refer to the latest National Accounts which show an increase in contribution of GDP by secondary industries from 14.0% of GDP in 1996 to 18.4% in 2006. Therefore, it is not true that the secondary industries are shrinking as a proportion of the economy.

Manufacturing of non-food items increased its share in the economy from 2.6% in 1996 to 6.3% in 2006. In turn, the dependence of the economy on Government services reduced from 22.7% in 1996 to 17.6% in 2006. This shows that we are making progress.

At the same time, we recognise that much still needs to be done and that some welfare indicators, most notably in the area of health, continue to be adversely affected by HIV/AIDS. This pandemic is affecting all of our society, not only those infected but also those dependent on those infected. Besides the human suffering, the disease imposes huge productivity losses on our economy. That is why Government is providing more resources for anti-retroviral roll-out.

It has been raised that health spending as a percentage of total expenditure has stagnated or even decreased. This is factually incorrect. First of all, the old-age and war veterans' pensions, as well as OVC grants were taken out of the Ministry of Health in 2005/06 Financial Year and shifted to other Ministries.

08 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Further, expenditure for the Medical Aid Scheme is administered by the Ministry of Finance under Vote 9. To get a better view of how public health expenditure has evolved, we should consider these issues. This will show an increase in the share of health expenditure in total expenditure by the Votes from 13.8% in 2007/08 to 14.2% in 2008/2009. In absolute terms, this Budget sees an increase in health spending by a substantial 27%. As a proportion of GDP, health expenditure increases from 4.3% last Financial Year to 5%. This shows that resource allocations to the sector are increasing both in absolute and relative terms. This increased allocation will cater for infrastructure and equipment upgrading, transportation, including ambulance services and for procurement of medical supplies, including anti-retrovirals.

It is important to note that in addition to the Budget allocation for health, the sector is receiving off-Budget resources in the form of grants and concessional loans from our development partners.

Concerning the social grants, the proposed increase demonstrates a firm commitment of our Government to ensure improved living conditions for our senior citizens. Their magnitudes are, however, determined by the ability of our economy to afford a generous safety network, given the other equally urgent priorities that must be met.

Youth development has received an unprecedented increase in resource allocations. As the new initiatives become more established, support will be scaled up. It is important to note, however, that youth programmes will also benefit from the existing financing schemes provided by the Agricultural Bank and the Development Bank of Namibia and from the anticipated micro-credit bank. The youth are also the primary beneficiaries of the educational programmes which receive the bulk of the Budget resources.

Several comments were made on the need to improve not only the coverage, but also the quality of education to achieve better outcomes. Our vastly increased resource endowment for the sector is exactly aimed at these issues: improving access, for example by increasing financial assistance to students, and educational quality, through teacher training and improved facilities under ETSIP, amongst others.

The decision to allow Grade 10's to repeat comes at immense sacrifice by Namibians, who could have used these funds to address other needs. Students

08 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

must, therefore, show their appreciation for this by making optimal use of the opportunity to improve their results and should not see it as an entitlement to which they have a right year in, year out.

I am pleased that ETSIP incorporates measures that hold the various stakeholders to account for educational outcomes. My Honourable Colleague, the Minister of Education, will be best placed to explain in detail how we are overhauling the sector.

Another important issue under this Budget which has received much attention in the Debate is the need to ensure adequate coordination and preparedness for natural disasters. Part of the N\$280 million provided under this Budget, is targeted for the capitalisation of the disaster fund to endow ourselves with the means to respond effectively and promptly when disaster strikes. Of course, the amount of N\$60 million provided under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the capitalisation of the Fund is by no means adequate, but it constitutes a necessary start.

Disaster management is very costly, especially in our country with its erratic climate. It must be noted, however, that climate change is probably one of the main causes for increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters. Small economies like our own are much more vulnerable due to the lack of means to afford the consequential costs. The developed nations, as the main contributors of harmful emissions, should thus show more commitment to address the negative effects of climate change and assist small economies with the costs thereof and I think international organisations, like the United Nations, should really lead the international efforts to encourage these leading economies of the world to demonstrate more commitment in this regard.

As regards coordination, a legislative framework for disaster coordination is being developed by the Emergency Management Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister. This will also provide for the proper management of contributions from non-state actors towards the Fund.

The power shortages in southern Africa have posed significant risks to the economies of the region. Namibia, as a net power importer, is not spared and all efforts are being pursued to minimise the negative impact on our economy. The significant allocations to the sector under the previous and current Budget reflect Government's commitment to ensure that our economic stability is not

08 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

undermined by these power shortages. The funding provided to NamPower would complement the company's financial ability to fund an accelerated transmission and generation programme. In addition to the shareholder contribution, NamPower is expected to raise debt of over N\$6 billion over the next five years. That is why equity injection in spite of the reserves.

In order for NamPower to raise debt in the market, it must maintain a healthy ratio between assets and liabilities, which may require maintaining certain levels of cash reserves. As to the details of NamPower's investment programme, my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy, is best placed to deal with those.

A general concern has been raised about continued subsidies to State-Owned Enterprises. As indicated earlier, support to State-Owned Enterprises is now only targeted to specific programmes and their outcomes as agreed with the shareholder.

The main recipients under this Budget, apart from NamPower, include the Airports Company for the development of airport infrastructure, NBC for the purchase of equipment, the Development Bank to expand its private sector support, AgriBank to continue with the restructuring which was started two years ago, the Road Construction Company and Air Namibia to finance their respective turn-around strategies.

Last year I reported in this House that Air Namibia is working on a turn-around strategy with the assistance of the European Union-funded private consultants. That strategy has been finalised and approved by Cabinet and the proposed financial support is intended to assist the company to implement this strategy.

The strategy projects a significant reduction in financial assistance needed by Air Namibia from Government, with a break-even to be reached at the end of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, that is the year 2010. This is a challenge that, indeed needs full support from all stakeholders in order to be realised.

Government, of course, remains committed to improving the performance of State-Owned Enterprises. The operationalisation of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council is progressing well and all state-owned enterprises will be obliged to account for their performances. This will include the timely

08 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

submission of financial statements to the shareholder and Parliament. I am aware that many state-owned enterprises are late with the submission of their annual financial statements and, therefore, I could not include them into the Budget documentation. This, however, does not absolve them from their obligation to submit annual financial statements, as this is a statutory requirement under the respective enabling Acts and the Companies Act.

While the Ministry of Finance will endeavour to ensure the availability of these reports during the Budget Debate, the legal requirement is for the portfolio Ministers to table the reports in the National Assembly.

Agricultural development is treated as a priority in this Budget, and I take cognisance of the issues raised in this regard. The sector is not only benefiting from increased funding under the Vote of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, but also from additional resources from the Development Bank of Namibia, AgriBank and external sources. This increased funding would allow for accelerated implementation of the Green Scheme. Under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the Development Bank of Namibia is endowed with N\$300 million, while AgriBank is receiving N\$250 million. These will benefit also the extension of the Green Scheme and aquaculture projects that were mentioned, as well as land reform. AgriBank activities are further supported by the balance from an ADB loan.

With regard to the need to promote local industry development, mechanisms are in place through which infant industry protection can be provided. Our tax and procurement laws also provide for incentives and preferences aimed at promoting local enterprise development. These policies are still being reviewed in order to improve their effectiveness.

Queries were raised as to how Regional Councils are assisted to implement programmes for urban and rural development. Decentralisation entails not only devolution of functions, but it also entails the transfer of resources. In fact, the programme of Regional and Local Government Coordination under Vote 17 has its Budget increased by 18% under this Budget. This includes resources for the servicing of infrastructure in upcoming towns, including the phasing-out of the bucket system. Other support structures for the Regions and Local Authorities include SME facilities for towns and villages and the funding through the equity fund of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.

08 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

The allocation to defence has attracted criticism by some Members, but let me assure you that it does not represent a permanent expansion of the sector. The provisions are targeted mainly to rehabilitate infrastructure and to replace outdated equipment. This is, therefore, a temporary measure to finance a necessary overhaul that will enable our Defence Force to operate reliably, safely and effectively.

A question was raised whether Government enforces the Exchange Control Act. I wish to confirm that the Act is indeed enforced through the collaborative efforts of the police, Treasury and the Bank of Namibia to whom the administration of the Act was delegated. As part of the law enforcement activities, inspections are carried out and any violations are decisively dealt with irrespective of the nationality of the perpetrators.

A query was raised as to how Government monitors progress in realising the goals of Vision 2030. Vision 2030 is implemented through the National Development Plans, whose goals and targets are geared towards the attainment of its outcomes. The reviews of respective NDPs will indicate progress made towards full implementation of Vision 2030.

Finally, I wish to report to this House on the use of the Contingency Provision of N\$200 million for 2007/2008 Financial Year. Of this total, about N\$180 million were spent. The main expenditure items include:

- Natural disasters – N\$62.4 million;
- Social Safety Nets to War Veterans, OVCs and the San Development Programme – N\$42.7 million;
- Financial assistance to students – N\$24 million;
- Namibia Airports Company for the rehabilitation of airport infrastructure, specifically the main landing strip at Hosea Kutako – N\$30 million.

These are the main expenditure lines. The details of the total expenditure breakdown are available in a table that I can submit to those Honourable Members that may want to see it.

08 April 2008

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope I have addressed most of the pertinent issues raised in this House. Should I not have commented on some of the issues raised by the Honourable Members, please be assured that your comments have been noted. The upcoming Committee Stage will provide the opportunity to respond to specific comments that have not been addressed in my reply.

Before I conclude, Honourable Speaker, I would like to reiterate the warm welcome extended to our Colleague, the new Member of this House, Honourable Eunice Iiping, for her induction into this Honourable House. I have no doubt that she will make immense contributions to the work of the House. Welcome, Comrade.

I shall now present the Appropriation Bill for your consideration, Honourable Members. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister for her reply. I now put the Question, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objections? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

---

**SECRETARY:** Appropriation Bill.

---

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS IN THE  
CAPRIVI, KAVANGO, KAOKO AND FOUR O-REGIONS**

---

**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on the provision of assistance to farmers in the Caprivi, Kavango, Kaoko and four O-Regions.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 on Tuesday, 18 March 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Kaura. Any further discussion? Honourable Iyambo.

---

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would make my contribution as the former Minister.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Why do you say “*former*”, Honourable Minister?

---

**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I will inform the House later on.

Honourable Speaker, the information provided in the Honourable Kaura’s Motion, very important as it is, unfortunately is not hundred percent correct. Honourable Kaura, the provision of services that were given before Independence, particularly in the Kavango Region, was given only to those people who were resettled near or around NDC projects and mainly to the workers of NDC then or for those that were to be found collaborating with the system then. It was not a national provision for tractor services to rural communities of Kavango or anywhere else in the country.

It should, therefore, be very clear that the current Government has mapped out a programme of what we want to do with the provision of food security in which rural communities will play an important role in contributing towards food security. For example, this year alone seeds have been bought for the rural communities, tractors were made available for ploughing, money has been made available for weeding and fertilisers were also bought for the rural communities. It was the first year to start.

Now as we are going on this is going to be perfected. I must quickly add and say this first year of starting that programme has not benefited everybody, as it was the start. The only thing that made it a bit difficult, unfortunately, particularly in the north and north-eastern parts of the country, was that the rain came when the people started ploughing and it was what we have seen on the television screen, and most probably the harvest will not be the one we expected. However in any case, the decision is there to continue with the provision of tractors and other services that go with it, such as seeds, fertilisers, money for weeding, in particular. The idea is to give it to all those that are engaged in food production.

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

You may be aware that African Heads of State have decided that agriculture must be allocated 10% of the National Budgets with the requirement to actually increase food production. We as a country have, therefore, decided – and it will be for the next Minister to take this up – that at all times there should be one-third of the provision of food requirement consumption in the country, so that whenever there will be unforeseen circumstances related to food production, we could at least resolve to use that one-third that is in the country while we are working on the mechanisms to bring in more.

To make that possible, we have started a programme to construct silos. The first consignment has already arrived and five silos have already been erected in Rundu of the type that we have at Namib Mills here and we intend adding to that. The same is going to be erected in Caprivi, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati, at least those regions which produce grains. It was also thought to be appropriate to erect the same in Mariental, because of the irrigation scheme that we have there. These all are to make sure that Namibia at all times will have food.

Where we may not have produced enough food, we will have to meet that one-third requirement through imports. If you look at this year's Budget of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, more than N\$6 million have been provided to buy food to be kept in those silos.

Of course, it is expected that the programmes of Green Scheme will have to play a great role in that respect to complement what the citizens themselves are going to contribute.

The other issue that you raised about the pedigree bulls and rams has been going on for the last five years. It is only that unfortunately we do not produce many pedigree bulls and rams in order to give it to the whole population because we are using the pedigree bulls can service the cows. What we were thinking of is actually to embark on artificial insemination in order to speed up the project.

Another important thing that has been introduced is that these pedigree bulls and rams are not to be sold to the communal people at normal auctions. These are particularly looked at differently, because we realised that those with the means will buy all the pedigree bulls and rams that have been offered and, therefore, the communal people will not be able to do that. When I speak of communal people,

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
RT HON ANGULA**

I mean communal people, whether they are south of the cordon fence or above the cordon fence. It is meant for all the communal people wherever they find themselves within the four corners of the republic.

That is what we are doing and I think, Honourable Kaura, whoever gave you the information that the former administration had a national programme for ploughing, that absolutely was not the case. However, right now you and me have the responsibility to provide these services to all people and to make sure that the people who are residing in those Regions where food is being produced, are afforded the opportunity and assistance to contribute to the food security of the country. We are, therefore, not only aiming at food self-sufficiency, we are aiming at food security of the country.

I think with that you can rest assured that this Government is doing everything possible to meet the needs of our people and the need of the country. Thank you very much.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his contribution. Any further discussion? Right Honourable Prime Minister.

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank Honourable Kaura for raising this very important issue and I would like to start by thanking the Minister and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture for making every effort to extend assistance to the improvement of our agriculture in these Regions mentioned here. These Regions, as we know, engage in some form of mixed farming – cereal production and animal husbandry.

These Regions are faced with a magnitude of problems. Let me start with what the Government is trying to do now:

Fertiliser provision: I went to my local extension server to check on this and I found that there were piles of fertiliser bags there, but I noticed two problems. When I asked about the possibility of getting these bags, they gave me a price which I suspect an ordinary villager would not be able to afford. That is one problem. However, since I was not an ordinary villager I did buy some bags and I asked the extension officer how best can I apply the fertiliser. He could not give

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
RT HON ANGULA**

me an answer. I would therefore imagine now an ordinary villager buying a bag of fertiliser and taking it to the village and perhaps trying to apply it in the traditional way like you are applying manure. It might be a disaster.

Honourable Minister, my suggestion is that there is a need for public education in how the fertilisers should be applied effectively.

The other problem is that when you apply the fertilisers you are also feeding weeds. With manual weeding you will end up with half of the field being invaded by weeds and not being productive, if we are not careful. This is another problem I have noticed.

The second problem is with ploughing services. Yes, the services are there, however the payment is so slow, so much that the owners of the tractors, I also have been one of them and the price of diesel, you cannot afford to run a tractor and pay diesel to plough for people if you do not know you are going to be paid. It thus becomes another problem and unless a fast solution is found to compensate tractor owners, the policy and money will be there but it may not be utilised at all.

This year the rain came late, in the first place, and it came in heavy outpour, that villagers were running from place to place looking for tractors to plough as soon as possible and I am not quite sure whether these services were effectively used. However, the point I want to make is the paying for services by the tractor owners. Unless you use a Government tractor and wait for ages before you are being paid, private tractors will not serve the purpose. I can assure you of that.

Having said that, I must recognise that at least the animal health services are reasonably responsive and they do their rounds to vaccinate animals. However, marketing remains a problem in these Regions with the exception of those areas where you have abattoirs and auction pens. I am talking about quarantines, quarantines can only benefit the elites of those communities and not the person who wants to sell two or three animals.

Transport is a problem and costly and the quarantines are very far from where some of the people are. I am not quite sure how this problem can be addressed, but I know the effort is there, but how effective these efforts are to empower the

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
RT HON ANGULA**

peasant farmers remains questionable because of the structural problems in these areas.

Having said that, let me also say that this year is a problem year for the farmers in these Regions, especially the cereal farmers. I know that the communal farmers in certain Regions are very happy, provided that the Parliament does not prevent people to sell weaners. The weaner farmers are very happy, they are cashing out in the central and southern Namibia, but in the northern areas it is not the case basically because there was a heavy drought which decimated a lot of animals. People lost sixty, seventy percent, even ninety percent, sometimes even hundred percent of their production stock. It is only communal farmers who are mobile enough, they can go to other areas and cut grass and bring to their animals or they are in a position to buy bales from Agra to sustain some of their animals. However typical communal farmers have suffered heavy losses and what the Ministry of Agriculture can do to assist, is perhaps to help them restock. How that is going to happen with so many people, I do not know. Perhaps you can make it part of the cash-for-work. Perhaps you can make people work and then you give them a goat. The problem is that those people really need assistance if they are going to build up their stock and I do not know how this can happen.

For this year there is a double tragedy, the tragedy of drought and the tragedy of floods. For the cereal farmers, the crop farmers, the fields have been water-logged for almost two months. Even those plants which germinated could not grow because there was no air in the soil and I can see that we are going to have a massive demand for food support in those Regions.

Unfortunately there is a shortage of food the world over, which means that the food prices on the international markets are going to be very, very high. Secondly, the price of fuel is going to further increase the prices of commodities, including food.

I see that in Egypt the police have been battling with marauders because of price of fuel and price of food. I suspect that this thing is going to be all over the place. Really, it is likely to be all over the place, especially those areas who suffered double tragedy of floods and drought.

I am mentioning this to caution the lawmakers that this is going to be a difficult year for Namibia, because the areas which suffered droughts and floods are the areas where you find a sizeable amount of Namibians in terms of their numbers.

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
RT HON ANGULA**

Normally they would support themselves through subsistence farming. This year that is not the case. As one of them told me, that this year we are going to harvest fish, not mahangu. I am not quite sure whether that fish will even be enough to sustain them in the absence of mahangu.

Therefore, perhaps we have to have a comprehensive programme as to how to assist some subsistence farmers in these regions. They have the potential, the potential is there, but ... (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I am sorry to interrupt my Prime Minister, but I just wanted to ask a small question as being a Senior, he may know the answer. I was listening to the Otjiherero radio yesterday and it was about farming. The person was arguing that the resettlement of communal farmers through the resettlement programme is done free of charge. Those who are resettled are resettled on farms that are bought by the Government and resettled there for a number of years since 1999 and they moved, in that way helping farmers from communal areas. However, those who are trying their best to buy farms for themselves from the same areas, are required to pay one-third upfront and get indebted for the other two-thirds. The question was, since the others are getting resettled free of charge on these farms, can the Government not pay half of the money that remains, so that they can only pay one-third and one-third is paid by the Government.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** The Prime Minister will answer the question. The House shall rise for refreshments.

---

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

---

**HON SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs put a question to the Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister wish to reply?

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
RT HON ANGULA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** The question by the Honourable Tjiriange is very important. However, it is not part of the issue we are discussing. I can only shed small light on it.

The dilemmas of the resettled farmers, those who are lucky enough to be resettled and the affirmative farmers, the resettled farmers will get 4 hectares free of charge, but you do not have money to stock your four hectares or to maintain the infrastructure. That is a dilemma.

For the affirmative action case, you get a loan from AgriBank and AgriBank tells you that within twelve months you must pay me this much. Now, for you to produce, the calf needs nine months and after nine months, if you get a healthy calf, it takes another eighteen months, two years before you sell. You are therefore caught in a vicious circle, that if you are an affirmative action case, invariably you have to use your own savings to pay the AgriBank. If you pay AgriBank, you cannot use the same money to stock the farm, so you are caught up in a vicious circle. If you do not pay AgriBank, they will come and repossess and then you are back to square one. Those are the dilemmas of the two programmes.

At the end of the day you must be a lucky one to make a success out of these programmes. If not, then you are caught up between a rock and a hard place, both of you, whether you got it free or not. That is my experience.

I was however talking about the communal farmers, the Motion of Honourable Kaura and I was saying that we are going to be faced with a big problem this year because of the double tragedy of drought and floods and if those people are going to get back on their feet, they will need massive Government support of some kind.

Support to those who were not flooded out of their homes, food support, because some of them will not be able to produce anything from their fields. Those who were flooded out of their houses or villages need support to resettle themselves plus food support. Therefore, it is a massive challenge we have. At the same time they have to prepare for next year's farming season, so as a Government and as a country we have to prepare ourselves for this situation.

There are those communal farmers who farm in places like Mangetti where they

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON MOONGO**

have exclusive grazing rights. Yes, their production systems are better than those who are in crowded communal lands, what is called the tragedy of the commons, something belongs to everybody and nobody takes care of it.

The problem of those who have exclusive grazing rights is actually marketing, that they do not have proper systems to market their animals and it is for that reason that some of them, when the animals multiply and the exclusive grazing area is too small, drive their cattle to western Kavango and then create all sorts of problems. Some are now grazing in Oshimboro in southern Angola, in another country. It is the truth, they are grazing there with the permission of the chiefs in that country, but still, they are not in Namibia.

You therefore really have the very difficult situation there of people who are trying to take care of themselves, but both the environment and the conditions are not favourable. This is really the dilemma of the farmers in these Regions you have mentioned here and I hope that the new Minister, as part of his assignment, will make a comprehensive survey to determine the needs of the communal farmers in those northern Regions. Young as he is, I have no doubt that he will be able to be successful and I wish him well. Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his contribution. Honourable Moongo.

---

**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to express my appreciation to my president for bringing this Motion which should have been brought years ago, but because he knew SWAPO would not understand it, he had to wait for the right time – the right time of drought and the right time of floods. Now you will probably understand him. You usually always go against him and I want to support the Motion.

I only wish to inform the House that it was really very bad...(Intervention)

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON MOONGO**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, if you do not have anything to say, why can you not just sit and listen to your president?

---

**HON MOONGO:** No, that is an undemocratic comment. Allow me to give my points.

I was really disappointed by the Government of Namibia that they accepted that communal farmers be forced from Kavango. Now they are in Angola and they are not forced from that foreign country, but they are forced within Namibia. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. The statement made by the Honourable Member cannot go uncorrected. If he wants to show contempt of court, let him do it with the courage of his conviction and probably outside this House. The Government of the Republic of Namibia did not force anybody out of Kavango. That is the correction I want to make.

---

**HON MOONGO:** I will address that point later on, but the point is this that I was really disappointed that Namibians are taken to court just because of drought they went to another region, while all their cattle were supposed to be confiscated by the Angolan Government because they are in a foreign country. However to be forced from another Region in Namibia does not serve us in any good way.

Honourable Colleagues, Namibia is one and I appeal to the community leaders to understand that drought...(Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Moongo, on a Point of Information. My understanding of the problem is that the Traditional Leaders in western Kavango, especially in Uukwangali area, are saying, if you want to go

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON MOONGO**

and graze there, get their permission, do not just drive your cattle in there without them knowing. That is all what they are saying. They never prevented people to graze there if you get their permission.

---

**HON MOONGO:** Yes, I wanted to come to that point. Normally the Namibian people are disciplined, traditionally they will never come into your house or your area without your permission. Normally they are highly disciplined people and know they cannot enter somebody's area or somebody's house without permission. I think somewhere, somehow there is a misunderstanding and I do not accuse the Traditional Leaders of Kavango. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Speaker, I am rising on a Point of Order. The Motion under discussion is very clear. The Mover, in his motivation, was very specific. To the best of my recollection, the Motion is not about grazing in western Kavango. Therefore, the Honourable Member is out of Order, Comrade Speaker.

---

**HON MOONGO:** In my understanding, to assist farmers can be with land, with cattle. That is why I feel this is an opportune time to make the Government understand that our Namibian people have been in Angola for many years, not two years, even before Independence. But imagine, nobody was arrested in a foreign country!

Colleagues, people are forced by drought ... (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Honourable Moongo, some years back when the people from the north-western area asked for grazing through the right channels, they were allocated land about sixty kilometres up to the border between Kavango Region and Ohangwena and about 130 kilometres from that side to this side. That was in Kavango Region.

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON MOONGO**

That means there is no problem when the people are coming there, ask in good faith and then the land will be allocated. Even if a person applies now, land will be allocated, but not to come illegally and graze as you wish. That cannot happen.

---

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Speaker, I appreciate that the chief accepted many and he helped many people from Oshana and Ohangwena, it is probably only that the grazing is not enough. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Speaker, I am rising in terms of Rule 108(f) and it states: “*A Member may not, in any Motion, debate or question or table a supplementary Motion, referred to matters awaiting or under adjudication in any court of justice.*” Hence, Comrade Speaker, I again say, in view of the fact that the matter of grazing in western Kavango is still a matter with the courts to finally decide, the Honourable Member is out of Order in terms of our Rules.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** The Speaker will rule accordingly, but I thank the Minister. It is a substantive point the Minister made, I appreciate the Honourable Minister pointing that out to the Honourable Member that we should leave matters which are before the court until the final resolution has been made. Do not repeat that again.

---

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Speaker, I understand, the court has ruled already, it is over and the people are ...(Intervention)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Moongo, do not debate the point.

---

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON MOONGO**

**HON MOONGO:** The thorny issue in this whole problem is that last year was a very dry year and the lucky ones of those farmers in Ohangwena and Oshana were the ones who had two or three cattle left. The only cattle we have now are the ones which survived in Kavango. Those Regions are lucky to now have those cattle. It is a pity that Government keeps quiet and do not assist those who withdrew from Kavango. Now they are the only cattle we have in those four Regions. The one who had ten or fifteen cattle, is left with only one donkey. Imagine! And the cattle which came from Kavango are the only cattle we have in those four regions.

Therefore, I request the Government to assist those people. Imagine, they came back in a year of floods, they have nowhere to graze the cattle and the Government is silent. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. The Honourable Member is making a very big contradiction, because he was saying all the livestock perished, now the only ones that are there are the ones that came from Kavango. Now, it should be logic that those that perished had grazing areas, therefore the ones that are coming from Kavango can then graze in the empty spaces that he is referring to. What contradiction is that?

---

**HON MOONGO:** It is a pity the Honourable Deputy Minister is in such a hurry that he did not wait for me to make my point.

My point is that there is space because all cattle were wiped out by the drought, but because of the water the grass this year did not grow, as the Prime Minister said. I know you never visit your area, you do not know the conditions. Therefore, we expect these cattle which came from Kavango to also die because there is no grass and the fields are covered by water. He does not know because it seems he is a Minister without cattle.

I say this year is a difficult year for those cattle from Kavango, they are the only ones which survived and we are going to suffer. I appeal to the Government to

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON RIRUAKO**

assist and not only that one, the few communal people who have only three or four cattle also need assistance. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Is it a requirement for Ministers to have cattle? Is it a requirement for Minister or Deputy Minister to have cattle?

---

**HON MOONGO:** I know some positions are political ones and not for practical experience. He does not know what the future holds for these cattle this year.

With this I support my president's Motion and I thank you very much.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution. Chief Riruako.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Mr Speaker, I am sorry that the whole point was so far off the point that you do not know where to start, but I know where to start.

The people in the four O-Regions are fortunate because they have the Mangetti farms which we did not improve. Those people who are near to that region are supposed to gain from the Mangetti farms. I was there myself, I travelled everywhere, I bought nine thousand cattle for the Gam people and they were sold on auction. Instead of selling to the people in the area, they were just sold to those rich to get richer. I am sorry about that. It happened that way.

That Region could today help the people in the four O-Regions. We were crying and crying, "*do not sell it.*" Somebody somewhere was so deaf, he could not listen, now we are having trouble up there. This is unfair, really and we are so disappointed, we cannot commit another crime again. Those who bought those farms, who are not owners of the areas, must also feel sympathetic to the poor who are living there and sell back to the Government in order to provide that area to the people who are in need. I am sorry about that. It happened that way and I am sorry about that.

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON RIRUAKO**

Mr Speaker, we ought to survive to keep a certain area in order to save our people when they are in need and we said that openly. Nobody listened at all. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, I want to understand the Chief. Can I ask a question because I just want to understand whether I understood the Chief correctly?

Honourable Riruako, did I hear you saying that or were you saying that the people of that area were grazing successfully in Mangetti...(Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** No, no, do not put words in my mouth.

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Were they grazing and benefiting from Mangetti area and that area was sold to people who were not supposed to be there? Is that what you are saying? And who are those people?

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Those ones who bought that area bought it on auction. Who knows who sold that? He can reveal that, but I said that it is on the table. Somebody who sold those areas to certain people on auction, he knows about that, but the shoes are on the table here. I am sorry about that.

If the habit is that, you want to collect money and talk about your own people to survive and where is this money now? Somewhere, somehow this money was mugged and went somewhere. You know about it. I did not appoint anybody, I said this money went somewhere. Somebody has done this and he is gone and this is happening. But I am saying, please, that area belongs to those people who lived in that area, they are the first priority to be asked whether they want to do anything with their area or not. This area is between Kavango and the four O-Regions. Today the four O-Regions do not have anywhere to go. You have to think about what happened.

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON RIRUAKO**

It is not too late yet, the Government has a law to expropriate whatever it needs and we need those areas now. Wherever I have done that, I have done it wrongly, now we have to correct it. I am sorry about that.

We cannot wait and wait, that is not fair and I thought this area was given back to the people who belong there, but it was sold on auction, for what purpose I do not know and the Cabinet has to discuss that now and come up with an answer to this Parliament and tell us what is your position. I cannot beat about the bush, that is the correct way to correct those mistakes. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Chief, since you are a member of the Chiefs Council, Traditional Authority, a leader, would you go to the Council of Traditional Authority to raise that issue?

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** I will raise it one day. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, you can raise it there.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** If I do that you will say it is embarrassing, please do it in your own scheme and do it the way you have done and correct what you have done in the past and correct it and come back with a clean scheme. If I go there it will be nasty. There is only one way to go, the chiefs there will be nice to you. Please, I beg your pardon, it is what you ought to do and it will be done within a few minutes, that decision will be taken. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. The allegation being made, whether it is true or not I do not know, but which is being made is very serious. It is tantamount that the Government has sold land which was supposed to benefit the people of the northern Regions to some people and that Government squandered the money. That is tantamount to

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON RIRUAKO**

that. Things cannot just be said loosely like that, we have to know which areas and who sold these areas and to whom. Because if it is left like this, it is as if the Government has corruptly sold a big area that was supposed to benefit the people in the north and that is why they have nowhere to go. If it is not like this, we have to know this. Who sold which area there and to whom?

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Where is it now? Mr Speaker, where is that area now? Tell this House! Where is that area now? (Interjection). You don't know? It was there, where is it now? (Interjection). Under water? Mangetti area, where is it? It belongs to whom? Who sold it to whom? I am serious, where is the area? This is the area which was supposed to save us. It is something that had to be there.

I do not know where you put the money, I do not see it in the Budget of this country.

Now, let us talk about how the farms should be bought. Even those who are living on the farms are not capable to sustain their existence. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** On a point of correction. Comrade Speaker, I understand Honourable Chief Riruako is saying the farms in Mangetti were sold and he did not say who sold the farms and to whom they were sold, but as far as we know, no farms in Mangetti were sold to any person by whoever. The farmers that are there are just leasing Government land. So, it has been there even before Independence and it remains as such, no farms have been sold. That is the correction I wanted to make. Thank you.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** What happened to the cattle? There were cattle there, what happened to them? I bought nine thousand, I left with more than nine thousand there, who has got it now? No, you must tell me, where are those cattle now? Are they in the four O-Regions? I am sorry to say this, but it is common sense and to understand what I mean by that.

---

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON RIRUAKO**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. Why do Honourable Riruako not talk about what happened during the so-called transitional Government? Why did you wait for the late Kalangula to go to raise this question, why did you not raise the question before, before Kalangula died?

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** I do not say Kalangula was a puppet ... (Laughter). He brought back nine million from Owambo and I asked him, "*what are you doing with this nine million because I did not use it, why did you use it*", in this House.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Can you leave out the departed from ...

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** I am sorry to raise such question, I do not want to say anything about that here. You come with nine million for what purpose because it is a leftover, how did use it? Do you want me to say that? I am sorry about that. He left nine million and gave it back to the Government again. For what purpose I do not know. I am sorry about that. (Intervention)

Mr Speaker, I wanted to highlight one other thing. Those who are on the farms are in jeopardy. To pay N\$300,000 per year with 200 heads of cattle is not possible, it is impossible. The people who happen to farm that way were given subsidy from the Government, they are on their own, all of you who happen to own farms and this is unfair. Those farmers who used to farm here used to get some subsidy from the Government every year until they became owners of the farm with the help of the Government of the day. You have been dilly-dallying to do the same. How on earth can you not even help yourselves and you are forcing them out and they become big farmers. I was a farmer and I remain a farmer. That is not fair. (Interjection).

No, I do not want to say anything about that. I talk about N\$300,000 per year, N\$400,000 per year and a farm costs N\$700 per hectare, N\$800 per hectare and you are ready to pay it. The farm prices must be reduced, the Government has to take action on this if we need our land to go back to the people where it comes from in a very legal way and make sure that all of us are together. You can however not let us suffer because some people wanted to entertain that kind of

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON RIRUAKO**

theory. And you cannot keep on funding with N\$300,000 per year to pay back N\$4, N\$5 million for one farm of 5,000 hectare. This is rubbish. That is not the way you ought to be.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Chief, when you talked about the land having to go back to the owners, your neighbour looked at you. He does not want you to talk about that.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** My neighbour, they were given land free of charge by my parents, Okombandi, Okamangongua, Okatjihua, I can name them. (Intervention)

---

**HON VILJOEN:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, that statement is a lie.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Viljoen "*lie*" is not the word to use, withdraw that one and say it differently. That is not what you wanted to say, you want to say something. Withdraw the word "*lie*".

---

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, I withdraw, the Honourable Member raped the truth. Apart from that, the Honourable Chief was born in this country, he is a Namibian, I was born in this country, I am Namibian. Therefore, if the land has to go back to him, it must also come back to me, because my father did not steal one hectare. We are thus equal. I love this country as much as he does.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** I did not say you struggle for land with me, I referred to the history, Okombandi, in 1809 when the Boers came over here they were given. They did not buy and during the war against the Germans, we protected you.

Mr Speaker, I am not backwards, I am a historian and I think you know what I am talking about. This is a fact and what I do not want is you as Parliamentarians to

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

know that we are suffering from those activities and we do not have any action to heal the wound. That is so sad and I am not against him. Even if I do not have the right to take over, I only know what my forefather did.

---

**HON VILJOEN:** On a Point of Information. I did research on the statement that farms were given free of charge, I did research and I compiled a document which was distributed in this august House and I want to know whether the Honourable Chief has read that document.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** The Oppermans, the Mathee, I said Okombandi Okatjihua, prior to 1904, that is a fact. Now for you to think about us who are in jeopardy today, how are these people going to make a living? Now I said to the Government, it is for you now to think wisely about us on the farm issue. I did not even say Hereros or what, those who do not have enough money, those indigenous people of this country who suffered because of what happened.

Mr Speaker, I am here to tell the truth and I am here to correct the mistake in a very right way, and I am here to take care of my Colleague. With honesty I ask the Parliament to think about what I said. Do not be naïve and do not take me for a ride. This is the history and we are supposed to take care of it in the right way. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Chief. Honourable Angula.

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**  
Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to speak on this very important Motion introduced by the Honourable former Comrade Kaura on the issue of support to the farmers with the provision of tractors. Indeed, provision of farm inputs to communities is an important element of increasing agricultural output. This is so in almost all the countries of the world. That is in fact the bone of contention in the stalemate of the stalled WTO Doha Round.

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

The degree in difference among countries in the provision of farm inputs is, or may only be determined by the Nation's or a given Nation's ability to sustain such support.

Our agricultural sector policies, and there are several of them, including the SWAPO Election Manifesto, the CAADP-Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme, all point to the need for comprehensive support to agricultural production.

At the 2003 Maputo Summit of the African Heads of State and Governments we undertook as African Union member states to upscale our National Budget to 10 percent within the five years, that is from 2003. Namibia is on the way in complying with this commitment to the effect that up until the last Financial Year the allocation to the agricultural sector was 4%. As we debate in this current appropriation, we have now allocated 10% of our National Budget to the agricultural sector. That is an achievement for which we must applaud the Minister of Finance and the former Minister of Agriculture or outgoing.

The Sirte AU Summit of 2002 Declaration called on the member states to implement fertiliser provision to the agricultural sector within the shortest possible time. During the current Fiscal Year Namibia has implemented the subsidised supply of fertiliser. The facts are there to prove the point.

Currently farmers are being supplied with tractor services. Thus, the call by this Motion to implement with deliberate speed the provision of tractors to the grain producing regions in this regard is superfluous. It is just another opportunistic attempt to steal the credit.

The provision of farm inputs, including tractor service, was introduced by the SWAPO Party Government long ago in the first years of our Independence. That this programme did not perform according to public and Government expectation is another matter. There are patent reasons why this service was temporarily withdrawn.

Firstly, the demand grew at the time when the supply was diminishing due to resource constraints. More Regions than the traditional 6 demanded to be included in the provision of the tractor service and other agricultural inputs. Secondly, there were the serious skills shortages. These led to the idling and abandoning of equipment, including new ones, in the fields. Workshops and

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

knowledge of the technology of particularly those of the equipment from China and India whence the initial supplies were non-existent.

Thirdly, the beneficiaries complained against tractors de-fertilising their fields. Admittedly, many of the operators lacked the knowledge of soil science and ploughing technique itself. The consequence was showing infertility that led to the poor yields. The beneficiaries complained further, alleging nepotism practised by the operators or Government technical people.

To redress these shortcomings, Government decided to withdraw the tractor services and replace it with animal draught. Subsidies were provided for the provision of oxen and donkeys and the training thereof. Tractors were privatised so that the owners could run them on business principles. All the same, this did not perform according to the expectations.

With regard to the first, during drought years animals succumbed to lack of grazing. On the other hand, the absence or lack of rain means the tractor owners had to increase the rates to meet their debt obligation with the Banks. Added to this was still skills shortage. It was, and this continued to be a vicious cycle.

These serious challenges are to be overcome through the continuous and persistent training, provision of consistent subsidies and a deliberate design of micro financing schemes. The Government of the Republic of Namibia is now busy with setting up micro-finance schemes. State supported workshops for repairs and maintenance centres are to be set up at strategic points and mechanical and soil science training have to be part of the curriculum of the envisaged Vocational Training Centres under the ETSIP scheme.

The accelerated establishment of vocational training centres is, therefore, the answer to skills shortage.

In his introductory remarks of the Motion, the Honourable Member condemned the financing of national strategic projects such as the State House, Air Namibia and the railway to the North. Thus, the Honourable Member enjoins chorus with the unholy alliance of the voodoo economists and their fellow travellers. These national symbols and economic milestones are not necessarily inexpensive, but on the other hand, they represent the dynamism and determination of our Nation to shape its destiny zealously.

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

Honourable Kaura's statement, belittling our nationhood symbols, plays directly in the hands of the stereotypes who characterise the African peoples as lacking in vision; that African people supposedly in their views are contended with short term gains, especially food handouts and lack stamina to face hard choices, particularly long-term challenges such as the railway and you can prove this by the fact that in the last ten years, can we speak of any African State which undertook to build over one hundred kilometres of railway. This is the point in question.

These kinds of people have completely lost vision. They judge the railway harshly long before it is even completed. The destination of the railway is Oshikango. Today it is only at Ondangwa as yet. It is destined...(Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** You are addressing the wrong man. I did not talk about railway, I did not talk about the State House.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Chief, the Honourable Member was not referring to you.

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**  
You see, Comrade Chief, we have been friends. When the Boers dropped you...  
(Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. I was not a friend of the Boer, they put me in jail and they never put you in jail, you were together and if you want me to say more, I can say more.

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**  
I was saying before I was interrupted, that the Chief and I are friends and I am saying in 1966 when the apartheid police dropped the Chief

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

on the island in the Caprivi Region, he crossed and it was me who cooked the food at Kazungula which he ate deliciously.

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member's name is not Honourable Pohamba, it is two different names, Angula and Pohamba, they cannot be the same. The man who travelled from Lusaka to find me in jail in Livingstone is the Honourable current of today. He never could have found me, he was with the Boers. (Laughter).

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Comrade Chief, do you want me to continue or should I stop? After we provided you with food at Kazungula, Honourable Chief, at Makeni in Lusaka...(Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. The PLAN fighters went back to Zambia and I had to ask the international Government in order to trace them in front of you. What did you do then? Resign to become a PLAN fighter. Not Angula. This man is my witness, not you, I know where you were by then.

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** When the Honourable Chief got a visa to go to America and the Chief did not know English, when we were at Makeni in Lusaka, who taught him English? (Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** We were in the same boat. You used to speak Namlish, today you speak English. Namlish was your language, now you speak English and we understand one another now.

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Chief, let us not spoil the Debate. I shall keep quiet because

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

there are too many things we share and we are friends, we should not expose ourselves to strangers.

As I was saying, they judge the railway harshly long before it is even completed. What kind of patriots are these? Let me tell them, at the present moment the Owambo-basin – (the word Owambo-basin is not political, it is a geological name) – is seized with a aeromagnetic seismic activities exploring hydrocarbon and all of you have read today that the first well on block 17/11 is being drilled. That is west of the Kunene mouth. The result will be expected some six months from now, I said this hive of aeromagnetic seismic activities, in three to four years, have a great chance and likelihood of producing the result which can lead to the drilling of the test well in the zone and if we strike luck and production will ensue, in their opinion, how are we going to ferry this hydrocarbon from this basin to Walvis Bay for export? Is it not by rail?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Is there another name for hydrocarbon?

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**

Hydrocarbon petroleum, crude oil discovery. If we discover oil, as I said there is an aeroplane, if you go there now is exploring, all the way from the mouth of the Kunene to the Botswana border, covering the whole basin and Onyaanya is the centre point, perhaps through Etosha. There is a stretch from Oshikango in the north to Etosha and from the west at the high water marks of the Atlantic Ocean to the Botswana border. Those aircraft are flying just on top of the makalani palms and they cannot spend their money if they are not convinced that there must be something. There must be something for them in order to spend such kind of money.

The question is, if we discover this petroleum, Namibia cannot even consume one, not to speak of two million barrels of oil. We must of necessity export. The question to these pessimists, voodoo economists is: Do you only want to start the railway when you discover the oil?

We do not plan for the sake of election campaign like they are doing, but for the development of the country now and in the future and for this generation and for the future generation. (Interjection)

---

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

**HON MEMBER:** If you find nothing?

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**

That is a good question. If we do not find anything, remember, we now have a cement factory around Tsumeb and that factory will use this railway to ship the extra cement from that area for export via Walvis Bay and from there for export via Oshikango. The rail is there to serve the country in whichever way. Carbon or no carbon, cement or no cement, there will be many, many economic reasons.

Before I conclude I want to underline that in fact we aspire to be an economically advanced Nation in our lifetime and for us to arrive at that..(Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** I would like to ask the Minister a question before he concludes. I would like some information because he was a Minister and he has enough information. He was also a communal farmer, so I would like to ask, when I travel in the communal forest around there, I see many boreholes which are still unused and I understand this was done deliberately during the time of the Boers so that the blacks cannot come up with quality cattle. Now after Independence there are a lot of boreholes around the communal areas which are not used. Is it because the water is salty or it is again the tricks of the ex-Government which said, leave the blacks, do not develop them or what is the good reason?

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**

Yes, there are two basic reasons why some of the boreholes are not equipped. The first one is the quality of the water not being of the standard to be consumed by the livestock, therefore the well is sealed and abandoned. The second one is the location of the well, because what happens is that the thinking of the service providers, that is the Government and their contractors, was that when these wells are drilled, communal farmers will collectively use these wells. However the experience has taught us, unfortunately, that the level of development of our people has not reached that stage of cooperative thinking, they are still very capitalistic and individualistic. Whenever you equip the well and say *collectively this is yours now*, then none of

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

them want to put up a contribution for the management of the well, so it ends up with either one person or they just abandon the management of the well.

In some instances those wells are allocated in fenced-off land which has legitimately been allocated to one individual. After drilling the person will initially say, *“yes, yes, drill, I will allow other farmers to water their animals”* and after that he just fences it off and privatise it illegally. That is the unfortunate experience we have. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** A last additional question. Since the community members cannot afford to give tap water to the cattle, the farmers on this side of the red line are using the boreholes and it is good water. What alternative is there for the poor communities, what is the best idea how to rescue the communities who cannot afford to pay for water. The piped water is expensive for cattle.

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Maybe the Honourable Member did not follow the announcement which said the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is John Mutorwa, not Helmut Angula.

I also understood from the presentation and discussion of the Honourable Member that most of the area in question is under water, so where do you want us to drill bore holes again? Use that rain water. When it is gone, then we will talk again.

As I was saying, we aspire to be an economically advanced Nation in our lifetime and for that the railway is needed, the airports are needed, the airline is needed and a State House of the class we have is needed. So the next generation will have to engage in something else because these are things which are unavoidable in the State formation, as we are engaged currently in a State formation.

I want to say, if you look at other examples, this is exactly what they have done prior to them becoming advanced Nations. Why do you admire them or what do you say about them?

Look at France, the arch d’ Triumph (commissioned in 1806 and finished in 1836) took 30 years and all of you want to see Paris. The Eiffel Tower was

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

commission in 1889 and this important landmark, I am sure and I am convinced, when they were built the per capita income of those countries will not be equivalent to the per capita income of Namibia today. What is wrong with building our own? Do you want us to steal or what?

The Statue of Liberty, a gift to the United States of America by the French people, is today the most important and famous landmark for anyone who visits New York, including the Honourable Kaura who always aspire to go to the Statue of Liberty. At the time when it was built, can you tell me that there were no poor Americans or that there were no poor French? The problem of the mentality of these pseudo economists of Africa, they think only of the stomach of today, they have no long-term perspective, they have no desire to build symbols for generations that are very characteristic of any Nation. (Interjection)

---

**HON KAURA:** You are talking like Saddam Hussein!

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**  
He was your friend! Hussein was trained at the same school you were trained, you were together, you were friends.

These most popular landmark, and not to talk of the pyramids, African symbols, when we are asked what is the history of Africa, what can you show that one time you were civilised? All of us say, "*look at Egypt, look at the pyramids.*" Why do you mention them? Look at Munamutapa, why do you mention this? Why are you proud of those historic landmarks? But you are quick to point at the Egyptians' civilisation, that is the African civilisation. Why are you proud of that symbol? Today you do not want to be proud of our own symbols. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** May I ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and all these things a question?

Comrade Minister, are you aware that if you listen to some of the people in this country, you will never develop anything? Are you aware that when we were fighting for this country, when we said this country is going to be Namibia, some of the people who are even seated here, said that *we shall never be Namibians, we*

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

*are South West Africans.* If we did not persist, this country could have been South West Africa. Are you aware of that?

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**  
Indeed, Comrade Minister...(Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. You are doing well, but we want their farms to be secure. How are you going to take care of that? Tell us in this House what kind of successful road we are supposed to take if we want that? You are an agricultural man and you know what I am talking about.

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**  
Yes Comrade Tjiriange, I am very much aware how they despised any forward-thinking. They even said...(Intervention)

---

**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that black Namibians were used as slaves in the construction of the Egyptian pyramids? And are you aware of the fact that the most reactionary Political Party in Namibia is the South West Africa Peoples Organisation which sticks to the colonial name?

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**  
Firstly, Comrade Speaker, I was commenting on the query by Honourable Dr Tjiriange and I was saying the pseudo-economists, the most reactionary component of our society, are always condemning any new thinking and this unfortunately is now affecting and infecting the mind of the progressive forces in this country. They become cowardice because they are so scared... (Intervention)

---

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I am sorry to disrupt my Honourable Brother and Cousin, but I have an important question I want to put to him. Since the Turnhalle Building burnt down the other day, do you expect the Turnhalle in Parliament also to burn down next time around 2009?

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**

Comrade Speaker, the query is so pertinent. The other day in my statement on the appropriation I asked to these former Comrade Opposition Parties, do they really have aspirations to be in power? If they do... The problem at this age is that if you interrupt us, everything is forgotten.

I was saying, if they seriously think that they want to seize power, if they really want to campaign and win votes, why do they not recruit independent political analysts, to educate them a bit? I mean, you know half of the population live in the North, how can you say they are not entitled to have a railway? Who is the fool to vote for you since you are against them getting the railway? But you want their vote! (Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Kaura was there, working for that railway. He went there and I do not know what you are talking about, I am lost. I have done a lot and you know that, which you did not do. And I am talking about Honourable Helmut and Kaura, they were there together and now you are talking about the railway is over and the State House is not something which is over which cannot be discussed here.

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**

Before I sit down...(Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Information. What Honourable Kaura has just said that we stick to the colonial name is not true. South West Africa Peoples Organisation is linked to the name

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

of our country by then, but this is just an indication that tells the world where we are located in Africa, it has got nothing to do with colonialism. Even in my language I can still say it and it gives the direction where we are. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**

You seem, when you have an emblem and you are beating competitively the other people without the emblem, will always try to imitate so that they can catch a bit of it. Some will make a fist like this, some like this and some believe that if the shape of this letter will confuse people and they will not know which Party is the real Party, so there will be confusion and they will catch in with the vote.

We however have this trademark, we (SWAPO) cannot shed it, under no circumstances shall we shed our trademark and we know that is your problem and because it is your problem, we will use it to beat you all the time. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:**

On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. May I ask my Brother a question? Honourable Angula, you talked about the railway and some Honourable Members were against the railway. When they heard the railway is going to the northwest, some of them went to the people living there and were mobilising the people not to accept the railway, it is going to destroy the graves of your forefathers and mothers and they were also complaining about the development of Epupa. Now today we are talking about the tractors, are they going to accept it or not?

---

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:**

Honourable Muharukua, I have just underlined the fact that reactionism in this country is so vicious. You know that poison they were trained by Connie Mulder, he indoctrinated them such that it is so difficult to take that violence out of them. They oppose anything that is progressive. As Mao Tsetung taught us, all the reactionaries are paper tigers. In appearance they may look

08 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON H ANGULA**

terrifying, but in deed they remain paper tigers. We shall therefore not be cowed by them.

In conclusion, these important landmarks of the world that I mentioned, be it the Zimbabwe Ruins, the pyramids in Egypt, the Eiffel Tower, the Arch d' Truimph, these today represent humanity's heritage. They now belong to humanity.

Therefore, our symbols that we are building, will one day find a place in the history of our people, just like Twyfelfontein is a human heritage. We are living up to the legacy left to us by our forebearers who left their landmark in the Brandberg, in Twyfelfontein, in Schlip, even at that stage where the tools in their hands were so limited. Therefore we do not want to leave a situation whereby there will be no record, even remembrance of our fallen heroes. Thus the Heroes Acre.

The contribution of those landmarks to economies are not questionable today and they constitute a significant portion of income to the State coffers, because of our small population, because of our limited growth in our tourism, the Heroes Acre may still not be a symbol bringing in money, but I can assure you in ten years' time we will reap the fruit of these symbols, including the railway to the north. There will be mass travel of tourists from Windhoek to Etosha, using the railway.

I really wanted to support the Motion, Honourable Kaura, but you spoiled it with these ill-advised condemnation of the railway. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member for his contribution.

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Members, I move that we adjourn the House until tomorrow.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008:04:09 UNTIL 14:30**

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
09 APRIL 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER** took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

---

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I am reminding the Honourable Members that, on the basis of the understanding in the House, for Honourable Members to make voluntary contributions to alleviate the dire situation created by drought and floods in the North of our country, Members are once again urged to make their contributions to the Secretariat and they will be provided with official receipts to confirm the contributions.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

---

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS IN THE CAPRIVI, KAVANGO, OKAOKO AND THE FOUR-O REGIONS.**

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** On a Point of Information. We know that there is an Okaoko, but I think as a Parliament we have decided to call that area the Kunene Region and if we are talking about Regions, it must be Kunene and it must be properly recorded in our proceedings. Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I do not see the things that the Honourable Members are talking about.

---

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

**HON KAURA:** On a Point of Clarification. Honourable Speaker, below the Red Line we have the Kunene stretching all the way up to Kamanjab and Outjo. That constitutes the Kunene Region, but the people below the Red Line do not have any need of pedigree bulls, because they already have them. That is why we are being specific to Kaoko. It is an area. If we are talking about Epukiro, we are not talking about Omaheke.

---

**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Speaker, I understand what Honourable Kaura has said, but maybe it would be worthwhile to say "*Okaoko of Kunene Region*". The Region element must be there. It is a particular area of Kunene Region, Kaoko of Kunene Region.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 on Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Kaura. Any further discussion? Honourable Abraham Iyambo.

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I would like to make a very brief contribution on the Motion introduced by Honourable Kaura, the Motion on the tractors and the bulls.

These tractors and bulls Motion is very important, the topic is very important, Honourable Speaker (as it stands: tractors and bulls).

The way it was introduced from there, Honourable Kaura, I think you, to some extent, diluted the importance of what you wanted to convey to the House. The title, tractors and bulls, remains very important. I however have a problem with the motivation, it is quite defective on what you said and I will say why I am saying so.

Particularly the introduction of your speech, which I was reading this morning, politicised the very important topic too much. I say I would have supported you, but you have politicised too much a very important item on which we could have been united and could have supported you.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

You raised important issues, but the majority of them are things that are in progress. One would have appreciated if you would have said these things are in progress at the moment. During the motivation it sounded as if nothing is being done. If that was recognised that something is being done, we could possibly have supported your Motion.

Honourable Speaker, the Motion, asks for two things: At the end of the speech of Honourable Kaura requests us to implement this Motion with deliberate "*speech*." He is requesting that this House should deliberate and, of course, implement with deliberate "*speech*". I have a problem with the Parliament to implement such a thing.

In the middle of the speech Honourable Kaura said that this House must "*recommend*" the provision of tractors. At the end he says it should "*implement*". We have two words here, Comrade Speaker, the Colleague is requesting for us to recommend to somebody, but he is also saying that we should implement this Motion.

Honourable Speaker, the Motion is diluted, since he refers to the by-election in the western Kavango. He said that during that by-election he appealed to the community and the voters seem to have decided otherwise and now the Honourable Colleague is knocking at a different door, he is appealing to us as Members of Parliament to sympathise with him.

I think we want to agree with the voters in Rundu Rural West and what they conveyed to him, we still want to convey the same thing to him. I do not know why the Colleague thinks that we are going to differ with the community there.

We are informed, Honourable Speaker, by the outgoing Minister of Agriculture – and I am sure the current one is going to emphasise that – as well as by the Development Budget about numerous things Honourable Kaura is asking for. We are briefed on page 467 of this big book on what is in progress with respect to the development of issues that he was referring to. It is clear that there are development of livestock improvement centres in the northern communal areas and these have been there for the last few years as part of the programme and the money has been allocated for this coming Financial Year.

The money is indicated here for the construction of Veterinary Clinics in other areas to look at the improvement of bulls. The same on the issue of storage of

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

grain and the extension of veterinary laboratory as well as the livestock marketing infrastructure for communal farmers and the construction of Agricultural Development Centres to look at how to develop and assist the communal farmers, the National Horticultural Development Initiative.

I am quoting these because I have the information on what is intended with respect to animal development.

Honourable Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture has already taken this into account. What Honourable Kaura is referring to is what is in progress.

With respect to the communal farmers that were given tractors gratis, that is by the previous dispensation, I will not be able to comment on that, but I will take what Honourable Jerry Ekandjo said. He said that that was an untruth and I will take it from there. (Intervention)

---

**HON KAURA:** You did not hear what Honourable Helmut Angula said? Honourable Helmut Angula said you took the tractors away.

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Yes, he said it was an untruth. If it was myself, I would not have used the word “untruth”, I would have been very careful and only said, “**l-i-e**”, because I would not be able to say it.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Even the spelling is not allowed.

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** The spelling is “**l-i-e**”.

Honourable Speaker, with respect to the Government infrastructure, I want to say something about our politicians, both highly mature and immature. Of recent there was a certain political grouping that made a statement on our national television, condemning the Eenhana shrine. The politician was saying that it was

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

a mistake by Government to have constructed or built that shrine and he referred to the fact that how can a Government gather bones and bury them even at an exorbitant price? I take that statement as quite highly insensitive, insulting, because if we are burying an unknown soldier or soldiers, we are supposed to be more sensitive. Now politicians say, "*how can you bury bones of people you do not even know*" and many of the communities of these areas witnessed people being taken by Casspirs, who disappeared and never found again, but for politicians to come and politicise this and condemn a statue of that magnitude is condemnable and we want to condemn those politicians. I am not now referring to the mature politicians, I am referring to the other ones who said these things. I am sure a mature one like Honourable Kaura will not say things like this. You agree with me, Honourable Kaura? Yes, he agrees with me, thank you.

You will not say things like these touching very raw wounds with your hands. I think we should reconcile in this.

With respect to the rail extension, Honourable Kaura also condemned this by saying that these are just white elephants. I do not know why they are white elephants.

Also other politicians have been joining the choir of Honourable Kaura. I hope you are not the leader of this choir in terms of condemning development projects.

With respect to the rail extension, Honourable Speaker, if we had the money I would have preferred that we had extensions for all the Regions. (Intervention)

---

**HON MBAI:** On a Point of Information. I would like the Honourable Speaker to maybe request, if it is possible, another Colleague, Honourable !Naruseb, to give the correct pronunciation of "*choir*". (Laughter)

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** I thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I want to ask Honourable !Naruseb not to say that thing, not to pronounce anything.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Honourable Speaker, in respect of the rail extension, I think there is so much happening. If you look at the cargo being transported now between Tsumeb and Ondangwa and vice versa, between April 2006 and March 2007 the cargo between Tsumeb and Ondangwa was around 38,000 tons. Between April 2007 and February this year, this has increased phenomenally to 118,000 tons. That means the pressure has been released from the roads.

With respect to the roads, TransNamib has been calculating the levels and volumes of cargo and TransNamib indicates that between April 2005 and March 2006 the tonnage was 16,000 tons. This has now dropped between April to March 2008 to 1,750, meaning that the pressure on the road is decreasing and this is what Parliamentarians have been calling for, saying that there are too many trucks, let us have something better so that we do not have too much repairs of the roads. Now it has decreased from 16,000 to 1,000 and that, I thought, is good for the roads. Therefore, those who are condemning the rail should also be pleased to condemn themselves for having condemned the rail.

There are those who are saying it is not the right time. In development you cannot say it is now the right time to build a rail. We should start otherwise we will never start.

With respect to the State House, we Namibians never had something we could really call a proper State House. Maybe my Comrade, Henk Mudge, can assist me that this maybe was just an administration type of house of Mr Pienaar. Am I correct? He says he cannot remember, but he also says yes. We never had a State House and we should, therefore, be proud that we have started building this edifice as a building for the country.

With respect to the Motion, Honourable Speaker, having said that the Budget is clear, the Minister of Agriculture is very clear, our programmes are very clear, Honourable Kaura has tried his level best possible to sensitise us, but of course, I think we are already sensitised and we take note of his sensitisation. We do not implement with deliberate speed because we are already seized with the task of implementing these issues. If Honourable Kaura agrees, we do not reject and throw it through the window, but we take note and I am sure the Honourable Colleague will agree that we only take note. The other option is only to throw it away through the window. (Interjection).

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

We will come to that at an appropriate time. At the moment I am just saying there are only two options: One is to throw it through the window and we are prepared to do just that, throw it through the window.

The other one is just to take note that we have discussed the tractors and the bulls. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Motion as moved by Honourable Kaura.

Honourable Speaker, as a footnote, yesterday while listening to this very important Debate, a lot of Members went a little bit astray in addressing other issues, apparently that were raised by Honourable Kaura and I want to start with two or three of them.

Honourable Speaker, no Namibian, no Political Party, no individual has the power above other Namibians to have a monopoly over the question of patriotism to the State, Namibia or to the people of Namibia. I have listened to what was said by Honourable Helmut Angula, who is not here today, who resorted to name-calling, referring to others who dare to disagree with him or his Party or his views as unpatriotic, not Namibians and so forth.

I for one, and our Party, would detest and abhor such behaviour, where politicians are resorting to name-calling when people disagree with them, saying that you are not patriotic to Namibia because you disagree with a, b, c, d. We should learn from one another, that no Namibian can claim that monopoly and all contributions of people to the formation of statehood are in different words, and I think I have addressed this issue in many of the interventions on the Floor of this House.

Secondly, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Helmut Angula raised quite a number of important issues that has in fact opened our eyes that we have a difference in approach in terms of how we see Namibia to be developed. He was talking about the landmarks, that in Rome, Paris, New York all these men and women have founded these great places and the SWAPO Party Government is busy with the creation of landmarks. That is a question of a clear division between us and the Ruling Party.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

We believe in giving development to people, our Colleagues are building landmarks for their legacy.

We were informed yesterday that we are voodoo economists, we do not understand these things and the reason why these things are being built is because the western countries have built landmarks. Of course, it is important to have landmarks in a Nation, but whether it is the starting point of development is questionable to us and we do not believe that is the point of departure when we are talking about development. Yes, I know I am touching the wrong button. Is it in solidarity with a cousin? (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, you are accusing Honourable Helmut Angula of SWAPO Party of trying to belittle other politicians. Do you not think that you yourself are falling into the same trap? You are trying to imply that the money spent on education, health and other sectors are less than the money spent on the State House and the railway construction? That is what you are trying to say, because you are saying SWAPO has the wrong starting point for development. The starting point for development, as far as SWAPO is concerned, is the person, the human being, because the wealth of any Nation is its own citizens and if you look at the Budget of education, that is the highest and that is the starting point. Thank you.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Colleague, you were supposed to have said that to your cousin, you are educating the wrong man. Yesterday you were praising your cousin having said what he was saying, the Honourable Member talking about the landmarks, giving examples of Rome, Paris, the Statue of Liberty. Let me however tell you that even the decisions of those Nations were wrong decisions to start there. They were wrong in starting to build statues instead of developing their people. Let us therefore not argue that if something is done by Paris or by the Americans, it is the right thing. It was wrong and it is wrong now!

Honourable Speaker, I think it is important for us as lawmakers to always argue the intention of the Legislature. What is the intention of the Motion? (Intervention)

---

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

**HON NAMBAHU:** May I ask my Colleague a small question? Honourable Venaani, are you implying or are you going on record, telling our viewers and listeners out there that the building of the Statue of Liberty were wrong decisions?

---

**HON VENAANI:** They were wrong decisions in the sense that the money that was spent on building these infrastructures, if you look at the economies of those countries then when that infrastructure was built, were wrong decisions. (Interjection). He was giving the GDP figures then.

Let me tell you how America and the United Kingdom have surplus funds. It is by taking correct decisions. The United Kingdom has conquered the whole world and thought that their riches can never be amassed by any other Nation because of the wealth of colonies that they had. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information. America surpassed those countries, because of slave labour. Thank you.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Yes, but they had no colonies, but they had resources from colonies. The United Kingdom had resources, they had the gold, they had the diamonds, they had the ore, the iron and everything and the argument was that no country ever in the world can be able to amass any wealth because they conquered the whole world. (Intervention)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** May I ask my Honourable brother a tiny question? I just want to get clarity because I thought legacy is very important, our history, our culture is so important, it is part and parcel of the development of a human being and I was now wondering why our people go to Okahandja on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, why do we go to Ozombu Zovindimba, why we do we go to Hamakari where we have constructed a monument. Why do we do that? Can you explain to me?

---

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** You and I know that Mahatma Ghandi is one of the most revered world leaders. He has not built a monument. (Interjections). Listen! Has he built a monument of 40 million? I am talking about that legacy. The arguments that was advanced is that if you are saying the priority is landmarks and legacy, that cannot be the priority of a country such as Namibia. (Interjections). That was said yesterday and this side of the House believes that the development does not start on that point. You can tell us we are voodoo economists, but we do not start at that point.

Honourable Speaker, coming back to the issue that I want to raise, the intention of the Legislature, the Ruling Party has qualified to become professional diluters of Motions in this House. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** On a Point of Information. I am realising that the Young Parliamentarian is becoming professional in twisting facts and distorting vocabularies.

---

**HON DE WAAL:** We can check afterwards whether he is distorting or not.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Well, the expression he just used – which expression did he give now? I have just lost what he said. Let him repeat what he said.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** What did you say, Honourable Venaani?

---

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, the attitude of a mother is always to punish a young one, not knowing whether the young one is wrong or right. Be that as it may, Honourable Speaker, I will repeat it.

The Ruling Party is using all tactics to dilute a very important issue and you are professional in that, because if we raise an issue of a Legislature in this House,

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

you are looking for cheap political points, forgetting that all Namibians ... (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** The intention of the Legislature ... (Intervention)

---

**HON VENAANI:** Legislator.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** No, there is nothing like that, there is the intention of the Legislature, not an individual, the Legislature as collective Members or Parliament when they decide eventually. That is what is called the intention of a Legislature, what did they intend, not what Pendukeni has intended when moving a Motion in Parliament.

That is not the issue and that is why I am saying the Parliament had an intention that is a legal terminology, it is not ordinary terminology. Therefore, let us not twist vocabulary to suit our ill-thought intentions. There is no single intention of a legislator, there is only one common intention of a Legislature.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Attorney-General, the intention of the Legislature would be pursued in a court of law. The intention of a Legislator, a Member of Parliament, what was the intention of the Motion.

An individual, the Legislator, what was the intention of Katuutire Kaura by moving this Motion? I am talking about that intention. However the Ruling Party has a tendency of trying to dilute important issues that are raised before this House, forgetting... (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** The point made by Honourable Venaani is that the Opposition Party uses the guise of important National issues to score cheap political propaganda. That is what you are saying. Somebody gets up and

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

tries to say, how do we improve the effectiveness of the Government measures to assist communal farmers and then you slip in all kinds of accusations and when we respond to all those other things that you throw in, you say we are deviating from the point. If you want the Debate to be focused on the issues, be focused on the issue yourself when you raise those issues. That is what we are saying.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Colleagues, you have listened to issues that I have raised in this House, you may have your way Honourable Gentlemen, we will have our say. Do not try to create an impression as if we are not elected by the same people who elected you.

They are Namibians who brought us here. We were elected by Namibians just like you and therefore, we bring issues that concern them in this House, whether you like it or not. (Intervention)

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** The intention of the legislator is not necessarily the formulation of the Motion, but the motivation of the Motion. That is what explains the intention. You can put a Motion here that talks about some other things, empowerment of villagers in the Regions. Is that to do with the things Honourable Kaura brought in?

---

**HON VENAANI:** The Motion is relevant and Honourable Iyambo was saying it so professional, that it is not important to outvote, let us just take it for note-taking. Another confuser! (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** It is the first time I interject an Honourable Member. I would like to sincerely request Honourable Venaani to withdraw that the SWAPO Government has started its development agenda on the wrong footing, because if that were the case, then it could not have built a railway of 300 kilometres the first which is a very significant feat in the African continent, except for the

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

Kazara railway between Zambia and Tanzania, a joint project. Then it could not have built the two renowned corridors, namely Trans-Kalahari Highway and Trans-Caprivi. We could not have done that. Then we could not have a programme of expanding our harbour. The Government has done such a marvellous job in constructing such very important highways linking Namibia to the neighbouring countries.

This is in line with the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology and for your information, the two corridors are the two exemplary in the region and many countries are coming here to learn from this example. Therefore, sincerely withdraw that statement.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

---

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, coming back to the question under discussion, I have seen the Motion of Honourable Kaura in the light of addressing a very important mindset that needs to be indoctrinated in our people, in our farmers to modernise our subsistence agricultural sector.

Honourable Speaker, while we move in the corridors of the world, pushing for the resuscitation of the Doha Round, we are also aware that we have some catch-up to do to modernise our agricultural sector for it to have a meaningful impact on the peasant farmer on the continent.

The problem with us is that we give the people tractors and pedigree bulls, but if you go to a country such as Ghana – I visited Ghana a couple of years back in an area called Akasombo, the Volta Dam – that is one of the most fertile soils probably on the continent of Africa, but the peasant farmer here and everywhere only grows a garden for his own human consumption and not to commercialise it. Even if you look at farmers in Kavango in the North, Ohangwena, Omusati, the sizes of our land...(Intervention)

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** May I ask a question? Honourable Venaani, in 1985 during the Interim Government era there was no rain, and why were the tractors not given to the people during that time?

---

**HON VENAANI:** My dear Honourable Colleague, I have been on record, I do not address issues of the Interim Government, I was not a Member of the Interim Government. The Interim Government was a preparatory Government, that is why it is called "Interim". I will not compare it with an Independent Namibia, I will not benchmark it, so please you can ask those questions to whom you wish to ask.

Honourable Speaker, the issue that I am raising is the intention of Honourable Kaura. He is talking about the need to modernise our agricultural sector and it pains one, even in a season when we receive good rains, such as this one, if you look at the size of land that the people in Kavango...(Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WATER AND FORESTRY:** May I pose a question to the Honourable Venaani? Honourable Venaani, your Honourable neighbour, Kaura, we live in one street, has presented a written statement to motivate his Motion. Do you think it is fair to him for you to speculate on his intention, whereas he stated his intentions clearly in the speech that he has presented here? You keep on speculating on his intention. Is it fair?

---

**HON VENAANI:** No, I am not speculating. As a matter of fact, if you are talking about availing tractors, you are talking about modernisation, for people to have bigger land because you do not have a tractor only on one hectare..... (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question. Honourable Member, during the campaign in Rundu Rural West, your president was campaigning that if you vote for the DTA, we will provide you with tractors. Now the people are asking, *what happened to the tractors?* Now you want us to give them tractors so that at the end of the day

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

you can say, “*you see, it is us who said you must get tractors.*” Is that the reason that you are talking about tractors, tractors?

---

**HON VENAANI:** Of course, you know that what you are asking is not true, the media has corrected the wrong quote of the President of the DTA. Honourable Kaura said that if the DTA comes to power we are going to avail tractors. It is the DTA’s intention, when we take over Government, to provide and to modernise the agricultural sector. What is wrong with that? (Interjection). When you were campaigning you were also galvanising those for the national vote. Therefore the intention of the DTA is written in our Manifesto, that we want to modernise the agricultural sector. (Intervention).

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Information. In 1984, 1985 to 1989, the President of the DTA was in power. Which power are you talking about now? The old power or the future power?

---

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I shall not attempt an Honourable Member of this House, I shall not attempt. Please ask your Colleagues to educate you on the differences. She is trying to derail me.

Honourable Speaker, it does not need to take N\$40 million to provide bulls and rams in this country.

Probably an easier way of trying to provide these pedigree bulls to people is even to provide three or four rams and bulls in one village, because if one looks at the prices that Meatco is giving to farmers north of the Red Line – and these are the farmers we are talking about – the prices are totally ridiculous. Secondly, the animals are also very lighter.

When you eat a goat in the Caprivi Region, if you look at the size of that goat... (Interjection). If you eat goat meat in the Caprivi Region, the size of the goat there – and these are not scientific, you just put the rams there and they will produce animals of better quality. On the one hand we are advocating the

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

importance of the Doha Round, the subsidies that need to be withdrawn, and on the other hand the African continent as a whole is also not doing enough to make sure that if the Doha Round succeeds and the subsidies are withdrawn, that we are going to be able to compete effectively.

The issue that I wanted to raise about the grain farmers, for example, India today – and the Minister of Agriculture should listen to me – in India today there is a demand for beans because the population of India is growing too tremendously and they are looking for farmers in Namibia and Africa and everywhere to provide over 12 million tons of beans. If we have a modernised agricultural sector here and we give a quota to Caprivi to do 75,000 tons during a season, Kavango 70, the four-O Regions 70, they were talking about empowering people, people that would be able to access finance that they can develop their own industry. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Information. I think the propaganda is getting juicy and it pollutes the situation. Let us address facts on the ground.

The facts on the ground are that the Ministry of Agriculture, with regard to modernisation of the agricultural sector, especially the grain producer sector, has the Green Scheme into which Government is pumping money to experiment and to see how we can address the problems which Honourable Venaani is attempting to distort now. That process is underway. With shortcomings or no shortcomings, it is underway. Therefore, could he try to find another propaganda?

---

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Kazenambo, it does not take eighteen years to put a ram in a kraal to produce better quality animals. The intention of the Motion is not to blame the Government that it is not doing enough, the intention of the Motion is to modernise the agricultural sector.

That is what we want and modernisation does not only mean the Government, it means also the mind-shift of our farmers.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

You know, you have commercial farmers with 200 hectares of buffalo grass...  
(Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. I have here the very punctuated speech by Honourable Kaura. In this speech there is not a single word of modernising or modern. It does not exist here. Maybe he intended to say so, but it is not in the Motion.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Providing assistance, you do not have to explain all the things, that is all that it wants.

I was talking about buffalo grass and it is one thing that especially the farmers in the four-O Regions are suffering from. A farmer in the four-O Regions, Ohangwena, Omusati... (Interjection).

It is the four-O Regions. When you want you call it the four-O Regions, when the DTA calls it the four-O Regions, then it is no longer four-O Regions. You know what I am talking about – Oshikoto, Omusati. The reason why they are called four O's is because they are close to each other. (Intervention)

---

**HON KAURA:** Honourable Venaani, I just want to find out, are you aware of the fact that the reason why we continue to send our weaners to South Africa, is because our Green Scheme did not get off the ground and we cannot feed our weaners here in Namibia and the fact that the Green Scheme, eighteen years after Independence is a total flop. Are you aware of that, that the Green Scheme has not yet taken off in order for us to feed our weaners here to add value?

---

**HON VENAANI:** I do not think we are in disagreement on that one. I have just answered Kazenambo. I was talking about buffalo grass, this *blou buffel gras*. The problem is that during the drought the farmers in Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshana would call a farmer as far as Omaheke, looking for hay.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

Now imagine transporting ordinary grass, it is just ordinary grass that is planted, from here to a farmer there at Olukonda or Onyaanya. The amount of money that the commercial farmer is earning out of this 200 hectares of buffalo grass is round about N\$300,000, but a farmer, a poor woman, be it in Engela or wherever, who has a piece of land there and can get 200 hectares to plant this buffalo grass can be able to alleviate the situation of the farmers around there to have grass available at their doorstep. (Interjection)

---

**HON MEMBER:** So they are blaming the Government?

---

**HON VENAANI:** No, my politics have never been a blame-game, I do not blame, I am proposing. The Honourable Cousin is asking whether we are blaming the Government. Information is power. Many farmers, even black emerging commercial farmers do not have the information on how to turn around the sector. (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER SAFETY AND SECURITY:** May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? Honourable Member, I am following very well when you are talking about the possibility of planting blue buffalo grass in those areas. Honourable Kaura said a while ago that the reason why people here are selling their weaners is because there is no grass in their areas. Why do you go so far to the north, why is it not possible then that farmers here, particularly communal farmers, plant blue buffalo grass in order to prevent weaners being sold to South Africa? Because there it is a distance, here it is near. It is an issue and I just wanted to inform you, what you are mentioning is very good, but it is an issue that will take some time, communal farmers that need to be educated. If you take a commercial farmer and a communal area here, you will see the difference and you ask why. It is because of the knowledge that the commercial farmer possesses. We have to do the same there but it will take some time to impart the knowledge to the people. I think we should go gradually.

---

**HON VENAANI:** On the question of the weaners that Honourable Kaura spoke about, the reality is that weaners are not only grown by grass. You need

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

other elements of feeds, to have feedlots, so you need a lot of supplements to grow weaners. The reason why we have weaners in this country is because of bush encroachment, but the fact of the matter is that we are not talking about the agricultural sector as a whole, but we are addressing how we can alleviate the problems that are in these Regions, as Honourable Kaura has tried to raise them.

The other is also Hoodia and I know that if you go to...(Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a point of information. Before the students here at Neudam who would be listening to our Honourable articulated Member get confused when Venaani is talking on ram, buffalo, Hoodia, Green Scheme or what not, everything is lumped together. Honourable Venaani, I would share your sentiments if they are scientifically grounded, but unfortunately, they are filled with cheap political point-scoring, I will distance myself from them as I am doing.

Honourable Venaani, the question of modernising agriculture and introducing cash products, like you are trying to say, for people to grow buffalo grass, is influenced by many factors. Look at the size of land, look at how the communal farmers are using the available land. The majority of the people are in the North and you have said correctly that the reason why the four-O's are too small is the problem of population per hectare. If you have done some scientific research, not political wishful thinking, scientific research shows that in countries that wanted to reduce poverty, that diverted people from subsistence to cash products it never worked if you do not consider the factors of land size and so on. Therefore, it is not easy to speak of this buffalo grass, that is not scientific. (Intervention)

---

**HON VENAANI:** Which scientist is that? You?

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** From my scientific research. The irony is that here it is coming from Venaani who is opposed to the ten hectares.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON VENAANI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Just be brief, do not make a statement.

---

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, briefly, Honourable Venaani is on record as opposing ten hectares, encouraging people not to accept ten hectares. Where are the people going to grow the buffalo grass if you say that they should not accept 10 hectares?

---

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Kazenambo Kazenambo, 10 hectares in Berseba is equal to 0,0% of land as opposed to 10 hectares in Caprivi. So if you have a universal 10 hectares legislation, saying ten hectare everywhere, it will not work. (Interjection). I was listening to you, you are a politician, listen.

I am talking about Hoodia and blue buffalo grass. You know, some of the Colleagues are keeping the society behind. Do not compare the number of people living in the northern areas with the size of land, look at the agricultural potential of the land. Now you are trying to divide the people amongst the land that is available. The capacity of the northern areas is such that they can grow buffalo grass like nobody's business. Yes, they can do that! There is no need for them to come and buy it from commercial farmers while they can do that. But the problem is – and I am also an emerging farmer – the mind-shift of emerging farmers and communal farmers, that they do not research some of these things. (Intervention)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Venaani, your time is virtually up. I will let you find a hefty one sentence and conclude.

---

**HON VENAANI:** In conclusion, I think the importance of the Motion is modernisation of the agricultural sector and the mindset of our people and the Government should play that role, they should not take 18 years to address the issue and I am done.

---

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON IILONGA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** It is my first time to make a contribution after the month of March which has given a very big blow to our Parliament, especially to SWAPO Party. Let me join my Comrades and Colleagues and express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of our heroes and heroines, such as Comrade Pandeni, Niko Bessinger, Julia Nepembe and let me say here, as is said in our SWAPO Party Anthem, *“their blood joins the blood of our ancestors to sustain us in the second phase of our struggle for economic emancipation.”* Also our Colleague, Kala, who was a freedom fighter, who was derailed by whatever cause, his blood joins those who fought for our freedom. May their souls rest in eternal peace. That is the salutation. (Interjection)

---

**HON MEMBER:** You already spoke on the Motion.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, I never spoke on this Motion. The Motion is a political Motion as moved. Therefore I just want to join the Comrades who said it was not supposed to have any element of politicising, linking it to the distribution of tractors before Independence. That is already a dilution of a very important Motion.

The motivation of the Motion is condemning the railway while the correct interpretation is to bring development to those subsistence farmers.

When you provide bulls, it will improve the productivity and the product will be improved and generate more and you were supposed to say in that very important Motion that these people could use the railways, which you term as a white elephant, to transport either meat or buffalo grass from Ondangwa to Oshikango to feed the animals.

They can even transport their bags of mahangu from Ondangwa to Onyaanya or from Onyaanya to Ondangwa, but all you do is condemn it.

Therefore I want to join the community of Rundu Rural West and say that the 24 votes that you got there is a response that they are not happy. Then I want to join the community of Entana, especially those who forget within 18 years that we

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

have people in Entana who lost their families. They do not even know where to go and stand to ask for courage from their fathers and mothers who might be part of those bones, but they say it is a waste of money. This is one of the problems of our Opposition, those who went to register, telling people that they must join them to develop the Rural Development Plan while their real name is the RDP, Rally for Democratic and many, many things.

Therefore, I just wanted to say that this Motion is already diluted and I say that this Motion has no value to be supported.

Secondly, you cannot mix this Motion with the flood. Flood is a natural disaster, action has already been taken by the Contingency Fund to look into this. Even those who bring many things here, it is not necessary. You cannot mix development that you want development and you condemn development. If you could use that strategy and say, "*now that we have the railway, even those bulls can be ferried easily.*" Do you want these bulls to be transported through this white elephant?

I really think the Motion must be taken off the Table at this time and we continue to see whether Daddy come up with good things.

With regard to the pensions, the Government of Namibia, under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, already has a standing directive that after every two years the pensions will be revised and that is continuing. It is the will of uplifting the lives of our people.

Therefore, I want to say I will not really go along with the Motion, I am totally against it. Thank you very much.

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, I really did not intend to participate in this Motion, because the first day when the Notice was given, I looked at the Motion and immediately I felt there was not going to be a controversy over this Motion. Who could say that there is no need for assistance to farmers in Caprivi? Nobody can actually say that. Nobody can argue that there should be no assistance to farmers in the Kavango, in Okaoko or the four O-Regions. Nobody can argue that there should not be assistance. Therefore, when

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

it was tabled I saw that as a straightforward thing, we shall talk about it and see how we can assist. Little did I know that there were different motives.

When I read this motivation, I got lost. I thought it was something else and I kept on looking for the motivation to the Motion until I was told this is the one.

Now, it is presumptuous and arrogant to expect SWAPO to accept its condemnation in this fashion. The motivation does not motivate the need for us to do the things that are in the body of the Motion, that is the assistance, it is to try to prove that SWAPO is bad and it has not done a, b, c, d and that is the bottom-line of the motivation. And then the motivation portrays SWAPO as a puppet of the DTA, they are only doing things after I have said it, therefore they are puppets. This is exactly what it is! We are only doing things because somebody else has said it. Do not think that we are so dumb.

We have a situation whereby, if SWAPO says *“let us move forward and do something”*, then you stand up and say, *“Look how undemocratic they are, they could have said let us walk forward.”* And when you do something, they say, *“Yes, we told you, now you are walking.”* This is what it is.

The Prime Minister has said this morning that all these things that have been said here have been done. The Prime Minister was talking here, saying how we have done it, to the extent that certain services have been terminated and some other things were put in their place. He was talking here, everybody was here.

What is that that we did not do that warrants this kind of attack on SWAPO?

I think when in future we want to talk about something of national importance like this one, we should shy away from bringing unnecessary attacks that will provoke situations whereby even things that ought to be supported will not be supported. Because by supporting this, we may be seen as supporting this motivation which is a condemnation of SWAPO. If it is intended to do so, it is unfortunate.

This Motion should not have been a controversial one, but the way that it was motivated, for us to support it would mean that we are also supporting what is in this motivation and that is where the problem is. Therefore, in the future let us know what we are doing.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON NAMBAHU**

That is why I said I was not going to talk, but I was provoked by the language of this motivation and in the presence of this motivation, I will have problems to support the Motion because they are linked together. I thank you.

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. It was not my intention to speak on this Motion, but given some of the contributions made, I am compelled to do just that.

Because I have not spoken for some time, let me just join my Colleagues who have expressed their sympathy and empathy for our Colleagues and Comrades who have passed on. Their names have been repeatedly said here and also to just echo Comrade Castro at some stage when he lost one of his right-hand men in the person of Camillo Cienfuegos when he said that the Cuban Revolution was blessed to have had him, but he takes solace that the people of Cuba gave him this hero, but there were many Camillo's amongst the people and it is up to the Revolution to discover them and polish them, just like we discover diamonds and polish them.

Having said that, I equally congratulate my Colleagues on the Government side, the Executive, for having awarded the highest honour in the land to Africa's greatest friend in the person of the Cuban revolutionary leader, Comrade Fidel Castro. It is a recognition which is due and it is something that was really an embodiment of the sentiments of the Namibian people towards the contribution made by this great man and great friend of Africa, for which I salute you, Comrades in the Executive.

At the same time, let me also congratulate the SWAPO Party for their resounding victory in Eenhana, especially having taken cognisance of some of the very reactionary utterances made by those that were participating in the elections. Comrade Mannetje was not able to put so clearly? For example, the comments that they were making in regard to the shrine was made in Oshiwambo, some of us were in front of our radios or television sets and the condemning was that these people do not know what they are doing, they are wasting money, building shrines even for people whom they do not know. I think it was a rejection of these kinds of utterances.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON NAMBAHU**

I think I have a Government and a Party that listens and I think it is also a lecture and a lesson to the Opposition to learn to listen. We are able to listen, as a result you will even see some of the contributions we have made reflected in the Budget. When you however make this kind of utterances and you want the votes of those people whom you are insulting, they will reject you on that basis, for you now to say the elections were not fair as if these people cannot reason. It is time that the notion that the grassroots do not listen and when they see us, they cannot reject the statement, that they cannot identify it. I think it was a resounding and deserved blow that they received because of the utterances they made. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Member aware that the spirit of violence was very high in Omuthiya and Eenhana whereby one person was killed and two were stabbed with knives? Is that not an unfair election?

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** Honourable Moongo, the other day you were castigating SWAPO for celebrating the victory that they have obtained in Omuthiya and you have probably not listened to the utterances that I am referring to. If you listen to the utterances I am referring to...(Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** May I ask my Colleague a question? Honourable Tommy Nambahu, you said that you listened with dismay to the ugly pronouncements of the gentleman. This gentleman was speaking on behalf of a certain Party as an advert. (Interjection)

---

**HON MOONGO:** At that time you were too young!

---

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** No, he was speaking two weeks ago, I was not too young two weeks ago. Okay, I was young, I am sure the Honourable Colleague was also young at some point. I listened with utter dismay when this gentleman was giving what one could call an advert, fulltime advert for around six minutes. Do you think it would have been

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON NAMBAHU**

appropriate for this most insensitive and insulting advert not to have been broadcast by our national broadcast institution? Do you think it would have been good for the country?

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** Comrade Doctor, I think my answer would be in two ways: Not broadcasting it would probably not have portrayed them in their true colours. So the National Broadcaster did us a favour by exposing these Colleagues for what they really are and our own people rejected them. (Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? For the last 45 minutes or so the Honourable Members, especially from the Ruling Party, have been providing us with information about Colleagues who have been saying certain things that we are not aware of. Are these Colleagues SWAPO Colleagues? Can they be more specific so that all of us can understand what they are talking about? Who are these SWAPO Colleagues that they are talking about?

Come out more clearly, say NUDO or DTA or CoD, so that even the public would know exactly what you are talking about, or SWAPO.

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** I should not name people in their absence because they not here, but they are actually referred to as the same common denominator as "*Opposition*". (Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Speaker, if someone wants to present his ideas or topic, it must be linked to himself. Our faces look different, therefore we do not want to be linked to all of you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Chief, you have made your contribution yesterday. That was when you were speaking about 9,000 cattle you purchased in Omangetti. You did make your contribution. I cannot give you the Floor unless you are rising on a technical point of order. You made a contribution to the Motion.

---

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON NAMBAHU**

**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. I do not want to be linked to nobody, if I put my proposal it is mine. My Motion is mine, but I do not want to be linked, as you want to say. That must be withdrawn.

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** Actually I was just saying these things because one Honourable Member from the Opposition Party, in the person of Honourable Moongo, was castigating SWAPO on the victory at Eenhana and for us to celebrate without actually knowing the background.

That is why there was no disassociation from those kinds of utterances. It is on that basis that I made the comment. (Intervention)

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Comrade Nambahu, we have CoD, D stands for Democrat, DTA, the D is for Democratic, UDF, the D is also Democratic, NUDO, the D. Do you not think they are the same? Are they not over-killing the word “*democracy?*”

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I do not think Honourable Nambahu is in a position to respond.

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** I think that is self-explanatory, so I will not go into things that are obvious and self-explanatory.

---

**HON VENAANI:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

---

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON NAMBAHU**

**HON NAMBAHU:** No, my time is going. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member listened to my speech, but I was trying to call SWAPO to order, because it is causing fighting, its political campaign is causing trouble. People were killed and people were cut with knives and we do not want this atmosphere in Namibia. We do not want SWAPO to dominate everything and intimidate.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** On a Point of Information. It is really downgrading the status of this House if Honourable Members who have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution of this Republic come to this House and advocate the untruth. The misinformation perpetuated by the Honourable Vice-President of the DTA should not go uncorrected. The person killed or stabbed with a knife at Omuthiya was a policewoman. The person killed at Omuthiya is the perpetrator of the stabbing of a policewoman, shot by the Police in self-defence. The allegation of persons stabbed at Okongo, Okongo is how many kilometres from Eenhana? We are talking about victory at Eenhana Constituency. Eenhana Constituency is more or less a hundred kilometres away from Okongo. The incident the Honourable Member is talking about had nothing to do with electioneering. I held a press conference to give information to the public as to what the findings of the Police investigations were and I know the Honourable Member knows the truth. Why is he trying to sell cheap propaganda information to the public? I just wanted to give this information, Comrade Speaker.

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** Thank you very much, Comrade Secretary-General for that accurate account of events that have transpired. (Interjection). We are not in the business of twisting and I think those words are not befitting of the person of the Secretary-General. I will continue with my speech. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, we want to be seen in SADC and the international world as a true democratic people and true democratic Parties. We do not want a campaign which can cost lives, we do not want a campaign which can cause mourning. You are now celebrating, you

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON NAMBAHU**

are supposed to know of the death of those people who were killed. You are not a hero because those people were killed due to your actions.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, keep the tempers down. Your allegation has been effectively rebutted by the Minister, so that matter should be settled. If you have a new point you can raise that. The allegation that you have made, the Minister of Justice explained quite clearly and effectively and that is what we read in the media. Therefore, do not repeat. You were wrong before, you are wrong again.

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** Comrade Speaker, thank you very much. Coming to the Motion, I do not have much to say apart from what has been said by my Senior Colleagues who made contributions earlier on.

The assistance to the farmers is actually a noble idea. It is something that is really affecting the lives of our people out there and any right-thinking mind, be it in this House or elsewhere, is compelled to support their plight. There is no question about that.

Obviously, I support for one – and I think it was also the position expressed by my Colleagues who spoke previously. I support the farmers to put them in the condition they were in before the advent of the floods and the advent of drought is something that we all should think of and obviously this is something done worldwide, people must be assisted. Those are the premises why the European Union are subsidising their farmers. It is a practice worldwide.

Now the problem arises when we make our Motions a Halloween basket, when we throw in all the other things and if you ask the SWAPO Government to listen and it has been doing so, I assure you that if you continue listening, the sky is the limit for us to be in power. I urge the Opposition Colleagues also to learn to listen, that they do come up with some ideas that are very constructive, but your motivation, as Dr Tjiriange put it, actually puts you back and you are trying to make us accomplices in this kind of conniving and putting in all kinds of ingredients to suit another agenda. If we can come up and maybe suggest that you go back and bring the same Motion but with a different motivation, that could be something somebody could consider and we are all patriots and I think we should just do that.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON NAMBAHU**

I however have serious difficulties in expressing support for the Motion in its current form and given the motivation.

When it comes to the other suggestions, I am not too familiar with and I am not an expert on buffalo grass and all these kinds of things, but when people talk about rural development, rural water supply, and the policy on integrated land use, then you come up with the projects that are feasible in a certain given area. I am not too sure what study has backed up the assertion that in the North, new grass or lucern or any other thing could be grown up there.

Even in Rietfontein we were looking at the possibilities of how much water do you need to irrigate a certain hectare of this kind of grass, but if a study is carried out, I would be very glad to have the benefit of that being forwarded to me. (Intervention)

---

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. Honourable Nambahu, blue buffalo grass is not irrigated, it only survives from the rain. The capacity of rain in the northern areas are much higher than the whole country.

Even farmers just south of the Red Line, be it from Oshivelo or Mururani, are planting a lot of it so that it can grow, it is scientifically proven it can grow. It is just the knowledge that is not there, even Hoodia too.

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** I have already put a disclaimer that I am not an expert in this kind of grass, but obviously, the other thing is the carrying capacity of the people that we have in the North, the hectare allocated to you by whoever it is. I do not know whether that study has been conducted in order to be able to determine whether that can be done and leave a portion ... (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** On a Point of Information. It is very simple, Honourable Venaani, just as in the communal area south of the Cordon Fence in the communal area, blue buffalo grass is not growing or where it is growing, it is not there because of over-stocking. It is the same in the North, it is over-populated by animals. Forget about planting grass there to

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

save the animals. You need to reduce the number of animals in the North. That will be the simple factor even if you want to introduce blue buffalo grass, but under the circumstances it is simply not possible – full-stop. (Interjection). Yes, get your facts right. We must turn around the minds of our people to reduce their herds in order to allow the carrying capacity to be able to save the animals, otherwise no. Why is it not done in the communal area here?

---

**HON NAMBAHU:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I actually wanted our argument to be backed by logic, by feasibility studies of whatever we are saying. It is on that point that I was rising. As much as I agree that we are politicians, we can say anything, it must also be something viable, something that can be done. It is in that context that I really feel that we must do proper research, make a proper study of whatever we are saying, and for people to listen to this House and identify with what we are saying, we need to give factually supported assertions.

It is with these few remarks that I am recommending to Honourable Kaura to go back and reframe this and motivate it, or otherwise I have nothing else left than to say in its current form it is unacceptable and we cannot support it.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, right from the beginning let me disclose my interest. I am a communal farmer and anything communal touches my heart.

When I entered Parliament yesterday and I saw this Motion on the Order Paper, I got so excited and I did not even wait to prepare my speech properly in the normal way of doing so, I enlisted to speak because I thought I had so much to offer to add my weight to the Mover of the Motion.

Hardly did I know that the motivation that accompanied that Motion was horrendous. I glanced through it yesterday and I thought Manneljie had given me a wrong paper, so I said no, it is not this one. Then I searched around and I listened, everybody who spoke since on the Motion were referring to the same paper. I apparently got the correct paper. I am really utterly disappointed; utterly disappointed that I am not able to make the intended contribution that I wanted to

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

make. Really, I put down my talking points, not many but they are here, but listening to the motivation, they have become too irrelevant.

Comrade Speaker, there is so much that we can offer by way of advising each other on what to do to our people in communal areas if our intention is well-meant. There is just so much because all of us, one way or the other, are related. If we are not communal farmers, we have relatives who are in communal areas or we have voters who are in communal areas. So it is our place and we only wish the best for our people, for our place.

But if the motive to move well-meaning Motions is to hide behind them, innuendos, insults, denigration and undermining others' intelligence, we are really just doing a disservice to ourselves, our people and those who watch what we do here in this House.

Comrade Speaker, on several occasions I have attempted to make a proposal. I know my proposal will one day be accepted in this House by all of us. I am not pinning my hopes on just the Ruling Party, because I said the communal area is our place, it is where our people live and their interests are ours, and therefore we should do the best for them.

I have been advocating, for example, the issue of according ownership to communal farmers for the little places they have. I have said it on two occasions, this is the third time that I am still advocating, because I see sense in what others have said and what I have said before. And even today I want to quote myself and others.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 in this Parliament I argued for the communal farmers to be given that privilege of owning land in the places of their birth. I will continue to hammer this point until I will sound like a broken record. Yes, I will continue to sing the song because I know for sure if we just accord our communal farmers that right, many of the problems we are encountering today will be addressed. The influx of people coming from communal farms, looking for a place in Windhoek, in Okahandja, in Walvis Bay is an attempt by our people to at least own something that they can feel proud of. Obviously, when they come here, they have no place to live, they squat and then we say, "*What should we do to these squatters, let us take sanitary services there and water*" and eventually these people get a place of their own.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

If we just design a system...(Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Attorney-General a question please for clarity? I listened to your speech, I like it very much but there is a small point that is not very clear to me.

Honourable Minister, you are talking about giving our people in communal areas a piece of land that they could call their own. Can you elaborate on that, because communal area at the present moment belongs to the State? Is the Honourable Minister now saying that this communal area should be subdivided into small economic units and be given to the people, either free or either to buy? I just need to be clear on that point.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you, it is a very important question. As we are speaking here today communal farmers occupy places, but they have no title to these places. I am not advocating for the creation of places elsewhere where to take them and say, "*This is yours.*" It is where they are.

My father used to have a mahangu field. I am saying that mahangu field should be registered in the Deeds Office as a plot of my father. That is inheritable. (Interjection). Just listen, you can come in with your own angle, I am talking about our thing, I am not talking about my thing. You can come in with your own angle. (Interjection)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** You are saying what we are supposed to do in a clear way. Let the Minister continue and put her issue in a very accurate way. Now we are deviating from what we have on the Table. I think she has to continue without interruptions.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you Honourable Speaker and Honourable Chief for the protection. I was going to

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

move to the point of saying, I am convinced that giving our people title to the land they have been occupying is the right thing to do.

When you go around in communal areas, you find the most beautiful structures, the most valuable structures, the shops, the houses, the whatnot, but these properties have no value and that is exactly why you see when somebody who occupies this beautiful structure, nobody respects it. The relatives will come, this one is taking off the corrugated iron, the other one is taking out the window-frames, the other one is pushing out the doors, because there is no value attached to these properties and I am asking myself, for how long are we going to do this? (Intervention)

---

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I have a small question. I entirely agree with the logic of the Attorney-General and I hope that that logic will be contingent to other things happening. I have no problem with that, giving the Title Deed, but in some areas, and this is where the question comes. In some areas that I know, at least in the reserves that I know around here, there are people who are occupying land, who have camped off huge lands that they are using themselves and turned others out. I hope when we are talking about giving title, we are not including those ones. Otherwise you will have the communal areas being given to few people and others are excluded. Therefore, I think we are not talking about what you are occupying physically is necessarily that what you are going to get.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Comrade Speaker, obviously I am not... (Intervention)

---

**HON RIRUAKO:** Let the Minister continue until she has finished and then we can take care of whatever. We have no-man lands and we cannot leave that land empty without any construction. Let her finish what she is supposed to say and then we will come to that.

---

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Comrade Speaker, I am not advocating for something that is already formulated, it is an idea that I am selling. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** I want to thank the Minister for realising the problem in the communal area.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I did not expect things being attributed to the Minister. She neither stated nor implied in what you are saying. She is thinking aloud. This is not the first time that I myself, in the assignment that you gave to the Speaker, raised this point vigorously last year. Legislation will come later. How exactly it is going to be done, if it is going to be done, will come later. I think the Minister is just stating her ideas and convictions and if in the process she succeeds in convincing the House, when we come to the stage of legislation it will make your task easier as Lawmakers. Minister, continue.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, for that clarification. (Intervention)

---

**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Information. I would like to share information with the Minister and everybody here on ownership.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Moongo, did you get what I said?

---

**HON MOONGO:** I wanted just to share with you information. You need the information. If you do not have that information, then we will waste our time to listen. The information is that all Traditional Authorities right in the North – I do not know about other Regions – we have received forms already and then the one who occupies a mahangu field will fill it in and then during this year it will be

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

approved by the Government so that that mahangu field will belong to you forever. This is in the process and this is the information I wanted to share, but the small farms, say *Oohambo* and the others, about those ones I am not sure, but we already filled in our forms, every homestead already filled in the forms.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Comrade Speaker, I wanted to motivate why I am convinced that our communal people should be given the opportunity to have title deeds over the land that they have been living on, because ... (Intervention)

---

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, I really want to ask the Honourable Minister a small question just for clarity. Honourable Minister, listening to your contribution, it reminds me of the Motion that was brought by Honourable Venaani on Property Rights which at the present moment we are still waiting for the Report to be tabled. Listening to what you are saying, it seems as if you are now opening up a Motion that was discussed in this House. We are now waiting for a recommendation from the community and we are discussing it again. Are you not going to the same contribution that we made in that Motion? Are you opening it up so that we can discuss it all over again before we see the Report?

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I will listen to the Minister and should I discover that, then I will rule.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Comrade Speaker, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2005 I raised the same issue here in Parliament. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 I raised the same issue here. I am not motivated by the Motion that was here. What motivated me was the Motion without its motivation. When I saw it, I thought we cannot talk about aiding communal farmers on a piecemeal. We cannot aid them on a piecemeal, but we should look at the larger picture and the larger picture includes getting them Title Deed to the land.

Please, when the policy is formulated in that regard, it will come here, it can go national, we can debate it, we can put it the way ... (Intervention)

---

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Those who have not taken the Floor who would want to contribute later can do so, but I want the Minister, who is the only person now speaking, to have the Floor and to make her point.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** When you are speaking and others interrupt, you lose track of what you wanted to say.

Comrade Speaker, my motivation is based on those facts. Imagine what is happening currently. Many places are becoming towns and those farmers whose places are identified for Local Authority development are moved from the land they have been occupying time immemorial.

Since the land they live on is said to be State land, they have no right to demand what is due and my question is, for how long are we going to continue depriving our people of their right to ask what is due to them as per what the Constitution is providing. In commercial areas, as the railway line was moving to Ondangwa, commercial farmers were compensated in accordance with the Constitution. When it reached...(Intervention)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Deputy Minister, you are deliberately denying the Honourable Minister to make her contribution. She is entitled to make her own contribution without anything from you.

---

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** When it went to the North, the communal farmers were paid because of the trees and whatnot – Peanuts! Peanuts! And then rightly so peanuts because there is no law that protects their interest and for how long are we going to have our people without the right to own anything just because they live in communal areas? Really, this is where I strongly felt I should come in this discussion to bring this angle to the Motion. Alas, the motivation is something else and I really regret it that the Honourable Member had to motivate such a well-intended Motion in this fashion.

09 April 2008

**PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Therefore, it put some of us in a dilemma whether to support such a Motion with ill-intended motivation or to disown it and truly, I am going to do that unless the Honourable Colleague promises that he is going to withdraw his motivation and replace it with something at least acceptable to this House.

With those few words, Honourable Speaker, I rest my case.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** And on that note the House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

---

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:47 UNTIL 2008.04.10 AT 14:00**

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
10 APRIL 2008  
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

**HON SPEAKER** took the Chair and read Prayers and the Affirmation.

---

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia has arrived at the premises of our Parliament and I shall now leave the Chamber to bring the President into this Honourable House. I would therefore ask the Honourable Members to stay at attention until I return with His Excellency the President. The House stands briefly recessed until I return.

---

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER**

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Your Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, my Colleague, Chairman of the National Council, Honourable Members of Parliament, fellow Namibians.

In terms of Article 32(2) of the Namibian Constitution, *“the President shall each year during the consideration of the official Budget attend Parliament. During such session the President shall address Parliament on the State of the Nation and on the future policies of the Government and shall report on the policies of the previous year and shall be available to respond to questions.”*

This will be the fourth opportunity since 2005 for President in Cabinet to grace our august House once again. We are happy to welcome you back, Your Excellency, to your former regular place of work for 15 years. As Head of State and Government you inspire national vision, set policy priorities for development and legislative agenda of our Republic. Parliament supports your great efforts, as repeatedly confirmed by leaders of Political Parties represented in Parliament.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

We encourage our Government to be proactive and inclusive in development planning and action. Of particular interest for us is investment in Namibia's youth. It is the best insurance policy, we dare not forget to safeguard peace, national unity and sustainable social development.

Change does not bury the gains of the past, it only adds new thinking and dynamism to heritage for further progress. Nobody can quarrel with a good thing and for making everybody feeling happy and positive about life. It is hard work but there is no alternative. This calls for working harder to turn the economy around and making its productive sectors achieving higher and sustainable growth, social progress and prosperity that our people so dearly expect.

We are aware, Comrade President, that you want all Namibians joined by partners and friends to overcome the stubborn challenges of the economy and to keep in step with the demands of Vision 2030 and Millennium Development Goals.

I now have the distinct honour and personal pleasure to invite President Hifikepunye Pohamba to deliver the State of the Nation Address. Your Excellency.

---

**HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA:** Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, the first Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Your Honour, the Judge President, Honourable Members of Parliament, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Invited Guests, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I stand before this joint sitting of our august Parliament to fulfil an important constitutional duty of informing you, my compatriots, about the State of the Nation. Article 32 of the Namibian Constitution enjoins the President, after the tabling of the National Budget, to inform the Nation, through Parliament, about the policies and programmes of Government in the preceding year as well as its plans for the new Financial Year. This occasion also serves another equally important purpose, namely, to reaffirm our commitment to the principles of accountability, transparency and good governance. The framers

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

of the Supreme Law of the land, the Namibian Constitution, saw it fit to put in place a framework of checks-and-balances that regulates interactions among the three organs of State. This is one of the central pillars of our democratic traditions that have made it possible for our country to develop and build strong public institutions and systems.

We take pride in the fact that our constitutional democracy continues to flourish and function, providing us with the socio-political space to implement policies and programmes aimed at transforming our society and improving the living conditions of all our people through effective service delivery. Today, I intend to inform the Namibian Nation about the implementation of Government policies and programmes during the 2007/2008 Financial Year, as well as our plans for the new financial year, covering the 2008/2009 period.

The implementation of policies and programmes of our SWAPO Party Government is carried out within the context of our stated development priorities that are encapsulated in our National Development Plans, the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and Vision 2030.

These policy documents spell out the priority areas on which we must focus, while guiding the actions of both political principals and members of the civil service towards the achievement of our stated objectives.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the period under review was characterised by intensified focus by our Government to expand and improve service delivery in all priority areas. Particular attention was given to the plight of orphans and vulnerable children, the youth and school learners, the elderly, war veterans, the San, Ovaherero, Ovambo and the rural poor.

Attention was also given to the provision of better health care, expansion of electricity with special emphasis to rural areas, promotion of sanitation with special focus to peri-urban areas, provision of potable water, expansion of infrastructure, employment creation and food production.

Contingency plans were also activated to assist those affected by natural disasters, such as the drought and the floods.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

The successful implementation of public policies must be supported by a vibrant and strong economy. Thus, specific attention must be given to different sectors of our economy in order to improve economic growth, support job creation initiatives and enable the small and medium enterprises to grow stronger and create more employment opportunities for Namibians.

At the international level, the global economy has seen increased levels of inflation, marked particularly by high prices of oil and food. These pressures have also been felt in the Namibian economy.

Namibia is working with other countries in the SADC Region to promote deeper regional economic integration and cooperation.

In August last year, SADC Member States signed the Finance and Investment Protocol to facilitate cooperation and coordination in the critical areas of finance and investments. The aim is to diversify and expand the productive sectors, enhance inter-regional trade, achieve sustainable economic development and eradicate poverty.

We have been pursuing negotiations towards the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement. Namibia raised a number of issues during negotiations and endorsed the Joint Text in December last year.

We did this on the understanding that our concerns will be addressed through further negotiations as SADC Member States prepare to re-engage the EU in negotiations once again.

Other initiatives aimed at promoting regional economic integration are the SADC Free Trade Area and the SADC Customs Union. Plans are under way to launch the SADC Free Trade Area during the SADC Summit in August this year. The Region has also started with the establishment of the SADC Customs Union. In this regard, a Customs Union Trade Team has been established to carry the preparatory work forward. Our hope is to launch the SADC Customs Union in 2010. When implemented, these regional trade and investment configurations will bring many economic benefits to the people of our Region.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, we look back at the period under review with a sense of satisfaction regarding the pace of implementation of programmes and projects, as well as delivery of services by various Offices, Ministries and Agencies of Government.

Earlier in my statement, I reiterated our resolve to assist and improve the lot of the vulnerable groups in our society and other crucial constituencies, such as the veterans of the liberation struggle, school-leavers, youth, women, rural communities and the workers. I will now provide a catalogue of Government action across a spectrum of these areas during the period under review, while highlighting our plans for the new Financial Year.

The social sectors of health, education and housing, and provision of water and social grants have continued to enjoy Government attention. Programmes to combat the spread of HIV/Aids pandemic have been intensified. In this regard, voluntary testing is now being offered at 110 health facilities countrywide.

The prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) has been rolled out to 60% of public health facilities. The number of people who are eligible to receive state-funded Anti-Retroviral Treatment has increased and now stands at more than 41,000. The training of health workers and community counsellors is ongoing to make the programme a success. I urge all Namibians who are infected by the virus to sign up and receive anti-retroviral treatment. Our Government has developed a national strategy to reduce incidents of maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. Measures have also been put in place to address risks of communicable diseases, such as cholera, malaria, wild polio and typhoid fever in the face of the present floods. The outbreak of cholera in some parts of northern Namibia is under constant surveillance. I applaud the work of all the teams involved in these efforts as well as the cooperation of the community. This has resulted in relatively low rates of fatalities.

In order to expand access to health care, new health facilities, particularly clinics, have been built in our rural areas. Our Government has also intensified training programmes for health care professionals in conjunction with our development cooperation partners such as Cuba, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Russia and other countries.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

The University of Namibia has started to offer courses for pre-medical studies for our future doctors while the Polytechnic is offering new training programmes for environmental health professionals and medical laboratory technicians.

The establishment of a cardiac unit this year will provide more affordable care to our people who will no longer travel abroad for treatment. We also look forward to the establishment of a local medical school to train doctors.

Assistance to orphans and vulnerable children remains a priority, which is being implemented under the National Policy on OVCs. A Plan of Action on OVCs was launched in October last year to supplement ongoing interventions. The Government has started with the process of establishing a National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Database to ensure proper record keeping and planning. This will facilitate efficient provision of services to needy children. At present, 90 126 orphans and vulnerable children are receiving grants through the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

The grant amounts to N\$200 for the first child and N\$100 for every additional child per one parent or foster parent. A new initiative has been launched by our Government with the support of UNICEF to support OVCs in Omaheke, Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena and Omusati Regions. It focuses on strengthening the capacity of communities to care for OVC's through training, awareness campaigns and income generating projects.

The welfare of the veterans of Namibia's liberation struggle has been a source of concern, as many continue to live in difficult conditions of unemployment and poverty. These brave sons and daughters of Namibia deserve to be assisted. I am happy that the process of addressing their plight has been intensified with the establishment of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and the passing of the Veterans Bill.

Consultations have started with relevant stakeholders to facilitate the registration of eligible veterans before they can start receiving their grants. The Budget for the 2008/2009 Financial Year provides for the payment of N\$2,000 per veteran per month.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

The social safety net for the elderly is also being strengthened. The new Budget increases social grants to the amount of N\$450 per month. Financial support to give our senior citizens decent burials when they pass on will also continue to be provided.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, our Nation's future depends on our youth who must be moulded to participate actively in the social and economic development of our country. Our Government recognises the challenges faced by our youth, especially the risks of HIV/AIDS infection, unemployment, unplanned pregnancies, drug abuse and other social vices. I wish to assure the Namibian people of our Government's resolve to create opportunities for all our youth to realise their full potential.

The pro-youth policy interventions that are in place will be strengthened. Already, the National Youth Service Scheme is making a difference in the lives of many young Namibians by giving them new skills and competencies. I call upon the private sector to open their doors to thousands of our youth who go through the training programmes of the National Youth Service by offering them employment, apprenticeships and scholarships to study further. We are conscious that the Post-Independence generation is slowly but surely coming of age. Those who were born after Independence will this year exercise their democratic right to vote. This is, therefore, a critical time for our country to reflect deeply on the challenges facing our youth today. A Nation with a well-educated youth who aim for excellence is a Nation with a brighter future. Therefore, the future of our country can only be secured if we give them the necessary skills to compete in the modern economy.

The backlog in the provision of adequate and affordable housing is a challenge that is being addressed. The shortage is most vivid in rural and peri-urban areas. Legal mechanisms exist to address the shortage of housing in proclaimed areas.

This has facilitated investment in the provision of housing by the National Housing Enterprise in our towns and cities. In 2006/2007, more than N\$30 million were invested in the construction of new houses. For the 2007/2008 period, an amount of about N\$76.2 million was Budgeted to build 700 new homes.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

However, the situation is more critical in rural communities, where it has become difficult to acquire building materials for traditional dwellings and where NHE is unable to invest. The current floods have destroyed traditional homes in many communities. Innovative ways must be found to prevent our rural communities from becoming homeless. A balance must be found between the imperative of environmental conservation and the need to meet the housing needs of rural Namibians. As it now stands, there is a policy vacuum whereby Government is constrained to address the housing needs of citizens who reside in non-proclaimed areas. This gap must be closed through innovative policy initiatives. Housing is one of the basic needs in human existence and it is central to the achievement of our long-term national development goals.

We are slowly but surely reaching our target of providing the majority of our communities with clean drinking water. During the review period, many existing boreholes were rehabilitated while new ones were drilled. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has started to build earth dams to harvest water during the rainy season for use during the dry periods. This will hopefully alleviate the problem faced by many rural communities to provide water for their livestock.

The network of water pipelines criss-crossing the country has reached many communities in remote areas. An amount of N\$25 million is available in the current Budget to continue with the work of providing more Namibians with clean drinking water. I am concerned by reports that in some areas the water infrastructures have been vandalised. This should not be tolerated and those engaging in such destructive behaviours should face the full wrath of the law.

In this respect, community members should remain on alert to protect their water points.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, another important indicator of socio-economic upliftment is the provision of electric power to households, businesses, industries and public institutions such as schools, hospitals and other facilities. Again, it is in the rural and peri-urban areas where the supply of electricity is disproportionately low. It is also in these areas where the effects of the limited availability of this important catalyst are most visible in the form of lower school pass rates, unemployment, higher rates of crime,

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

poor hygiene, etcetera. We will continue to intensify electrification in rural and peri-urban areas to address these problems.

At the same time, more efforts must be made to promote and expand the use of alternative and renewable sources of energy such as solar power. In light of the power shortages in the SADC Region, I encourage Namibians to use facilities such as the Solar Revolving Fund, which is supplied by Government, to acquire solar power installations.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, a vibrant economy is crucial for the achievement of our national development goals. In this regard, we must continue to introduce and implement innovative policies to foster economic growth, job creation and competitiveness. Our efforts aimed at attracting investments and promoting employment creation is being implemented by a number of agencies, such as the Development Bank of Namibia, the Offshore Development Company and the Namibia Investment Centre.

In 2007, the Development Bank of Namibia financed projects in various sectors of our economy such as energy, mining, telecommunications, health, road infrastructure and manufacturing. This funding has resulted in the creation of more than 2,000 new jobs.

In partnership with Bank Windhoek, the Bank has also provided support to the small and medium enterprises sector, under its Special Development Fund extending just under N\$60 million to 74 small and medium enterprises and creating 586 jobs. In addition, the Off-Shore Development Company also facilitated the establishment of new business ventures.

These include the launching of a granite polishing factory at Walvis Bay and the establishment of new diamond cutting and polishing factories. The establishment of the Namibia Diamond Trading Company to sell Namibian diamonds to local companies has increased interest for investments under the auspices of our Economic Processing Zone. These activities are contributing to the realisation of our objectives towards increased value addition, industrialisation and exports of value-added goods.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

Investigations are continuing to recover funds that went missing at ODC. The Nation will be informed at an appropriate time regarding progress made in this case.

I am happy to report that new industrial infrastructures were completed during the review period.

In May last year, I commissioned the David Shikomba Business Park at Ongwediva. Small and Medium Enterprises Business Parks were also commissioned at Oshikuku and Katwitwi. Similar facilities to promote economic growth and business activities are planned in different parts of the country. At Oshakati, land has been acquired for the construction of the Agro-Food Processing Centre.

Feasibility studies for the development of an Automotive Hub at Walvis Bay, Business Parks at Outjo, Okakarara, Helao Nafidi and Ongwediva have been completed. Similar facilities are being planned for Karasburg, Omaruru, Okahandja and other places where they do not exist.

After consideration, Cabinet has rescinded its earlier decision to dissolve the NDC and directed that the company should be restructured and given a new mandate. It will no longer be involved in financing of enterprises as this is provided for in the mandate of the Development Bank of Namibia. In this regard, the NDC Act and the Development Bank of Namibia Act will be amended in order to give effect to this arrangement.

New jobs generated by our economy have not been sufficient to reduce the level of unemployment significantly. This calls for united action on the part of Government and the private sector to promote sustainable economic growth in the Land of the Brave. In fact, all economic actors must join this endeavour so that, together, we can improve Namibia's future economic trajectory.

The growth in the mining sector has been encouraging, marked notably by the opening of new uranium mines in the country. The mines have not only raised our country's investment profile internationally, but they have also created new employment opportunities for our people.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

We look forward to the commissioning of new uranium mines in the near future, when the Valencia deposit and Trekkopje Project come on stream. In general, the value of exported minerals has increased considerably due to high demand in international markets.

Exploration activities for various minerals such as oil, gold, diamonds and uranium are continuing. A viable gold deposit has been discovered at Oshikoto, where a new mine could be commissioned next year. Diamond exploration has increased in the Kavango and Caprivi Regions. An agreement signed last year between our Government and De Beers ensures that 16% of all cuttable diamonds mined locally are sold to companies operating in Namibia.

There are now sixteen diamond cutting and polishing factories in the country. Mineral licences have been granted to two companies to explore the viability of exploiting limestone deposits in Erongo and Otjozondjupa Regions for the production of cement.

Our Government has also allocated N\$15 million to support small-scale miners to enable them to improve their incomes. Despite challenging environmental conditions, the fisheries sector continues to thrive, maintaining a workforce of some 13 400 people. Last year, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources completed the implementation of the Vessel Monitoring System. As a result, each fishing vessel licensed in Namibia is now fitted with an Automatic Location Communicator, except for those exempted by relevant regulations. Authorities are now able to track and monitor the movements of fishing vessels operating in our exclusive economic zone and adjacent international waters. This has become an important tool in the protection, conservation and sustainable utilisation of our Marine Resources. Complementing these measures is the acquisition of a new Fishing Patrol Aircraft which was delivered and deployed for service in November last year.

Ongoing training programmes at the Namibia Maritime and Fisheries Institute have produced a corps of qualified personnel who are now serving the Namibian fishing industry. In order to take stock of developments in this sector over the last 18 years, and to chart a sustainable future course, an International Fisheries Conference will be hosted in the country this year.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

The aquaculture sub-sector is showing promise with new projects having been launched in different parts of the country. The Kamutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute which will be inaugurated next month, will provide deeper knowledge about this sub-sector through applied research. The Government has commissioned studies to investigate the potential of aquaculture in different Regions of the country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, our Government fully supports the strengthening of the tourism sector. We, therefore, welcome the opening of new tourism facilities such as the Sossus Dune Lodge and the International Tourism Access Facilities at the Mata Mata and Sendelingsdrift Border Posts. Our Government will continue to support the good efforts of our State-Owned Enterprise, Namibia Wildlife Resorts. Through the upgrading and establishment of tourism facilities, a number of jobs have been created for Namibian citizens. I would therefore like to congratulate Namibia Wildlife Resorts and look forward to the establishment of more tourist facilities, especially in the Etosha National Park, so that more job opportunities can be created. The Etosha Centenary Celebrations last year exposed our tourism sector to increased international focus.

I am happy to report that according to the latest Tourism Satellite Account research released by the World Travel and Tourism Council for the period 2009 to 2018, Namibia is projected to have the fastest growth in travel and tourism industry in the world. Our tourism sector is also projected to produce the second highest projected growth in terms of contribution to GDP which is projected at 10.5% per annum. Direct employment is projected at 7.4% over the same period. These statistics provide a good indicator for achieving our national objectives as set out in Vision 2030. I am happy to report that Namibia's elephant management plan has been approved. This paves the way for the sale of ivory within the framework of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Tourism goes hand-in-hand with the conservation of our natural ecosystems. As such, we welcome the passing of the Environment Management Bill by our Parliament to support our existing conservation measures.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, food production is at the centre stage of our drive to combat poverty.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Through the Seeds and Fertiliser Subsidy Scheme, our Government has started to provide fertilisers to mahangu and maize farmers in order to improve crop yields.

The Ministry will conduct training and demonstration sessions to create awareness and best practices among the beneficiaries of the scheme. In the same vein, AgriBank will soon start to offer training and support to emerging farmers in the areas of livestock and crop production.

Another initiative will involve the provision of reduced interest rates on loans to emerging farmers with a view to improving profitability and long-term sustainability of farming operations. More Namibians are accessing and utilising the services offered by AgriBank to improve their farming operations. During the review period, more than 350 loans amounting to nearly N\$60 million were approved by AgriBank.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the Government has a duty to plan for the expansion and maintenance of our physical and communication infrastructure, which is the backbone and a crucial catalyst for the smooth running of our economy and the movement of people and goods. In this light, Government Ministries and State-Owned Enterprises have implemented various capital projects in different sectors.

The construction of the new office block at the new State House has been completed. It was inaugurated during the 18th Independence Anniversary celebrations this year and many of the Honourable Members were invited. I do hope they attended the opening of the State House. The construction of the Presidential Residence has started.

During the review period, 373 kilometres of gravel roads were upgraded to bitumen standards, while the construction of a major highway from Rundu to Elundu has started.

This is an important project not only for Namibia, but also for the SADC Region in terms of regional trade and commerce. It is expected to cost about N\$81.05 million. In addition, workers are already on site to rehabilitate the road between Okahandja and Karibib, which road forms a vital link in the

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

Trans-Kalahari Corridor. The Eiseb-Otjinene-Epukiro and the Gam-Eiseb Road will be gravelled.

Our Government has also funded the labour-based gravelling of approximately 160 kilometres of rural roads in Caprivi, Erongo, Kavango, Kunene and Oshikoto Regions. Many people will be employed during the construction phase of these projects. The construction of feeder roads is aimed at improving transport for rural communities and to promote trade.

The expansion and rehabilitation of our rail network is on track. We celebrated the completion of Phase One of the Northern Railway Extension Project which heralded a new era of rail transportation in Northern Namibia. We look forward to the completion of Phase Two which will reach the border town of Oshikango, from where it will eventually be linked to the Angolan Rail Network as part of Trans-Kunene Railway Project. Cargo transport on the Northern Railway Extension Project has seen remarkable growth with a positive impact on our economy.

The volume of cargo transport from Tsumeb to Ondangwa grew from 38,911 metric tonnes to 118,874 metric tonnes between April 2006 and February 2008. During the same period, cargo from Ondangwa to Tsumeb grew from 324 metric tonnes to 1,711 metric tonnes. This phenomenal growth shows that the project has a positive impact on our economy. I have no doubt that the volume of cargo will continue to increase.

We also look forward to the completion of the upgrading of the runway at the Walvis Bay Airport in October this year. The runway is being upgraded to accommodate larger aircraft, both for passenger and cargo transport.

Other important infrastructures that also have economic significance are our ports. NamPort has compiled a master plan for expansion of our ports. The Plan has assumed a regional dimension, in line with our focus on regional economic integration.

This regional focus was strengthened with the creation of Walvis Bay Corridor Group as well as the Trans-Caprivi, Trans-Kalahari, Trans-Kunene and Trans-Orange initiatives, linking the ports of Walvis Bay and Lüderitz with Angola, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe via the surfaced road

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

network. This new orientation will reposition Namibia as a key player in regional economic integration and sea-borne trade between SADC and the rest of the world.

Over the next 5 years, our ports will undergo major upgrading to increase efficiency, improve capacity to handle larger cargo vessels and provide additional services to clients. These include lengthening the commercial quay, deepening the ports to 16 metres, providing a dedicated fishing quay, acquiring ship-to-shore cranes, establishing an offshore ship repair facility and building a bulk storage facility among others.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, all sectors of our economy must embrace the information technology revolution. This is vital for the Namibian economy to remain competitive. It will also enable citizens to communicate with each other better and for businesses to deliver goods and services to the consumers in a timely manner.

I am glad that Namibian companies in the information communication technology sector are able to bring Namibian consumers the latest services and products, such as broadband internet access and mobile telephone services. Our Government is in the process of introducing the Communications Bill. When passed, it will establish a new Communications Regulatory Authority for Namibia to regulate electronic communication networks and services.

It will also facilitate the reorganisation of the State-Owned companies in the information communication technology sector. It is for this reason that I restructured the old Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the new Ministry of Information and Communication Technology.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, there is a strong correlation between the ability of the Government to deliver efficient public services and the professionalism and dedication of the Civil service. A strong correlation also exists between the Government's ability to deliver *vis-à-vis* the regulatory mechanisms and frameworks that we have put in place. In this context, the deployment of the Civil service and the resources at our disposal must all be geared towards the achievement of our stated objectives.

This calls for proper planning and co-ordination of all Government activities.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBHA**

I have said it in the past and I will say it again, that in the implementation process, the left hand must know what the right hand is doing and *vice versa*. After all, the provision of public amenities, the promotion of economic growth, the prevention of crime, the building of stronger communities and the attainment of Vision 2030 are all interrelated. We can only move forward with greater confidence if we make sure that all Government activities are well coordinated.

We will not relent in our pursuit to strengthen the capacity of the civil service to deliver more efficiently and effectively. Towards this end, the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management will be established soon. Another important measure is the completion of the Public Service-wide Strategic Planning Process. This will streamline and harmonise planning and goal setting in the public service. It will also reintroduce the Performance Management System so that each civil servant can be held accountable for the agreed goals and targets of performance.

The majority of Offices, Ministries and Agencies have completed their strategic plans, while others are in the process of doing so.

Our overall aim is to promote excellence across all aspects of service delivery, accelerate implementation of public policies, and reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks and red tape. Delays in the issuing of national documents, registration of companies, and the backlog in our courts, inefficiencies at our ports of entry and other delays in all areas of service delivery should become a thing of the past. The Public Service infrastructure must be fine-tuned so that it can operate professionally.

I am glad to report that, despite challenges, public service delivery has improved in many areas. The past headache caused by delays in the issuing of national identity documents has largely been resolved. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has equipped ten vehicles to serve as mobile offices for the registration of national documents. This will provide welcome relief for many citizens who will no longer have to travel long distances to apply for or to collect their national documents. The waiting period for passports and various types of visas and permits will also be reduced drastically through an automation system. Plans are underway to install an integrated system linking the issuing of permits with the Border Control Management System.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the administration of justice is a central feature of our constitutional democracy and the Rule of Law. Thus, everything must be done to ensure that our Courts dispense justice speedily in line with the provisions of the Namibian Constitution. It is for this reason that measures have been implemented to address the backlog of cases on our Court Rolls. I agree with the sentiment that justice delayed is justice denied. For this reason, we as a Government should not be seen to be denying justice to anyone.

The establishment of two Regional Offices of the Ombudsman at Oshakati and Keetmanshoop is a welcome development. This must be accompanied by an aggressive education campaign to sensitise communities about the work and mandate of the Ombudsman.

It will encourage members of these two communities and other Namibians to enforce their rights whenever, and wherever they are violated.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, we can only achieve excellence in service delivery and good governance if our systems for enforcing accountability and transparency are strong. Towards this end, the work of our compliance enforcement agencies must be supported. Here I have in mind the work of the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Ombudsman and the Office of the Auditor General. The auditing function is crucial to ensure that funds allocated to various public bodies are utilised responsibly and for the stated purpose. I am informed that the Office has carried out various performance audits dealing with procurement, trophy hunting, medical stores, police vehicles, disaster management, over-crowding in prisons and holding cells as well as capital projects.

We look forward to the tabling of these audits to hear and see what they reveal. I am pleased to report that, through hard work, the Auditor-General has been able to clear the backlog on the Audit Reports of Government Institutions. I urge all relevant Institutions to ensure that Namibia develops a complete and reliable system of accounting for all public assets, starting from fixed to mobile assets of different kinds.

These assets belong to the Namibian people and Government should be able to account for each and every item.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the drought and floods which occurred during the review period have devastated many communities. Many farmers lost substantial numbers of livestock to both the drought and the heavy rains that followed. As if that was not enough, the floodwater inundated large parts of northern and north-eastern Namibia. Given the magnitude of the challenge, I declared the flood situation in Namibia a "*national disaster*". The flood has claimed several human lives and caused destruction to businesses, homes, public facilities, roads and bridges as well as crop fields.

It has also caused the outbreak of water borne diseases such as cholera and malaria.

Our Government has mobilised resources to deal with the impact of the flood and provide relief to those affected. Several families have been evacuated from their flooded homes and placed in temporary shelter. A Disaster Co-ordinating Committee has been established to oversee relief efforts. An in-depth assessment will be made to determine the extent of the damage caused to our national infrastructures, such as roads and bridges, in order to determine the resources required to repair the damage. I wish to express my appreciation to our citizens, businesses, Non-Governmental Organisations and our development cooperation partners who have supported our relief efforts. Your assistance is highly appreciated.

I also thank our neighbouring countries who have come to our rescue during this national disaster. This solidarity has, once again, underlined the importance of our engagement with other countries at the regional, continental and international levels.

The period under review was a busy one on the diplomatic front. As part of our commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Namibia and other States, I visited a number of countries. Namibia was also honoured to host nine Heads of State and Government and other dignitaries who visited our country. During these visits, a number of important agreements in various areas of cooperation were signed.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

With a view to expanding and strengthening our representation abroad, Namibia opened new diplomatic missions in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United Republic of Tanzania. I also commissioned new Ambassadors and High Commissioners to represent Namibia abroad, while I received numerous Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Namibia during the past year.

The hosting of the Namibia International Investors Conference in Windhoek, which I co-chaired with His Excellency President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, has opened up new opportunities for foreign direct investments in our country.

At multilateral level, Namibia has remained actively engaged in efforts towards promoting international peace, security and sustainable social and economic development within the framework of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN). In this context, we actively participated in a number of Heads of State and Government Summits such as, the Southern African Development Community Summit, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the EU-Africa Summit. We remain an active member of the African Union Committee of Ten on the Reform of the United Nations.

Namibia was also elected to the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group during the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

I am pleased to mention that Namibia successfully concluded our mission to Liberia as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission and stands ready to make similar contributions in future under SADC, the African Union and the United Nations.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, I address this august House at a time when the economic situation here in Namibia and the rest of the world is not very favourable. This has caused difficulties for many families as a result of the increase in the price of basic commodities and services such as food, fuel and transport. Our Government is working hard to weather these difficult times. We are confident that through prudent macro-economic policies, we will be able to bring more prosperity to our people. In order to do this, however, we must act pragmatically and with reasoned judgment at all

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

times. That is what good leadership is all about.

The current economic situation should not be a cause for alarm. Our economic fundamentals remain strong and this gives us strong hope for the future. It also ensures that the state of our Nation remains strong. We must use the available opportunities and our comparative advantages to build and reinforce a stronger foundation for competitiveness and prosperity. Namibians should join hands in the Nation's quest to make our country better. This is our home and our motherland. It is the place that we call home, and the place where the future generations will call home. Let us make it better for the present and the future generations.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, despite the remaining challenges, we can look at the period under review with a sense of accomplishment because the implementation of our policies is progressing. There are many areas where improvement is definitely needed. We need to redouble our efforts to improve the state of education. We need to accelerate the delivery of housing, electricity and health care. At the same time, we need to expand access to services for our communities to enjoy modern amenities and services. We need to do more to promote economic activities, to economically empower the previously disadvantaged communities and create employment opportunities for our people.

These are real challenges that we now face and will continue to face in the foreseeable future. However, these challenges are not insurmountable. The policy mix of pragmatism and common sense will see us through these problems. Our priority areas have been articulated and are clearly set out in our National Development Plans (NDPs), 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and Vision 2030. We will continue to pursue these priorities for the benefit of all our people and the development of our country. The passing Financial Year is a vital milestone in our march towards the achievement of Vision 2030.

It was a period during which we further consolidated our gains and moved a step closer towards our stated goals. This Financial Year will be marked by hard work and relentless pursuit of our goals.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

The new Budget has provided a clear framework and vision for increased delivery of goods and services to more Namibians. I am convinced that the pro-poor orientation of our Budget is the right approach in both the short and long term. It will ultimately mean that no community is left behind in the socio-economic development process.

Our belief that all Namibian children deserve an equal chance must remain unshaken. It is only in this manner that we can transform our country both socially and economically to make it a better place for all of us to live in. We cannot allow the majority of our people to swim in the sea of poverty, while a small minority is secure on islands of prosperity. That is not what the struggle for national liberation was all about. It is not what the hard-won Independence should perpetuate.

I wish to assure the Namibian people that our SWAPO Party Government is committed to improve and expand access to health care, education, potable water, electricity, housing and other public services and amenities. We are also committed to promote transparency and combat crime. This will always be accompanied by concrete action and implementation plan. In the same manner, we remain true to our resolve to ensure that our roads, railways, telephone networks and other public infrastructure remain in a state of good repair to serve as catalysts for economic growth and smooth movement of people and goods. Our Government will continue to introduce measures aimed at providing our youth with relevant skills and knowledge to make them competitive *vis-à-vis* their counterparts in the region and beyond. Their ingenuity and competencies represent a powerful force for the achievement of Vision 2030.

Namibia has been blessed with peace and stability. This has enabled us to focus on development programmes and the delivery of public services. I, therefore, call upon all Namibians to continue to maintain peace and harmony with their neighbours and indeed, all their fellow Namibians.

We must all preach and practise mutual respect, tolerance and cooperation in the process of nation-building. We must continue to promote our policy of national reconciliation.

10 April 2008

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, we started the new Financial Year with renewed commitment to the achievement of our national priorities. The Honourable Members of this august House have been scrutinising and debating the 2008/2009 Appropriation Bill for the past few weeks. I am pleased that overall, the Bill has received the support of the majority of the Honourable Members.

I am also pleased that, where warranted, genuine criticisms have been raised with the view to improve. The Appropriation Bill is a planning tool for the execution of Government plans over a specific period.

While I have highlighted some of the major intended plans of Government in the new Financial Year and beyond, the Appropriation Bill provides the full details of Government expenditure in the next 12 months.

As we look back at the period under review, we are encouraged by the successes that have been recorded. At the same time, we are reminded of the improvements that we must make in order to serve more people, reach more communities and improve the living conditions of those Namibians who live in difficult conditions. The lessons of the past have spurred us to plan better and work smarter. We are confident that we will do better, achieve more and improve the performance of the Public Service in the new Financial Year and in the future.

Namibia must always be a winning Nation. Namibia must continue to walk tall among the community of free nations. Namibia must be a country of equal opportunities to every citizen. Namibia must be a country of hope and pride for the current and future generations. Namibia must be a country where the vices of tribalism, regionalism, nepotism, corruption, racism, sexism and crime have no place.

Our SWAPO Party Government is fully committed to achieving these objectives.

Long Live the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you.

10 April 2008

**QUESTIONS - STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HON ULENGA**

**HON SPEAKER:** On behalf of Parliament I thank His Excellency, the President for his comprehensive and inspiring *tour de force* on the State of our Nation and work at hand for all of us. I also thank His Excellency for his kindness in agreeing to stay with us for some more time for dialogue and feedback. Honourable Members, the Floor is open now for that and I give the Floor to Honourable Ulenga.

---

**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Your Excellency, Comrade President.

I join the Speaker in thanking you and congratulating you for a real serious engagement with the House today. As usual, Your Excellency, you have dealt with almost everything under our sun. I have a few questions that I hope will help us and help you to shed some more light on a number of issues which have been burning issues for the Nation.

Mr President, my first question today will deal with the community at Gam in the northeast of our country. Many members of the Namibian San community that have lived in Botswana for many, many years, more than a century and who started living there after the Herero war of resistance against the imperial German colonisation in 1904 to 1907, had started to return to Namibia in the mid-1990's and many who returned that time temporarily settled in Gam in the northeast.

Your Excellency, many are still there more than ten years after they returned to Namibia. Despite them being landless, most of them have not been settled and very little farming assistance has been accorded them to date.

Further, Your Excellency, other landless cattle farmers, such as the much publicised Kwanyama and Ndonga-speaking cattle farmers – (and I am just mentioning it the way it normally comes over on the news media) – those who are currently farming illegally in the western Kavango Region, have been waiting to be allocated alternative farming land by the Government, with this particular land dispute having now entered its fifth year without a solution in sight.

In the light of this very frustrating situation, Your Excellency, what are the Government's resettlement priorities at the moment and how do you intend solving the resettlement problems involving these above farming communities?

10 April 2008

**QUESTIONS - STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HON MUDGE**

Your Excellency, it is now more than a year since we debated and passed the very important Motion on genocide and reparations in this House, introduced by the Honourable Kuaima Riruako, setting the scene for our Government to engage the German Government seriously for that Government to provide for suitable and adequate reparations for the atrocities committed against the Namibian people, namely Herero, Nama and others during the war of colonial resistance.

In the light of the above, Your Excellency, how far has the Government progressed on the issue of fitting, suitable and adequate settlement of the reparations issue and when can the Namibian people expect positive results in this regard?

Lastly, Comrade President, Zimbabwe is for the last few days on the brink of a political crisis. You will remember, Your Excellency, that last year this time I raised a similar question, which only proves that it is not only for me, but for the House and, indeed, for the Nation, there is concern for Zimbabwe.

As for now Zimbabwe is on the brink of a political crisis with the presidential election results still unannounced 12 days after the elections, unless it may have happened perhaps in the last few hours. Your Excellency, we are all concerned and we would like to hear from you this afternoon just to indicate to us how much light there is at the end of the tunnel. Are you talking to the role players in Zimbabwe and what measures has the Government taken, possibly alone or perhaps with other Governments in the SADC Region, to ensure that orderly transformation takes place and chaos does not erupt in Zimbabwe?

Those are the few brief questions that I have for this afternoon and I would like to thank you, Your Excellency.

---

**HON MUDGE:** Your Excellency, it is good to see you in good health as always. Thank you for this opportunity.

Last week during the Second Reading Debate of the Appropriation Bill, I was participating, in fact Honourable Ekandjo and I have mastered the art to participate together during the time allocated for the Republican Party. It is not that I mind, because it seems as if Honourable Ekandjo has not yet convinced his Party to allow him time and opportunity to speak in his own time. Unfortunately,

10 April 2008

**QUESTIONS - STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HON MUDGE**

that resulted in me not being able to finish what I wanted to say and now I have that opportunity to ask you directly.

Your Excellency, you have touched on a lot of issues and I really want to believe that you are serious with what you said. Therefore, some of that is not what you can do, it is your team and we will have to wait and see. I however want to address two issues.

The one is, as Honourable Ben Ulenga just said, I cannot truly understand the reason why, as a member of SADC and the African Union, our Government has kept quiet while our Zimbabwean brothers and sisters were crying out in despair. By having kept quiet, what message are we sending out to our own people here in Namibia? Is this the message that the Government is condoning what is happening, that the Government could allow such a situation also to happen in Namibia?

I have tremendous respect for the late Dr Martin Luther King (Jr) and especially for the wisdom he portrayed while he was fighting for their rights. I just want to read to you two statements that he made:

The first one: *“History has to record that the greatest tragedy was not the strident clamour of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.”*

Another one that he said: *“He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetuate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.”*

Your Excellency, I think, this is something that has been coming on during the last twelve days, months and I want Namibia to succeed, but we all know – you said it yourself – that we will have to succeed as a Region and that is why I would like to hear your views, as Honourable Ulenga said, on this issue. Thank you very much.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Mudge for his contribution. Your Excellency, I will let you deal with those two questions in their totality if you so wish.

---

10 April 2008

**REPLY TO QUESTIONS: NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

**HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the Floor to respond to the questions posed by the Honourable Members and the leaders of the respective Political Parties in our Parliament.

The community at Gam: It is true, the community at Gam and not only Gam, also another place called Eiseb – and I hope you are not only concerned about those who are at Gam because they are all from Botswana – came at the same time. You are saying that they have no land. Maybe they do not have land as individual families, but Gam and the Eiseb areas are allocated to them as communal areas, like you have other communal areas in the country.

Therefore, according to me they have land, unless you say the land is not enough. Maybe it is not enough and I must tell you that it is a sizeable land. I think it is far bigger than some of the other communal areas that we have in the country.

They are there; obviously they had difficulties and they are still having some difficulties. For example, you have the water problems. There is another bush which is not good for the animals. It is not only confined to this area, you will find it elsewhere in the country. Water has however been a problem and the Government has been attending to the water problems. Many boreholes have been drilled in the area. Like in other parts of the country, you will find that when you drill there is no water, but efforts have been made.

Yes, there are problems, the road infrastructure has not been good for them, for example, to go to the markets elsewhere in the country to sell their livestock. If you have listened carefully to my Statement, I talked about the road construction from Gam to Epukiro. This road is currently being worked on, it is just a matter of months before our people in these areas will be able to have smooth access to the other parts of the country, particularly where they can sell their animals.

There have also been some problems, especially when it comes to the issuing of national documents. And again, in my Statement I have said the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has improved the services, particularly for issuing national documents to our citizens. As I mentioned, ten mobile vehicles are currently being used and hopefully, when it comes to the provision of national documents, the situation would improve soon. The vehicles mentioned are not only meant for Gam and Eiseb, they are meant for other places where the service

10 April 2008

**REPLY TO QUESTIONS: NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

has not been good, including the Ovatus and the Ovatumba in the Kunene Region as well as the San communities.

Therefore, the situation in Gam is not forgotten, the Government is really busy finding a solution to the problem of our people in that area.

The farmers who are grazing in Kavango – you used the words '*illegally grazing in Kavango*'; it has been unfortunate that one has to do illegal things and if you start doing illegal things, the courts of law in this country who do not like illegality will deal with you. It is true, that there is a problem of accommodating them. I have great sympathy for them, but it is not possible to expand the areas where they currently are.

However, when I spoke to the authority, that is the Kwangali Authority, they said they have no problem to have their brothers and sisters from the areas where there is no grazing space to come in. They should come in through legal ways, not come in illegally. They too do not like illegality, so they said that if people are applying and they are allowed to come in or their application is considered, they can be allowed to come in. For your information, there are many people from Oshikoto, Ohangwena and even other places who are happily settled and grazing their livestock in Kwangali area and other parts of Kavango because they were granted permission to do so.

I hope our brothers and sisters who went there illegally should follow the course of legality by applying. As I said, I spoke to the Traditional Authority and they even gave me the names of the people who came from those Regions and are happily grazing or farming in the Kavango area.

Our Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Lands and the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development are seized with the matter. I have given them the assignment to attend to this issue and I am waiting for a Report from them in the not too far distant future.

**Reparation:** We as a Government have communicated the Motion Honourable Riruako has brought to this House to the German Authorities, that this is what the Namibian people's representatives are saying. To date we have not as yet received a response from them. We are still waiting and I hope they will respond to us.

10 April 2008

**REPLY TO QUESTIONS: NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

Once they respond, since we have these good relations, that is the State House and the Political Parties, I will not wait until this day next year, I will invite you to give you the information. Maybe you might have a problem, because while you asked this question, you want those who have sent you to the Parliament also to hear, but I will leave it to you to find a way how you are going to transmit that to them. But I will be ready, once I get the response, to inform you accordingly.

**Zimbabwe:** Yes, there was an election, as we all know, in Zimbabwe. Yes, we were invited to send observers to the elections that took place in Zimbabwe, we had people from the Parliament, and we had a delegation of the Government, headed by Honourable Netumbo-Ndaitwah. They reported to me or they reported to the Government that elections went very well, there were no problems during the process of electing, there has never been a problem.

The problem we hear is that there has been a delay in providing the results, particularly the presidential one. I must also say, the Minister of Foreign Affairs – you do not see him here – is in Zimbabwe. I have sent him there to go and consult with the people he will be able to consult and he will be coming back, I think tomorrow, and therefore, until I hear from him I will not be able to say much, because what I am getting is what you get from the media. I felt it is not enough just to hear through the media, it would be good to have somebody going to the spot and this is exactly what I have done.

*Honourable Mudge*, why can you not just take what I have said as being a response to what you have said on Zimbabwe? Thank you very much for doing that.

These were the questions posed by Honourable Comrade Ben Ulenga. I must also say that I have also been in touch with the Chairman of SADC, President Mwanawasa and our contact will continue, more so immediately I get the envoy's Report that I have sent to Zimbabwe.

Honourable Mudge, although you have taken time to talk, your question was just one on Zimbabwe. Therefore Honourable Speaker, I consider myself having responded to the two questions of the Honourable Member.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Kaura.

---

10 April 2008

**REPLY TO QUESTIONS: NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBÁ**

**HON KAURA:** Honourable Speaker, Your Excellency, welcome back home. We have been missing you for the last 3 years.

Your Excellency, the first question is: The cost of living is increasing continuously due to the increase in fuel prices and basic commodities such as maize-meal, bread and milk are becoming unaffordable. There is also a continuous increase in interest rates which is making housing unaffordable for those in the middle-income brackets. What is the Government going to do to reverse the escalation in interest rates as well as the cost of living?

My second question is: What are the main issues that the EU countries are objecting to in the conditions of the EPA Agreement and what is our bottom-line? Are the SACU countries in agreement on the conditions for the negotiations?

How does the Government envisage addressing the expensive building materials for building of houses? How can we address housing delivery with the high cost of building materials? Has the Government investigated possibilities of acquiring cheaper building materials somewhere else?

I understand that flood victims would be moved to higher ground and they have to abandon their plots where they are housed now. Will they be fully compensated when new housing is going to be constructed for them if they are going to be moved from where they are now to higher ground?

Communal farmers have been evicted from the Farm Riviera near Maltahöhe and now they are grazing their goats and cattle on road corridors. Does the Government have any plan for these farmers evicted from the Government farm Riviera?

The last question: There is a tremendous amount of stock theft in communal areas and the police have their hands full. Our citizens with a few livestock are the primary victims of especially our young employed people, who are wreaking havoc in communal areas. Your Excellency, we deploy our Army on peacekeeping missions abroad, for example in Liberia, why can we not deploy our army locally to assist the police to curtail stock theft? Thank you very much.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Kaura. Chief Riruako.

---

10 April 2008

**QUESTIONS - STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HON RIRUAKO**

**HON RIRUAKO:** Your Excellency, I thank you for your dynamic speech without any interruptions, but there are some things I am supposed to question.

I cannot mention the Governments that are gone, I cannot mention Zimbabwe, they are gone, the uncle is still in but he is obsolete. Now I come to our crimes.

ESKOM has applied to its Control Board to double the price of electricity so that it can invest in its infrastructure. Now, we know we buy power from ESKOM, so this would affect us. What kind of mechanisms has the Government put in place for us not to suffer from this power crisis ESKOM imposed on us?

Secondly is inflation. Yesterday we heard that the petrol price is to go up by Monday. Now this surely is going to affect the price of goods and services. As we know that Government is the biggest employer and two years ago the Government negotiated, salaries increased. In the present Budget there is going to be a 5% salary increase, which is not good.

At the present stage they are living from hand to mouth, that is the payment they get.

The EU-SACU Agreement: Is Namibia going to sign the EPA Agreement? If yes, can the President tell us when and if no, why not, as the interim agreement is going to end by June. What then?

Mr President, we are here to rescue ourselves before we rescue other people and if you bargain for good governance and good linkage with other people, we have to come in the middle and when we come in the middle we join hands. Some time, somehow the EU representatives are here and they get the message to pass on, for us to work in harmony. It is why we need them and they need the same. That balance must be accorded. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Chief Riruako for his questions. Honourable Viljoen?

---

10 April 2008

**QUESTIONS - STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HON VILJOEN**

**HON VILJOEN:** Honourable Speaker, yes I think I am the last one and it is in line with affirmative action.

Honourable Speaker, Your Excellency, initially I have considered a question on Zimbabwe while the whole world is waiting for the other shoe to drop, but I am satisfied with the explanation. Then I considered the flood issue in the North to score a few votes, but I think I will concentrate on two other questions.

Your Excellency, President Pohamba, we are aware of the fact that you feel strongly about reconciliation. Every year you use the opportunity to urge Namibians to reconcile and we appreciate it. What is not clear is that last year in November a Motion in Parliament was discussed to define reconciliation and it was voted out by all Members of the Ruling Party. Is it not a conflict of policy matters?

Yes, Your Excellency, I have listened to a good speech, you have addressed a variety of issues, thank you very much. I have a question and it is not a mean question. Your Excellency, you said and I quote: "*We cannot allow our people to swim in a sea of poverty while a small minority flourish on the islands of prosperity.*" Your Excellency, who are "*our people?*"

Secondly, does the small minority mean all the previous advantaged people or does it also include other Namibians who are able to live a decent economic life 18 years after Independence? I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Viljoen for his questions. Your Excellency.

---

**HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA:** Thank you once again, Honourable Speaker, for allowing me to respond to the questions posed by the Honourable Members.

*Honourable Kaura*, the cost of living is really going up. I am very much in agreement with you, especially when it comes to food items, but then we should know what the cause of this is. Is it caused by an internal situation or does it have some connections with external connections? I want to inform you, by large it has external connections. It has external connections.

10 April 2008

**REPLY TO QUESTIONS: NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

Let me talk about the oil or fuel. We all know that our country does not produce oil and oil is bought from elsewhere and you read that the price of oil is going up on a weekly basis. The more it goes up where transactions are made, the more it affects us. We are going to buy it at the higher prices and the last consumer of the fuel at the filling station pays more. In actual fact, all the costs are paid by the last consumer, the last consumer being the company that transport food to Katima Mulilo.

It delivers food to Katima Mulilo, he has to hike the prices. The person who is in Kavango is crying that diesel has become very expensive and that the products from the land he cultivated also become expensive. Yes, the local people are crying, things are becoming expensive, but the local people do not know the cause of this situation.

For example, in our houses, Honourable Members – (and I visited some of the houses) – you do not find mahangu there at the table, you find rice and rice is not produced in this country. Maybe it is coming from Vietnam and it becomes very expensive. This applies to everything. This is how we have become victims and I must say, this situation is not just facing Namibia, it is a situation that is facing all countries in Africa.

If you go to Senegal, they are talking about the same thing. If you go to Burkina Faso, people are striking because the food has become very costly. If you go to Egypt, they say the price has become too expensive. It is a situation that is facing us all, the African people in particular and that is why when I look at it, I feel that this is a national problem that we must face together to find a solution and I have a solution to this problem.

The solution is for us to till the soil and gets food there. I do not want to mention any name here, but if you go to certain farms in fertile areas where the rain comes from time to time, you will find no mahangu or maize fields. We are not going to change this situation if we do not depend on our own labour to cultivate the soil. Yes indeed, there are times when we do not have rains, but when the rain comes, we should sit together and face the situation, particularly when it comes to the high cost of food so that we can produce food for our people.

Honourable Kaura, what I am trying to say is that it is only when we sit down together that we will find a solution to it. We must come together. I am inviting

10 April 2008

**REPLY TO QUESTIONS: NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

the Honourable Members to sit together with the Government, the Ministers are here, and try to see how we are going to tackle the food situation in our country.

We cannot tackle, for example, the price of oil, but if we work hard to make money, we may decide to subsidise some of these issues. But you can only talk about subsidy if you are making money. If we have uncultivated farmlands, just having goats, sheep and cattle and talk about subsidy, a lot of questions will come up. Something should however be done, the most important is for us to talk to one another to find a solution.

**On EPA:** I think you have been following last year when we were reluctant just to get into the initialling of documents because we felt that there is an unfairness and we felt we need to again sit together with the EU so that we can discuss the issue to reach fairness, where Africa, the Caribbean countries and Europe will reach an agreement, where each and everyone will be happy. We therefore delayed initialling this and after consultation we went to initial that EPA and we did that with some reservations in certain provisions of the document. We are still conducting consultations as SADC, so that together we could be able to work out something. The best way is for us to work as a team. Perhaps a good understanding could be reached and, therefore, we signed the agreement. This is all what I can say on that. I said we are doing it as SADC, not as individual countries. Once we go individually, we weaken our position. We are therefore doing that for your information, Honourable Kaura.

And then you spoke about building materials. In my speech I have also talked about materials. I referred to the local materials which are very, very scarce these days. People have problems in finding materials to build dwellings or houses. On that one we as a Government have been doing something. We encouraged the people to make their own materials wherever possible. For example, do we need to import bricks from elsewhere? If you go to Mariental, you will see how the Chinese are making bricks there, bricks of very good quality. The time has come for us Namibians to do certain things, such as making our own bricks and then we import the building materials that we are not able to make. Therefore, we should not at all times depend on the import of materials.

We have a problem with cement, we have to do mining to bring the cement and there are projects. One is in Otjozondjupa and hopefully we will be able to have a project of making cement being implemented. Otherwise I am in agreement with you that there is a lack of building materials and we should not only consider

10 April 2008

**REPLY TO QUESTIONS: NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

good building materials as being the ones from outside this country. Go to the State House and see the marble from Karibib and when you walk on those tiles, you have to be careful not to fall – beautiful. You have not seen the State House properly, I think the time has come for you to go and see. The country has a lot of materials that we can utilise for building our houses.

Now you ask what the Government is going to do. The Government should not run businesses. I think we should come together, including the Honourable Members of Parliament, to put up business companies and once you do that, come to me, I will refer you to the Development Bank of Namibia to assist. If you however fold your hands, waiting for things to come your way from South Africa and you want to tell me that you want to order some bricks from Cape Town, I may not refer you to the Development Bank.

You spoke about the farmers evicted from a certain farm. One would like to pose a question to you: How did they get to this farm? Were they allocated to be on that farm and then the Government went and evicted the people they had allocated? If it is no, that will go together with the question asked on the Kavango grazers. If they have gone there illegally, the Honourable Member is a lawmaker and I do not think you want your laws to be violated. I do not think so. One who has violated the law has to face the consequences of his violation. If you however say no, they were not allocated, you may come to the State House and explain to me how did they get to the farm. Illegality should not be condoned in this country.

The soldiers to be deployed on stock theft: I was just wondering, the Honourable Member is more concerned, rightly so, about stock theft. How about these criminals who are killing women?

If anything is to be done and the Police have not yet reported to me that they are unable to do their work as being responsible to maintain law and order in this country, certainly should they come to me, I will not hesitate to ask the Chief of the Defence Forces to have the soldiers assist the police.

You however seem to be not too much in favour of the participation of the Namibian soldiers in the peacekeeping force. We have a responsibility to do that and when we do that, it does not mean that all the soldiers are transported out of the country. We always have some remaining in the country and should the need arise, when the Police come to me that they want to have assistance and if it is

10 April 2008

**REPLY TO QUESTIONS: NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

failing, I will come to you as Parliamentarians, that we mobilise other people of our country to face the enemy who is invading our country, the thieves.

**Electricity:** Honourable Members, I must inform you that our Region is facing a shortage of electricity or energy and it is the Region of southern Africa, from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and South Africa itself and Namibia is going to be hard hit because we do not have our own source of electricity.

Ruacana, I am told, is okay these days, but comes June, we will not have much electricity coming from Ruacana. Van Eck is there, but again I am told that the coal that we are importing from South Africa is also becoming very, very expensive. Everything becomes very expensive. Mind you, our electricity mainly comes from South Africa and some of the mines and other companies in South Africa are no longer working 100% as it were because of the shortage of electricity. I hold my heart and then I say, "*These brothers and sisters in South Africa are really good brothers and sisters.*" They decided to cut on themselves and they let electricity come our way. Then there is a big question: For how long? For how long? One does not know.

Therefore, it has been decided by NamPower and the Ministry to have electricity coming from Zimbabwe. I did not know, it was very difficult, I was asking, "*How coming from Zimbabwe?*" They say it goes through South Africa and then again I asked myself: "*Suppose you have a house where the children are starving, having no food and food is passing through your house, are you not going to be tempted to do something?*" This is how I felt when I heard the electricity is going through South Africa.

We have electricity coming from Hwange in Zimbabwe, which is the one that goes through South Africa. We have then decided to have the line connecting Zimbabwe through Caprivi to Otjiwarongo. About two weeks ago President Mwanawasa and I inaugurated those stations, both on the Zambian side and on the Namibian side.

I was informed by the Ministry that the Companies that are going to work on the line would start soon, but when I asked how long it will take, they said we will not have the line carrying the power in the next 3 years. You are saying "*ooh*", I am just trying to be transparent by informing you because we believe in transparency. I am just telling you what is going to happen and in the meantime we will have a problem.

10 April 2008

**REPLY TO QUESTIONS: NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

Then again, it is our problem as a Nation and I invite you to sit together and advise each other as to how we are going to have electricity. We talked about Kudu Gas. When they come to my office I feel like closing the door. This is a situation which we have been talking about for many, many years and I do not want to talk about it now.

The price of oil going up, *Honourable Riruako*, I have talked about this earlier on and I have explained why the price of oil is going up. We pray that one day Namibia will get its own oil. We are busy, we have allowed them to work on this and that is why I say, let us put our hands together to pray that we may get oil. The sooner we get it, the better for us as a country.

*Honourable Viljoen*, you wanted to know who are the majority and the minority. The minority are the people who are better than the others. You and I are on the side of the minority, you and I are on that side of the minority and the majority are those people down there. I hope this is enough for you to hear that it is you and I who are on the side of the minority. (Laughter). That is the situation, which you and I are the minority and you and I should try to assist the majority. Let us do it.

Honourable Speaker, I would not want to leave this House claiming that I have told them what they wanted to know. No, this is what I could offer and respond to your questions this afternoon. I wish to say thank you very much, I see democracy working. Let us keep it up. I thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** You have been saying, Excellency, and Honourable Kaura echoed what I said, that we welcome you back to your former home and we are very much grateful that you are able to spend as much time as you have done with us and taking trouble to do justice to the questions put to you by the Honourable Members. Even if you have not told us what we would like to hear, we are very happy that you have given your very best to the questions put to you by the Honourable Members. We thank you again very much indeed for the time that you have spent with us, for your very important State of the Nation Address and the justice you have done to the questions put to you by the Honourable Members.

10 April 2008

That does it for this sitting of the House and I now ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to join me to escort His Excellency out of the Chamber and I ask the Honourable Members to rise and I shall return for the remainder of the business.

---

The House shall now adjourn until Tuesday, 15 April 2008. I thank you very much for a very productive afternoon.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2008.04.15 AT 14:30.**