

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

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

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

SECRETARY

Mr N Goabab

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

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

DTA OF NAMIBIA

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

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

Mr J Viljoen	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
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NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

Mr A Mbai	
Mr K Riruako	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr A Tjihuiko	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr H Mudge	<i>(Chief Whip and Party Leader)</i>
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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	
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	
Ms L Basson	
Ms A Bayer	
Ms C Bohitile	
Mr H Booys	<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 G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)	<i>(Speaker)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Minister)</i>

Mr P Ilonga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms E Ipinge	
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 E Kaiyamo	
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Kasingo	
Mr I Katali	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	
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	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr G Shihepo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
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)*

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
24 APRIL 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 and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Mushelenga?

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 09, 15, 16, 23, 24, 26 and 27 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any Objection? None. Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the following Reports:

- The Annual Report of the Road Fund Administration for the year ended 2006;
- The Annual Report of the Namibia National Re-insurance Corporation (NamibRe) for the Year 2007;

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON MUHARUKUA**

- The Annual Report of the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA) for the year 2007
- The Annual Financial Statement of the Lüderitz Waterfront Development Company for the year ended 2007

I so Move, Honourable Speaker

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister, table the Report. Honourable Muharukua?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHLD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for the year 2006.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I so Move, Honourable Speaker

HON SPEAKER: It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Agreed to. I now call on the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

24 April 2008

APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 26
HON H ANGULA

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01 to 06, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to. Votes 15, 16, 24 and 27 have been introduced.

I now put Vote 26 – “**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**” N\$79,491,000 for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable. Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, allow me to join those Colleagues who have taken the Floor before me to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for tabling the *pro-poor* and *pro-growth* Budget estimates for 2008/2009 to 2010/2011 Financial Years.

At the same time, allow me to motivate the National Planning Commission (NPC) Budget allocation of a total amount of N\$79,491,000.

The Commission has requested the approval of the amount of N\$42,071,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$37,420,000 for the Development Budget.

Honourable Chairperson, the mission of the National Planning Commission is to plan, coordinate and direct national development through professional, technical and advisory services towards sustainable development.

The uppermost priority of the National Planning Commission is the realisation of Vision 2030 through National Development Plans (NDP3).

Honourable Members, as I present this Budget, I will concentrate on some outcomes achieved and problems experienced during the Financial Year 2007/2008.

The programmes to report on are in the areas of development planning, policy formulation, surveillance and monitoring, resource mobilisation and data/statistic collection.

PROGRAMME 1: DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The Third National Development Plan (NDP3) formulation process, which commenced in 2006/2007 Financial Year continued into 2007/2008 during which the Thematic Working Groups including Government, private sector, civic organisations and international development partners prepared submissions to National Planning Commission Secretariat.

All the contributions submitted were compiled into a draft NDP3 which was discussed with all stakeholders at a National Consultative Conference in October 2007.

In the draft NDP3 two scenarios of economic growth rates are portrayed. The first scenario or baseline scenario is based on growth rates achieved during the NDP2, the continuation of existing priorities and policies and other confirmed developments. The GDP under this baseline scenario is targeted to grow at about 5 percent per annum.

The second (high growth) scenario takes into account new developments and significant new policy/programme interventions. The GDP under this scenario is targeted to grow at 6.5% per annum. The NDP3 document is currently under consideration by Cabinet and will be launched immediately thereafter.

As part of the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, during the 2007/2008 Financial Year, the National Planning Commission was engaged in facilitating and coordinating the preparation of Regional Poverty Profiles for Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati, Kunene, Erongo, Hardap, Karas, Khomas, Caprivi and Otjozondjupa Regions. The Regional Poverty Profiles for Kavango, Omaheke and Ohangwena were completed in the 2004/2005 Financial Year. This exercise has been finalised and the profiles were used as a major source of information for regional input to NDP3 formulation.

PROGRAMME 2: DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

In terms of mobilising external resources, some significant achievements can be cited. However, when it comes to mobilising domestic resources this is still very limited. Namibia is classified as a Middle Income Country and this classification limits Namibia's access to grant funding from certain donors and limits access to concessional loan financing. **Despite these trends, Namibia**

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HON H ANGULA**

accessed the following global funding resources over the last Financial Year:

- Support to HIV/AIDS through the US President's Emergency Plan amounting to US\$84 million for 2007/2008 alone. This funding is mainly channelled through NGOs.
- During 2007 grants and interest free loans were signed with China amounting to 70 million RMB Yuan and in addition 2 billion RMB Yuan has been committed to Namibia as preferential loan and credit facilities.
- The UNDP and the Spanish Government signed an agreement to establish a new fund called the Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund that aims to accelerate efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and support UN reform efforts. Thus far Namibia has successfully mobilised US\$ 8 million for "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment". The second concept awaiting approval that was worked on extensively during 2007/2008 concerns "Sustainable Cultural Tourism" to a tune of US\$ 6 million.

The following major negotiations and engagements were conducted during 2007/2008:

- The Republic of Namibia – European Community Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme was approved and signed. This covers the period 2008-2013 and amounts to 104.9 million Euros which will support priority areas, such as: human resource development and rural development, as well as non-focal areas, i.e. governance.
- Namibia-German Governmental Negotiations on Development Cooperation amounts to 56.0 million Euros (2006/2007). Areas of support include: Natural resource management; transport and sustainable economic development.
- In February 2008 Governmental negotiations took place between Namibia and Finland. Concessional loan financing amounting to 30 million Euros were allocated to the Ministry of Health and Social Services for medical equipment and to support rural electrification. Funding through the Fund for Local Cooperation will continue and amounts to 3.2 million Euros.

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- Consultations with the World Bank for technical support amounting to 600,000 US\$ are still ongoing.
- During the Annual Namibia-Swedish Governmental Consultations: 20 million Swedish Krons were allocated which is the last of its kind under bilateral cooperation.
- The “*Partnership Framework between Namibia and France was signed in 2007 covering the period 2007-2011 and will focus on education, infrastructure, environment, rule of law and modernisation of the public service, promotion of cultural diversity, local development and support to civil society.*”
- One hundred and twenty (120) million Euros have been committed of which 80 million Euros of this is available in the form of concessional loan financing.
- The negotiations with Luxembourg resulted in signing an indicative programme of cooperation between GRN and Luxembourg amounting to 22 million Euros over the period 2007-2011.

Approximately N\$1,9 billion was mobilised from bilateral donors over the period 2007/2008 and N\$275,525,671 from multilateral donors. Total resources mobilised during this period amount to approximately N\$2,2 billion.

It is important to note that most of this funding is channelled the State Revenue Fund. This amount also includes committed funding pledged by donors over this period and does not necessarily reflect disbursed funding.

One of the major challenges the National Planning Commission faced was the effective and efficient coordination of donors. This has been noted as a constraint in reviewing progress over the NDP2 period as well. Interventions to address this include the re-activation of the Donor Partnership Forum whereby GRN and Development Cooperating Partners (DPS) have a platform to have a dialogue on pertinent issues, setting up Sector Forums, whereby Development Partners, Line Ministries and NPC can review major sectors and programmes that require funding over the NDP3 period and discuss financing thereof as well as coordinate interventions amongst donors and GRNs expected contributions.

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PROGRAMME 3: PRODUCTION OF NATIONAL STATISTICS

Honourable Chairperson, the 2007/2008 Budget enabled the Central Bureau of Statistics to implement component activities of the Third National Statistical Plan (NSP3) approved by the National Planning Commission in August 2006.

The Development Budget has envisaged the finalisation of the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES) 2003/2004 analysis and the generation of various reports thereof, the implementation of the Geographical Information System (GIS) and NamInfo projects, the processing of the Namibia Intercensal Demographic Survey (NIDS), among prominent others.

The Operational Budget on the other hand, has provided resources to enable the Central Bureau of Statistics to produce regular statistical output in the various subject matter areas of Price Statistics, National Accounts, Trade Statistics and Social Statistics.

These resources also covered expenses related to overall statistical coordination across the national statistical system, including Central Bureau of Statistics institutional development and the rendering of specialised services to other Offices/Ministries/Agencies by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

With regard to the finalisation of the National Household Income and Expenditure Survey, the Central Bureau of Statistics has finalised the in-depth Poverty Report based on the 2003/2004 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey data. These analyses have enabled the revision of national poverty line now based on the basic cost of living approach as opposed to the previous one that was constructed, based on the household's food consumptions. The analysis have also enabled the generation of regional poverty lines and covered other important topics related to household consumptions. The Report will be launched and disseminated in May 2008.

Furthermore, with regard to the implementation of the Geographical Information System and NamInfo projects, the two interrelated projects jointly funded by the GRN, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the UN system are catalysts of accelerated technical capacity development in the area of Information and Communication Technology and decentralisation. Thanks to these twin projects, the 2007/2008 Financial Year has witnessed the

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establishment, staffing, equipping and training of staff in 8 Regions. The remaining 5 Regions will similarly be covered by June 2008, subject to availability of personnel who are not readily available in the national labour market. The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is extending their funded projects till 2011 and are injecting a total sum of N\$9,187,200.

With regard to the Namibian Intercensal Demographic Survey, the data processing is in full swing and the results of this important survey will be disseminated during the course of this Financial Year. In the area of regular production of official statistics and coordination of the national statistical system, the Central Bureau of Statistics has continued to make significant achievements.

During the period under review a Statistics Amendment Bill has been refined and translated into legal language for the purpose of accelerating the transformation of the Central Bureau of Statistics into an autonomous state agency and to pave the way for the creation of a common statistical service as outlined in the Third National Statistical Plan.

The monitoring of key economic indicators with respect to price movements, trade statistics and national accounts has received equal attention during the reporting period. According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the annual inflation rate for February 2008 stood at 7.9%. The major contributors to inflation were food at 4.6%, transport 1.1%, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels 0.6% and education 0.5%.

Honourable Members, allow me now to present to you the work programmes that the National Planning Commission intend to implement during the Financial Year 2008/2009.

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROGRAMME: N\$19,396,000 FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009:

The review of NDP2 implementation identified poor coordination and integration as a lack of an efficient monitoring, reporting and evaluation system. An integrated result-based planning approach was introduced to help link planning and implementation to the desired results.

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The approach requires the integration of the identification of priorities and needs of the people from grass-root level that should form part of the strategic development planning process and implementation of the National Development Plans. This approach needs to be further consolidated and a National Monitoring,

Reporting and Evaluation (MRE) system for NDP3 will also be developed and operationalised.

This will include: strengthening National Planning Commission Secretariat and national structures capacities in integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation; the design of the software for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation system; interfacing of the system with the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) and the Performance Management System (PMS) as well as other management information systems and databases operated by the Offices/Ministries/Agencies and Regional Councils; the development of users' toolkits and training of regional and national stakeholders.

The existing National Development Planning Manual, which was introduced in 1994 during the implementation of the Transitional Development Plan has to be reviewed and aligned to Vision 2030 and the newly adopted planning approach in 2008-09. All officials in the Planning and Budget units in Government have to be equipped with skills on how to operate the manual.

Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Macroeconomic Working Group made up of officials from the National Planning Commission Secretariat, Ministry of Finance and Bank of Namibia, uses the Namibia Macroeconomic Model (NAMMAC) to project economic growth. NAMMAC is a dynamic model, which is regularly upgraded depending on changes or demands in socio-economic development. Funds Budgeted for under this programme will be used for technical backstopping to help the Working Group reconstruct the model and conduct macroeconomic research. The outcome of the research will contribute to the production of the Macroeconomic and Budgetary Frameworks.

The challenge for Namibia to become an industrialised Nation by 2030 requires that the country put in place an integrated strategy for human resource planning that would help in maximising the use of the existing human resource and capacity while addressing the gaps in the medium and

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long-term periods. This involves the formulation of the National Human Resource Plan and the construction of a Human Resource Stock-and-Flow Model to track the supply, demand and utilisation of human resource, and provide guidance on appropriate strategies to address the human resource gaps.

It is estimated that Namibia has a population of two million currently. Like any other country's population, Namibia's population is determined by three demographic factors, namely, fertility, mortality and migration. The population dynamics are, therefore, crucial elements to take into consideration the development planning processes.

In recognition of the crucial role population issues plays in relation to development planning, the National Population Policy for Sustainable Human Development was formulated in 1997.

When the targets of the population policy were formulated, the demographic challenges posed by HIV and AIDS were not so severe at that time. As such, the targets among others included reduction in the population growth rate, which is now declining at an alarming rate. Coupled to this is also the marked decline in life expectancy at birth, resulting from an increase in maternal and infant mortality rates. It is therefore, necessary to review the policy in order to develop strategies that can help address these challenges. Preparations are underway and the policy review will take place in 2009/2010.

Honourable Chairperson, as you are aware, rural development initiatives are aimed at reducing poverty, developing rural areas through broad-based sustainable growth and foster overall rural economic development. Amongst others, National Planning Commission is responsible for mobilisation of development resources for rural development policy and strategy formulation, as well as implementation of rural poverty reduction initiatives.

National Planning Commission implements a Feasibility Study Programme that facilitates detailed studies on opportunities to fast track economic growth and creation of employment opportunities as dictated by the National Planning Commission and its Advisory Committees. Some of the studies in the pipeline include strategies to curb capital outflow and the feasibility on introducing Government insurance for small farmers to mitigate effects of natural disasters.

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DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAM: N\$12,523,000 for
2007/2008 Financial Year

The main activities under this programme are to mobilise, coordinate and manage development resources.

Preparations for the implementation of the GRN-Civic Organisation Partnership Policy started and a draft Partnership Bill has been prepared to provide for the registration of civic organisations that are willing and able to work in partnership with GRN. Preparations are also underway to set up a Partnership Help Desk.

Contribution to the preparation of NDP3, specifically NDP3 Goal 20: Strengthened International Partnerships for Development.

Developing a prototype database on external funding to Namibia and recording of all development cooperation agreements by Government since Independence has been prepared and a comprehensive database will be developed in the next year.

Honourable Chairperson, let me state here that National Planning Commission reached its medium term target of raising Official Development Assistance from 3% to 5% for the period 2006/2007 to 2008/2009 already in 2006/2007 by receiving 6.8% in external grants as measured against national revenue.

OTHER MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR 2008/2009 ARE:

- Further rolling out and implementation of the GRN-Civic Organisation Policy,
- Developing a fully operational database on all Official Development Assistance to Namibia (Currently a proto-type database is in place);
- Establishing Sector Forums for donor coordination, in line with NDP3;
- Commencing with preparation of a development cooperation policy and Official Development Assistance Mobilisation Strategy for Namibia; and

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- Capacity Building to strengthen international relations and aid coordination.

Further preparations for accessing the US\$320 million from the US Millennium Challenge Account – overseeing accessing and directing of these resources,

In this regard the National Planning Commission signed a pre-compact grant agreement on Friday, 11 April 2008, in Washington, Defendant Company, United States of America amounting to US\$3.25 million (equivalent to N\$26.61 million). This is an additional amount to the US\$320 million under negotiation. The funding will be used to support the MCA-Namibia team responsible for the finalisation of the compact, while establishing an accountable entity that will implement the Compact. The funding will also support a strategic environmental assessment for all programme components. The main agreement is expected to be signed in July 2008.

**PRODUCTION OF NATIONAL STATISTICS PROGRAMME;
N\$47,572,000 FOR 2008/2009 FINANCIAL YEAR:**

The implementation of National Statistical Plan Three is a coordinated effort of the entire statistical service. The Central Bureau of Statistics is the principal lead agency that focus not only on own production but equally important, supervises statistical activities of other producers of official statistics.

The major projects envisaged are NSP3 implementation undertakings *vis-a-vis*, the development of the Geographical Information System (GIS) nationwide, the execution of the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES) 2008/2009 , the preparation for the general Housing and Population Census 2010/2011 and the Namibia Intercensal Demographic Survey 2008/2009.

Other activities still to be carried as necessary with regard to the periodical production of official statistics include:

- National Consumer Price Index
- National accounts,
- Foreign Trade Statistics includes data on exports and imports of goods categorized in terms of destination of exports and origin of imports

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APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 09
HON TWEYA

- A Statistical Abstract
- Agricultural Statistics
- Demography and social statistics

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I request this August House to consider and approve the Budget of **N\$71,491,000** for the programmes of the National Planning Commission.

I thank you for your attention.

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

I now put Vote 09 – **“FINANCE” N\$2,818,465,000** for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me Honourable Chairperson, to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for the job well done in tabling the National Budget for 2008, which is, according to me, a promising Budget.

The SWAPO Party Government is committed to render quality service to the community and the tabling of this Budget is a testimony of the Government's commitment to the Namibian People. This is in line with the recent SWAPO Party Congress resolutions, which emphasised the Ruling Party's commitment to remain a people-centred Party. The SWAPO Party Government will remain a people's Government, now and in the future.

The 2008/2009 National Budget concentrated mostly on improved outcomes in the education sector, accelerated economic growth which is to be translated into improved and equitable wealth distribution, affordable and reliable health services, enhanced food security, just to mention but a few.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, Namibia is a small open economy and global developments on economic arena have a profound impact on our country's economy and fiscal policy. This might hamper the

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HON TWEYA**

Government to attain its Vision 2030. Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) is another bold step to move our country towards the realisation of Vision 2030. In order to realise this and as already indicated by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Namibian Government will embark upon a major expenditure programme designed to protect the poor, stimulate growth and create additional work opportunities. The National Budget is aimed at:

- Improving the social safety net and to relieve poverty especially in the rural areas;
- Fostering human resources development, through better health and education;
- Investing in improving competitiveness and promoting growth with new jobs.

That is why I am tempted to call this Budget the “PEOPLES BUDGET” and not “pre-election Budget” as viewed by some Honourable Members from the opposition parties.

ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST FINANCIAL TERM

Honourable Chairperson, Hon. Members, before I highlight the proposed activities and projects for the Vote 09 of the Ministry of Finance, I would like to mention a few achievements met by the said Ministry over the past financial term:

Strategic Planning

The five-year Strategic Plan of the Ministry for the period of 2007/2008 till 2011/2012 has been finalised. The conceptual and pragmatic substance of our strategic imperatives were developed by referring to, *inter alia*, Vision 2030, the Third National Development Plan, the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2004 and the Ministry of Finance Medium-Term Plan. The MTEF laid before this august House set out the Government’s strategy for improving the management of public finances and sets out the Ministry objectives, targets and priorities for the next three years in an effort to reform Public Finance Management (PFM).

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HON TWEYA

The Ministry of Finance's five-year strategic plans is based on a Balanced Scored Card Methodology. The Ministry indicates its desire to set a strategic tone in the development of highly pragmatic plan, which would be realistic, measurable, and verifiable and make all of its stakeholders effectively and efficiently in line with its mandate, vision, mission and values.

The Ministry of Finance further expressed its desire to develop the Organisational Strategy in direct consultation with relevant stakeholders, by cascading the overall Organisational Scorecard to functional unit level with clearly defined and linked objectives and assignment of performance indicators.

REVENUE MANAGEMENT

During the period under review, Namibia's economic performance vis-à-vis other Member States led to the increase in the receipt from the SACU Common Revenue Pool. In addition, the improved accuracy in trade statistics has led to substantial adjustment payments from that Pool.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, Namibia's Budget needs requires to be based on reliable estimates of revenue collection.

The purpose of this programme is to maximise revenue collection through clear procedures and efficient control, as well as minimising tax evasion and avoidance of Revenue and Custom control.

The programme involves the activity of law enforcement and trade facilitation and undertaking of special investigation and forensic audits. The administration of tax and duty collections will be enforced through proper screening of assessment forms submitted by taxpayers – including parliamentarians. In addition, there will be supervisory visits to all revenue and duty stations.

As the Hon Members may be aware, the Ministry of Finance introduced the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) in all ministries and training intervention between the Ministry of Finance and other ministries, offices and agencies are taking place

SNIFFER DOGS

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I am pleased to report to this august House that the Ministry of Finance finally acquired two "*sniffer*" dogs to be used at our borders during the Fiscal Year. I believe that by acquiring these dogs, illegal import of drugs and other unwanted items will be minimised.

The dogs underwent extensive training at the Namibian Police Training Centre from August to November 2007. The training concentrated on detecting drugs such as cannabis, illegal substances such as drugs and prohibited items.

Currently the dogs are performing satisfactorily and have been exposed to sniffing contrabands during Easter roadblocks as well as at Noordoewer and Ariamsvlei border posts, respectively.

During the inspections the dogs, however, did not detect any illegal substances so far. The Ministry plans to acquire more sniffer dogs in the future. A comprehensive plan has been devised to intensify training of all dog handlers and deploy these trained dogs at other strategic places.

SCANNERS

The increased flow of goods across territorial borders and the need to adhere to international standards, such as the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Framework of Standards, Container Security Initiative (CSI) and the verification of goods prior to exportation poses tremendous pressure on World Customs to balance trade facilitation with competing enforcement requirements.

I am pleased to inform the Honourable Members that the Ministry of Finance envisages to acquire ten scanning machines amounting to **N\$55 million** for our border posts to improve revenue collections at these entry points. This also means that trucks or any type of vehicle would not need to wait long at border posts for any inspections. The Ministry expects to boost revenue through the implementation of the high technology.

During the implementation stage, the first scanner will be deployed at Walvis Bay Harbour and then subsequently be rolled out to other sites i.e. seaport, airports, and border posts. The places for deployment have been considered in view of high-risk areas, trade facilitation, smuggling, diversion, national security, society protection and revenue collection. Through this exercise

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about two weeks ago, a lot of piracy goods were uncovered and they were due to be destroyed, i.e. DVD's to the value of N\$1,2 million, cassettes to the value of over N\$20,000, cigarettes of over N\$200,000. They are due to be destroyed today or tomorrow.

The Ministry of Finance is still committed to the improvement of its workforce and has put measures in place to ensure that staff members at all level are given the opportunity to improve their qualifications in order to provide effective and efficient service to the Ministry and the Government as a whole.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: The Ministry in order to achieve its objective will have a teamwork exercise for management cadre and supervisory level. This will ensure that communication improves and activities are coordinated and carried out in an integrated approach.

Honourable Chairperson, It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to motivate before this August House Vote 9 - Ministry of Finance. In so doing, I would like to draw the attention of Honourable Members to the Ministry's Medium Term Plan, which can be found in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, and which sets out the Ministry's targets, priorities, programmes and planned activities for the next 3 years.

The Vote of Ministry of Finance is unusual in that its allocation not only caters for the normal activities of the Ministry, but also a number of high profile policies of the Government that do not naturally fall within the ambit of other Votes.

Honourable Chairperson, there are matters of more detailed policy implementation and service delivery within Ministry of Finance that I would like to highlight for the benefit of Honourable Members.

To this end, the Ministry of Finance has identified Ministerial targets to be attained by the end of the MTEF period. These targets centre on management of revenue, expenditure and debt.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

The Ministry has set itself an equally ambitious target of total expenditure being within 2% of plan by 2008/2009. That will mean a much more focussed approach to analysing financial information and controlling expenditure.

Public expenditure is about control and prudent financial management. As a result of prudent financial management the Ministry [or Government] managed to be within the expenditure framework approved by this August House without any additional Budget. We intend to remain within the ceiling we have set ourselves despite the high cost of living, ARVs and HIV/AIDS demand which were met.

REVENUE

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, if Namibia is to meet its fiscal targets, its Budget needs to be based on reliable estimates of revenue. To that end, the Ministry of Finance has set itself of the ambitious target of being able to forecast revenue to within an accuracy of 98% by the end of the MTEF period. Naturally, we shall be keeping a close eye to ensure that the target has been achieved by conducting audits as a collective effort, improve non-tax income from Ministries, high compliance, and unbecoming behaviour of staff should be dealt with.

Amidst all the challenges we are facing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the staff members of the Ministry that have invested their hard work, commitment and dedication into the cause of the Ministry and the Government at large.

Nevertheless, there remain challenges that cannot be overlooked, amongst others are:

- Disciplinary cases that take a substantial amount of time to get resolved;
- Rules of the Public Service Commission seems not to complement

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- productivity or accountability. I recommend a review of these rules to encourage efficiency and productivity.
- Staff members under suspicion of fraud, theft, etc. on long full pay suspension.
- The filling of vacancies take too long to be filled.
- The chairperson of the Public Service Commission is on record, acknowledging that the Public Service Act is long overdue for review.

This confirms my call last year that the Public Service Staff Rules are to some extent outdated and do not encourage effectiveness and efficiency and would hopefully be reviewed in the very near future to emulate the Government's policy of efficacy and productivity.

DEBT AS A RATIO TO GDP

The other target that the Ministry of Finance has set for itself is that of managing the public debt to such an extent that its ratio to GDP is reduced to 25% in 2008/09. The realisation of this target will require adherence to fiscal discipline and proper implementation of the Debt Management Strategy.

TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURE – FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, a total of N\$2,818,465,000 is proposed under Vote 09 for the Financial Year 2008/2009. I wish to remind this August House that statutory expenditure, loan repayments and guarantees are not voted for in terms of the Appropriation Bill as these are deemed to have been appropriated in accordance with Section 10(1) (2) of the State Finance Act.

PROGRAMMES

The Medical Aid Scheme Programme: The purpose of this programme is to assist members of the Public Service Employees Medical Aid Scheme in meeting certain medical aid expenses in respect of themselves and their dependents. Currently, the programme caters for 71,485 main members, 85,732 dependents, 4,873 pensioners and 2,689 Regional Council members

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and staff. The total number administered and catered for by this scheme is 164,770.

The main activities of this programme is to ensure the timeous payment of claims submitted to the administrator for the services delivered by medical aid service providers and to monitor the trends and claiming patterns. For these activities an amount of N\$800 million is budgeted for and the fees for the administration of the medical aid to the administrator are N\$23 million.

I must indicate at this stage that Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Coordinating Committee to assist the Ministry of Finance with the management of the Scheme and will be responsible for among others, monitoring medical claims, cost containment and improvement of benefits, revision of rules and regulation for the medical aid scheme and will mainly concentrate on revision of benefits and contribution structure and governance issues. A new system of registering members and cards is being considered.

The Equity Participation and Subsidy Programme – An amount of **N\$1,2 billion** is proposed for this programme.

The purpose of the programme is to provide funds to state-owned enterprises with the view to assist them in realising their contribution to the National Development Budget.

Funds to these state-owned enterprises are either in the form of targeted subsidies or equity participation.

I am pleased to report that, to further supplement Air Namibia in their implementation of their business plan, an amount of N\$150 million will be given during the current Financial Year.

Development Bank of Namibia will receive N\$150 million to boost the promotion of the small-scale projects and industrialisation. In addition, the programme supports small-scale projects through a Special Development Fund within the Development Bank of Namibia.

In order to prevent power failure and prepare for back up of energy, an amount of N\$120 million has been set aside. To support NamPower infrastructural development, I am pleased to announce that a further amount of N\$250 million

has been budgeted in a form of equity participation, totalling an amount of N\$370 million for NamPower.

Capitalisation of NamWater, particularly targeted to water infrastructure development, amounts to N\$50 million, while the capitalisation of the Financial Intelligence Centre is N\$7,8 million. The recapitalisation of Road Fund Administration for 2008/2009 an amount of N\$300 million has been budgeted. As part of equity participation, the AgriBank of Namibia will receive N\$100 million, and N\$24 million towards the development of infrastructural and tourism orientated facilities at the Katima Mulilo Waterfront for 2008/2009.

Asset Management and Parastatals Financial Performance Monitoring –
An amount of N\$13 million is proposed for this programme.

The purpose of this programme is to oversee the financial performance of the state-owned enterprises with specific focus on those resorting under the Ministry of Finance. The programme further ensures proper management of Government assets. The same strives to implement an asset register module across all the Ministries, Offices and Agencies within and outside the country.

The programme will also embark upon formulation of an investment and dividend policy framework aiming at putting in place guiding principles on state-owned enterprises' investments dividend / profit sharing between Government and its entities.

Financial and Fiscal Planning and Monitoring - An amount of N\$7,9 million is being proposed for this programme for the development of an acceptable pragmatic macro-economic policy framework. In addition, the undertaking of this programme will improve accuracy of forecasting fiscal targets (including the forecasting of GDP) and this tie very well with the ministerial target of 98% revenue forecast by 2008/2009.

Revenue Management - An amount of N\$261,7 million is being proposed for this programme. This money will enable the Ministry to carry out the following major activities:

- Law enforcement and undertaking of special investigations (N\$43,3 million);

- Administering tax and duty collections (N\$100,6 million);
- Undertaking of forensic audits in Windhoek Region (N\$5,000,000);
- Monitoring cross border trading (N\$70,6 million);
- Strengthening operations of revenue collection (N\$46,5 million);
- Create HIV/AIDS awareness amongst Public Servants (N\$280,000) and
- Honouring international commitments/subscriptions (N\$505,000).

The results of all these activities are the production of timely and accurate trade statistics and increased revenue collection.

Public Expenditure Management - This programme will ensure that Government resources are used to maximum effect in order to bring about national development and promotion of economic growth and for that a total amount of N\$488 million is being proposed.

The major activities of this programme are:

- Formulation, execution and monitoring of the National Budget (N\$30,7 million)
- Overseeing of public finance management activities (**N\$39 million**)
- Payment of bank charges (**N\$21,1 million**);
- Audit of expenditure control systems (**N\$4,9 million**);
- Administration of Tender Board Services (**N\$3,1 million**);
- Manage payment and all other accounting systems through
- Integrated Financial Management System;
- Catering for emergency activities of Government through the Contingency Provision (**N\$200 million**) and
- Settlement of Government outstanding contribution to GIPF for Members of Parliament and Other Office Bearers (**N\$114,2 million**);

I need to quantify here so that there is no false expectations:

As indicated in the MTEF the Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Fund was established in 2000.

At the time of transferring the pension from the Budget to the contribution defined Fund, the opening reserves for the pensioners were calculated to be **N\$183 685 000**. This amount needed to be capitalised by Government,

however this amount was not available to be funded at once but to be capitalised in a phased manner. As a result Government opted to Budget for the remaining balance plus accumulated interest. As for the current MTEF amounts of **N\$89 million** and **N\$50 million** are Budgeted (principal plus interest) to fully capitalise the Fund in 2008/09 and 2009/10, respectively. These amounts should not be perceived to be additional to the salaries of the Honourable Members but rather as a capitalisation to the Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Fund.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the implementation of this programme will contribute towards attaining efficiency and effectiveness in managing public finances as well as improved competence of staff members.

Debt Management

The purpose of this programme is to minimise costs and risks associated with short and long-term Government borrowing and to reduce Government's Contingent liabilities in line with targets set in the Sovereign Debt Management Policy Strategy.

The programme's main objective is to manage the Government debt by ensuring that the national debt remains both affordable and at low risk.

In order for Government to maintain a favourable fiscal position, the programme monitors the cash-flow performance as well as the State Account Balance and ensures effective management of the cash balances.

The programme also ensures timely honouring of financial obligations of the Government and manages sovereign guarantees or contingent liabilities through proper implementation of the borrowing plan and Sovereign Debt Management Strategy.

To meet these activities, an amount of **N\$3 million** is proposed. The impact is to improve accuracy of debt forecasting and prudent borrowing within debt target limit.

PROGRESS ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

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I am obliged to inform the Honourable Members that the Ministry of Finance has up to date managed to incur a significant amount of the capital implementation projects, and it is my firm believe that the spending will even grow during the period under discussion.

Let me give you a brief run-down of the status of capital projects:

Oshana Region: Oshakati Regional Custom Office

The project consists of two phases and; Phase 1 was inaugurated in June 2007. Phase 2, which is the warehouse, the construction will commence during the course of this year.

Caprivi Region: Wenela Border Post

The construction of Wenela border post is near completion and completion rate is 84% and will be inaugurated in the course of the year.

Otjozondjupa Region: Otjiwarongo Regional Revenue office was completed in June 2007.

Erongo Region: Staff accommodation in Walvis Bay will be completed on 25 April 2008.

Ohangwena Region: Oshikango office was recently completed.

Kavango Region: Katwitwi Border post.

This project consists of four phases. Phase 1 (Earthworks and Roads) is completed. Phase 2 (Administrative block - provision for staff members of Finance, Home Affairs and Immigration and Safety and Security) the construction of offices is currently in progress. Phase 3 & 4 (Official Accommodation - provision is made for staff members of Ministry of Finance, Home Affairs and Immigration and Safety and Security). This will ensure better coordination of Government activities and (synergy) improvement of staff conditions.

Karas Region: Lüderitz Customs Housing

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The Ministry is constructing official accommodation and regional office for staff members and is expected to be completed in 2008.

The overall execution rate of the Ministry's Capital Projects is at 84% compared to 64% of the previous Financial Year. This is an indication that the Ministry of Finance is adhering to the call of His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia on timely implementation and execution of capital projects.

Karas Region: Klein Manasse Border Post

The construction of the water scheme (4 km water pipe line from farm Schanscolk) commenced in 2007 and will be completed during the current Financial Year. Since the inception of this border post, our staff members have to rely on water transported from Aroab on a two weekly basis by the Ministry of Work and Transport.

NEW PROJECTS:

The Ministry of Finance embarked upon the construction of administrative offices in the Regions as follow:

Karas Region

- Noordoewer Border Post
- Ariamsvlei Border Post
- Keetmanshoop Revenue Office

All these are planned for this Financial Year.

Otjozondjupa Region

Construction of the Otjiwarongo Customs and Excise facility will commence during this Financial Year.

Khomas Region

Ministry of Finance Head Quarters Building

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The feasibility studies for the construction of a head office in Windhoek have been completed as well as the technical drawings. The tender documentation is to be finalised this year for construction to commence during the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I hope I have succeeded in motivating the programmes, the activities and the required allocation to implement those programmes.

Finally, I wish to thank the Honourable Minister for her guidance, vision and professional leadership to the Ministry. I would also like to thank the entire staff members for their loyalty and commitments.

With these few remarks, I wish to entreat this august House with the request to approve the proposed appropriation of **N\$2,818,465,000** for Vote 09 for 2008/2009.

There is an old saying that those who do not ask, do not get, therefore, please Honourable Colleagues consider our submission. I thank you.

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

I now put **Vote 23 – “WORKS” N\$388,984,000** for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce to this August House Vote 23 for the Department of Works for the Financial Year 2008/2009.

Vote 23 caters for the provision of institutional facilities, office accommodation, housing, and is responsible for the feasibility studies and maintenance of Government properties. Under this Vote, the Department of Works renders essential services like implementation of capital projects, and is responsible for gardens infrastructure and equipment, just to mention but a few.

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Honourable Chairperson, let me highlight some of the activities, which my Ministry has undertaken to bring about improvement in the service delivery. The Ministry has been incapacitated due to vacancies in both technical and professional positions. However, almost 80% of the vacant positions have now been filled with foreign professionals recruited from the SADC Region, while the Ministry managed to fill entry rank positions of four Namibian Assistant Engineers on the establishment of Maintenance with three Namibian females. The Ministry will put measures in place to facilitate the necessary practical training and skills transfer. In order to impart a general in-training exercise, capacity assessments have been conducted with the assistance of German Development Cooperation (GTZ) to assess the level of skills requirement in the Ministry and to prescribe and conduct training needs accordingly.

A one-day SMME's development and promotion stakeholders' workshop was held at Safari Hotel on Monday, 31 March 2008 to assess the current situation of SMME's in the Road Maintenance and Construction Sector in Namibia as well as the promotion of the growth of SMMEs and also discussed the access to financial institutions in order to enable them to purchase equipments for them to maintain the road infrastructure. The aim was also to discuss the provision of training to formerly disadvantage small contractors so that they can be uplifted to take up contracts in the construction industry currently dominated by big contractors.

This approach should not be seen as substituting vocational training in the country.

It is the Ministry's intention with vocational training centres as well as Namibia Qualification Authority (NQA) to develop a manual together in order to agree on the acceptability of these graduates in the Namibian markets as small contractors. In other words the small contractors should, at the end of the programme, receive qualification that are accredited to NQA. In this way we will make business people out of them.

During the 2007/2008 Financial Year, the Department of Works successfully managed a variety of ongoing capital projects on behalf of line Ministries worth in excess of **N\$650,000,000**.

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Some of the larger projects completed to mention but a few, range from region to region, from sector to sector, including roads, hospitals, regional revenue offices, storage facilities, recreation centres, sports complex, etcetera.

There have been improvements in the implementation of capital projects during the last Financial Year compared to 2006/07 Financial Year.

A one-day workshop was held with user Ministries on the implementation of capital projects on the Development Budget where bottlenecks were identified, and are currently being addressed by all stakeholders that are party to the tender and construction processes. In order to properly respond to queries by line Ministries, my Ministry is conducting projects review with line Ministries to discuss progress, regarding the implementation of projects and pave the way forward. Thus far, discussions were held with Ministries of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Defence.

Cabinet Decision (N0. 22nd/11.12.07/015) approved the appointment of the Steering Committee to oversee/manage the implementation of Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) in the delivery of office accommodation.

It is composed of the following Ministries: Works and Transport (Chairperson;), Office of the Prime Minister, Education, Health and Social Services, Office of the Auditor General, Safety and Security, Finance, Trade and Industry, National Planning Commission and Justice.

The provision of Government office accommodation using the BOT (Built Operate and Transfer) system and a PPP (Public Private Partnership) approach is well on track and a Technical Committee has been established to assist the Minister's Steering Committee in drafting terms of reference for the Transaction Advisor (Consortium of Consultants) that will oversee the implementation of the programme. Constructing offices by following this approach does not require Government to provide the bulk of the money upfront, but partial funding is needed to conduct feasibility studies in order to determine the viability of projects for such an approach.

The renovations of 24 houses next to Hyundai Garage and Robert Mugabe Clinic in Windhoek have been completed in the last Financial Year at the cost of **N\$365 000**.

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The draft Bill to establish the Construction Industry Council has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Legislation, yet to be discussed by Cabinet. The aim of establishing a Council is to regulate and control the construction industry in our country and accord growth opportunities of emerging small contractors up to competitive levels.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, during my predecessor's Budget motivation speech last year, he informed this august House that measures have been taken to establish a reliable Asset Register; hence, the countrywide survey conducted to obtain and compile records on Government properties around the country is yet to be verified and confirmed by a second follow-up survey at regional level. Furthermore, Cabinet has authorised my Ministry to enlist the service of an IT expert to set up the Asset Register System, which is now at the implementation stage and once completed, will be linked to that of the Ministry of Finance. This will enable my Ministry to monitor the deduction of rental fees by civil servants occupying official Government quarters.

With effect from 1 July 2007, a refundable key deposit of N\$400 for single quarters and N\$600 for family quarters have been introduced to both old and new occupants of Government official quarters to discourage and prevent the deeply-rooted habit of illegal transfer of keys between officials. In addition, plans are underway to appoint independent inspectors whose responsibilities will be to do random inspections on the authenticity of house occupants and to impose penalties for non-compliance. Currently these deposits are made at revenue offices of the Ministry of Finance in places like Rundu, Oshakati, Windhoek and Keetmanshoop. At places where there is no revenue office, the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, has put a mechanism in place for collection of the key deposit. The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General will now receive deposits on behalf of this Ministry at existing magistrate's offices countrywide.

With effect from the same date rentals for Government Quarters have also been reviewed and vary from 4% for single quarters to 6% and 8% for family quarters depending on the number of bedrooms.

As from 1 December 2007 all occupants of official quarters were also required to enter into a newly developed Tenants Lease Agreement that contains strict conditions for occupying Government Property (flats and houses). Failure to

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comply and adhere to these conditions leads to the occupant forfeiting his or her privilege to further occupy Government accommodation. Sub-letting is strictly prohibited.

My Ministry furthermore continues to record successes in recovering Government flats and houses from illegal occupants. Support has been received from the Judiciary that issued eviction orders and this has proved very successful.

The process of the Government Housing Alienation Scheme, as per Cabinet directives, has to date yielded approximately N\$151 million. An amount of N\$ 4 million out of the money generated has been utilised for the construction of police accommodation to improve their living conditions, countrywide. An amount of N\$11 million was approved by Cabinet from the money yielded on the sale of houses to renovate dilapidated Government flat complexes in Windhoek. A team of consultants have been appointed to prepare bills of quantities and supervision of renovations for the following flat complexes: Burman Flat, Du Preez Flats, Elizabeth Court, Erongo Flats, Florence Court, Aandblom Court, Angla Court, Bismarck Hoff, Van Rhijn Court, Vrede Hoff, Makalani Court, Tacoma Flats, Bloekomhof Flats, Police Flats, Luna Court, Leutwein Court, Tienman House, Sesman House, Naser House, Tarragona Flats, Rocky Hill Flat and Katutura Flats.

Renovations to the State House Complex in Swakopmund have been successfully completed. The renovation of the Presidential Guest House in Oshakati is far advanced while the renovations to the staff guesthouse for guards in Oshakati will only be catered for during the course of this Financial Year.

Through the Division of Information Technology my Ministry has launched a Customer Care Center with an intranet kiosk to keep our customers informed and enable them to browse our products or service.

This centre is one of the crucial elements of my Ministry's successes. Every contact our customers make with the Ministry is an opportunity for us to improve our reputation and increase the likelihood of further deals. My Ministry is in the process to employ three staff members to manage the Customer Care Centre.

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205 personal computers, eight servers, 23 switches and other peripherals have also been purchased to replace outdated equipment currently being utilised in the Ministry at the cost of **N\$2 897 203**, while 3 of these switches are already installed and has revived the connectivity of several workstations on the network. Trend Micro anti-virus software has been purchased and implemented on servers and 40% of MWT workstations. My Ministry is also planning to develop and implement the Ministerial website.

I must admit that my Ministry's network traffic is very slow due to the limited bandwidth but this problem will be dealt with during this Financial Year. My Ministry is planning to expand its network to regional offices, which will be done in three phases.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I must also admit that maintenance of Government properties is still a problem due to the ever-limited Budgetary resources available. On recommendation of my Ministry for implementing alternative maintenance solutions, Cabinet directed Offices/Ministries/Agencies to ensure that they create units in their respective institutions responsible for coordinating the maintenance of Government buildings and that staff members of such units should receive basic training.

My Ministry has made tremendous progress in expediting the process of decentralisation of the Maintenance and Technical Services function in the following areas:

- A series of consultative workshops held with Regional Councils;
- Guideline for lines of command, communication strategies and reporting channels under the delegation phase were clarified and agreed upon
- The challenge of limited Budget resources is still surfacing.
- Activities to remain at central level were identified and grouped
- Job descriptions at both regional level and central level were reviewed

As part of the decentralisation exercise, a consultant has been appointed to improve on existing guidelines for the maintenance of Government buildings

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and related infrastructure. The Ministry will also conduct regular audits as per the newly created Government asset register to ensure that Government buildings in the Regions are maintained according to these guidelines and specific standards.

Procurement of services

The unbundling of tenders have created opportunities for home-based regional contractors in order to create equity and fairness to formerly disadvantaged small contractors.

The annual tender system for maintenance services has also been totally revamped in order to engage mainly registered regional-based contractors with adherence to the principle of total transparency in awarding contracts strictly on a roster basis.

My Ministry is also in a process to coordinate with the Ministries of Education and Youth, National Services, Sport and Culture in order to facilitate the attachment of learners or trainees from Vocational Training Institutions and students from National Services, respectively, to the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as far as the Trade Account of the Government Stores is concerned, it should be noted that once again it has shown a growth in turnover of more than 40% from **N\$74.5 million** during 2006/2007 to **N\$110 million** during 2007/2008. With this continued growth it is now abundantly clear that this entity will be able to stand on its own feet if it is commercialised. My Ministry intends to approach Cabinet in the near future with recommendations in this regard.

As far as Operation Clean-Up is concerned, it should be noted that the exercise to get rid of redundant, abandoned, worn-out and/or damaged vehicles and other loose items, that has been conducted under the auspices of Government Stores over the last two-and-half years, is now coming to an end. When my Ministry first conceived the idea in 2005 it was predicted that **N\$10 million** would be realised from auctions of these items and vehicles. With the number of auctions countrywide now approaching the 120 mark, the total turnover from auctions is nearing the **N\$40 million** target. My Ministry intends to

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approach the Ministry of Finance with some recommendations that will hopefully prevent the future accumulation of redundant items that can be turned into revenue for the Government through the timely auctioning thereof.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, at this juncture allow me to introduce the total Budgetary requirements for the Department of Works for the 2008/2009 Financial Year, which amounts to **N\$388 984 000**. Out of this amount, **N\$360 291 000**, which represents 92.6% of the total Budget, will go into operational activities; while the remaining **N\$28 693 000**, which represents 7.4% of the total Budget, will be spent on capital related investments.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me now to come to the individual programmes for which the allocation of **N\$388 984 000** will be utilised.

PROGRAM 1: CAPITAL PROJECT COMPLETION

The purpose of this programme is to plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over completed capital projects to line Ministries. The programme also involves regulating, co-coordinating and initiating building quality and technical standards in the construction industry.

The construction of the Presidential residence, which is being financed by the Government of the People's Republic of China, has started and completion is expected by November 2008.

To improve service delivery to customers, my Ministry has completed the construction of a Customer Care Centre at the Ministry of Works and Transport building in Windhoek, which is operational at this stage. Tenders received for the replacement of our existing PABX telephone system to introduce a proper credit limit manager is currently being evaluated.

For these activities, I request an amount of **N\$12 328 000** under this programme.

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PROGRAMME 2: MINISTERIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

There is a significant change under programme 2 that used to be Government Buildings Infrastructure. Due to the public outcry of poor maintenance of Government buildings infrastructure, the Ministry decided to divide this programme into two. Programme 2: Ministerial Infrastructure Development now caters for the Ministry's infrastructures only while Programme 3: Government Buildings Infrastructure is focusing on the entire Government buildings infrastructure utilised by line Ministries. It is important to note that there is no switching involved or creation of new expenditure items. The expenditure items were merely kept within their respective programmes.

The purpose of this programme is to ensure proper facilities for the Department of Works to operate from both central and regional levels.

For these activities, I request an amount of N\$2,237,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 3: GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS INFRASTRUCTURE

The purpose of this programme is to ensure sustainable and reliable property management, maintenance and rehabilitation of existing Government properties and related infrastructure to the best possible standards, depending on the availability of funds and priorities set by the Government. Amongst the amount required for this programme, an amount of **N\$120 million** will be used for financing the rental of office accommodation for Offices/Ministries/Agencies to ensure that Government Institutions have reasonable and adequate facilities to operate from, hence enhancing productivity.

Provision has also been made for an amount of **N\$3 million** to commence with the rehabilitation of the borderline fence and patrol road between Namibia and Botswana. The programme further includes the purchasing of land for development, property assessment studies as well as the development of an Asset Register and a Property Management System. The service, maintenance and/or overhaul of water and electrical generator systems as well as the design, construction and/or rehabilitation of oxidation ponds is also part of this programme in order to cater for municipal services in remote areas and to prevent surface and underground water pollution.

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For these activities, I request an amount of N\$347,034,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 4: NATIONAL MONUMENT MUSEUM ESTABLISHMENT

The purpose of this programme is to construct the Independence Memorial Museum. Feasibility study and documentation has been completed during the previous year and construction work is to commence during this Financial Year.

For this activity, I request an amount of N\$8,010,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 5: PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE GOVERNMENT

The purpose of this programme is to facilitate the provision of standard stock supplies to Ministries and provide printing services to all Government institutions. It is also envisaged to revive the Katima Mulilo Government stores during this Financial Year.

For this activity, I request an amount of N\$19,375,000 under this programme.

I thank my predecessor, the staff for the hard work they put into this and for the service they render to our Government and the communities at large.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, in the light of the programmes outlined above, I now would like to humbly request this August House to approve the total expenditure of **N\$388 984 000** for the Department of Works, Vote 23. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
the Honourable Minister.

I thank

I now put **Vote 15 – “MINES AND ENERGY”** for Discussion.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to bemoan and support the Vote under discussion. I would like to raise two issues that are very fundamental to the approval of this Vote, and that is the provision, security and supply of energy. I would like to know from the Honourable Minister as to why is our electricity Parastatal, NamPower, involved in the shares and equity of mobile telecommunications, whereas they have the sole responsibility of providing electricity to this country. They went and ventured into another business and now they are coming back to the Government looking for bailouts. How long are they going to be involved in other business activities outside the ambit of their mandate?

We would need clarity in line with the current electricity shortages on the Southern African Region and the world at large.

Coupled to that – and I have been very consistent on this - is the question of transformers. When you want electricity at your village or farm and there is nothing, you are asked to buy your own transformer. How long is that situation going to prevail? I would also mention the electricity on farms. If NamPower has to take a line to a particular farm, one is asked to take a loan of N\$400 000 to be repaid over 30 years, just to get electricity on your farm. With Telecom or any other service provider, if you request a line, you only pay for the service that you are using. However NamPower is asking N\$400 000 from farmers to get a farm line. For ten kilometres it is nearly N\$250 000, and I do not understand the logic behind it and I do not know how long we are going to continue with this untenable situation.

Honourable Chairperson, on mineral production, I would like to address the issues of diamonds in this country. I must congratulate the Government for having signed an agreement with De Beers. However, while we signed this very import agreement, one has some lingering reservations, because one does not know for how long this is going to be a 50-50 partnership and at what point would they argue that they are putting the resources and infrastructure and therefore, they must get more? We are talking about the natural resources of this country. Are there no other diamond giants in the world that are ready to enter and be engaged in diamond mining in our country with a better deal?

My concern is that we should not only stick to one deal. There should be options to open up to other players that have an interest in the diamond market.

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We have currently agreed that 16 percent of diamonds would be polished in this country.

One question that comes to mind is, is it 16 percent of the capacity that the country can process or what is the 16 percent based on? Because if we are talking about value addition to our diamonds, the quest should be to strive for a 100 percent to allow our resources to add value and create jobs in our own country before we pass them to other nations.

The other issue with mining is the fact that some people are privy to information of EPL licences in this country. Whether it is inside or outside information, I do not know. You, however, always have a certain group of Namibians who know when a certain area will be proclaimed and who will get EPLs in this country. I would like to address myself on that matter, that it is a matter of serious concern and perhaps under this programme the Minister must monitor how we address the question of licensing and those that get these licences.

Honourable Chairperson, most of the time we would allocate EPLs to Namibians where there are no resources. Then you ask a lady that received an EPL, to go and look for investors somewhere to come and mine. If a company has to mine there, and you have to put up infrastructure and equipment vis-à-vis the extraction, then there is no comparison. How do we address that question?

The other question is about the assistance that we give to small miners. The day before yesterday, there was a programme on NBC, *Open File* on small miners that are suffering to get assistance to be able to mine. We have a free market economy, but my problem is that if you look at the people that own the mines now, the EPLs, they are foreigners. They have the majority of shares, good fields where they can extract minerals, but our people are not receiving it and the financial institutions are not really assisting them. I do not know how the Minister wants to address that problem?

The number of geologists that we have in this country is central to mining. Most of the time you would find foreigners doing geological work for us, and we have to pay expensive prices. Perhaps the Minister should also envisage to have a programme within the Ministry in order to train for this needed skill for the benefit of our people.

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Honourable Chairperson, with these few remarks, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Thank you. Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 15, Mines and Energy. First, I would want to wish Honourable Chief Riruako a happy birthday.

Coming back to the Vote, I was reading in the Ministerial Budget and I see that the Ministry would want to have 22% of rural households with access to grid electrification and 12% of grid rural area users supplied by renewable energy.

I just wanted to make a point, knowing that we are now facing a power crisis, not only in Namibia, but also in the whole Region. Would the Ministry possibly consider increasing more off-grid power supply, as it proved to be the only viable option especially to rural communities, in a state where we are faced with a power crisis.

The Minister spoke about Kudu Gas taking a slow pace to be realised and encouraging stakeholders to expedite the process.

What I would want to know, because I know there was an agreement signed between NamPower and other stakeholders, is whether we are penalised on our side or whether the stakeholders are penalised on their side, because the timeframe that was given to have this project to realised has now being surpassed.

The Minister also spoke about petroleum exploration and he stated that the last Financial Year one well was drilled. I would want to know what was found there or whether something was found or not, because he just said that the well was drilled without telling us the result on the findings of that well?

Thank you. I support the Vote.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you for being so brief. Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only want to confine myself to questions, on page 4 we are talking about all these exploration programmes that are there and Honourable Venaani has taken much of what I wanted to say. I will therefore not waste time. I would like to know, with all these people prospecting all over the country, how many of them are Namibians? How many of them have joint partnerships, how many are totally foreign?

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Chair, normally during Committee Stage I would expect those asking questions to refer to the Budget book.

The Opposition mostly, except for Honourable De Waal and Honourable Gurirab, based their questions on the speech. The speech is just a summary. I was expecting the Opposition to refer to the book. Is this really in Order? They should go for a workshop. Workshops are organised but they do not attend, except Honourable De Waal and Honourable Gurirab who attend the workshops and know the procedure. (Interjections). We should be professional after 18 years and use the book rather than the speech.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister it is true what you are saying that they have this, but any material concerning the Budget, which you are discussing is relevant, even the summary. A member may question anything. Thank you. Continue Honourable Nora.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for making it clear who deserves a workshop and

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who does not. I will not shamelessly stand up, talk after 18 years, and show that I do not know the Rules. I have been here in Parliament for eight years and I know the Rules.

My question continues as follows: I want to know, and Honourable Venaani raised it also, how does the public get informed about all these possibilities so that those who are previously disadvantaged also get a chance and not only those who are previously permanently disadvantaged, because you see the same faces over and over and over again? How do we spread the national cake?

The Honourable Minister says he wants to ensure that these licences are issued to the deserving. Who are the deserving ones, because if we look at the oil deals, are they the deserving ones or all of us? I would therefore really like to know who are the deserving ones? What are your criteria to decide who is deserving and who not?

Honourable Minister, the reason I support this Vote is because I share your belief that there is oil in Namibia and I hope the Minister will keep on praying. However, when the oil comes, it should not be for the previously permanently disadvantaged, but for all of us as was said yesterday. God gave these minerals for all of Namibia and not just a certain sector. Some of us are reaching pension age, we have worked all our lives ...

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, on the speech. Old-age pension has nothing to do with Mines. Thank you very much.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: With your permission, Honourable Chairperson, oil has reached a US\$120 a barrel. I, therefore, think it is understood that we need to look for alternative energy sources. I remember that we were told there is natural gas, but the apartheid Government did not want to make it known. Now we know there is natural gas. When Honourable Chairperson, when are we going to be able to benefit from that natural gas because it is repeated all the time? What about wind power as an alternative

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energy source? We have extended the electricity grid and we are going to extend it further into the rural areas. We are already facing a problem that those in towns, more of whom are unable to work, cannot pay their electricity bills. How are the people in the rural areas going to manage to pay their electricity bills?

We sold over 600 solar systems over the last two years, why do we want to be limited to hot water supply? That is the question that I seriously want answered because I believe that we can have more from solar power. It is internationally known that Namibia has the largest number of sun hours per day and we can use it much better. I thank you.

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

HON HOFFMANN: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to put a few questions to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy and at the same time support the Vote.

My question is on page 9 and it reads as follows: There is an office building in the South which has been standing empty for many years. It makes one think of a white elephant and it would be helpful for job creation, diamond cutting and polishing, skills and technology to the young Namibians of this country.

On page 4 mention is made of licences. My question is, when some people apply for a licence, they are told that it has been frozen and not officially in writing. The year ends without being notified whether it is still frozen. When is someone supposed to apply if you do not know when these things are operational?

My second question is on page 9. The whole wealth of the country is in the South. Can those who are benefiting afford a small portion of their income to the traditional leaders to improve the living standard of the people of the

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South? These are my questions and I want the Minister to comment or respond on it. I thank you very much.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, we are not asking each other about age and I know how old you are and how much you have to contribute to this country.

Honourable Chairperson, the country and the whole ocean from Kunene River to Orange River has been taken by De Beers and from Caprivi all the way down to the Kalahari. Now what do we own, what are we prospecting for? The law has to be changed in order to allow the indigenous people of this country to do prospecting.

I am not here to blame the Minister because there was nothing to offer. A certain individual or company took everything without our consent and this is the time for us to come up with a proposal on what is ours and what we are supposed to do with this wealth. Can our people also get their share out of it? That is a query.

It is known that we have oil but the geologists are not ready to mention it because somebody else pays them. The point is that the oil is there, the person is supposed to indicate this to the Government, but he is paid not to mention anything.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: My sincere apology that I am interrupting my senior Chief, being a person who respects the tradition, but may I ask the Honourable Chief a question?

Talking about sharing the resources of the country and for that matter, natural resources, with the indigenous people, do you now agree with the policy of the Government of Zimbabwe who said the same thing, Chief?

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HON RIRUAKO: Let me say this, if the British were of that opinion, we could not have had any war in Zimbabwe. Do you agree with me?

Honourable Chairperson, there is no other way out, let us share the minerals and everything we have and not for a particular individual to have all of it.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Point of Order. May I ask the Honourable Chief from Onahena a question? Honourable Chief, yes, the right to natural resources must be available to the indigenous Namibians so that they can make a living and I suppose this applies to fishing rights. Honourable Chief, when you received fishing rights, did you share it with the indigenous, or did you give it to the Somalis?

HON RIRUAKO: The other day we were arguing about those from Botswana. Are they foreigners? No, they are Hereros who ran away from here. Somalis are those who are called Somalis, we have some people from those countries. We have some people from Egypt. Are you aware of that? Does he know about it? For your information, I am from Onamutenya

The diamonds belong to De Beers, half of our country is in the hands of De Beers and that has to be re-visited.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I am very sorry to interrupt my Chief. I am also from the same village Onamutenya. May I ask my Honourable Chief a small question?

Honourable Chief, some years back, I do not know when, whether I was born or not, but the Chief made a statement, saying that why waste time with the discussion of incorporating Walvis Bay into Namibia, we do not eat fish. Let Namibia get Independence without Walvis Bay because our cattle do not drink this salt water. Do you regard the fish as national resources of Namibia or not?

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HON RIRUAKO: Somebody made that kind of statement in order to get all the chiefs on his side. But you used to have a fish quota but I failed to get my **N\$1,2 million**. Honourable Helmut Angula still owes me. (Laughter).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No that should be discussed outside. Proceed on oil.

HON RIRUAKO: No, I did not mention that outside. The **1,2 million** are lost and I keep on asking him to offer my fish back. (Laughter).

Honourable Chairperson, we have oil in Etosha, oil in Aminuis. We pump our water with oil and it cannot be kept until a certain country is ready to buy that oil from us and only then, that oil must be discovered. Some people do not want me to say anything beyond what I am saying. We are not deciding about our own minerals, somewhere, somehow somebody decides for us and you know why. Do not ask that question from me.

We have that oil but the only thing we are concerned with is solar energy. We can spread solar energy throughout the rural areas and if we are not ready for that, we are going to pay high prices for our commodities. For that matter, we have to spend our money on solar energy and the Government has some experts who could be put to use. They are here and the Minister concerned knows about them. Why waste time to come up with a good thing?

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

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you. I appreciate that the Government keeps the Minister in the same portfolio so that he gains more experience and he is expected to solve many problems.

On page 11 it says that 26 Villages are supposed to benefit from rural electrification. Imagine, only 26 Villages in Namibia to benefit in the current Financial Year! It should have been 26 Villages around Ondangwa only, but 26 countrywide is a drop in the ocean, there are hardly any benefits.

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Individual community members have put up transformers for the last seventeen years and even before Independence in order to have electricity. Since that time the Ministry has failed to solve the problem and now it is benefiting these REDS. They are now sucking like parasites. We expect the Minister to explain to the people of this country to understand why they allow this sucking of the little resources of the poor innocent people. They are also Namibians who are supposed to have benefit.

Yes. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Minister Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I will be very brief. I just want to emphasise the concern raised by Honourable Venaani about the transformers. I have been talking about this and I am happy that someone has also taken it up. Honestly, something has to be done.

This is the only industry where you pay for something and then at the end of the day it does not belong to you. We are made to pay for the transformer and mind you, it is not cheap you, and then at the end of the day it is not yours, it remains the property of NamPower.

HON DE WAAL: That is why it is called a monopoly.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Then he was talking about the line. If you have to get electricity from the nearest point, it is up to you to de-bush that area up to your place. In my case it cost me almost **N\$200,000** just to de-bush. And after that when they came there, everything that has been done there belongs to them, after you have spent the money. Then you have to pay a basic fee every month, in my case **N\$1,500** monthly until you die. That is without the usage, just the basic. Having paid for transformer, which is not mine now, having de-bushed the area and everything that is in there is theirs, I have to pay them **N\$1,500** monthly even if I use or do not use that electricity.

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I think there is something wrong with that. The Government has to look at this situation. I do not know whether we can really develop our agriculture under these circumstances?

On the REDs. I say this because wherever I travel people have been talking about the problems of these REDs. I do not know whether they are perceived or real, but one could probably look in to these problems that are being raised by the people who are being served by these bodies. There seems to be a problem there. I did not identify exactly what the problem is, but it seems to me that there is something, which is irritating those who are being served by these bodies. Maybe you could investigate why the people are complaining, because normally people do not complain when things are good. Therefore, there must be some reason why they are complaining. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Deputy Minister Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am saying this with a bleeding heart and I am referring to page 7 of the Minister's speech linked to MTEF, on page 205 on energy supply and security.

Before I say this, let me say I support the Vote of the Minister of Mines and Energy. I give my sincere support and I am now going back to the issue of rural electrification.

I want to request that in an area such as Tsumkwe, where we have marginalised people, but an area with the potential for tourism development and mining exploration, rural electrification, really needs to be considered because it will contribute to the economic stimulation of that area. There are already telephone lines nearby on the commercial farms and there is a need to extend those lines so that it contributes to economic empowerment and stimulate the economy of that constituency. I could also be linked to the Botswana-Namibia Border Post as there is a lot of tourism activity going on there. I will not dwell much on that one, it is just a request and a concern.

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HON RIRUAKO: You ask the Government to pay more than **25 million** for electricity to Tsumkwe, **25 million** of our Namibian Dollars according to their structure and the way they operate. I thank you.

I do not know where the figure is coming from, but the issue of rural electrification and electrifying Tsumkwe, will really contribute to the economic stimulus, especially given the tourism activities around the Kaudum and Sikereti National Parks, that are frequented by tourists. They are just a stone-throw away from Tsumkwe. If you can get electricity there, it would contribute to regional development. If you can extend that to Botswana–Namibia Border Post, even Botswana may also tap from this electricity, as is the situation between Buitepos and Gansi. This will undoubtedly stimulate to the economic development. Let me not belabour that point. There is a lot of economic benefit on that. It is a question of considering it and it is a very, very critical issue.

On page 7 of the Minister speech, our mining and mineral sector is very dynamic. I do not quote his speech but he referred to the economic transformation and the issue of TESEF which is currently under progress, the introduction of the formalisation. The issue which Honourable Ida Hoffmann has raised of the people living in mineral areas, rich mineral resource areas but who are wallowing in poverty, needs to be seriously considered. We are talking about *Namibianisation* and we are at a critical stage of nation building. We are engaged in the process of consolidating relationships amongst communities. The situation of empowerment should be defined, it should not be generalised.

We talk about areas like Caprivi and Kavango being the breadbasket of Namibia and we have other mineral-rich areas, but it is painful when we are talking about economic empowerment and I should not be misunderstood here by those who have a vested interest.

What I am saying is that it will be an irony when the Kazenambos, despite the fact that I am a Namibian, it will be a shame if Kazenambo, Tjiuiko, Venaani benefit in Caprivi where there are Caprivians. They should be part of that project.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: On that point, Honourable Member there are no Caprivians, I do not appreciate it when we are referred to as Caprivians. We are not Caprivians, we are Namibians. Rather say people from the Caprivi Region, Honourable Deputy Minister please, that will sound much better.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I withdraw the other but please hear the substance of the message. I concur with the Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Chairperson, what I am saying is that internationally speaking, case studies and we do not need to pretend when we are building a nation. We used to hide behind this concept of Namibianisation, Namibia when it suits us and we disadvantage other people in the process. That is not nation building. It has never been sustainable anywhere all over the world.

What I am advancing here under economic empowerment, with due respect, is the situation of having only two names that feature everywhere. In mining it is Kazenambo, in tourism it is Kazenambo, in agriculture it is Kazenambo. It is notorious, we need to be sensitive to it, that when Kazenambo himself appears in tourism, appears in mining, appears in fisheries, Government should say, "wait a minute, this is not economic empowerment, it is a monopolisation." This is what I am saying and in respect of tribe, in respect of gender, in respect of all else.

To conclude on this very sensitive matter, it really pains me when I see this and what I want to say is that I know the issue of TESEF is in good hands and I know the Minister of Mines....

HON RIRUAKO: I wanted to correct a few things. The Honourable Chairperson was correct, Caprivi is not African, it is derived from a German *Von Caprivi* from Germany who named Caprivi. They gave us names, now we are saying it is our name. Let us Caprivi to something else that is our own.

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

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conclude what I am saying on this point is that, I agree with the Honourable Ida Hoffmann that the people who are living in those Regions should benefit through some form of Trust Fund and not necessarily individuals. It is an irony that we have people who are living in mineral rich areas who are poor. If we go on that trend, Nigeria is a good case in point. The Ogonis are burning oil because oil passes them and it enriches certain people. Can you imagine that we are enjoying electricity from Ruacana, but the people in the villages there are in the dark. That is the irony of development.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: I have a question to the Minister of Mines and Energy or I am rather seeking for clarity. How transparent or fair is it for a diamond commissioner to authorise licences as a sole person? Is there any regulatory framework under which this person is operating or are you comfortable with this process being handled like that as the Minister responsible?

I thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Mine is a personal issue, it is just like the Honourable Tjiriange's case, so I am joining him.

I support the Vote, I enjoy what the Minister is doing, but this issue really relates to NamPower. I bought a farm and I want to bring electricity and you have to do it yourself for eleven kilometres. After I bought it, I heard a rumour that that area was going to be declared as an area to be supplied with electricity by the State. After a few months that policy was implemented. They came to me and asked me to provide power from my farm to other farms. I just thought, as a common sense situation, that my bill of **N\$180 000** to bring electricity to my farm will now be split up between those who are going to get

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power from my farm. My farm is cut up, you see the one going this direction to about ten farms there, this one going there to others. If all of them were asked to pay what I had to pay, NamPower is going to make a lot of money.

So, I thought I could have a transformer where my workers are, so that I could provide electricity to the workers, but then I am charged to pay for the transformer after they cut up my farm to pieces.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: This is really personal (Laughter)

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: This is dealing with the Ministry, we are discussing about provision of electricity to rural area. I am talking about the rural area that I come from. That is why it is personal. Rural area, please. This is an issue now, I thought maybe they will try to listen to me that time, giving me a good hearing, but since I left the Office of Prime Minister they just gave up. I am now wondering why there could be no amicable solution that I could share. I am sharing my farm with them but they are not sharing the money with me.

If the Minister could investigate with the others who are responsible, I will appreciate. I support this very important Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you Honourable Chairperson. Just two questions and one comment. I just want to ask the Honourable Minister, there is a diamond company called De Beers Marine Diamonds. How many shares does our Government have in that company?

Can the Honourable Minister inform the House about the current situation of the Cuvelai-Gove Dam in the southern part of Angola? That dam was built as an integrated system of the Ruacana Hydroelectric System. The idea at that

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time was that if that dam is working effectively, we would have enough water to run the Ruacana continuously, both through the rainy season and the dry season. Are there any ongoing negotiations to correct the problem with the Cuvelai Dam. I heard that the Norwegians were doing some studies there to correct the situation, but is the Namibian Government doing anything to get the Cuvelai Dam operational again?

Then just on the REDs. Honourable Minister, we must seriously look at the REDs. They are really becoming *red*. If anybody could give me any argument why there should be a RED, then I will shut my mouth and go home. However up till today I have not heard one solid argument for the existence of REDs.

There are two problems. The first problem is that the idea of the REDs originated from South Africa, from a South African Company and they started the so-called RED in Keetmanshoop and they knew they are going to make huge profits. Luckily, the people in the South complained bitterly and eventually that thing was scrapped. The problem is, we kicked the company out but we continued with their concept.

The only problem is now that the thing is continuing, it is costing the consumer a lot of money and they give us nothing, they make no contribution.

Let me tell you just a simple thing. Where I used to get one printed account for the electricity for my house in Swakopmund, I now get two. Where there was one office where people had to pay their bills, there are now two offices. Where there was one Head Office for the Municipality of Swakopmund, there are now two. Where there was one Mercedes Benz for the Mayor of Swakopmund, there are now maybe five, because these Parastatals are never satisfied with one Mercedes, they must have three or four. This is what they are doing! I do not understand what we are doing.

There might be areas in the country where something similar to these REDs could play a role and I am thinking of communal areas where you have vast distances with not many town. Maybe they could play a role there. However, Honourable Chairperson, you must talk to the people when there is a power outage after RED. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Minister should talk to the people, not the Chairperson.

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HON KATALI

HON DE WAAL: Sorry, through you. You can phone the REDs, they are dead at night. They are non-existent. What are they doing, why are we paying for these things? Please Honourable Minister, let us investigate this thing right from the beginning and let us make a plan.

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Last year I asked a question with regard to the Rural Electrification Master Plan and the Honourable Minister assured me that there will be a review to update the Master Plan. My question is, how far are we with the updating of the Rural Electrification Master Plan?

The second issue with regard to the electricity is on the lines that have already been constructed, which took maybe up to 3 to 4 years without the supply of electricity being realised. I now see that the Budget has been doubled for rural electrification and I would just like to urge the Honourable Minister to instruct the officials that before they construct new lines, they must first supply electricity to already existing infrastructure that are lying idle, unless the Honourable Minister has other reasons why this cannot take place. Because it is futile for you to have lines lying idle and continue to construct new lines, while the people are looking at these lines, asking, “*where is the electricity after three years?*”

I hear them talking in the open line especially in Oshiwambo and English. It is also disappointing that the officials who are also answering some of these questions are not answering the questions satisfactorily

With that Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support the Vote.

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HON VENAANI / HON DIENDA

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

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson, I am terribly sorry but it is something that slipped my mind.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Minister, currently Namibian farmers are selling charcoal to foreign markets, Britain and to Nordic countries, for consumption there but there is a study which indicates that this coal can be used to generate electricity in the country. Why can we not use the current bush encroachment problem we have in the country for charcoal production to supply cheap electricity to small villages and farms, thereby reducing the cost of electricity?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Dienda?

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Chairperson, I have only one question to the Minister, and it is regarding the prepaid electricity.

Honourable Chairperson, I think the reason for prepaid electricity was to make life easier for the people, but our lives are no easier, because the municipality closes at 17:00 and then there is no electricity available and those of us staying in Katutura, like myself – have no place to obtain it. (Interjection). I can only talk about Katutura, I cannot talk about Olympia. Therefore, these prepaid electricity meters are not accessible to everybody, especially after hours. In order to make life easier for us, could the Honourable Minister please ask those people who came up with this idea, to make it accessible to us?

I support the Vote.

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HON NGHIMTINA

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

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you very much, Chairperson. Fourteen Members have participated and some of the questions were similar to each other, maybe I can put them together and then answer once.

The first one is *Honourable Venaani* who supported the Vote and mentioned energy provision and security. He asked why NamPower is involved in mobile telecommunication. That is an issue we found in the office and there were some questions in Government as to why we should have two telecommunications for the same Government. Luckily now the new Minister of Telecommunication and Technology told me that he would look into the issue so that it could be harmonised. We are going to look into that issue and solve the problem.

With regard to the question on transformers, last year I promised that we are going to do something about this and we have tasked our officials of NamPower and ECG to draft a connection policy for this country, so that it must be seen, debated and agreed upon. Currently there is no connecting policy to say what should be done and what should not be done.

The issue of transformers is only that you bought it and then NamPower is the one using it. If it is struck by lightning, replacement will be done by NamPower free of charge. If the line going to your farm is destroyed by lightning, NamPower is responsible for that asset. If it belongs to you and is struck by lightning, automatically you are responsible for the cost. However this is not enough, it needs more investigation and once the draft has reached my office, we will be available for comments from the public before we approve it.

With regard to diamonds, that is a partnership, which is working. I can tell you today that I received a cheque of **N\$25 million** as a dividend from Namibia Diamond Trading Company, which was established only last year.

It is already an indication that we did something better for our country and it is also mentioned in the report that Namibia has achieved something through this agreement. We never received this before.

In the past, we closed our eyes to diamonds leaving Namibia, but then we said no, we have to follow our diamonds wherever they go and Namibia needs to benefit. That is why we established the Namibia Diamond Trading Company. It has taken time to conclude the negotiations, but it is already yielding results. **N\$25 million** can pay the Members of Parliament for a year.

What is still outstanding is the dividend policy itself. This one was for trading, but now we are going to the dividend policy itself and Honourable De Waal has also asked about it. The Government has 70 percent and De Beers 30 percent and we were very happy that 70 percent is more than 30 percent, but the problem is only that the 70 percent consisted of 55 percent of the paying for diamonds, 10 percent royalties on diamonds and 5 percent non-residence tax, altogether 70 percent. These are statutory obligations and a private company cannot talk about the taxes of the country, only talk after tax.

The negotiators, including the Minister of Finance, Minister of Presidential Affairs, the Boards of the mines, the Attorney-General and her team, were keen to scrutinise from A to Z. I am satisfied that we are going to get the best deal for our country even though it has taken a hundred years since diamonds were discovered in the soil of Namibia. It is going to be a proper 50-50. After tax, De Beers will get 50 percent and we will get 50 percent and any private company whatsoever will not touch the tax obligation. This is what we have agreed on and it is in line with our laws.

What we have now prepared and which is going to be signed very soon is that we are going to have a holding company consisting of NAMDEB and DEM Marine and the dividends will be 50-50. In the past we were only receiving 15 percent because it was 30 percent for NAMDEB.

NAMDEB composed of the Government and De Beers and then the other 70 percent went straightforward to De Beers. Now it has been restructured in such a way that we are also benefiting. It has been agreed, it is only a matter of signing and then we can say the diamonds of this country is also ours, it is not only for somebody else.

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The 16 percent of diamonds from NAMDEB production are the cuttable diamonds. The agreement is that we have to review this within three years to see whether it is working or not working.

You find people who are very clever about diamonds and oil, and in dealing with them you also have to be very clever. If you are not clever enough, you might think you have closed all the loopholes, but later you will find there are still some loopholes somewhere else. We are supplying them with local diamonds here and we are also supplying them with aggregated diamonds from DTC, London so that there are enough diamonds to be cut in Namibia. The beauty of it is only that the local people have been employed. I think as we are talking round about five hundred people have been employed as a result of the last negotiations we had. Since transfer has been done, the Namibian people are being trained and the diamonds we give them are being cut here, it is not being sent out of Namibia. Anybody trying to do that will forfeit his licence and he should go. We do not want to be cheated by anybody any longer. The time for cheating is over, now is the time for people to remember that the resources belong to the Namibian people. They are only producing it for the benefit of the Namibian people and for them to make profit here and they go.

Mention was made of certain groups who receive licences. Most probably the Namibian people did not have enough information to know what is happening in mining. While I was with another Ministry I never knew what was happening, but I tried to educate the Namibian people through Parliament and also at other forums, that the resources belong to the Namibian people, we are only managing it for them. There are only two problems: One is the financial capabilities of the person who wants to apply. Does he have the financial capacity, is he able to get a loan from a bank?

The second problem is the human capacity and Honourable Venaani mentioned the logistics. Do we have them here in Namibia? All over the world, the mining companies are poaching from each other. You will now find Namibians in Australia and everywhere else and here in Namibia we find other foreign geologists.

This is what is happening.

We had a meeting with our Chamber of Mines and they want almost two thousand geologists in Namibia, then probably we can manage the situation. If

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you get your EPL today, you have managed to pay the fees for the licence, what are you going to do with it, Honourable Venaani? You have to find a geologist who is going to cost you a lot of money. Where are you going to get that money? That is another problem. Geologists are also few, there is a queue of people who want something to be done.

Mineral resources are hidden treasures, it is not that the whole country has valuable deposits. The deposit might be only a small one of a few metres. You might be given a big area and then you determine where the deposit is, then you come back to the Minister and say, "this is the area which I want to mine." That is how the whole thing comes up, but it is a matter of capacity in terms of finances and in terms of human resources. That is the only issue.

We have the Petroleum Fund, which is training a lot of engineers and geologists. We are only giving it to those students at different universities who are taking up Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Geology. So far, our Ministry has trained more than eight students but the universities are doing their own training.

It is true that small miners do not get support from financial institutions, because they will ask for collateral or securities. We are saying that they should come together, form an association like that one in Erongo and then we can support them. That is why they are now going to have their kiosk where they can sell their products at the turn-off to Spitzkoppe and it is being supported by our Ministry and the Chamber of Mines.

It will now be easier for them to market their products. As I said in my statement, the Ministry is also going to assist them to analyse the value of that material, so that they can get value for their work.

Not all those who got EPLs have problems. They got the EPLs, they rushed to the strategic partners, entered into joint ventures and as Namibians, we may be crooked in one way or another, not knowing what is happening. You might end up with 5 percent only in the joint venture while the foreigners are taking everything.

The other problem is that they are not taking the agreements to their own lawyers, they are only told to sign, "we are together brother, do not worry." This is what is happening. You might even find that you are not in and you

will come to the Ministry and say, “no, I was supposed to be in.” We believe that they understood each other, we do not think that he was forced into that agreement. The only advice I can give is that if they want to enter into joint ventures, they should get their own lawyers to look into the whole agreement before they commit themselves. That would be better for our people also to benefit.

Honourable Mushelenga supported the Vote and mentioned the rural electrification programme. We do have a master plan, as was also mentioned by Honourable Katali, but let me ask one question: Do we have sufficient electricity in this country? Yes or no? This is a major problem for us. We are importing electricity from other countries, mainly from South Africa. Luckily enough, we are interconnected in the Region itself, we can buy electricity from any generator in the Region who has a surplus that particular day. We have a trading centre here in Windhoek where are people busy checking who has the lowest price for that particular day. We only have half of the energy required in this country and the rest we have to get from somewhere else. This is a challenge to this country of ours, where will we get the money to solve that problem?

We are trying to assist NamPower here and there to have that capacity. There are a lot of projects going on now, one in Caprivi, another in Hwange. Let us hope everything will go as planned and that comes September, we will have 150 megawatts.

These are the avenues we are looking at for five years while at that particular time we will have breathing space for us to think what we should do.

Honourable De Waal also asked about Gove Dam. Gove Dam has been repaired, but they have established another small 40 megawatts hydropower plant next to Gove Dam, but at the moment, the water is not sufficient.

We have space at Ruacana to add another generator, but we have to negotiate with the “Old Man” so that we have enough rain. I know most of us do not even pray and therefore we do not get sufficient rain. We can have all the hydro-generators, but if there is no rain, we cannot do anything? We can only generate enough electricity in the rainy season, but in June, July there is only enough water for one generator.

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Let us work together as a country in the national interest to make sure that we establish generating capacity in our country and to be able to export energy. People are making money out of selling energy, because energy is very expensive nowadays. It is an issue of either you take it or leave it.

We have a master plan for off-grid energy, Cabinet has already approved it, and we already have many people saying that they will take advantage of this so that they can have their workshops in their areas and connect and assist people. This is the only solution for our poor rural people. It is expensive at the beginning, but once you have it, I am sure you will be better off.

The current solar systems are better than those of the past are. Nowadays there is logistical support, anything can be repaired quickly and our people can benefit out of that.

The capacity of solar systems nowadays is that you can cook, you can have a geyser, a fridge and lights. The only issue is to get the money to buy this.

When I came into the Ministry, I had to ask the Permanent Secretary, “where is the office of Kudu Gas here, I want to see it.”

I was told NamPower all along drove it and I was told that all these things are dreams, the gas is there, it was a test well for Kudu Gas to determine the size of the deposit.

The gas discovered was sufficient for our use, but the problem is that the gas is 170 kilometres from the coast, and to bring that gas onshore will require a lot of effort.

Then one of our partners, Eskom, maybe under pressure, said they might not go ahead with the project, which means the issue of Kudu Gas is now between NamPower and the mining company. That is the only issue. To develop it requires almost **N\$7 billion**. Where are we going to get this money?

Honourable Schimming-Chase asked how many foreigners and how many Namibians are in mineral exploration. My dear, I want you to put this in the form of a question to the House, so that I can make a study and then give you the answers.

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I already said that we have a journal on mining in our Ministry and I think it is distributed nowadays so that you know exactly what the Ministry of Mines and Energy is doing and for people to know what is required to apply.

You wanted to know who the deserving ones are. I mentioned this one and I will stand for it. We are talking about nuclear fuel, with another name, “uranium”. Uranium is the only strategic resource we have which can save this country. The whole thing is only that it could be issued to anybody who comes along. Then as the Minister, I said no, we have to something about this. I have taken the issue to the Cabinet to declare nuclear fuel as a strategic resource of this country and then we declared a moratorium in order for us to draft a legal framework and the way forward. It is our luck we that we have the power, even recognised in the United Nations.

Honourable Foreign Minister, we are the boss of the world because of uranium. This is the only voice we have and when we are talking, everybody will listen because they need uranium for their nuclear reactors all over the world.

We, however have to treat it in such a manner that it benefits our people and not allow people to stockpile uranium in their countries and later on the price of uranium goes down. We have to make sure that we benefit.

Once the legal framework is drafted, it is going to be passed by this Parliament and then it will become a law, which is going to guide us on what to do.

Alternatives for energy: People are talking about bio-fuels and now there is a move by other countries, saying this will also create shortage of food, because for bio-fuel you have to plant Yatropha and big areas are required. For this to be economically viable, you need fifty thousand hectares and that, in our terms, could be about ten farms. If ten farms are only for Yatropha, what about our food? Are we not going to eat?

It could be very good for job creation, and it is also going to be good in terms of the high oil prices in this country, but we also need to be fed. We have to sacrifice something if we want that. If there are farmers who want to do it, please, we are ready to assist you.

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With regard to solar water heaters for rural electrification, it is a Cabinet Decision that by using this system we may recover one hundred megawatts from what we are currently using and that could go to industry. Industry needs a lot of energy – mining, fisheries, etcetera.

Honourable Hoffmann, I thank you very much for your support. You mentioned a building in Keetmanshoop and I have heard about it. The issue is only, where are we going to get the supplies. The suppliers are mostly the small miners in Erongo and they are looking at cutting and marketing their products. That is why they have their own association, but we can discuss the matter.

Honourable Kazenambo and Honourable Hoffmann both supported the black empowerment scheme called TESEF.

We are waiting for the policy to be passed and once passed is when we are going to move, because one can be challenged in a court of law if one says there should be Namibians, but if it is a law, nobody can question me anymore, I can only show them the law to say the law is saying this, take it or leave it.

If somebody is clever he will go to a Court of Law and say, “you are forcing me into something which I cannot do.”

The ideas are very good because they are also talking about using the banks to assist the people and the issue of selling the EPS will end. You have to get some money to buy an EPS. It will be better, not that it is dropped tomorrow and somebody is going somewhere else.

If that one comes up then the traditional leaders are well covered. The law is only saying that we should remember that the mineral resources of the country are vested in the State, which means if you find oil in my area, it does not belong to me, it belongs to the State. Let us wait until the policy has been completed and then we can implement the policy. It is taking time, we are getting old, but still we can participate.

Honourable Chief Riruako said the whole Skeleton Coast belongs to De Beers. I do not think that is true. Maybe De Beers was there at one time and then they abandoned some of the areas. They even have some areas in Kavango. Mutapa Mining is prospecting for diamonds there and invited De Beers to come in. If

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De Beers comes in, we will also benefit from taxation and shares. Some companies are only paying taxes in which the Government has no shares.

Those companies are paid something on exploration. There is no evidence that that is done in Namibia. The issue is only that we should have our own capacity to explore for oil. We have NAMCOR and once they are strong enough, they can do the work and all the information is ours.

Others are sometimes only exploring and then they sell to somebody who is going to develop the oil. It is a problem all over the world, not only in Namibia because up to now we have not discovered oil.

The good news which I want to share with you now is that, as I am talking today, they have drilled 1,500 metres deep at Block 17/11 and they are continuing. The problem is only that the weather is not very favourable nowadays, but we are waiting for the results, whether we have oil or not.

We are not only prospecting, we are now actually drilling which will determine whether we have oil or not. Let us pray that we will find oil.

When we talk about twenty-six villages, which will benefit from solar energy, we are not talking about homesteads. We are talking about areas. If we mention Uukushona, it means it is the whole area that can be connected. It is not our traditional homesteads.

NORED is a service provider. It is nearly like NAMCOR, the Minister of Education was talking about NAMCOR, nobody wants NAMCOR, but it is doing something. NORED is providing a service to those areas and I can tell you that NORED themselves said they are happy that they are doing their work and they are happy that when they were established there were no towns in the area, they were not connecting in the rural areas and there was no problem.

I remember when my house was connected there could be a power failure and it would take three days for that to be rectified by NamPower, but nowadays it will take only one hour. They are doing something. The only problem is that perhaps it was too politicised and there was a misunderstanding in Keetmanshoop. It is not NORED, it is not the REDs, it is something different. The Councillors of Keetmanshoop made the mistake. They never took that agreement to the Office of the Attorney-General, they only signed and found

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themselves with a chain around their neck. They wanted to chase away that company, but they had to be there for fifteen years and they are now only waiting for the Courts to decide what is supposed to be done, but they are still there.

We will investigate the REDs to see what can be done, but our officials are busy coming up with something. That the service should be rendered is the issue, because if nobody is providing services to those areas, there would automatically be no electricity in the areas.

The REDs employ more than five hundred workers as we are talking today. If you say we must abolish them, they will demonstrate.

Honourable Kazenambo, I talked about the rural electrification programme and Tsumkwe has been taken care of now. Money is available for Tsumkwe.

We have a Diamond Act, which is regulating the issuing of diamond licences.

Honourable Hage Geingob, the policy is on its way.

Honourable De Waal, I have dealt with the issue of Gove Dam and the dividends and I have dealt with the REDs.

Honourable Katali mentioned the rural electrification plan and we are reviewing it. However, we realised that the off-grid electrification is maybe the best one for our purposes in the rural areas. Where possible, the national grid, will also be used.

It is true that we have decided that all those areas, which were wired needs to energised before we build new lines. That is what we are now going to do.

Honourable Venaani, with regard to coal being exported to other countries, I know of only company, producing who has a programme to use biomass. Other people are saying we can use it for electricity and they are ready for it, but I do not when they will start doing it.

Prepaid electricity for the poor – offices to be open at nighttime. I will speak to them and see if it is possible or even to sell it at filling stations, such as they do with Tango.

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HON DE WAAL

I think the answers may be correct here and there, but this is how we are doing it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any discussions? Honourable De Waal?

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Minister can I request you to make available the original documentation of the Ruacana Project, which must be on the filing system of NamPower. Can we get that documentation to the Standing Committee on Economics so that we can look at the Cuvelai Dam. The thing is not working and we must find out why it is not working. Can we get that documentation please to the Committee? (Interjections). I can do that as well, we can look at that documentation because... (Intervention)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable De Waal do not indulge yourself with extra questions, just proceed to your point.

HON DE WAAL: The second point I want to make, but I will talk to the Honourable Minister on the Cuvelai Dam. My second question to the Minister is, you mentioned in your reply that you are busy drafting a policy. I think you called it the Connection Policy or something like that for NamPower. Could we include in that policy the possibility of individuals to sell electricity to the Namibian grid, so that if I want to put up a hundred solar panels, that I can sell it to NamPower. Or, if I want to buy a big steam engine and fuel it with *swarthaakbos* and produce electricity on your farm and sell it to NamPower, will that be provided for in that policy so that this becomes possible?

And the lastly, Honourable Minister, I still do not know the answer to the De Beers Marine Diamonds story.

Maybe if I sit down you can just tell me we have 30 percent shares or we do not have any shares so that I can also understand whether we have shares in De Beers Marine Diamonds.

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Lastly, Chairperson, we have a serious stake in NAMDEB. Could I, therefore, ask the Honourable Minister that he will lay upon the Table of the National Assembly the next financial statements of NAMDEB, so that we can also see what is happening in those financial statements? Honourable Minister, we can applaud you because you received a cheque of **N\$25 million** today, but the question is, how big was the cheque that was delivered at CDM's office in London? Was it **N\$500 million**? Only when I know that figure will I start applauding. Until that time, I am not applauding and I still want to know whether we have shares in De Beers Marine Diamonds. Thank you, Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Minister?

HON MINISTER OF MINES: I think I have answered already by saying that the Government was only receiving 15 percent from De Beers Marine. I also said that from now it is going to be 50-50. It is what we have already agreed upon.

You probably know where the documentation on Gove Dam could be found easily. Let us see where we can find it.

There will be no problem with the financial statements of NAMDEB because we get the annual financial statements as well, but the **N\$25 million** is from the new company we created last year, which is 50-50. Therefore, we received **N\$25 million** as a dividend. That is what we want for our resources.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 15, any objections? Then it is agreed to. Honourable Members, before we got to these three Votes, yesterday we nearly ran out of a quorum. Do not be surprised if one Vote will not have a quorum here. Try to limit your questions, please.

I now put Vote 16 – “**JUSTICE**” for Discussions. Honourable Tjihiuko?

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 16
HON TJIHUIKO

HON TJUHUIKO: Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Speaker, first, allow me to congratulate the Deputy Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Honourable Uutoni Nujoma for his presentation.

At least after three years that we have now been together in this House we have now agreed. Honourable Deputy Minister, you have agreed with me that the Budget of your Ministry is too small, because I have said this on a number of occasions.

Honourable Chairperson, the Ministry of Justice is the nerve centre of our existence. Without a proper, functional and effective Ministry of Justice there cannot be any happiness in any country. That is why it is very important for us to look into this situation seriously.

If you look at the Budget of the Ministry of Finance, which is **N\$236 million**, and you take the Budget of the Ministry of Youth of **N\$390 million**, and that we gave **N\$150 million** to Air Namibia ... (Interjections)

HON DIENDA: Is the Honourable Member aware that 70 percent of the population are youth in Namibia?

HON TJIHUIKO: Yes, I agree with you, Honourable Member. If you look at the statistics that were provided to this august House from the Ministry of Safety and Security, during the previous Financial Year 2006/07, we reported a total of 84,497 cases compared to 87,000 cases in 2007. We have serious crime situation in this country. We have overloaded cells in this country because our justice system is slow. It is not going slow because the people are not capable but because it is under-funded.

I said this last year and I pleaded with the Minister of Justice last year in this House that justice delayed is justice denied. As long as we continue not taking the Ministry of Justice seriously, Honourable Chairperson, we are going to be in trouble.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 16
HON VENAANI

The second point that I want to touch on is that I interestingly see, on page 6 of the Ministry of Justice that 88,525 criminal cases were dealt with by the Judiciary. If you look at the other statistics of the other Ministry, they are talking about 87,000. Therefore, the Ministry of Justice has dealt with some cases, which are not known where they are coming from.

Before I sit down, I just wanted to advise the Deputy Minister that I have seen on page 1 that whoever typed the presentation put “Mr Uutoni Nujoma, MP.” I advise you should also be recognised as “Honourable Uutoni Nujoma.” Thank you, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That question is out of Order. I recognise Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support this very important Vote and do not want to belabour the complex problems in the Ministry. I am sure that my Colleague on the other side has one of the toughest jobs.

The central issue is the question of retaining competent staff to administrate the justice system in this country and I think the problem we are experiencing now is probably a generic governance problem, where all Governments act in a way that Governments used to act a hundred years ago. I believe that for professions such as doctors, engineers, lawyers and Magistrates we should have a much broader policy on how to retain competent staff, because many of the cases that the Government is losing in Courts are because of inexperienced staff. If we do not give proper incentives to retain people, the Administration of Justice would continue to be a problem. We should have more leave days for people or they can work flexi hours with better salaries and so forth, but we need to have a better incentive process for the Administration of Justice.

Secondly, there is also a missing docket problem. We are in the 21st century and it is important that we need to computerise statements, that when someone makes a statement to the Police, that statement is noted on a secret code computer system.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Venaani do you see that issue of missing dockets in that book?

HON VENAANI: Yes, under Administration of Justice. We are talking about the problem

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes, but do not generalise. I think if I say dockets then I will go with you, but if I do not see anything written....

HON VENAANI: Dockets are mentioned here on page 225. I believe it is time that the Ministry should look at how we can computerise some of these issues, to solve the question of dockets that are missing.

On the other question of the administration of deceased estates, Guardian Fund and Trust, we also have a serious problem in this country and that is...

HON VENAANI: No this is not a cell phone, I write my speeches on it. Deceased estates are a very important programme that the Ministry is handling. The problem with the majority of the Namibian people is that we have this culture of not writing wills and it is causing many problems in the case of deaths in our own families and I wonder how many of us here do have wills. It is important for the Ministry to educate our people on the need to have wills, because it creates a lot of problems for the administration of estates.

We are lagging behind with legislative drafting. In fact, it is a problem of governance, that we do not have enough draughtsmen to draft important legislation to be legislated by this House and I feel this is an area, which needs urgent attention, otherwise the Government would fail in their envisaged programmes because they would not have legislation to support those programmes. It is important that we attend to this programme and give it the necessary support.

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My last few comments are on the old pieces of legislation, still on our books. Many of our statutes are still very old and the Law Reform Commission should really do something on that score.

Then let me lastly put a question on traffic offences. Why, in this modern age, one needs to go to court? Why can we not have institutions to deal with these petty offences rather than having piles and piles of cases lying there and you have to go to court for a traffic offence of **N\$30** that you did not pay. We really need to try to mitigate some of these minor offences and have a much easier process rather than to burden the Courts with some of these petty offences.

With these few remarks, I support this Vote. I know it is under-funded but I support the quest of justice. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I now recognise Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson, I only have two questions on page 10 of the Minister's speech.

The Deputy Minister said in his speech that the Guardian Fund is worth approximately **N\$590 million**, but the Auditor-General had reported that for seven consecutive years there were no financial reports regarding this Fund. On which grounds will we now approve funds for this provision? We do not know how the money is spent, the people are quiet and you are again asking money. Why? When will we get financial reports?

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, I wish to comment on the backlog of cases. Honourable Chairperson, with all due respect, I do not want to approve this Vote. The reason? As I am standing here, I was attacked and robbed in front of my own house and I took one of the culprits to the Wanaheda Police Station in March 2003. It is now 2008, the case was postponed repeatedly, and that culprit is still in jail, enjoying my tax money with free accommodation and three meals a day. It been postponed for five years! Honourable Chairperson,

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with all due respect, I think there is a serious problem with these pending cases. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you Deputy Speaker. In the first place, this Ministry is under-funded, which makes it difficult for the administration of justice and the decentralisation of justice in order to reach the Traditional Authorities.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. He says that the Vote is under-funded, could he assist the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice as to what is the appropriate Budget level for this Vote so that we would know how to measure the allocation that must be made?

HON MOONGO: The answer will come. As I said, the Ministry cannot decentralise its functions. How much of this **N\$22 million** Budgeted for Legal Aid, reached the Traditional Courts? Why is there no Report on Traditional Courts, which serve the community, which serve the poor people, on how much they received and how much was spent? They are the best in the whole country and they receive no appreciation!

Colleagues, I feel the decentralisation by this Ministry is too slow. Why do you not send this backlog of minor cases to the Traditional Authorities? They are the best in the whole country! Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Moongo. I recognise Honourable Kasingo.

HON KASINGO: Honourable Chairperson, in supporting the Vote, I would like to start with the backlog of cases at the Magistrate's Court as mentioned

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on page 4 where it was stated that the finalised cases are 21 000 and pending cases are 63 000.

I have a concern and I would like to know from the Deputy Minister what strategies will be put in place to reduce this backlog.

You will remember that my Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs has tabled a Report in this House and they made useful recommendations. Maybe you could have another look at our Report because, amongst other things, we were proposing that perhaps the Ministry could embark on a cleaning-up operation during the weekends, where you can make use of private lawyers to assist with this backlog.

The last question is on Programme 7 – Prosecution. I would like to ask the Deputy Minister, having in mind a certain case where a certain Magistrate in the Oshana Region was under threat by criminals or suspects. What mechanisms are put in place by the Ministry to ensure the safety of the Judiciary, of not only the Judges, but also the Magistrates, because these are the people who are dealing with criminals on a daily basis? Those are my two questions, I congratulate you, and I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, what is happening here is that cases are prolonged because we do not have enough staff and we have a lack of competent staff. We do not have Prosecutors. Those who are there are not supposed to be there at all. If they fail to do their duty promptly, they must look for other jobs. I am not here to make jokes, I am serious. If you really mean that the Justice Department does not perform, give them the proper people who can perform. For an accused person to have a proper trial you need proper people. That is the way it is.

We spend money on jails because all the culprits are there and they are not called to Court for their cases to be dealt with. They are eating and their cases are postponed because there is not proper evidence and the dockets are stolen

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from the courts. I will support Honourable Venaani that the system should be computerised. Then the docket can be stolen but the statements will still be on the computer.

We cannot complain about this evil and complain that Justice does not do their job. Give them enough money to pay their staff, then we can accuse them. We do not have any proof that they are given competent staff to do their job properly. That is number two.

Thirdly, you are not supposed to hire people because you are kith and kin. This must not be allowed. People being employed should be scrutinised whether they competent or not. This is the way to handle crucial matters. (Interjections). I am here to tell the truth and to let you know what is good and what is bad. Some people in the Justice Department are capable and some are not.

I support the Vote and for that matter, I urge this House to give them enough money and those who steal the dockets need to be punished. We know that the Police have stolen the dockets and after that these people are going around without having been punished. This is not fair at all. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
I now recognise Honourable Minister Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I want to raise a point on the Law Society.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. This very Honourable Member is supposed to tell us what happened in that Justice Department. He has all the knowledge, he must also explain.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I was going to talk about the Law Society and mention two issues.

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Firstly, during my time as the Minister of Justice, we passed a law about fusing the system and that is to say, that people do not have to pay both the Attorney and the Advocate. That law exists, but the Law Society resists and works as if that law does not exist in this country. How long will we continue to tolerate this? It is not as if there is an absence of a law but the law passed through this House, but they continue as if nothing has happened and up to now the people are paying twice and something must be done.

Secondly and lastly, the fees that are required by the fraternity here are simply exorbitant. If you have to pay from N\$300 to N\$500 per half an hour of work, just imagine if the case takes about three hours. Where are you going to get that money from? We are tolerating a situation where the Law Society is actually dictating what should be done in terms of these fees. They have even determined a maximum amount as if no law exists. Therefore, I feel something has to be done, as we cannot have our people being trampled upon in this manner.

I have been at loggerheads with the Law Society such a long time and I think my Colleagues will also fight, but there seems to be an endless war between the Ministry and the Law Society. The time must come that something we must do something. We cannot fold our hands while the people are denied justice only because some people are making money.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister, for being brief and straight to the point. I recognise Honourable Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My point is on page 233, about the Namibia Law Reform and Development Commission and I will connect this to the objective, which says that “all people have access to legal representation.”

I want to express a concern that it is no longer an issue of ensuring that people have access to legal representation, but the concern is also about who represent them, to have access to legal representation. The Namibia Law Reform and

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Development Commission needs to know that the Administration of Justice is not only about access to Courts, but it is also an economic issue. Some law firms are sidelined, marginalised, they have nowhere to feature. It is only the advantaged ones, which continue to monopolise the scene. They enjoy money in conveyancing they enjoy recruiting their money from wherever and our formerly disadvantaged legal firms are collective in many cases – not in all cases. In many cases the perception is that they are incompetent and I think we also need fairness in this regard. It is about employment creation, about everything, access to formerly disadvantaged legal firms. They must really be empowered. (Interjection). Yes, they are permanently disadvantaged. It is only a continuation of the monopoly, but it is a fact that these legal entities also employ people and they contribute to the economy, they pay taxes, but their playing field is not level.

I have a document here on which I will consult with the Minister. When the colleagues are complaining that they are being disadvantaged, they are discriminated, they are laughed at. It is here! It has come from the lawyers, I am not cooking it and these matters are serious, it is about money, it is about life.

This is not only confined only to the black lawyers, it also concerns the architects, quantity surveyors and everybody. I know that my Ministry award tenders and we must start levelling the economy. South Africa is doing it, they have certain percentages that must go to these people as a must and I am not saying that incompetent friends must be empowered, I am saying competent black lawyers or quantity surveyors.

I do not think that only our white friends are all competent, there are some of them who are incompetent.

With these few words, I support your Vote but let us empower the people. Thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to thank all the Honourable Members for their positive comments and questions and I really appreciate that for the first time Honourable Tjihuiko and I are *ad idem*, we agree on certain issues and that is good, there is progress.

The Budget of the Ministry of Justice is reasonable under the circumstances where the national cake has been apportioned according to the needs. We would like to have more, as we have mentioned, but our Budget is 3 percent less than we want it to be. This has been the trend and there are priorities among priorities.

I agree with you that the Ministry of Justice plays a significant role in the maintenance and sustenance of democracy and that is very important and the issue of under-funding will be addressed as we go on. In the past, our Budget was 1 percent under-funded, but sometimes the Minister has been very positive when we cried on her shoulder that we have this serious problem of backlog of cases, that we need to appoint additional magistrates. Currently we have around fifty-six Magistrates on the establishment and I think we are sixty-eight Magistrates short, but we have currently employed twelve additional Magistrates on a contract and they are now busy in our courts and doing magnificent work.

Also with regard to the backlog of cases, we have looked into the reason for the backlog and we should be mindful that there are many stakeholders involved in this process.

The police play a significant role and if they have not properly investigated the cases, the magistrates have no choice but to postpone cases until the investigations have been completed. That creates the problem of the backlog.

Then we also have the legal practitioners who most of the time tends to double-book cases and they are external, they have nothing to do with the Courts. He has maybe booked a case in Caprivi, another case in Keetmanshoop and now he finds it difficult to attend to this because he is chasing money. Then he will come and ask the Magistrate to postpone the case.

Then we have a problem with Witnesses. Some of the Witnesses will agree to become Witnesses and then they decide otherwise. All those external factors also contribute to the backlog but we are trying to address the situation.

The Prosecutor-General and the Ministry of Justice undertook a trip all over the country, looking at what is the real problem with this huge backlog and they have reduced that backlog almost to a certain level, which we really appreciate. They have determined why there is a backlog. Some cases were supposed to have been disposed of a long time ago, when the Prosecutor-General decided to undertake this exercise, and as I am speaking, we are still busy with that process.

The cases will continue to increase because the problem is that we normally blame the Judiciary. There are certain values, which we must instil in our people so that we educate them on their responsibilities. A child must know that when she gets pregnant, there are responsibilities, serious responsibilities, you need to maintain your child and that leads to the Maintenance Office where there are many complaints that there is no responsibility. Therefore, the State has to take responsibility. How can the State solve your problem? You have made a girl pregnant and you are not providing support to the child. For the State to take over that responsibility is not fair and I think we must instil these values within our people.

Honourable Venaani, I agree with you that the retention of competent staff is very crucial. We have been talking about the retention of these highly trained, qualified staff and with the general support of the Ministry of Finance, we have increased the salaries of Judges to a satisfactory level. I think they are now doing their job and they have all the benefits. We have also done it with our legal officers and we are looking at the magistracy and the prosecutors as to how we can improve their salaries.

With regard to the disappearance of dockets, this is again an issue of the stakeholders involved. Most of the time these dockets are handled by the police and when the police submit these dockets to the Magistrate's Court, the criminals are ahead of us. They know how to manipulate the loopholes. Sometimes a document will disappear because somebody has been paid, but we have now made significant progress where in some cases these people were trapped, arrested and fined. One can try, but you must have very good luck on your side in order to manage to manipulate the dockets.

We have now introduced a new system, which is called NAMSIS project. This is where we are trying to computerise all the maintenance cases, traffic offences and cases from entry of the case up to the finalisation, the reasons why the case has not been handled, Witness who were not available, defence lawyers who ask for a postponement or whether the Magistrate was negligent. We have reached that stage where we have started with the NAMSIS programme in the Magistrate's Court in Lüderitz Street and very soon, we will roll it out to all the Magistrate's Courts and offices.

With regard to the deceased estates, trusts and the Guardian Fund, this is a statutory function of the Master of the High Court and she administers the deceased estates. She normally appoints the executors and make sure that the process is followed from the bottom to the top by making sure that the creditors have been looked at. It is a complex issue when people who die intestate, she has to come in. The problem is that we do not prepare ourselves.

You must make a will, because now the State must come in and decide what was your intention, what did Tsudao Gurirab want you to do with his big estate? The State has to determine that and we create this unnecessary, complicated task for the Master.

With regard to law development and legislative drafting, I agree with you, because at the beginning at Independence we sent legal drafters to various countries, but who is our worst enemy? It is the private sector. These people came here, Ndjarakana and many of those guys whom we have trained and they have been swallowed up by the private sector. Some came to Parliament because you, the legislators, needed them and you paid them more and they left the Ministry. Whom are you blaming now? I agree that it is the task of the Government to train the people and we will continue to do that, but who will benefit in the end? It is all of us, the Namibian people who will benefit whether they are at the private sector or anywhere. Then we have competent and qualified people.

Honourable Dienda, the Guardian Fund is a statutory function, as I said and the Master is the only one who can determine what is to be done. I understand, we have also been asking the same questions, she will always refer you to the statute, that she can only submit Reports if the High Court or the Supreme Court demands that. Nevertheless, the Auditor-General was involved, he has audited some of the financial statements, and I think we are moving in that

direction. Now the fund is very healthy and minors are catered for, as well as the people who need assistance when their loved ones pass away.

Honourable Moongo mentioned the traditional courts. Our Constitution recognises that community courts must exist along the common law courts. We have made efforts, we have the community courts Act in place, we even went to the extent of requesting the traditional authorities to appoint some Justices of the Peace so that we can now determine how much we will be able to provide to these people. Who will do their administrative work, particularly the secretary?

We had workshops all over the country to explain the community courts to them, but the problem is that our traditional authorities are requesting more than what we can afford. They are requesting transport to go and apprehend the so-called accused people and they are requesting police. Honourable Moongo, knows very well that we have a problem with our police even at our own courts, because the police find it difficult to bring in the witnesses. They find it difficult to complete cases, now we are again adding an additional burden to the police. That is an area where many consultations will continue so that we do not jump into a situation where we are just making promises and Honourable Moongo will be the one to accused Government. It is a process, which needs proper and serious consideration. Will the police be able to handle that? Will they be able to get transport to provide them to all the traditional courts in the country? That is a complex issue and I am happy that the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister are also listening, that these are the real problems down there.

Honourable Loide Kasingo mentioned the threats to the Magistrates. I think we are all under threat. Just a few days ago, somebody broke into my office and there were treats to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, not only the Honourable Magistrates. It is an unfortunate situation and that is the task of the police. The Magistrate has reported that case to the police and I am sure the police are investigating and will try to come up with a solution. However, it all boils down to the issue of resources. Can we afford to place a security guard or Police Officer at every Magistrate's or Judge's house, at every Deputy Minister's house? If the resources are available, I think we should do that. That is something, which we must seriously consider.

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Honourable Chief Riruako, we only hire competent and qualified people. This is a technical Ministry and you need people who are qualified and I cannot bring in my brother and sister who does not even have Grade 1. It does not make sense.

Honourable Tjiriange, the fusing of the two professions was in the best interest of all of us. We have worked hard to achieve that objective and this Honourable House passed the legislation but there is resistance. It is not only here, but also everywhere because you are touching the untouchable. It is a bread-and-butter issue. While the Act provides that must be a fused profession, they continue to advocate that there must be the Side Bar and so on and many of our Colleagues, in order to earn better money, trying to enrol at the Bar, that it is very difficult to pass. There are colleagues of mine who were frustrated to such an extent that they even wanted to quit because it is a white Bar which determines the criteria, the merits, the demerits and they will frustrate you.

Even the first time when I went to this so-called JDC, I was told by one of the professors that I must memorise a book like this. Until we have our own people in place, we have the Justice Training Centre for our Magistrates and we are trying. It is a hard battle everywhere, even to become a medical doctor. Honourable Helmut Angula was mentioning that there is a dentist who practised in England, but the Minister of Health refuted the allegations. I think there is some merit in what he said, because if you qualified in a certain country, you must first register yourself when coming here with the so-called statutory bodies. Those are the issues we need to address. We are looking at the empowerment procedures. We must sometimes overlook these things and just say this must be done.

I agree with Honourable Tjiriange that the fees are high. The Registrar of the High Court and the Ministry of Justice have a board on tariffs and they are involved in these negotiations and the Law Society is saying they cannot survive, everything must be increased because of the rise in oil prices which has led to the rise in food prices and everything. Therefore, we need to address those issues.

Honourable Kazenambo, Legal Aid is also a statutory body and they get an allocation of **N\$7 million**. However, there are means tests available, they determine who the indigent people who need this assistance are most. When

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they determine, then the Director will decide that yes, this case requires legal aid and it is provided.

I agree with you that there is a concerted effort now to make sure that most of our legal practitioners benefit from the scheme and that is what we are doing. If I am not wrong, our legal practitioners for this Legal Aid assistance now handle maybe sixty percent of the cases. I am aware of many legal practitioners who are engaged by the Ministry, although not to a satisfactory level. The efforts are ongoing and we seriously recognise the problem that we must empower our people.

The others were just comments, which I appreciated and I thank you for your support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now put Vote 16, any objection? Agreed to.

I put Vote 27 – “**YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE**” for Discussion.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I am on page 3 of the Minister’s speech and also on page 436 of the MTEF, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo.

Honourable Chairperson, youth in Namibia are identified as young people between the age of 15 and 30 and they make out 70 percent of the population of this country and the mandate of the Ministry is to cater for the needs of these people.

Honourable Chairperson, the infrastructure of the Minister of Youth is as follows: The offices are open from Monday to Friday from 08:00 until 17:00. Offices are closed during weekends. In case there are programmes, the staff must work overtime and they must be paid for overtime. My question is, these offices are closed when the youth are available to visit these offices, the Multi-Purpose Youth Centres. The staff do not work overtime unless we pay them. If that is the case, my question is, what impact did this Ministry have on the lives of the youth to deserve this Budget?

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I want to see the Youth Centres being open during weekends so that the youth who are being catered for by this Ministry can make use of these facilities and that they do not become white elephants.

Honourable Chairperson, I have noticed for the three consecutive years that I am here in this Parliament – I have not been here for 18 years – that the Financial Reports on this Ministry shows an under-expenditure on the Budgets of Youth Development and Youth Training and Employment Programmes? What are the reasons? I think if it is a matter of staffing, then since there is a Budget, why can the vacancies not be filled immediately? What is the reason for under-staffing?

Honourable Chairperson, on sport I want to know whether we make use of this Budget for 2010. Did we cater for it? Our national teams must currently take unpaid leave or vacation leave when they represent this country. The problem is that the S&T that these players are receiving is less than the money lost when they represent this country.

Honourable Minister, I hope you have catered for all expenses that are coming our way to prepare our national soccer team for 2010.

Page 353: Women in Sport is Budgeted for for **N\$400 000**. National soccer is Budgeted for **N\$4 million**. Is the women soccer national team included in the **N\$4 million** or are they included in the **N\$400 000**?

In my last question I would want to know whether the Honourable Minister has thought about a mixed team for boys and girls. (Interjection). When I was eight years old, I did not care whether this is a boy or a girl and you enjoy that sport. The girls want to compete with boys at every level and if I am the best lady for that team, why not me, why must a boy who is no better than me be included in the team?

I thank you and I support the Vote.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, please, the Brave Warriors score 6-0 the whole time and I do not need a page for this 6-0. They can be ashamed by other countries and told that they cannot play that way. That is not fair. A national team must adhere to the principles and the coach has to obey the laws of this country. These things happen until we become annoyed by this defeat – 6-0 all the time. This cannot be repeated. Somehow we have to come back...

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Riruako a question? Are you saying that the name of the Brave Warriors' should be changed to 6-0? Is that the new name?

HON RIRUAKO: If they are not well trained, they have to be trained. If they are not well fed they have to be fed. The pattern has to change. That is my argument. We cannot be defeated in front of all the nations, every time 6-0, 6-0 and our patron here, why is he happy if the people are defeated all the time? You have to tell us where the problem comes from. I hope that he is going to respond to what I am saying.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Minister Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support the Vote under discussion and my concern is on sport. I have been provoked by Chief Riruako who is emphasising the point of 6-0 of the Brave Warriors.

Young people, 15 years of age, confronted me saying that we criticise the Brave Warriors or want the Brave Warriors to perform, but as a Nation and individually, we do not support the Brave Warriors.

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We talk about the Budget here, which covers sport; covering youth development, culture and many other things. How much is there for the Brave Warriors to feel they are there to represent the Nation? The young people challenged me and said that when the Brave Warriors are playing locally we do not even go to the sport field to support them with the entrance fee at the gate as a way of empowering them. It was mentioned that the Brave Warriors player have to take leave as they are fully employed. The team cannot concentrate fully and does not have money to take care of players. At the same time they are competing with fulltime players.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? Honourable Minister, I agree hundred percent with you that people are not going to watch these matches. Are you aware that sometimes when you go and watch these games and you pay around N\$200 for a VIP ticket. When you go there you expect to be treated like one. I went there twice, the second time I went there, I ended up with a beer over my head. People are just going up and down. If you want people to go and watch football and you organise it properly, people will go. The way our sports are organised now is chaotic. Do you agree with me?

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I am happy that you agree with me hundred percent that we do not go and support the Brave Warriors. You repeated that one occasion you are talking about because you agree hundred percent that we do not go and support them. That is why I am asking whether we could not find a way in order for us...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Could I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? Honourable Minister, are you aware that there are other sports codes in which Namibia is represented internationally and would you not propose that those sports codes also be Budgeted for and get equal amounts as the Brave Warriors, because they equally put this country on the map?

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HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Yes, I would like to see any sports code being supported from the Budget as well as by individuals, because I know the Budget will not be able to cover all the needs of sports codes.

We see in other countries how members of the population are supporting their teams and if we just continue to be negative about the Brave Warriors, we are discouraging them.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask a question? Honourable Minister, I support what you are saying, but I want us to go further. There are trans-nationals and multi-nationals in this country that are South African-based businesses. They support the sports codes in South Africa to such an extent that they can pay the man who trains Bafana-Bafana over a million per month. However, they do not spend any sizeable amount of our own money that they earn in Namibia to give the same support. Should we not also find ways and means for them to contribute to the development of sports here, because after all, it is our money even if they are South African firms?

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I fully agree with you that these South African branches are using our money, but they are not ploughing it back and that is very serious. If we could find a way for them to contribute to soccer I would be the first one to support that, because I feel sports is so important.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a point of information. Honourable Chairperson, when Honourable Tjihuiko was beaten with a beer he was interfering in the process the same as he does in Parliament.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Chairperson, the point I am making is that we are not happy with the performance of the Brave Warriors, but we also have to think critically about the support we are giving them and to look into so many ways how they can be

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supported so that they can perform to our satisfaction. Thank you and once again, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much. I would like to support this Vote and register my disappointment that the amount of **N\$4 million** allocated is very small while we are all preparing for 2010 and while we are saying the Brave Warriors are not performing properly. That is where the crux of the matter is, first to endorse what has been said by the Minister of Environment and Tourism.

Firstly, Namibians like to complain and cry. I thought we are all going to stand up and applaud Brave Warriors for their performances. If you have not exposed yourselves, you do not know what is going on. Brave Warriors have in a short time qualified twice to participate continentally – the highest level. It qualified twice and participated. (Interjection). You do not know what you are talking about, so listen.

They qualified and we are only eighteen years old. There are countries like Botswana who have been Independent for forty years and are still trying to qualify for the first time. They have never qualified. (Interjection). I am talking about that ignorance. Here we were crying already when we were six years old.

They went to Accra, I was there and I paid my own way to go and support them. I paid my own way and I was there. That is support. Therefore, you can go to the field tomorrow and pay to watch them. You are talking too much. I went there and the first game was 5-1, not 6-0, the worst game. What happened thereafter? Were you watching? What happened against Ghana the host country, the best team in Africa? It was 1-0. You must know what you are talking about. Ghana scored early and they held them, an excellent game with all the Ghanaians, praising their team, shouting.

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Against which country did we play the last game? Those who are complaining do not even know! There was a game against New Guinea, what was the score? A draw. Against Burkina Faso Namibia did not come back with zero. Wherever we went, at least we did not come back in shame. Some countries even lost all the games, we never lost all our games.

I am just saying it is unfair for Honourable Members of Parliament to display such ignorance. That is all you are doing.

Honourable Tjihiuko said he went once or twice. It is so shameful to say “I went there twice.” Just keep quiet, and then you are complaining, but maybe you were in the wrong place. (Laughter). I am only appealing that we are demoralising the boys and tomorrow we are going to see them doing well. What encouragement is coming from their leaders? None!

Therefore, let us appeal that they get more money because that is a problem. If they do not get more money, they will not perform at all. Let them get more money if we are talking about 2010 preparations, not from the Ministry of Finance, all of us and I want to endorse what was said about South African companies. The money the South African companies are pumping into sports is unbelievable, but our companies are taking from us and they do not share anything with us. Why should they care when we ourselves do not go there? If we are there to give them trouble, they will give no money, if we go to the wrong place.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question? I appreciate what the Honourable Minister is saying and my question is: Honourable Minister, do you not think that instead of saying we should give more money to football, we should give more money to sports development? Do you not think that that would be the best approach?

Secondly, are you trying to tell us that you are happy with the current football administration, from the second league up to the national team, the way football is being administered right now? Are you saying that, to the extent that you say we should not give money to this sector before a proper structure is organised?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Firstly, I think the Budget is clear. We are talking as if no money is given to other sports development and that is not the case. Money goes to the Sports Commission and they are the ones who distribute it to the sport codes. We do not even know that, we do not pay attention to what we are talking about here. You do not know, you do not have interest, that is why the team is not doing well. No interest! Therefore, can I invite you? The Chief was only once at the stadium when the African Stars were playing. I asked him: “Chief, can you also come back when the Brave Warriors are playing?” I did not see him.

Therefore, since we are complaining, can we go and see how they play so that we can talk and have an informed judgment. But what we have done is uninformed.

HON DIENDA: May I ask a question, please? Honourable Patron, since I did not complain about the Brave Warriors, are you also supporting the netball of this country?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I support all sports and I am visible. I am just challenging those who are not as visible as I to show interest. I go to rugby, I was in Paris too. Again, I paid my own way. When I went to Brussels on official duties, I made a detour and I went to watch our boys there, encouraged them, “do something”.

With that we are all going to appeal that the money must be increased because of the 2010 preparations. Thank you very much.

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

HON RIRUAKO: I agree with the Honourable Minister that the money must be increased. We are not here to make jokes. I went to that game as you said, and I warned those boys and their counter-question to me was: “Please, do not forget us, it is that one who defeated the Stars now, you have to give that blessing to the Stars but do not forget about us, give the very same blessing to us”, which I did.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Chief, now you are talking about the day you visited there. Let us hear your question.

HON RIRUAKO: I did not ask for a question, I said I have to stand on my own. The Honourable Minister asked, “Why did you not come when I invited you?” I did not even know when they are going to play.

The point is this, the Stars were defeated last time, 6-0, by the very people who pleaded with me to give them that kind of blessing. My blessing is not wishy-washy. If these guys cannot do their job properly, you go and do the job properly. They were defeated and next time when they repeat this kind of 6-0 again, I am not going to bless them. For what?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Thank you. I recognise Honourable Minister Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. Obviously I support this very important Vote for our youth. I would like to congratulate the Ministry and the staff for the efforts in putting in place Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres in all our Regions. That is very, very good.

Honourable Dienda raised a very legitimate concern, which I share, the issue that youth centres need to be open during weekends so that the young people could have access to those institutions. I feel it is a legitimate issue. However, are the facts? The facts, obviously, are that the officials who are in charge of the youth centres, as you correctly pointed out, are civil servants. Like all other civil servants in all other ministries and departments of the State, their conditions of service are regulated by specific laws that were passed in this House, for example the Public Service Act and the Labour Act.

Therefore, what is happening for the time-being is that if a particular youth group or individual young people have a specific planned activity that they would like to carry out in a specific institution, proper arrangements could be made so that that who are employed there could be there to be in charge of

these young people. However, ideally, as you said, one is supposed to open these institutions during weekends, we should not stop there, other institutions as well, and we must be mindful that there are laws.

The same applies to the S&T for national teams and I share your concern. I remember that for the past few years when I was in the Ministry the officials of the Directorate of Sports have been talking about this. The fact is, as the Honourable Hage Geingob has stated, that we still do not appreciate the efforts that the sport people in particular are making, especially those who are participating in national teams that they are doing in terms of promoting the positive image of this country.

Mind you, we have a few professional boxers, but in most of our sports codes, if not all, we do not have professionals. We have amateurs. Those who qualify for the national teams are either working people or even school children. These people are suffering in silence. When they have to go and represent the country outside, we regard that activity as a national duty, but these people have to take leave, sometimes unpaid leave, to go and represent the country.

When we raise these issues at institutions where policies and decisions are made, as Honourable Geingob has said, there seems to be a complete ignorance, no empathy or appreciation of what is being done in the sector of sports, as if sports is only the end-result, which is the physical activity that you see. Sport is more than that.

I feel we have to move to a stage where we have to deal with the sport sector as other countries do which are prospering, in terms of even funding them – of course, including the private sector.

Lastly, I am also pleased, Honourable Minister that the amount allocated to the National Youth Council this time around is **N \$3 million** on page 347 of the Budget document, which is commendable. Nevertheless, I would like to caution that this body would soon assume more responsibilities. When we come back after this Budget, I am sure we will be dealing with the National Youth Council Bill. We have also ratified the African Youth Charter in this Chamber and all those documents will add some extra responsibilities that would mainly be carried out through this very important institution called the National Youth Council. I support the Vote.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson, I support the Vote. I do not want to deliberate on sports. One issue that is also lacking - and the patron must be very honest - is discipline. (Interjections).

HON RIRUAKO: I do not see a very good Chair here. They fight in front, four times, but after that, they needed a powerful discipline, being forced to go out of the House and he was called back in the House. That was discipline and we cannot make fools of ourselves.

If they do not give what we deserve, it is for us to give them what they deserve and discipline must be obeyed.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That statement of fighting is Out of Order. Proceed.

HON VENAANI: I wanted to talk about two points, one is the youth opportunities. The youth are really trailing behind in all these economic benefits and we really have to very serious effort into that. Nevertheless, the crunch of my intervention is arts and culture.

This country is losing its culture and young people are afraid to demonstrate their culture. This is an Americanisation, Westernisation attitude in our homes. Our children are speaking better English than they speak Oshindonga or Otjiherero and it is a problem.

I am talking about culture in the sense that when you visit a country such as South Africa, Nigeria and a couple of African countries, you would find people displaying what they have. In Namibia, if it is not a dancing group, then it ends there. We think *Nkosi Sikeleli Africa* is a culture from Namibia. It is copycatting what South Africa does and then it is culture and it is really important for us to instil a sense of pride in our own cultures, in our own behaviours as people.

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Even in arts the people concentrate on what Michael Angelo or whoever has painted, he would not paint a nice hut in Onesi or Opuwo or wherever.

HON P MUSHELENGA: On a Point of Information. I would like to invite my Colleague over the weekend so that we go and play *etenda*.

HON VENAANI: I am advised that I am killing the night for those that are married, so I must be very brief. Culture is a problem in this country and I think the Ministry should really try to do more to encourage our young people to be involved in cultural activities.

We should be very honest, cultural activities are not only when you talk about your own culture, we should also learn to respect other people's culture. In this country, we have a tendency to say this one is not mine.

Go to a particular village, respect that village, do what they are doing, learn from their culture and that cross-fertilisation would help us.

On the matter of arts and music, the problem is that we do not support our young artists.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Chairperson, may I ask Honourable Venaani a small question? Honourable Venaani, you are complaining about culture, the youth, etcetera. Have you been to the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Namibia when they have their cultural festival so that you can see what they are doing in relation to what you are saying?

HON VENAANI: Yes, I have been invited and I always go. I am one of the busiest Members of Parliament, just be honest with yourself. The problem cannot end with Polytechnic and UNAM, we should also go to high schools. (Interjection). Oh, come on, do not tell me culture is only when you come and display your two minutes.

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I think I have made my point on the question of arts and culture and let us stop copycatting South Africa.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Let me also thank all the Members who participated for their kind support and I know the others supported in silence and I thank them all for that kind support.

Coming back to individuals, Honourable Dienda who took the Floor first put some pertinent questions that warrant answers, although I must again thank the two Honourable Colleagues here, the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism and also the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for providing answers to some of these questions.

I fully agree with Honourable Dienda that this is a very important Ministry and it might be that up to now many of us, as members of this nation, did not realise that we are talking about the majority of our population who happen to be our own children that we ignore and ill-treat in so many ways. I agree with that.

Coming to the question about the money for women soccer, the answer to that is that it is included in the **N\$4 million** for soccer. With regard to the mixed teams, we are unfortunately affiliated to international federations, we have to keep their rules, and these affiliations do not cater for mixed teams, unless we do it the Namibian way and then we will have to find our own rules and management.

It is true that there are some players who are losing out on salaries, but we try to give allowances to the players within our limited Budget. We cannot match the high salaries of some of these players. Therefore, we will be faced with this problem until such time that the private sector and all other stakeholders contribute to the Budget of this Ministry so that we can be in a position to have our professional players paid for and be employed fulltime. I am happy that at least some Members are thinking about that and we will have to put our heads together on how to address this problem.

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There was a question on the Youth Training and Development Programme and I am afraid I have to inform the Honourable Member that the understanding was because the staff establishment was only approved in August 2006.

Therefore, many of these vacancies existed and they could only be filled much later because the money was not available. Most of these vacancies have been filled during the 2007/08 Financial Year and during the 2007/08 Financial Year, 99.02 percent of the Operational Budget was spent. Of course, the Report will still come your way and you will see.

The Honourable Minister already provided answers on the question of the centres closing over weekends. This was also a concern within the Ministry, but then the Ministry was faced with the problem of security after hours for those staff members, apart from overtime and S&T. This is something that we still have to think about, but there are other factors that we have to take into account. Honourable Dienda, once again, thank you for your support.

The patron adequately responded to the questions and concerns raised by Chief Riruako. I only need to agree with him that we as seniors should not always sound so pessimistic and negative. Yesterday I said I did not want to read all the information, but if Members had taken the trouble, then they would have read in my statement what Honourable Geingob was saying. In a competition, the loser makes it possible for the winner to win, so you are contributing. In the spirit of sport, one would want to win, but one is also willing to accept defeat and you do not only look at the 6-0 and 2-0, but you also look at the performance of a team.

I would like to say that if the Honourable Members would support our sport and give time to the youth and the Ministry, you might see a difference within a short time. Therefore, just give us time.

Thank you very much for your support, Honourable Ndaitwah. I cannot agree more with you that there is a need for our players and different coaches to be empowered, to be supported and if we criticise, our criticism should empower and not be destructive all the time.

Thank you very much for the support, honourable Geingob. I agree with you on the size of the Budget, but again, like all other Ministries we are depending on the size of the cake.

Therefore, we hope that the moneymaking Ministries will provide money to the Ministry of Finance so that when in due course we come and knock at the doors of the Ministry, that we will get more money in order to be able to do our work. I appeal to the Namibian companies, because it is a shame that the Namibian companies, making money out of Namibians and the Namibian economy, do not contribute to problems like sport, for example. They do not invest. Nevertheless, this is just to appeal to them to come on board. They are most welcome.

Honourable Mutorwa, I thank you very much for your kind support. I share your concerns and those of Honourable Dienda. We must face the reality that the officials are civil servants and we have to obey our laws. I agree with you that the National Youth Council will get more duties.

Honourable Venaani, I agree that whatever you do, discipline is the key. If there is a lack of discipline – even in this August House – then you will not be able to perform. Therefore, I agree that discipline is needed in our sports and in whatever we do.

I share your sentiments with regard to arts and culture, but I must say here that there are cultural groups really performing perfectly and even originally, while there are cultural groups, which lack guidance and direction and this blame should go to the parents and to our communities. If you as a parent do not practise your culture, where do you want your child to learn about this culture and practise it? If you as parents leave your children to be brought up by the television, where they only see foreign cultures and you as parents do not practise your own cultures, where do you want these young people to learn your own cultures? That is where they are left to copy from others, unfortunately. We must appeal to our elders to bring back their cultures and transfer these cultures to the children and to the youth. The parents in any household are supposed to be the first teachers and the first trainers of their children before the schools and the tertiary institutions come in.

With this I thank you for your kind support.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Minister, thank you so much for the Katutura Community Arts Centre, which meets our children's desire to become

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something. My children are running classes there, only paying N\$50 per child per year, which is very cheap. However, Honourable Venaani was so right when he was saying that our arts developed further at the school level, it just stops at primary school and there is nothing at secondary schools.

HON VENAANI: May I ask the MP from Wanaheda a question? When you enter this National Assembly, what do you see that portrays the diversity of the Namibian people, as the House of the Namibian people? Does the Parliament reflect our culture and diversity?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Venaani, I feel that we must go a step further. Our children are not aware of this Arts Centre and I only know about the one in Katutura. These centres should be advertised at school level, on the radio, etcetera, so that all the children could be aware that such facilities are available to them.

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

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Chairperson, I am looking at page 21 of the Minister's motivation and this is on the cultural heritage.

Comrade Minister, I would like to see, just for the interest of the people, that next time around more information be given on cultural heritage and what role the public could play to contribute to their cultural heritage in order to make information available to those responsible.

I am just saying this for the interest of the public that next time more information should be given on the work of cultural heritage. I thank you, Chairperson.

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Dienda, once again thank you for appreciating what is being done at Katutura. The teaching of arts in schools is addressed, because there is a concern that we have to liaise with the Ministry of Education on that one and it is being addressed and is receiving attention.

I must also hasten to admit here that, having talked about companies, it is true that there are companies participating and we cannot generalise. We must admit that there are companies and consortiums which are really contributing and we encourage them to continue and appeal to others to also come on board.

Coming to the request by the Honourable Minister here, Reports will be forthcoming and as time comes, we will be able to make statements. The problem with the Budget speech is that one cannot include all the information all the time and it has to be shortened. It is true, we have to make the Ministry's work visible and this will be done in due course so that the people would know what this Ministry stands for, what it is doing and in so doing, that we apply to the minds of the people to be more supportive of the work of the Ministry. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I put Vote 27, any objections? Agreed to.

I now put Vote 24 – “**TRANSPORT**” for Discussions.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I have a concern about taxis and I feel it is time that we have better regulations regarding taxis in this country as there is no control.

Taxi drivers do not even pay taxes and when we are involved in an accident with a taxi, there is no compensation. You have to repair your car on your own because the taxi driver is not insured. The reason is, because the Government has not put any measures in place for these taxi owners. People grab our bags, run to the taxi and you have to run after your bag, otherwise he will disappear with your things.

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We should have a body, which regulates the taxi where we can go with our problems, but there is no follow-up because many are just pirate taxis and there is no control. I thank you, I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Chairperson, I have only question, but before I come to that, I have been talking about these taxis for years and I just want to support Honourable Dienda. It is a nuisance, but we have been talking and talking since the years of late Plichta, since the years of Kabajani, but nothing happens. We talk and then we forget. Anyway, I support you on that one.

I just want to ask a question to the Minister on the projects. There is a project on Gobabis-Otjinene road upgrading. It is fine. What happened there is that the work was done on that road up to Drimiopsis and it ended there. However, according to this, there was an amount of N\$10 million and that year has ended, but no work has been done. What happened to this money, because the whole of that year nothing has been done? Then in 2008/09 there is an amount of N\$50 million. What happened in this Financial Year which is now ending? If it was budgeted for, why was the road not built?

I am saying there was work done up to Drimiopsis some years back and it was budgeted for, but this Financial Year nothing has been done.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, one has to support what is taking place, but last year was something else. The way the work was arranged was acceptable, but I am not going to buy what happened last year, that is something else. I support the Bill.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson, my concern is on the small roads contractors that are resurfacing the roads. My office is inundated with calls from these people who got these tenders. The person gets a tender of N\$2 million. He goes to the bank just to buy a grader of N\$300,000 and the bank refuses, they are looking for collateral. How can we envisage to help our people, give them tenders, but they cannot buy a grader of one-third of the amount? This is one issue, which needs to be addressed because many contractors are losing these tenders because they get no assistance.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, it was one of the white guys, and they buy these tractors and we know what happens. We know this happens every day, but it is for the Government to find a way out on how it is supposed to be done, either through the Development Bank instead of hiring someone there in order to get what you want.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chief, I totally agree with you and it is a serious problem. Coming to the major capital projects, the big companies charge the State millions of dollars and the only Namibians who benefit are about eighty women or people from the village who just make these white marks on the road while they take the biggest share.

It is a situation that needs to be revisited. If Grinacker wants to come and build roads here, they must be forced to go into joint partnership with Namibians, even if they have the infrastructure, so that our people can have resources. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, the Floor is yours.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: I will try to be brief. We are working on an overall

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policy on transportation, meaning traffic, to involve many institutions within the sector – the police, the aviation and others to overlook all these transport issues, including the taxis. There is progress on that score.

Gobabis-Otjinene: As you will see in my statement, when I asked for money, I asked for the programme. It therefore means that the programme is flexible so that if there is a delay in one programme, that money can go to a project, which is advancing. The design of that road has been completed, therefore the contract will be awarded this year and work will commence. In fact, that road is part of the overall branch of the Kalahari Corridor. The destination is not Otjinene but Grootfontein, and Grootfontein would then link up with the Tsinsabis-Katwitwi road to the border. It will then be the Kalahari-Luanda Corridor.

I understand ten kilometres have actually been done for design and realignment and the documentation is complete and soon we will start.

The money did not go back because there were shortages in other road projects, which would have taken up that money and whenever there is a shortage, we move the money. In fact, we are now working on what they call the sector-wide approach, so that there will be a basket for the entire road sector and the money can move easily in completion of those projects that need money immediately. Those who have been delayed can wait.

The small contractors: I reported in the statement that small contractors have been trained and they have really been empowered in terms of information and knowledge. Most of the bigger projects are now going to be unbundled so that the bigger operator has no way of completing by himself the road from Rundu to Siku, because unbundling means that sub-works done to that road would have to be subcontracted out to the small contractors.

With that, I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? I recognise Dr Ndjoze.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you for the opportunity. I rise to support Vote 24. However, I wish to make the following observations as food for thought.

I am referring to pages 4 to 6 and I am very excited about the projects that are mentioned there. As a person who is travelling to all the parts of this country, I have noted that you can travel from Windhoek to Noordoewer on a very good tarred road and on a very good gravel road to Aussenkehr. You can also travel from Windhoek to Oshakati on a good tarred road. However, Rundu via Okongo has not be nice and I am very happy to see that it is also included in these projects.

However, I really want to find out why the road from Rietfontein is also included, hopefully from Otjinene it goes to Rietfontein.

I want to refer to the road between Tsumkwe and Gam and Eiseb and Epukiro and Otjimbinde. There is a road, I have been travelling on that road, and I am just wondering whether that road is not important. I am particularly referring to Tsumkwe, because the only nurse that we trained as the Ministry of Education for Tsumkwe died in a road accident between Grootfontein and Tsumkwe. That road is just not a road. It is gravel. From Tsumkwe you travel to Gam, from Gam you go to Eiseb.

At Eiseb you have a choice whether you go to Epukiro or whether you go with the main road to Otjimbinde. Why are we not getting roads to the East? The roads to the East really are not there.

I am aware of the Kalahari Highway that passes through Omaheke, but it is not connected to the communities of Omaheke. It is cattle country that should be stimulated to support the meat and beef production and movement of the meat. The communities are living far away from this road and there are no roads to support this industry. Can we please have these roads done, using funds from our Government to support the people of our country in this particular region, especially Otjozondjupa and Omaheke Region? We also need tarred roads, why is it always gravel? Every time it is a tarred road, there is no money. Eighteen years after Independence you do not have one tarred road to the East and some of us from that region cannot travel when it rains. Could the Honourable Minister please look into this issue?

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 24
HON RIRUAKO

We have to look after the roads of our country. I am aware of the concepts of minor feeder roads, major roads, but we are a people and we want to identify with what the Government is doing for us. Kindly look into the issue and let us use some of this money from the German Cooperation KfW to renovate and tar the roads to the East. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, this reminder was the best one in this House and the Prime Minister was asking me here, “what happened to Aminuis?” Aminuis is an outcast and I have been quarrelling with the House until I shut up. I talked but nobody responded.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Chief, your questions should go to the Minister of Transport.

HON RIRUAKO: No, the Minister sat down a long time ago, I am supposed to speak now. Are you lost?

CHAIRPERSON OF WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of order, Chief. Sit down now. You should not make jokes here.

HON RIRUAKO: I am not making jokes. (Interjection). I am not arguing with the Chair, she has called for me. I am saying, even the Prime Minister posed the question, “what happened to Aminuis?” But Aminuis is an outcast, it does not belong to this world because when you go there you will cry, you will come back with a broken car. But Chief Hosea Kutako came from Aminuis and this place has been forgotten.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES:
Honourable Chief, come to your point.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 24
HON H ANGULA

HON RIRUAKO: This is my point. I look at this House, it is a British House, it is not an African House. We have to have our belongings here. Now we look at the wall, it is a British wall. (Interjections). It is Works because the building belongs to Works.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is Transport. How can you talk about the building?

HON RIRUAKO: I know it is Transport, but I mention that because you just reminded me.

I do not want to criticise anybody on the roads, it is there for the safety of the human beings of this country. The road to Gam, I have tried my best until they have reached Gam but the road is not well maintained like those ones among the whites. We do better for them than for ourselves.

Honourable Minister, we feel proud for what you have done for your own people, but not from here to Hochland to Kalkveld. I thank you, you got the message.

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

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: Thank you very much for the interesting question. When I was appointed to be Director of the National Planning Commission, the President asked me what do I think about infrastructure development. Which should be a priority and I wrote a motivation to the fact that there is already such disparity in this country in income distribution and now we are also perpetuating disparity in the provision of infrastructure in this country. I do not agree to provide bitumen standard roads to the feeder roads in some specific areas while there are still vast lands of this country where there are not even gravel roads. Therefore, my proposal has been that we first facilitate gravel roads to the majority of the population and then only think about the

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 24
HON H ANGULA

bitumen standard roads. The exception should be only those trade routes that can bring returns in terms of economic activities, having importance in terms of trade.

You will, therefore, realise that in the current priorities of the master plan the vast majority of the projects are for rural gravel roads, so that at least those people who have no communication would be able to take their products to the market.

The complaint, therefore, about bitumen, I am sorry to say, bitumen standard roads are not a priority as far as feeder roads are concerned. However, yes, trade route corridors, those are a priority for bituminisation.

We know the roads, Gam-Eiseb, Tsumkwe-Gam, Epukiro-Eiseb, are already in the implementation stage with the cooperation of the European Development Fund. Aminuis has a gravel road and if you know the map of your country, if you are in Tsumkwe and look in a northern direction to the Kavango River, you will not find a single gravel road. If you stand at Oshivelo or Omuthiya and look in an eastern direction, there is not a single gravel road between there and the Mururani Gate, which is a span of 200 kilometres. If you stand at Omuthiya and look in the direction of Kaoko or Opuwo, which is a distance of close to 400 kilometres, you will not find a single gravel road. Those people manage with the small sand tracks that are there.

If you stand at Oshivelo and look south, you will find a gravel road at literally 20 kilometres. What does it mean? It means unequal distribution of infrastructure and this has to be addressed if we are to address unequal distribution.

Let us look at our country holistically. I understand it is very important for an elected person to look at a village because that is where he derived the power base, but also be prepared to speak for the entire country.

When you are at the United Nations, at the European Union, when you say you come from Namibia, you should not only look nice in a suit and say our per capita income is **N\$2 000**, because then you are telling a lie because that only attributes to five percent of the population. The rest are as equal as any least underdeveloped country and that should be our priority. (Interjection). You cannot compare, not at all.

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HON H ANGULA

The reason, Honourable Chief, that Aminuis does not have a tarred road is because it is just one of the feeder roads. But I think the gravel road is safe. The rationale that people are dying on the Grootfontein-Tsumkwe road is just another disaster. People are dying on this Western Bypass at a higher rate than any of the gravel roads. Why? Because it just happens that there is high traffic and the people enjoy driving fast.

However, between Tsumkwe and Grootfontein it is not so populated, so people try to drive to reach Tsumkwe because they cannot sleep on the way, they must rush to their destination.

One aspect of bad planning by our road planners in the past has been that there is nothing to reflect the need to detract us from driving fast in the form of stations and some curving. Between Grootfontein and Tsumkwe there should be amenities, toilets and a place where people can sit and wash their hands and rest. There is nothing. That is what causes accidents because people get tired and fall asleep, because the road is just too long and it is too monotonous. Something has to be done in that direction. But we will have to justify to the Minister of Finance to build a tarred road. What would be the financial contribution in terms of the GDP by that road? If it is just to make two cars run faster, it cannot be our priority.

Thank you very much for the support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 24, any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:35 UNTIL 2008.04.25 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
25 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? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Hans Booys?

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Thank you Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 8, 9, 12, 20, 23, 25, and 26 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration but if still under consideration at 12:30. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Motion Honourable Member. Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
COMMITTEE STAGE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Committee Stage – *Appropriation Bill*.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance or Deputy Minister Move that the Assembly goes into Committee or anybody instructed to act on behalf of the two Colleagues?

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Agreed to. I call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair. Honourable Hans Booys?

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01 to 06, 10, 11, 13 to 19, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29, and 30 have been agreed to. Votes 09, 23 and 26 have been introduced. I now put Vote 12.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 12
HON MUNGUNDA**

I now put Vote 12 – “**GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE**”, N\$364,887,000 for Introduction by the Minister.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

I thank you. Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to congratulate Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy Minister, her entire team and the Director-General of the National Planning Commission for the *pro-poor* National Budget that unlocks the prosperity of the Land of the Brave.

At last Namibia has fulfilled the requirements of SADC Declaration on Gender and Development, which urges Member States to ensure that at least 30% of those in political and decision-making structures are women by 2005. Namibia has become the fourth country within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to attain the target of at least 30% of women representation in Parliament. The target we are aiming at is 50/50 representation by 2015, and I am very positive that it will happen.

I am delighted that the presentation of the Ministry’s Vote coincides with the SADC Ministers of Gender/Women meeting that will take place in Windhoek from 28 – 30 April 2008.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, having made those introductory remarks, let me now take the House through the Budget Allocations of the people’s Ministry. The total Operational Budget allocation requested for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is N\$249,984,000 for the Operational Budget and for the Development Budget we need N\$14,903,000. The following are allocations as per the programmes:

CHILD WELFARE

This Directorate of Child Welfare Services managed to appoint more staff members at both National and Regional levels in order to be able to deal with the escalating number and needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the country.

An amount of N\$11,829,000 is required to cater for all staff members for the year 2008/09.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 12
HON MUNGUNDA**

To ensure that the rights of the children are upheld and protected, the Directorate has embarked on the following:

OVC PERMANENT TASK FORCE

In accordance with the National Policy on multi-sectoral approach in dealing with the OVC, the Ministry is continuing with the Permanent Task Force meetings that are held quarterly to look at the plan and share information on its implementation. The Ministry has also established the OVC Forum in all 13 Regions.

NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVC)

The Ministry developed the National Plan of Action for OVC as a supplement to the National Policy of OVC.

The Plan of Action is organized around five strategic areas, which are:

- i) Rights and protection
- ii) Education
- iii) Care and Support
- iv) Health and Nutrition
- v) Management and Networking

The Plan of Action was officially launched by the Right Honourable Prime Minister last year on the 25th of August 2007 with the support from UNICEF.

GENERAL SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY WORK

The Social Workers in the Ministry handled different cases involving children, ranging from foster care placements, adoption centres, children with behavioural problems, child abuse and neglect, inheritance and property grabbing, disputes over custody for children, emergency need for food, school uniforms, exemption for school development funds, examination fees and hostel fees amongst others.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 12
HON MUNGUNDA**

**NATIONAL DATABASE ON ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE
CHILDREN**

With the support of USAID the Ministry is on track in setting up the National OVC database that is aimed at providing accurate information to stakeholders for proper planning and Budgeting on programme activities aimed at addressing all OVC issues.

SOCIAL GRANTS

As part of the safety net, the Ministry provides Child Welfare Grants to Orphans and Vulnerable Children. These are in the form of Maintenance Grants, Foster Parent Grants and Special Maintenance Grants for children with disabilities under the age of 16 years. 90,126 OVC's, are currently benefiting from the grants compared to the 60,930 in the same period last year. We have made great progress of about 30,000 more children. An amount of N\$193,061,000 is required for this Division.

With assistance from UNICEF, the Ministry also developed information brochures on *Services for Children in Need*, *Community Support for OVC's*, *Birth Registration a Child's Right*, these are all documents which are there, "A Child Belongs to All of Us" which were disseminated countrywide, for the communities to acquaint themselves to the services available and how to access them.

GRN/WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP) OVC FOOD SUPPORT

In response to the request by Government for assistance, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) agreed to provide food aid to Orphans and Vulnerable Children who are not yet receiving (intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Point of Order.

25 April 2008

**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 12
HON MUNGUNDA**

HON T GURIRAB: I was wondering whether the Minister of
(intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:
I can just continue.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Out of Order. Please continue Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:
No Comrade, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee my
favourite Boeta is also an orphan.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I
ruled Honourable Gurirab Out of Order. Please continue, Honourable
Minister.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:
Thank you for that Comrade.

**SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN
PROGRAMME (SPVC)**

25 April 2008

**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 12
HON MUNGUNDA**

The Special Protection for Vulnerable Children is implemented by the Ministry with financial support from UNICEF in the following Regions: Omaheke, Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena and Omusati.

It is focusing on strengthening the capacity of communities to care for OVC's in their Regions through training, awareness raising and income generating activities that are benefiting OVC's. Just last week UNICEF donated computer software for this programme and we are also expecting 3 cars to be donated soon.

NAMIBIA CHILDREN'S HOME AND AFTER SCHOOL CENTRE

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare runs a home for children in need of care in Eros, Windhoek. It caters for 140 children by ensuring their daily maintenance and education. The After School Centre provides after-school activities to children at risk and street children. With the financial support from UNESCO, the centre offers computer classes and training on income generating activities to parents of those children who are involved in the programme.

The Ministry requires N\$6,564,000 to maintain and educate these children for the 2008/09 Financial Year. The total Budget amount needed for this programme is N\$226,099,000.

PROGRAMME 2:

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The objective of the Directorate of Gender Equality is to promote gender equality by empowering both women and men through dissemination of information, coordination and networking with all stakeholders; and mainstreaming of gender at all levels; and to influence the law-making process to bring about laws and policy reforms that are gender responsive; and to facilitate the implementation process of national, regional and international instruments. Under this Directorate we have the National Gender Policy and the National Gender Plan of Action.

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HON MUNGUNDA**

**THE NATIONAL GENDER POLICY AND THE NATIONAL GENDER
PLAN OF ACTION**

The National Gender Policy sets out principles how women and men should be treated equally as development partners.

NATIONAL GENDER MAINSTREAMING PROGRAMME

During the period under review the Directorate carried out gender sensitisation workshops for traditional leaders and the community meeting people with leadership positions in communities such as church leaders, and various community-based organisations in all the Regions and Constituencies.

**STRENGTHENING RESPONSE OF LEADERSHIP TO GENDER,
HIV/AIDS, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND POVERTY ISSUES**

Information sharing sessions were held to sensitise Parliamentarians on the linkages between gender, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence and poverty issues.

**TRAINING OF JOURNALISTS ON HEALTH, GENDER BASED
VIOLENCE, POVERTY AND HIV/AIDS**

To increase reporting on gender issues, training was conducted for 16 journalists, including those from community and indigenous radio stations. The objective was to train the journalists on gender reporting in relation to HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, poverty and reproductive health.

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING INITIATIVE

The Ministry conducted gender responsive Budgeting training of trainers (TOT) for Gender Focal Points officers. It further conducted gender Budgeting sensitisation workshops for senior finance officials from Line Ministries.

The Ministry is planning to carry out gender analysis of the National Budget and to conduct a sensitisation workshop for Members of Parliament, targeting Ministers.

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HON MUNGUNDA**

GIRLS CLUB WORKSHOPS

The aim of the workshops was to educate girls on issues of teenage pregnancies and HIV and AIDS. These workshops started in the Kavango Region at 3 schools and will continue to cover many schools in the country.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION VISITS FOR CONDOM PROMOTERS

Under this project the Ministry aims at raising awareness on Gender and HIV and AIDS with special focus on the promotion of female condoms among communities.

GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS WORKSHOPS

These Workshops were held in Otjozondjupa (Tsumkwe, Berg Aukas: National Youth Service), Omaheke Regions. 176 participants attended the workshop: 105 female and 71 were male.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Namibia is a country that is characterized by inequality between men and women, which is embedded and condoned. This environment caters for violence against women and children.

A conference to address this issue was held from 19 to 22 June 2007 at the NamPower Convention Centre, ±370 delegates attended. The aim of the conference was to look at the causes and effects of gender-based violence and AIDS as well as to establish links between gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.

The conference was attended by representatives from the Commonwealth Secretariat, SADC Secretariat; all Line Ministries, NGOs, CBOs, and Traditional Authorities from all 13 political Regions.

LAUNCHING OF 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

25 April 2008

**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 12
HON MUNGUNDA**

Every year, Namibia participates in the International Campaign for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The Campaign commences on the 25th of November every year and ends on the 10th of December. The aim of the Campaign is to symbolically highlight the connection between women, violence and human rights and to emphasise that such violation is a violation of human rights. Last year the official launching was in Kalkrand and the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana officiated at this ceremony.

LEGAL LITERACY PROGRAMME

These are ongoing workshops and were carried out in the following Regions: **Khomas, Erongo** (Hentiesbay), **Oshikoto** (Tsumeb), **Karas** (Keetmanshoop, Noordoewer, Luderitz). The workshops were attended by a total number of 200 participants: 130 female and 70 male.

KAP STUDY ON TRADITIONAL PRACTICES THAT MAY PERPETUATE OR PROTECT WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare conducted a KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) study on traditional practices that may perpetuate or protect women and children from violence and discrimination. This study was conducted in four Regions, Kunene, Caprivi, Ohangwena and Otjozondjupa. The remaining nine Regions will be visited from June 2008. For this programme the Ministry needs N\$9,687,000.

COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Poverty alleviation remains high on the Government agenda, hence, a number of programmes to alleviate poverty have been put into place.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is mandated to spearhead some of these programme especially those that pertain to the empowerment of women, rural and disadvantaged communities as well as programmes geared towards the early education, care and development of children. A Rural Women Development Regional Conference will be held in all 13 Regions and the National Rural Women Conference will take place on the 10th of December

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 12
HON MUNGUNDA**

2008 in Windhoek, to coincide with the Namibian Women's Day/International Human Rights Day

COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

Committees need to be constantly mobilised to take part in decisions and activities that concern their families and children in order to spearhead their own development. The focus of this activity is directed to the community at both men and women. Mobilisation meetings are scheduled for different target groups, such as parents, community leaders, constituency Councillors and all stakeholders involved in development.

During the period under review, 160 mobilisation meetings were held countrywide, attended by 8,000 people of whom 6,000 were women.

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES (IGA's)

As a poverty alleviation strategy, Income Generating Activities plays a very crucial role in the upliftment of the living standards of the poor people especially in rural areas particularly women and children who are mostly affected by poverty and hunger. In order for the communities to become self-reliant, mobilisation and community sensitisation have to be done, for people to understand the importance of initiating income-generating activities.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Just continue Honourable Minister. Honourable Members, listen and ask questions on what you are hearing. Please continue, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

That is 2006.

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HON MUNGUNDA**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Just continue, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

You are protected.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Comrade Deputy, I know I am protected, highly protected.

FUNDED IGA's

The Directorate received 308 project applications seeking support during the period under review.

The Directorate facilitated the transfer of an amount of N\$841,300.00 to the 13 Regional Councils, earmarked for funding community projects in the Regions. The community activated with information in brochures in different languages, on how to apply and they accept them, and when they apply, all the Regions send it to the Directorate. The Directorate then shortlists and brings it to the Office of the Minister and the Deputy Minister. The people then receive assistance on a first come first served basis, depending on the funds available. Now let us just look at the money, which is not enough. At some stage, 308 applications for assistance were received for last year's Budget. Only N\$841,000 was available to assist these people. I am not happy with that one, really. In total, from the 308 only 86 could be assisted.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 12
HON MUNGUNDA**

Last year for instance, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry co-sponsored a group of 24 women entrepreneurs from all 13 Regions engaging in small-scale food catering services to attend the Malaysian International Food and Beverages Trade Fair.

The participation in the Trade Fair enriched and exposed our local upcoming rural entrepreneurs to new techniques of food preparations, preservations and new food technologies. The Fair also accorded Namibian women entrepreneurs a chance to explore business opportunities, to interact and network with their counterparts in Malaysia and from other parts of the world. This year there is again another group with the Trade and Industry that will go there again. This time it will be women in manufacturing.

NEW PROGRAMMES FOR 2008/09

In addition to the existing main programmes of community mobilisation, capacity strengthening and support Income Generating Activities, emphases will be put on these additional activities:

Converting grant into micro-finance pilot projects in two Regions – Omusati and Hardap. This is addressed by using finances as a tool to make relationships work better for the poor.

The conducting of a baseline study on women entrepreneurs and viable Income Generating Activities in each Region supported through the Directorate.

Develop a National Community Development Policy.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Substantial achievements have been made in the area of Early Childhood Development and these include:

Promoting community and individual readiness and demand for ECD programmes.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 12
HON MUNGUNDA**

Increasing the coverage of ECD programmes particularly among rural, poor and disadvantaged populations to ensure that children particularly those at risk can access ECD services.

Involving stakeholders, parents, professionals and the communities in deciding the most relevant and affordable options for ECD service delivery.

Another milestone reached in the area of ECD is that Cabinet has in the past year approved the amended 1996 National ECD Policy. The Policy was amended to give cognisance to many socio-economic and administrative changes that took place since its initial implementation. In addition, the policy was amended to highlight some of the contemporary emerging issues relevant to the development of young children, their families and communities in Namibia. The amended policy also has a specific focus on the promotion of inter-sectoral, holistic and rights based framework envisaged to provide a dynamic vision for an integrated early childhood development approach.

Furthermore, the National ECD Policy of 1996 was amended to cater for the transfer of children ages 5 – 6 from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to the Ministry of Education to enrol in pre-primary schools. Cabinet give the transition period as from 2007/08 – 2010/11 and the transfer process has since commenced.

ECD ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2008/2009 FINANCIAL YEAR

Children are born every year, therefore the ECD programme will be ongoing to serve the communities and children 0-4+ years. Anticipated activities to be carried out in the ECD programme for 2008/09 include the following set objectives and activities:

National ECD Policy will be launched and both the policy and ECD curriculum will be printed and disseminated to all Regions and ECD stakeholders.

The ECD Policy is a document to be used by all parties involved in ECD service provision. The Policy will be translated for a start in 4 local languages.

For the revised Policy to be in effect an updated ECD Policy implementation plan as well as monitoring and evaluation tools are going to be developed.

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HON MUNGUNDA**

Exchange visits and participation in networking events on ECD will be organised on national, sub-regional and international levels.

Sixty-seven key staff members from the Directorate will undergo training at all levels on the use of monitoring and evaluation tools of data collection, ECD Policy implementation plan, and on the implementation of the ECD curriculum.

Monitoring progress in the implementation of the ECD program is important, platform for sharing information will be done through the quarterly National and Regional ECD committees.

In service training will be conducted for 103 staff on ECD and 82 Constituency ECD committees.

Technical and material support will be provided to the community who are initiating the expansion and provision of ECD services especially with focus on poor groups.

Consultants will be hired to develop the ECD database at national and regional levels, and establish an IECD holistic child index for children between 0 - 6 years.

Interventions such as the Family Visitors Programme will be expanded to more Regions to address the problem of OVC's who do not benefit from the ECD programme.

What is important is that we have now discovered as a Government that the ECD is the foundation because those children attending the ECD never failed Grade 12. That is why it changes the picture and it is now 5 – 6 under pre-primary. The ECD curriculum for 0 - 4 is also very well occupied. For this we will need N\$29,101,000.

It is now my singular honour to approach this august House, to approve the Ministry's Budget to the amount of N\$264,887,000, of which N\$249,984,000 is the Operational Budget and N\$14,903,000 will be for the Development Budget.

God Bless as all. Thank you.

25 April 2008

APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 20
HON MUTORWA

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much, Honourable Minister.

I now put Vote 20 – “**AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**”,
N\$948,631,000 for introduction by the Minister.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Hans Booys, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly's Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. For the Honourable Isak Katali, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and I today the 25th of April 2008 is our 17th day in office as Minister and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry. I therefore commence my statement by paying tribute to the five Ministers and 3 Deputy Ministers that preceded us in heading the Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Water, Rural Development at a certain point and Forestry now. Those leaders were and are the late Honourable Gert Hanekom, Anton Von Wietersheim, Nangolo Mbumba our Minister of Education now, Helmut Angula our Minister of Works and Transport now and Honourable Doctor Nicky Iyambo Minister of Safety and Security now, and Deputy Ministers, Doctor Mbuende, Stanley Webster and Paul Smit.

In line with the best practises and strong policy foundation that they have laid, I have the honour and pleasant constitutional duty in terms of Article 40 of the Constitution to explain, report and to motivate Vote 20 for your consideration and approval, Honourable Members.

In motivating for Vote 20, which is the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, I will highlight major achievements in the Agriculture, Water and Forestry sectors over the past Financial Year and indicate key activities and programmes, which we intend to implement during the 2008/09 Financial Year.

I am presenting this Budget, at a time, when the sectors of Agriculture, Water and Forestry are facing multi-faceted challenges, because of international and regional developments, which have significant impact on performance of the regional and domestic economies.

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We have climate change, which does influence agricultural production, especially rainfall production on livestock and crops. As a result there has not been growth due to drought and floods, which eventually affected the agricultural output.

Namibia has also been confronted by the challenges of high food and international oil prices. In certain cases, the increase in food prices has also been driven by the diversion of wheat and maize production for purposes of producing bio-fuel in the phase of high prices at the cost of food production. The high food prices have also increased due to regional droughts and floods in key maize and wheat producing countries; as well as to increased demand from the fast growing emerging market economies.

The Government is committed to implement mitigating measures, to counter the effects of high food prices at household and national levels, by making land available to expand agricultural production.

Although the agriculture and forestry sectors were estimated to contribute about 6.06% and 6.17% respectively to the Gross Domestic Product during 2007 and 2008, the GDP percentage growth rate is expected to decline from approximately 3.2% to 2.9% during the periods under review due to floods and other factors. In light of these developments, the Ministry is embarking on promoting value addition and diversification of agricultural and forestry resources.

Another challenge Honourable Members, facing the country is to supply sufficient water for domestic and industrial use, to cater for the growing population as well as emerging and developing industries.

The sector is faced with many challenges of realising forestation and reforestation of the deforested areas with forest potential, as well as to protect and preserve forest resources from destructive fires and bush encroachment. Therefore, the Ministry will try to address these challenges through the purchasing of fire fighting equipments and programmes aimed at addressing bush encroachment.

I am motivating for a total Budget of N\$948,631,000 for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for the Financial Year 2008/09.

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Of this total, 69,4% will be for the Operational Budget. The remaining 30,4% represents the Development Budget.

Overall 30,9% will go to the water sector to supply water to rural communities and resettlement towns. 60,6% will go to the Agriculture sector, and 8,3% will go to the Forestry sector.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Comrade Deputy Chairperson is implementing seven programmes. Four of the programmes are specific to Agriculture, two programmes in the Water sector and one Forestry programme.

The programmes are as follows:

1. Agricultural Planning, Marketing and Food Security;
2. Agricultural Advice;
3. Training;
4. Agricultural Infrastructures;
5. Integrated Water Resource Management;
6. Rural Water Supply, and
7. Forestry.

The Ministry strives to contribute to the creation of a conducive policy environment for the livestock, plant, water and forestry sectors, through regular policy review and development; to acquire market access for agricultural products, by negotiating favourable trade agreements at bilateral and multilateral levels and to provide market information and agricultural statistical data to the agriculture industry. The Ministry also intends to develop mechanisation of agriculture, food processing, and packaging, in order to stimulate agri-business development.

Due to climatic change worldwide, the Ministry continues, through its early warning unit, to provide timely and analytical assessments of the national agricultural production outlook, the effects of floods, droughts and the outbreaks of pests like red-billed quelea birds, locusts and armyworms at critical stages of crop development.

In order to promote self-employment and income generating activities, the Ministry through the co-operative sector plays a vital role in organising,

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especially rural people in socio-economic activities such as sewing, livestock marketing, savings and credit schemes, building construction, small mining, welding and joinery, arts and crafts, seed multiplication and certification.

The provision of agricultural services and inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and ploughing enable them to generate income, thereby improving their livelihoods. The co-operative sector has about 11,950 members who generated a turnover in excess of N\$437,848,250.59 during the 2007/08 Financial Year.

After the construction of strategic food storage facilities at Rundu, Honourable Members, the Ministry intends to construct four similar strategic grain storage facilities at Katima Mulilo in the Caprivi Region, Okongo in the Ohangwena Region, Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region and Tsandi in the Omusati Region, during the current Financial Year. The reason of course is to increase the storage capacity to at least 11,500 tonnes. This initiative shall be complemented by the Government procurement system to ensure that at least, three quarters of Namibia's food requirements are always available in the country.

The Ministry requests therefore N\$87,110,000 for operational activities and N\$30,560,000 to stimulate agribusiness development and data collection as well as to construct grain storages and support the production, marketing and processing of horticultural produce.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry strives to maintain and promote animal health, breeding, reproduction, and to assure safe and orderly marketing of animals and animal products through animal disease control, traceability, veterinary surveillance, epidemiology, extension, diagnostic services and veterinary public health services. I would like to highlight that the Ministry is committed to integrating communal farmers in the mainstream of the economy through deliberate programmes aimed at the relocation the Veterinary Cordon Fence to the Namibia – Angola Border. There is a Standing Cabinet Decision to that effect.

Vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease and Contagious Bovine Pleuro – Pneumonia is annually carried out in areas north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence. The favourable animal health status allowed the continued export of beef, mutton, and venison to South Africa and the European Union markets.

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For these operations, Honourable Members the Ministry requests N\$82,014,000, as well as N\$16,400,000 to construct veterinary clinics, offices and accommodation facilities, expansion and improvement of the veterinary laboratory, as well as for the relocation of the Veterinary Cordon Fence for animal disease control.

I now come to the programme dealing with Agricultural Advice.

Honourable Members, in order to increase agricultural output, especially for the subsistence farmers, the Ministry shall continue to provide training, communications, information, dissemination and advisory services, encouraging the development and adoption of improved farming technologies and practices, to achieve optimum results, as well as how to deal with the issues of land degradation, conservation and preservation of plant and livestock resources. The Ministry shall continue to promote the Farming Systems Research and Extension approach, which is a participatory approach, and build the capacity of the farming communities.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Minister, I apologise for disturbing. We have to break for tea now. If there is anyone who wishes us to continue with laceration, say so. We should continue? Please Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you Comrade Deputy Chairperson. Approval is therefore requested for an amount of N\$112,339,000 of which N\$102,257,000 is for the Recurrent Budget and N\$10,082,000 is for the Capital Budget. The Recurrent Budget includes additional allocations of N\$25,000,000 for support to Dry-land Crop Production (Fertilizer and Seeds) and for Ploughing Services, and N\$3,000,000 for capacity building and training of Resettled and Emerging Farmers under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme. The allocation for Capital Budget will also be utilised for the Support to Livestock Marketing for Communal Farmers

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and Construction of Agricultural Development Centres to bring necessary services closer to the country's farming communities.

The effects of climatic changes and other natural phenomena demand that Agricultural Research continues to develop technologies and production systems geared towards developing best practices aimed at improving the livelihoods of people reliant and dependent on agriculture.

Therefore, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, approval is therefore sought for a total of N\$48,153,000 of which N\$45,672,000 will cover recurrent activities while N\$2,481,000 will cover research development projects. The funds earmarked for the Capital Projects will be utilised to support the processing of indigenous fruits and mahangu, as well as to improve the livestock centres particularly in the Northern Communal Areas of our country.

I now come to the programme dealing with Training.

The ministerial efforts geared towards promoting capacity building as well as realising competency of staff members, will continue and must continue during the current Financial Year. Critical training needs in the specialised fields of Veterinary Services, Entomology, Agricultural Engineering, Plant Pathology, Animal and Plant breeding, Pasture Science, Financial Management, Economic Planning, Water Science, and Forestry amongst others, have been prioritised and are pre-requisites for the successful implementation of the Ministerial programmes and activities. To further enhance the livelihood of all Namibians involved in agricultural entrepreneurship, particularly in the rural areas, improvement of the required skills and knowledge is being supported by the Ministry through non-formal training programmes and activities.

I therefore request approval from this Honourable House for a total amount of N\$17,978,000, of which N\$12,628,000 is Budgeted for recurrent activities including N\$2 million for capacity building of staff and N\$3 million for capacity building and skills development for Small Scale Irrigation Farmers.

In order to increase crop production, the Ministry strives to plan, design and implement both small scale and large irrigation projects for the Green Scheme Programme, as well as to assist farmers with technical support for the farm dams, pipe lines and soil improvement, water conservation structures,

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agricultural mechanization, farm buildings, grain storage facilities and agro-industries.

The Ministry continues to facilitate the implementation of various programmes, projects, and schemes. The Omega Project will be re-activated and improved under the management of the new to be restructured Namibia Development Corporation (NDC). The irrigation schemes at Kalimbeza in the Caprivi Region, Shadikongoro, Ndonga Linena, Uvhungu–Vhungu, Sikondo, Shitemo, Etunda, Hardap, Tandjieskoppe, Noordoewer and the Orange River Irrigation Project will be developed, monitored, expanded and brought under production.

The Ministry facilitated the design, tendering and construction and supervision of grain storage facilities or silos at Katima Mulilo (Caprivi Region), Okongo (Ohangwena Region), Omuthiya (Oshikoto Region) and planning for the Omusati Region is in advanced progress. I must mention that the storage facilities in Rundu were already completed during the tenure of Honourable Doctor Nicky Iyambo. Providers under the Green Scheme Programme were made available. Priority projects, namely Ndonga Linena, Tandjieskoppe and Uvhungu–Vhungu, were identified under the Green Scheme Programme and will be put in full production during the current Financial Year.

In order to encourage small-scale farmers to become commercial farmers, the Ministry endeavours to construct 35 low-cost houses at Shadikongoro and Uvhungu–Vhungu for the 35 students who already graduated at the Mashare Irrigation Training Centre last year. Similar developments are ongoing at Shitemo, Musese, Ndonga Linena, Etunda and Uvhungu–Vhungu irrigation projects.

I would like to point out that there have been challenges and there continue to be challenges in the implementation of the Green Scheme. These are in terms of agricultural financing, lack of capacity in the execution of the programmes in the absence of Namibia Development Corporation, as well as lack of capacity to manage and develop the irrigation projects and obtaining land from the authorities for particular irrigation projects. In this regard, we hope that the Government through the Ministry will have provide and review the Green Scheme Policy as soon as possible in order to ensure smooth implementation of this very important national programme of Government and the Nation of Namibia.

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For irrigation infrastructure development, Honourable Members the Ministry seeks an approval from this Honourable House of N\$31,522,000 for Operational activities and N\$55,000,000 for Infrastructure.

I would now like to highlight the programme dealing with integrated water resource management.

The Ministry endeavours to implement the new national water policy and legislation for the management of the water resources. This would co-ordinate, manage and monitor developments in the water sector, develop regulations, procedures and practices, and control the equitable allocation of water, the abstraction of water, water quality and other regulatory functions, and ensure equitable and reasonable access to the water from the shared perennial border rivers.

The Ministry continues to engage the neighbouring countries to co-operate in the sharing of international rivers through the Orange Senqu River Commission, Permanent Water Commission between Namibia and South Africa on the Lower Orange River, the Permanent Okavango River Basin Commission on the Kavango River between Botswana, Namibia and Angola, the Zambezi Watercourse Commission as well as the Permanent Joint Technical Commission on the Kunene River between Namibia and the neighbouring country of Angola.

Important projects in this regard are negotiations that are ongoing on the viability of hydropower development in the Kunene River along the common border with Angola, possibly at the Baines site identified earlier, as well as an Integrated Water Resources Management Plan to be executed jointly by the two basin States.

The new water policy emphasizes integration at basin level and involvement of stakeholders, and Basin Management Committees are at the core of the Water Resources Management Act. Four Basin Management Committees have been established namely: Kuiseb, Iishana in the Cuvelai, Stampriet, and the Karst Area.

Water levels and flows, Honourable Members are continuously monitored at some 100 measuring stations in rivers, in lakes and in dams throughout and on the borders of Namibia. New electronic sensors and computerised data loggers

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have been installed at most places. To improve station performance and specifically for better flood warning, telemetry systems have been installed at 11 strategic sites, mainly on the border rivers.

A weather monitoring system has also been installed to monitor development of thunderstorms and to give early flood warning.

A total of 126 permits were issued to manage and control the exploitation and utilisation of water resources. Groundwater level data were collected at 720 boreholes countrywide.

Pollution control monitoring inspections are planned for the Caprivi, Otjozondjupa, Erongo and Oshikoto Regions where heavy rains may have caused damages to effluent disposal infrastructure, which can contribute to pollution of the water resources. Abstraction control compliance monitoring inspections are planned for the Stampriet Artesian Area, Tsumeb, Grootfontein, Otavi Subterranean Water Control Area and the irrigation farms along the Swakop and Omaruru Rivers.

The Ministry therefore seeks approval of N\$33,487,000 for Recurrent activities and N\$42,030,000 to fund programmes, projects and ongoing activities for this particular important programme dealing with water.

The next programme is rural water supply.

The quality of life of rural communities is significantly improved through or can be improved through access to quality and affordable potable water supply. If the implementation continues at the current rate with steady financial and human resources backing the programme, it is predicted Honourable Members that probably 100% coverage for both urban and rural areas can be achieved by the year 2030. The Ministry rehabilitated 88 water points and constructed 41 new water points. 58 replacement boreholes were drilled as well as 40 existing boreholes were rehabilitated. 326 water points have been handed over for full ownership to user communities in all Regions except the Khomas Region.

Decentralisation has been effected in 12 Regions except Khomas with effect from 1 August 2007 as per Cabinet decision. Of course, consultations with regard to the implementation with Regional Councils are ongoing.

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Onambutu Phase 3 is still under construction. Tsandi South Phase 2, a total number of 148 domestic and 44 livestock water points on 127,4 km of rural pipelines was completed.

The construction of Onambutu Phase 4 and Tsandi South Phase 3 will commence and a solar powered water supply scheme comprising 30 km pipelines from 5 boreholes will be constructed. The existing Ogongo – Oshakati rural pipeline scheme built under the previous drought conditions will be upgraded for proper coverage and cost recovery. Likewise, Phase 2, with 100 water points and a 500 private consumer network of the Waterberg – Okakarara water supply scheme presently being upgraded for efficient billing and debt collection and converted to a 500 private consumer networks will be completed.

The water sub-sector Honourable Members has received a substantial boost from our development partners. Luxembourg through Lux-Development pledged N\$29,740,000 towards water development projects in the Caprivi and Kavango Regions. Activities will start during this Financial Year. Iceland committed N\$12,000,000 for water development projects in the Opuwo and Epupa Constituencies. The European Development Fund under the RPRP allocated a grant of N\$10,000,000 and the Spanish Corporation has availed a grant of N\$10,000,000 towards capital development. The Namibia Red Cross Society will commence with the implementation of a water supply and sanitation project for the rural communities in the Kunene and Ohangwena Regions to the value of N\$19,590,450.

Allow me Comrade Deputy Chairperson to mention, that the Ministry will also review the relevant Cabinet decision, the Water and Sanitation Policy and will also commission the study on water tariffs again as the relevant Cabinet decision, as cost recovery remains a challenge, since a number of towns and settlements are unable to pay for the water. The Ministry will identify vulnerable groups for possible consideration for water subsidies on the basis of that stability and its appropriate recommendations

The Ministry therefore seeks approval of N\$121,378,000 for Recurrent Activities and N\$96,060,000 for Capital Activities for this important programme of Rural Water Supply.

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I now come to the last programme of our Ministry which is the programme dealing with Forestry.

The Ministry endeavours to practice and promote the sustainable and participatory management of forest resources and other woody vegetation, to enhance socio-economic development and environmental stability, and poverty reduction by improving the rural economic welfare.

The Ministry intensified the implementation of the Community Based Forest Management in order to improve income generation for its members. Equipment and machineries for clearing fire cut lines in the Oshana and Kavango Regions have been purchased and fire management activities in most fire-prone areas have been carried out.

The Ministry will declare 10 more community forests and provide technical assistance to the Forest Management Committees. In addition, the Ministry will establish fruit tree Orchards in Regions such as Kavango and Caprivi. Two 5-hectare plots will be established at Engombe in the Uuvudhiya Constituency for the promotion of bio-diesel (Jatropha) as well as for the propagation and trial of Marula Germplasm.

In order to ensure full participation and ownership of community forests by the members of the targeted communities, the Ministry is monitoring the benefit sharing mechanism currently in place and will continue to advice the communities and other stakeholders on feasible approaches, which could further enable them to mutually benefit from the forest products on a sustainable basis.

I am now requesting this Honourable House to grant an approval of N\$ 53,578,000 for Recurrent Activities and N\$24,000,000 for Development Activities for this important programme of forestry development.

The Ministry aspires to have an effective logistical support and personnel service with special emphasis on prompt and timely recruitment, appointment, assessment, and sound labour relations in order to deliver effective and efficient services to the public. In addition, the Ministry is determined to put corrective measures in place in order to retain and recruit the best candidates on its establishment.

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It also promotes sound financial administration and renders and maintains an efficient and effective information system as well as a reliable fleet management system.

The new Integrated Financial Management System is running smoothly and payments to service providers are made within a shorter period. Sound financial control and monitoring of expenditure is in place.

The Ministry will continue to renovate and upgrade the official buildings and houses in all Regions in order to bring the services much closer to our people. We are now asking for the administration programme the Budget of N\$80,445,000 for its Operational Activities N\$11,500,000 for Capital Projects.

May I point out, Honourable Members, as was done in the past, that what I have presented here are essentially highlights and summaries of achievements and plans for this year. I therefore draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the Technical Information Document that will be distributed which will contain details of our Ministry's programmes, projects and activities in the Sector of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

May I also point out that we have many challenges, but collectively we are determined to face them. I therefore would like to thank all those who have stuck to agriculture despite all the difficulties sometimes many of those difficulties and challenges are unpredictable that are faced by the sector.

I would also like to assure you that the Ministry would render the necessary support to make agriculture a viable business. In particular, I would like to thank the local and international co-operating partners, the farmers, the private sector, including Non-Governmental Organisations, and Government Agencies from abroad for their support and confidence to invest in the Agriculture, Water and Forestry sub-sectors. We must continue to strengthen these relationships to achieve overall development goals of our sectors, for the benefit of all the citizens and residents of our country Namibia.

With these remarks, I now call upon the Honourable House to discuss and eventually approve the Budget for Vote 20, Agriculture, Water and Forestry for the 2008/09 Financial Year.

I thank you.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

I now put Vote 25 – “**LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT**”, N\$161,184,000 for Introduction by the Minister of Lands and Resettlement.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I thank you Honourable Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members of the National Assembly, it is with a deep sense of humility and expectation that I am rising today to submit as the new Minister of Lands and Resettlement the motivation of the appropriation request for the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, for the favourable consideration of this august House.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement derives its mandate from primarily from the provisions of the Constitution as well as from the following legal frameworks:

- Agricultural (Commercial Land Reform Act (Act 6 of 1995) as amended
- Communal Land Reform Act (Act 5 of 2002)
- Survey Act (Act 33 of 1993)
- Deeds Registries Act (Act 47 of 1937)
- Rehoboth Registration of Deeds Act (Act 93 of 1976)
- Sectional Titles Act (Act no 66 of 1971)
- Land Policy
- Resettlement Policy.

Under the auspices of the aforementioned framework, the Ministry administers several programmes in order to meet the expectations of the Namibian people relating to the terms of reference of the Ministry.

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With Independence in 1990, Namibia inherited a skewed land distribution pattern, the result of past colonial policies. Of approximately 69,6 million hectares available for agricultural purposes, some 36,2 million hectares that is 52% was deemed freehold land (loosely referred to as “commercial land”). Some 4,200 commercial farmers, predominantly white farming households, occupied this land.

Conversely, some 33.4 million hectares, that is 48%, could be described as communal or “non-freehold” land. This land supported 70% of the Namibian population.

By virtue of Article 32 of the Namibian Constitution, The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is one of those Government Ministries created at Independence in 1990 to redress amongst other things the inequalities in land distribution.

Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I am pleased to present the Medium Term Framework for Vote 25 for the period 2008/2011.

Before I go into the details of the proposal, allow me to join the other Honourable Members in congratulating the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Deputy Minister, and staff of the Ministry of Finance for a job well done in producing and tabling a balanced Budget.

I now have the pleasure to present the 2008 to 2011 Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, together with the highlights of achievements through expenditure in the previous Financial Year, and the priorities for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

For the three-year Medium Term expenditure Framework period, up to 2011, an amount of N\$464,405,000 had been Budgeted for land and resettlement functions, of which N\$161,184,000 has been allocated for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

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

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Programme	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
National Spatial Data Infrastructure: Fundamental Datasets	26,330,000	23,020,000	22,150,000
Title Security Tenure and Real Property	39,366,000	32,457,000	30,740,000
Land Acquisition, Distribution and Resettlement	82,925 000	79,133,000	83,200,000
Land Usage	12,563,000	15,487,000	17,034,000
Total	161,184,000	150,097,000	153,124,000

Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I now take the opportunity to take the Honourable Members through the Ministry's programmes:

Information with geographical coordinates is essential in identifying the location of people, events and activities. This information is mainly captured within the topographic, geodetic and cadastral datasets and they form the foundation upon which a National Spatial Data Infrastructure is developed.

Namibia has a complete national coverage of the topographic map series at the scales of 1:50,000 and 1:250,000. Before NDP2, most of the maps were more than 20 years old and therefore outdated and they were mainly in hard copies. Presently, the 1:250,000 topographical maps for Namibia have been revised and are now in digital format and the content is less than 10 years old. For the 1:50,000 scale, about one third of the country has been revised and now reflect conditions that are less than 10 years old as well.

During NDP3, the Ministry intends to use the revised topographic data and digitised cadastral and geodetic data to develop fundamental datasets required by other Ministries and agencies like Mines and Energy for mineral exploration, Agriculture, for land use planning, Environment, for environmental impact assessment and planners for urban and rural development.

Honourable Members, in the last fiscal year we acquired, with the assistance of the European Commission, aerial photographs of the areas north of 20 degrees

latitude. We also commenced the revision for the Khomas Region. This is in addition to the digital conversion of all the farms in Namibia.

During this Financial Year, we plan to continue with the revision of the 1:50,000 topographic maps of the Khomas Region and commence with that of the Caprivi Region. We are also continuing with the digital conversion of all erven. The intention is that in the very near future, this information will hopefully be available to the public via Internet and authorised users will be able to download whatever data they need.

To enable this programme to meet its task of providing fundamental datasets to the Government and people of Namibia, the sum of N\$26,330,000 is required.

The Title Security and Tenure Programme, Honourable Members, deals with survey and services required to secure tenure and improve confidence in ownership of properties. These characteristics are important to maintain the integrity of our land market. The tasks include extension of geodetic control networks, maintenance and computerisation of deeds records, making of submission to the United Nations for the extension of the outer limits of Namibian continental shelf, demarcation of international boundaries and the surveying of new townships and state lands including resettlement farms.

In the last Financial Year, the following were achieved:

- The draft submission to the United Nations on the extension of the continental shelf was completed.
- The contract for the design of the first order geodetic control was awarded.
- 26,158 deeds were examined and approved.
- A total number of 676 land rights were verified in the Omusati and Oshana Regions between the period of November and December 2007.
- Registration of customary land rights has been approved countrywide, while 15 leaseholds were allocated. However, a total number of 56,639 customary land rights are pending verification. These figures do not

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include those of the Kavango and Caprivi Regions, as there are no applications received in the two Regions. The total numbers of applications may increase, as some people are yet to apply for their land rights.

Another pilot project Honourable Members, the registration of customary rights, is underway with regard to verification of customary land rights using aerial photos. The Poverty Reduction Program under the sponsorship of the European Union made the aerial photos coverage for the northern Regions possible. The project started in the Olukonda Constituency of Oshikoto Region on 17 March 2008.

An amount of N\$39,366,000 is required for this programme during this Financial Year.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I am pleased to inform the Honourable Members that during the 2007/08 Financial Year, the Ministry acquired 17 farms at a cost of N\$80,945,379. This figure clearly demonstrates that the allocation of N\$50 million for land acquisition is not sufficient given the high prices of land in this country and I want to appeal to the august House Members to please agree with the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement on that score.

Land reform is not only limited to the resettlement programme. It includes land acquisition through the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme administered by the Agricultural Bank of Namibia. In that regard, 64 farms totalling 203,180 hectares were exempted in favour of the affirmative action candidates. Eighty-one farm offers received during the period under review were of marginal value in terms of suitability for resettlement and were thus waived.

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

Region	Number	Purchase Amount (N\$)
Otjozondjupa	3	3,208,632
Kunene	2	4,488,368
Erongo	1	1,195,426
Karas	6	62,148,271
Hardap	1	682,268
Oshikoto	3	6,939,351
Khomas	1	1,710,200
Total	17	80,945,379

During the last Financial Year, 122 families consisting of 732 people were resettled. That is, 68 male and 54 females on the 122 farming units. Allow me, Honourable Members to reiterate the fact that land redistribution and resettlement would on its own not reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth. The resettled beneficiaries require knowledge, skills and resources to meaningfully exploit the land in a productive and sustainable manner.

I would therefore in the same vein renew my appeal to my Colleagues in the other Government Line Ministries and other institutions to play a more prominent role in the post-settlement support to the beneficiaries.

In an effort to accelerate resettlement support, efforts to the San Community, we have built 45 houses and 3 offices at resettlement projects of Okongo and Tsinsabis during the Financial Year under review. Eight houses were built at Eendobe, 25 houses at Ekoka and 12 houses at Oshanashiwa are completed. Twenty houses and an office are envisaged to be constructed at Onamatadiva. I want to take this opportunity to thank donor partners who are working closely with us in making these projects hopefully successful.

At Neu-Somerau, crop fields have already been demarcated and allocated to 13 families so that they can start with production. An area of approximately 840 hectares has been identified and will be cleared, demarcated and allocated to beneficiaries. The Ministry further intends to construct 50 houses at Neu-Somerau during the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

Work has already started with regard to the preparation of erven through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing methods.

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I am therefore pleased to inform this august House that, land tax amounting to N\$25,939,540.28 was collected in the 2007/2008 Financial Year. The amount will be deposited into the Land Acquisition and Development Fund in order to augment the Budgetary allocation towards land acquisition and development programmes aimed at supporting land reform.

Five hundred and eighty exemptions were granted at a cost of N\$2,332,946.27 during the previous Financial Year. It is anticipated that N\$30,000,000 will be collected during 2008/2009 Financial Year.

The Ministry embarked on the development of a Land Tax Payment Reconciliation System in order to provide prompt reports on land tax collected and to assist in enforcing the payment of land tax. Development of the system will be finalised in the 2008/2009 Financial Year at a cost of N\$800,000.

The Ministry has also embarked on the development of a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal System. The System will facilitate the valuation of commercial agricultural land for land tax purposes and support the valuation of agricultural land for acquisition by the State. The development of the System will be completed if everything goes well, in December 2008 and will be implemented at a cost of N\$3,000,000.

This programme requires an amount of N\$82,925,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

In the 2007/2008 Financial Year, an amount of N\$800,000 was allocated for the development of communal land. The appropriated money was earmarked to develop water infrastructures in the demarcated farms in the Ohangwena Region for the drilling of seven boreholes on the demarcated farms.

Though the Ministry has tried to do a lot within the constraints of resources allocated during the Financial Year as indicated above, it also encountered many challenges.

During the 2007/2008 Financial Year, the Ministry experienced transport problems especially in the Regions. Verification of applications especially for the existing customary land rights has been very difficult or rather challenging,

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while in some Regions verifications were not done at all due to transport problems.

The Operational Budget is not well balanced with the Development Budget and this situation has made it impossible for the regional staff members to carry out the verification of land rights in their respective Regions.

Another challenge, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Tjiuiko and all the other Members, is that Traditional Authorities especially in the Kavango Region have encouraged their subjects/communities to refrain from applying for recognition of existing customary land rights.

The matter has been discussed with the concerned relevant authorities in the Kavango Regions, but a compromise could not be reached. To date no applications for existing customary land rights were received from that Region. The registration of existing customary land rights is expected to end in February 2009 and therefore a challenge remains on how the Ministry has to meet the set deadline given the Budgetary constraints I alluded to earlier.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, this programme requires an amount of N\$12,563,000 only.

Permit me, to conclude my submission by again acknowledging the contributions by the European Union, the GTZ, the Kingdom of Spain, and the Cuban Government to our Land Management and Land Reform Programme during this Medium Term Expenditure Framework. These contributions supplement financial resources from the Central Revenue Fund in the execution of the Ministerial programmes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my immediate predecessor and the Deputy Minister and those before, who were given this mammoth task of overseeing the activities of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement for the foundations they have laid in order for us to be able to consolidate the gains that they left us. I want to thank you for your attention.

I thank you.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I must thank the Minister of Land and Resettlement.

I now put Vote 08 – “DEFENCE” N\$2,371,780,000, Comrade Deputy Minister of Defence.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members of this august House, on behalf of my Minister who could not be in this Chamber this morning, because of some other undertakings, it is my honour and privilege to present to this august House, Vote 08 Appropriation Bill for the 2008/2009 Financial Year, and matters relating to national defence and security that took place during the previous Financial Year as well as to highlight the future prospects.

Comrade Chairperson, I would like to firstly express my sincere gratitude to the Finance Minister, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her dedicated staff for tabling this well-prepared Budget which addresses among others; economic growth, social and national security, as indicated by the improvement of the pension of our elders and the provision to address the plight of the war veterans. These are important developments for our Nation's stability and prosperity. Without security and stability there will be no prospect for peace and economic growth. I am equally delighted to note from previous presenters that they have attached greater importance to the maintenance of peace and security of the Land of the Brave.

Namibia is experiencing peace and stability, which is attributed to good relations with our neighbours, both immediate and peripheral as well as due to internal political tranquillity. There is no visible immediate threat of war against our country at the moment. I should however caution that in this dynamic world, change is the only driving factor. The geo-political arena is characterised by surprises, which makes it difficult to predict the future with a degree of certainty. As a nation we should be prepared for any eventuality and cater for the unknown.

It is for these reasons that preparation for the defence of our sovereignty and our capacity to contribute to international peace cannot be put on and off like a flashlight.

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Our men and women in uniform are in constant readiness and likewise, should be well trained and equipped for these challenges if we are to prevail. We cannot wait for danger to loom its ugly head in order to be prepared and equip ourselves.

With regard to geopolitical situation in the SADC Region, the African Continent and beyond, this period was characterised by both positive and negative political trends and developments. The SADC Region remains politically stable except the eastern Region of the DRC where the rebels still refuse to submit to the sovereign Government. In the rest of the Continent, the negative issues include the continuing conflicts in the Darfur Region of Sudan as well as lack of progress in Cote d'Ivoire. The attempt by Chad rebels to overthrow the Government by force has caused loss of lives and displacement as well as destruction of properties. The Continent was alarmed by the recent disputed election in Kenya, which led to inter-tribal violent conflict, loss of lives and properties, as well as the subsequent civil unrest. The ongoing conflict in Somalia remains a concern for the African Continent. We hope that a lasting solution to those conflicts and disagreements will be found soon.

The positive side includes the holding of democratic elections in Liberia where our sons and daughters did us proud by contributing to the peace process as part of UN Peace Keeping forces.

The SADC Region has also witnessed democratic elections in Zimbabwe, peaceful transference of power in Botswana, while Angola will participate in elections this year. The peaceful change of leadership in our Region also shows that SADC is maturing. In the Land of the Brave, President Hifikepunye Pohamba took over from the Founding Father of the Namibian Nation, Dr Sam Nujoma and the President of the Ruling Party SWAPO, while in South Africa a peaceful transference of power was also recently made at Party level.

The Ministry of Defence applauds the role played by Mr Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and the others for their efforts for the settlement of the conflict and ending of the violence and the establishment of Government of National Unity in Kenya.

Conflicts retard progress for socio-economic developments and violates human dignity, while peace and stability are the pre-requisites for any Nation's

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development. What has happened in Kenya should serve as a lesson to all of us, that we should not take peace for granted.

Hon Deputy Chairperson, the last Financial Year the Ministry of Defence received funding for its three Budget programmes and recorded a variance of N\$6,607,000.

Honourable Gurirab, you will see the breakdown when you get a statement. This was due to the delay in the tendering process and some few suppliers who could not deliver in time. I am also happy to report that the Ministry of Defence was able to achieve most of the set targets.

However, some targets will take long to be realised, such as training, recruitment, acquisition of equipment, infrastructure as well as research on development. It is also worth mentioning that the Namibian Defence Force has brought in an amount of N\$77,714,014.14 as a reimbursement from the United Nations for our contribution to these support operations in Liberia and elsewhere.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I have the honour to brief this august House about the three programmes of the Ministry of Defence that will be funded for the 2008/2009 Financial Year, namely operations, international deployment, construction, research and development.

OPERATIONS PROGRAMME

We plan to recruit one thousand youngsters that are between the ages of 18 and 25 during this Financial Year. The aim is to keep the bottom line of the force always younger and ensure that the older soldiers transfer skills and knowledge to the younger ones.

Recruitment has the challenge of improvement of the living standards of soldiers, hygiene and sanitation. The recruits also require uniforms, beddings, training simulators, and training ammunitions. Training is one of the main activities of a soldier during peacetime.

The Ministry of Defence has an obligation to ensure that those who are entrusted to defend our territorial integrity and sovereignty are well trained,

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skilled, educated and well taken care of. Modern training institutions have to be established and existing ones need to be maintained and upgraded.

Last year I briefed this august House that the Ministry of Defence is planning to establish a military academy in order to provide academic and leadership knowledge to our soldiers. I have also briefed this august House that the Ministry of Defence, in conjunction with the University of Namibia, launched a Master of Arts programme in Security and Strategic Studies and that twenty students from the Namibian Defence Force and one from the Namibian Police were enrolled. I am happy to inform you Honourable Members, that plans for the establishment of the military academy, which will be called Defence Academy, is at an advanced stage.

AID TO CIVIL AUTHORITY AND CIVIL COMMUNITY

For the past eighteen years, the Namibian Defence Force has been actively engaged in rendering assistance to Government Ministries and Agencies, Local Authorities and Civil Communities. These include provision of both human and material resources in order to alleviate the effect of drought, floods and bush fires. Our men and women in uniform have repeatedly responded to the distress call of the Region Emergency Management Unit in Caprivi, Ohangwena, Oshana and Omusati Regions to assist in the prevailing severe floods.

Namibian Defence Force members have provided transport assets, such as helicopters, trucks and speedboats to bring the affected people to safety. With that equipment, they did not only provide relief aid for people cut off from essential services, but also assisted in their relocation and rescue. The NDF Engineering Unit assisted in the construction and putting up of temporary bridges in flooded areas in the North this year.

Honourable Members I hope you will agree with me that Namibia needs an adequate local capacity to deal with natural and man-made disasters.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The Ministry of Defence is in the process of improving the accommodation situation of the Namibian Defence Force Members. Although the salaries of

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the NDF Members have improved, as I informed the Honourable Members previously, the NDF is still facing resignation of members that are leaving for greener pastures. In most cases, they go to other Government Departments.

Despite the fact that 80% of the Defence Appropriation Bill goes to the salaries, factors such as inflation are worrying issues.

HEALTH MATTERS

Soldiers are part and parcel of the wider society and they are therefore, equally affected by all the health related problems facing the whole Nation.

The Ministry of Defence HIV/AIDS Policy will be finalised before the end of this year. I would also like to inform this august House that the overall health situation in the force is steadily improving through quality health care services delivery, information as well as awareness campaigns through meetings and audio-visual methods. This is done with the assistance from the Ministry of Health and Social Service and from the US Department of Defence.

TRANSPORTATION

The vision of the Namibian Defence Force foresees, among others, a well-trained and highly mobile Force. Mobility is a vital necessity given the relatively big size of our country which is densely populated. This presents a challenge not only for Defence, but also for service delivery during emergencies. In order to achieve its vision and fulfil its function properly, the NDF needs modern equipment for all the arms of services, namely the Army, Air Force and Navy.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it was reported in this august House on many occasions that most of the weapons and equipment in the arsenal of the Namibian Defence Force are those that were donated by the SWAPO Party in 1990. These weapons and equipment are now obsolete and they do not satisfy current requirements anymore. The NDF is, therefore, in need of newer and modern equipment.

We are living in a dynamic world, characterised by changes in technology and methods of doing things. In this situation, the Defence Force needs suitable equipment if it is to deliver to the Nation's expectations. It should also be

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noted that, in order to perform its mandate of protection of our national sovereignty and territorial integrity, assisting communities in terms of emergencies, such as floods and peace missions, the NDF needs weaponry and equipment suited for those roles.

It is a fact that the threats and emergencies are not always predictable. Consequently, we were not able to predict the severe flood experienced in the North today and we do not know how the floods and other calamities will be like in the future.

It is, therefore, just fitting to request a reasonable funding in order to gradually equip the force adequately.

FARMING

The NDF is involved in farming activities in the Otavi and Mangetti areas. Those ventures contribute to the economic development of our country and supplement the nutritional needs of the Members of the Namibian Defence Force.

Furthermore, the Namibian Defence Force has taken up agriculture activities to supplement supplies from Government in future. I would, however like to caution that the participation in farming is not meant to divert the activities of the NDF from its core function, which is the defence of our sovereignty and Independence.

I should mention that the Ministry has recently commissioned a feasibility study by professional consultants to determine how best we can run our farming activities on commercial basis and not to depend entirely on Government funding.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the amount allocated to the operational program during the 2008/2009 Financial Year for all arms of services is N\$1,945,045,000.

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**INTERNATIONAL DEPLOYMENT PROGRAMME: PEACE
SUPPORT MISSIONS**

Members of the NDF, young men and women, have complemented Namibia's foreign policy objectives, that of promoting international cooperation, peace and security and encourage settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, as prescribed the Article 96(b) and (e) of the Namibian Constitution.

Namibia has participated in past United Nations Peacekeeping Operations as far back as 1993, just three years after Independence and we will continue to pursue this noble goal for the collective security benefits of the country, the regional and the international community.

Our gallant soldiers are involved in the United Nations Peacekeeping missions in Liberia, Eritrea, Burundi, Cote de I'voire, Kosovo and Sudan and we are ready and prepared to contribute troops to the AU, UN hybrid forces in Darfur Region of the Sudan.

REGIONAL PEACE ENGAGEMENTS

Namibia pursues a policy of peaceful co-existence with all its neighbours and cooperates with them through regional defence cooperation and confidence building measures. Namibia will continue engaging our neighbours through the Joint Commission on Defence and Security and through SADC Organ on Defence and Security Mechanism where security matters are discussed and resolved.

On 17 August 2007, the SADC Brigade was launched in Lusaka, Zambia as a vehicle for SADC Member States to contribute to peace support missions. Men and women in the Namibian Defence Force participated in this regional endeavour and made us proud.

On 26 March 2008, I attended an OAU Meeting for Ministers of Defence and Security in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Among other matters, we discussed the African Standby Force, its logistics and other issues.

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MILITARY DIPLOMACY

Honourable Members, the Ministry of Defence has an obligation to contribute to confidence building measures and to give adequate advice to Namibia's Diplomatic Missions abroad.

It is for these reasons that military attachés and Defence advisors have been posted to our Diplomatic Missions in Angola, the African Union, China, DRC, Germany, South Africa and the United Nations.

To assist in the development of Army, Air Force and Navy, the Namibian Defence Force has also seconded officers from some other countries to assist with the development of the arms of services.

The importance of these services is crucial, hence the Government needs to allocate them funds.

The amount allocated to the International Development Program for the 2008/2009 Financial Year amounts to N\$29,816,000.

CONSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

It is a well-known fact that most of the accommodation facilities for our members need improvement and rehabilitation because they were built as temporary structures by the previous dispensation.

The Ministry is about to complete the construction of bases at Luipertsvallei, Walvis Bay, Keetmanshoop and Karibib and while construction of new and renovation of other bases is continuing. The adequate conditions of service of men and women in uniform cannot be fulfilled if decent and adequate living conditions are not provided.

The cost at some bases include purchasing of land from municipal authorities, local Government, business people and farmers. New storage facilities are also being constructed.

The Ministry of Defence is also carrying out a research and development program to allow acquisition and development of defence equipment for the three arms of services as a request for the funding.

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DEFENCE INDUSTRY

Last year I mentioned about the two subsidiaries of the August 26 Holding Company, namely the Windhoek Machinenfabrik, which specialises in manufacturing of hard-skin vehicles for the Namibian Defence Force and for export as well as SATCOM, which is specialised in electronics and produces very high frequency radios for use by the Namibian Defence Force.

These companies are in constant research to update their technology and stay competitive.

I would like to inform this august House that an order to diversify the product range of August 26 Holding Company, a new company has been added to the two subsidiaries.

This month I opened the August 26 Industry Okahandja Shoe Factory. The new company will manufacture footwear as well as other leather products for the local market and expand further for export to neighbouring markets and beyond. It will employ about 35 to 40 workers, although the figure might initially be lower than that.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the total amount allocated to construction, research and development this Financial Year amounts to N\$396,919,000.

To conclude, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as a stable environment it is the ideal condition for economic development and social harmony of our people, no country can live in peace if its immediate neighbours and other countries in the global village do not have peace.

Our men and women in uniform are securing this ideal environment. They are the Nation's insurers of peace and stability and are engaged in peace missions in the continent and beyond. They therefore deserve the Nation's support.

I am appealing to all Honourable Members to support and approve the allocation of N\$2,371,750 000 to fund the three programmes of the Ministry of Defence during this Financial Year. I thank you for your attention.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank you Honourable Deputy Minister of Defence. Honourable Members, in applying Rule 117, I shall leave the Chair and ask Members to remain seated and I shall ask all the Party Whips in this House to get their Members back into the House.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 11:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 11:42

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now put Vote 26, 'NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION', for discussion.

HON TJIHUIKO: I thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. It seems as if our Colleague has a problem of recognising me or knowing my name and (intervention).

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Out of Order.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Budget of the National Planning Commission. Vote 26, the main office, Department of National Planning Commission, as it was put on page 1, as I was going through this motivation, I was happy to note that yes indeed, some good work was done.

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Especially on paperwork a lot has been done. One thing that I am missing from all the documents that I have perused is the actual planning of implementation of activities. I have not seen a system that has been planned through the National Planning Commission to link implementation of Government activities.

For instance Honourable Deputy Speaker if you take the Ministry of Agriculture; the role of the Ministry of Agriculture is to produce let us say, tomatoes and get those tomatoes on the market. The role of the Ministry of Trade and Industry would be to market those products, if there are no known linkages between the various productive, planning and implementing Ministries, then obviously we would find ourselves in a situation where the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing.

I have not seen it here and it is obvious that what we have is chaotic implementation of activities.

Yesterday we were listening to the presentation of the Ministry of Works where the Honourable Minister ...(Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Tjihuiko, please stick to the National Planning Commission.

HON TJIHUIKO: The planning I am talking about is that one argues that it is crucially important for us to construct a railway line between Tsumeb and Oshikango for the purpose of economic development and then at the same time we are saying that we cannot tar a road from Gobabis to Aminuis or to Epukiro for the same purpose. That is the area, which is producing cattle and you need to develop infrastructure in order for these people to trade.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Tjihuiko, the same Minister who introduced the Vote on National Planning is also responsible for Roads and Transport. Yesterday that Vote on Transport was passed. Although it is the same Minister, we are talking about National Planning. Do you want to settle scores of yesterday? Just stick to what we have today, the National Planning Commission.

HON TJIHUIKO: What is road construction? Is it not National Planning? (Interjections).

HON RIRUAKO: Where is your Rule?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Chief, do not rise to argue with the Chair. You do not have the Floor. I am saying, do not play with the gallery here. We are serious. Honourable Tjihuiko, continue. National Planning Commission not Transport. Chief can you read Rule 103?

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am now a little confused. All I am trying to say is that I am looking at the various sectors of the economy. The planning of our economy is in the hands of the National Planning Commission, not only to produce National Development Plans, but the actual linkages between the many sectors of the economy. It must be developed in such a way that everybody knows that what is being done in the Ministry of Trade and in the Ministry of Agriculture will be ...(Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, you are talking about development, but when we were elected, we were elected to go to the people. Can you tell this House whether, since you joined this House, you have gone to that area to mobilise the people about development or whether you went there to mobilise them about your Party?

HON TJIHUIKO: We were fighting for a road from Gobabis to Amunuis to be tarred. We needed economic reasons, not because we are coming from that area. That is basically what I am saying.

HON RIRUAKO: This is National Planning, this is not planning for individual Regions and therefore, everything is possible to be discussed. If you separate the one from the other and you want to do something of your own, the National Planning Commission must be withdrawn. The moment we talk about development, we link all the developments together, not only your own development and leave the other side. That is not fair.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Out of Order. Honourable Tjihuiko, continue.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chair, it is getting very difficult for one to concentrate. I want to see a coordinated, integrated development strategy that would link all economic sectors together, so that whatever we are producing has a market.

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If you look at the programmes of the Ministry of Trade, they also have a development programme and the purpose of that programme is to link small businesses to big businesses. If there are no linkages, a clear strategy between those who are producing and those who are supposed to be marketing their products, we will have this problem. The problem I am raising is that when you look at national development, you do not look at production. You have to look at the infrastructure, the production, the marketing. However, the system is not there, Honourable Minister. We know that you do not have the system in place and I am asking the Honourable Minister to look at that.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I just want to assist the Honourable Member because he is very concerned and he is also Out of Order by giving misleading information, that we are not (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Chief you will be given your chance too.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Let me finish.

HON RIRUAKO: Our people want to know this, read the HANSARD of three years ago when he was the Minister.

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HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY;

It is not correct to say that our planning systems are not coordinated. If the Honourable Member would consult the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport together with the Roads Authority, he would be given the five-year plan, what we call the master plan. That has the whole road network programme to be constructed within the next five years. He would see that even the road he referred to, which he claims is not included in the programme, would be there. Just calm down and find time to approach the Minister at an appropriate time, then you will find out all those roads you are referring to are in the master plan and I believe your concern would be addressed. Now please concentrate on the National Planning Commission's Budget. I thank you.

HON TJIHUIKO: I am on page 734, Main Activities. "Both the mid-term and final review of NDP2 implementation identified poor coordination and integration within and amongst institutions, and lack of an effective monitoring, reporting and evaluation system as some of the constraints to achieving and tracking results.." This is your Report, and then further: "An integrated result based planning approach was introduced to help link planning and implementation to the desired results.". The approach defies the integration and identification of the priorities and needs of the people from the grassroots." This is the point that I am trying to make. These are the things that you are trying to deny, it is in your own Report, in your own documents, I am not making it up.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

On Point of Information, Comrade Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee. I think the Honourable Member is misleading the House. If he can recall, last year the National Planning Commission organised a workshop that was attended by all the sectors and other stakeholders, which means they wanted to coordinate what other sectors are doing. The Opposition Parties

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were also invited. Can you recall that? Thank you so much, Deputy Chairperson.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you Honourable Minister. Honourable Tjihuiko, speak to the Vote.

HON TJIHUIKO: If you go to page 242, second paragraph. The National Planning Commission is in charge of all development issues in the country - all development issues. I am not making this up, take your documents and read them. “As such HIV/ AIDS mainstreaming in the respective sectors, project and programme is central to the sustainable development.” Whoever has written this document agrees a hundred percent with me that things are being done in a chaotic manner and this is what you do not want to accept.

Now my humble advice is that I would like to appeal to the National Planning Commission ...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko two questions. Honourable Tjihuiko, have you ever heard about the word ‘Vision 2030?’ Secondly, have you ever heard of the Third National Development Plan? Thirdly, have you heard about the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, in short called MTEF? Fourthly, have you ever heard of Annual Budgets? Thank you.

HON TJIHUIKO: Right Honourable Prime Minister that is my concern. If you have Vision 2030 we need to develop the vehicle to get us to Vision 2030. Vision 2030 on a piece of paper does not mean anything, what we need to see is the process that we have started ever since we have approved that Vision.

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What have been done up to date to achieve those objectives? Zero! Give us a Report that this is what has been done, these are the objectives we have achieved.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am on page 224 – Development Planning Coordination. “The purpose of this programme is to coordinate, design, evaluate and monitor the implementation of national, sectoral and regional long, medium, short term development plans and programmes.” That is what is said.

My question is: The Millennium Development Goals, Right Honourable Prime Minister, to be achieved by 2030 is to reduce extreme poverty and hunger by half. Poverty is a multi-dimensional problem and a generation crisis in Namibia. Educated people are sitting without jobs in this country. People are sitting on the corners of the streets, begging for money every day. Women are becoming involved in prostitution because of poverty.

Honourable Minister, I want to know what programmes the National Planning Commission has in place when we are talking about prostitution, people begging on the streets, to solve these problems in conjunction with other Ministries?

Secondly, the poor women of this country who are unemployed, who are unqualified, do you have links with the other Ministries and can you also inform us what linkages you have?

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, we need to save our Nation. The Public Service needs to be accountable for everything that we are doing and achieving here. On page 425 it says the National Planning Commission is in charge of all development issues in the country, such as HIV-programmes. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, there are so many HIV NGOs in this country. Everybody doing the same thing and the money is not reaching the people who need the money and those are the people who are infected with the HIV virus.

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Honourable Deputy Chairperson, does the Minister have any control measures in place for all these NGOs which are duplicating, instead of starting an umbrella organisation so that the money is not wasted on administration and salaries, but the money be used for the people who are HIV positive? You are inviting people to a two-day workshop on HIV and give them food for those two days and after that, the person is still sitting with the problem of getting food to eat or having money to fetch his medication. These are the problems we are facing.

Therefore, what did the Honourable Minister responsible for National Planning do? I thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, we are not trying to put pressure on the Minister concerned, we want to indicate how it is supposed to be done and what methods are supposed to be followed as things cannot remain the way they are. I am talking about the National Planning Commission.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

General is not allowed.

HON RIRUAKO: I am not talking to you, let me argue with the House. I would like to say, the former Minister of Transport, Honourable Kaapanda, put everything on the Table, but you delayed what was on the Table and came with your own programmes. How does one control that? Therefore, we must return to the normal way of doing things.

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HON DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee.

On the question about the responsibility of the National Planning Commission, it is its constitutional obligation to coordinate national planning, to advise the Government on issues of economic development and produce policies on short, medium and long-term developments. In this regard, the Honourable Members are advised to note that it is the National Planning Commission which initiated the drafting of Vision 2030 after the decision was taken by the Government and all the National Development Plans, which constitute the actual sectoral planning as initiated and discussed with different sectors.

The role of the National Planning Commission is to ensure that there are no duplications in the planning process as well as in the Budgeting process. It is very clear that it assesses all the plans, evaluates and then gives permission to proceed to the different sectors.

I am not very clear what the Honourable Member wanted to find out when he referred to the issue between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade and Industry allegedly about non-coordination. I am not aware of any non-coordination, because all the planning, long and medium term, adopted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry or the Ministry of Agriculture are assessed and approved by the National Planning Commission before they are Budgeted for. There are no Budgetary issues in the Ministry of Trade and Industry that are also Budgeted in the Ministry of Agriculture without proper agreement and coordination.

Honourable Dienda, if I understood you clearly, you asked what the role of the National Planning Commission is with regard to the coordination of the Non-Governmental Organisations, in particular with regard to Goal 1 of reducing poverty, addressing joblessness and other issues, particularly on HIV/AIDS.

What I can say is that the National Planning Commission initiated the national process of coordination of HIV in the sense that it has been agreed that HIV/AIDS must be mainstreamed throughout Government programmes. That means, when the sectors put up their plans and goals, they must include activities and programmes to address HIV/AIDS. In this regard, it is also true

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that in mobilising national as well as international resources to the support of development programmes of Namibia, we have also tried to ensure that HIV/AIDS is a crosscutting issue.

You will find that some development partners say they want to cooperate with Namibia, for example for the whole sector, that is their main focal point, they are not going to get involved in other issues, then the National Planning Commission will say, “yes thank you, dear friends, inasmuch as that sector is your focal point, we want to make sure that resources should also be allocated to the issue of HIV/AIDS.” Therefore, whenever we sign an agreement with any development partner, HIV/AIDS is always a crosscutting issue and there must always be a percentage component of support to HIV/AIDS.

One good example of what has been done: you have heard of the Global Fund Programme, I read yesterday about the US Presidential Emergency Support to that, which amounts to over US\$80 million, and that support to HIV is very crucial and very substantial, for that matter.

Therefore, our role as the National Planning Commission is to solicit support from development partners and also to impress on our colleagues in the Ministry of Finance that for each Budget for each sector there must be an allocation to HIV/AIDS and each sector must point out what amount of resources will be allocated within the given Budget to HIV/AIDS. However, the practical implementation of each of the programmes or projects remains the responsibility of the given Offices, Ministries and Agencies. Our part is just to make sure that resources are made available and there is agreement on that at Government level.

It was mentioned that there are too many Non-Governmental Organisations. We have adopted a policy on cooperation between Government and non-state actors. In this regard, we support those Non-Governmental Organisations, which come up with programmes that are within the framework of our long-term planning, Vision 2030, or medium-term planning, that is the National Development Plans, are included within the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. They will come with their programmes, we will have a look at them and make recommendations for the allocation of resources, whether from a development partner or whether from State revenue. Yes, they could be many but there is no policy to limit these civic organisations in terms of what

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their number will be. I can assure the Honourable Member that they have to account for all those resources.

There are a few instances where resources may not have been utilised for the agreed purposes and in that case they are sanctioned because these resources must be audited, firstly by the internal auditors, then by a State Auditor and then by donor auditing. I cannot see a situation whereby a Non-Governmental Organisation would misuse the resources and nothing is done. It cannot happen because the donors are also interested in reporting to their Parliaments how these resources were used and they have to report on measures that have been taken by the host Government against the Non-Governmental Organisation, which has misappropriated funds. Therefore, I want to say that the cooperation between Government and Non-Governmental Organisations is regulated by a policy, but the Bill will soon come before this Parliament.

Indeed, these activities are monitored, planned, agreed to and if there is anything that the Honourable Member knows about which does not conform to a specific programme of a Non-Governmental Organisation, he would be more than welcome to give us that information. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister. I put Vote 26, any objection? Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I need to clarify one point with reference to the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture and here I want to give a clear and practical example.

We had students at Berg Aukas producing vegetables. Where did you sell those vegetables? The point that I would like to make is that, by the time we decided to develop a project for these young people, to pay them to produce vegetables, we must have identified where we are going to sell these projects.

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What happened is that we encouraged them, we paid them, they produced and they were selling these produce on the street corners between the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Lands. That was the place that they were using because there was no planning as to what they are going to do with the agricultural products.

The responsible Ministry was there, but they were never consulted because there is no coordination. This is the point I was trying to make. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any objection? Agreed to.

I now put **Vote 09 – “FINANCE”** for discussion.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much. I have seventeen questions on this Vote.

In the first place, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, allow me to congratulate the Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister and the entire staff for running that Ministry professionally. It is one of the rare good Ministries. I also have to add my satisfaction on the way they have improved tax collection and I think they are moving in the right direction and obviously, the manner in which our finances are being run is satisfactory.

However, I need to ask one or two things and I need advice on page 8, the Medical Aid Scheme. I have noticed that with the Government Medical Aid Scheme it has become very difficult to be admitted to any other health institution than the Government ones.

Secondly, you are also experiencing problems with the payment of doctors' bills. I hope that the Minister will have a look at that and try to do something about it.

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, on the question of our medical aid, we know that the cost of everything has gone up but our medical aid is still N\$60 per person. If we are talking about a better service, has the time not come for us as Members of Parliament to say that, in terms of the cost of living and the cost of medication and all of that, we should actually look at paying a little bit more than N\$60? We should really look at increasing it.

HON TJIHUIKO: Yes, I think the Honourable Minister will take note of that and it would definitely be in our interest if the Ministry looks at that and I do not think we would object.

On page 9, **Equity Participation and Subsidy Programme:** I am not clear and I need to be advised on what is actually the objective of these Parastatals. My understanding is that the reason why we decided to take them out of Government is for them to be able to look after themselves, to sustain themselves and to allow Government to concentrate on other things and to cut costs. Now it seems that Government is continuing subsidising these highly expensive structures. Until when are you going to continue subsidising these Parastatals? I really need to know that.

I see here that Air Namibia got N\$150 million, the Development Bank of Namibia, N\$150 million and the list goes on. Then there is another interesting thing on page 9: *“In order to prevent power failure and prepare for backup of energy, an amount of N\$120 million has been set aside to support NamPower infrastructural development. I am pleased to announce that a further amount of N\$250 million has been Budgeted in the form of equity participation, totalling an amount of N\$370 million.”*

Yesterday we heard that NamPower has given plus minus N\$270 million to this entity in Zimbabwe and there is no feedback as to what happened to that money. From what I am seeing here, we are now replacing the money that NamPower has given to these guys. (Interjections). Honourable Chairperson, I need to be advised, because when one looks at the figures, it seems as if the Government wanted to give money to Zimbabwe and then, instead of doing it, they do it under cover of NamPower and now they are Budgeting the same amount of money that was given undercover.

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HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I take the allegations by the Honourable Member to be very serious. Unless he can substantiate what he is saying, I feel he must withdraw that allegation.

HON TJIHUIKO: I did not make an allegation. I asked a question. It is not an allegation, it is a question and I expect an answer to that question.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order and by way of a comment. The Honourable Member yesterday requested the SWAPO Party Government to provide more power to the rural areas. Now, while we are purchasing that power for the rural areas, he is questioning the power we are getting from Zimbabwe. What is the policy of NUDO in this regard?

HON TJIHUIKO: The NUDO policy is transparency.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Your time is up. Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I do not want to add too much to what I said in my original Second Reading speech. On the question that was raised by Honourable Schimming-Chase, I think it is a very good idea to add something to the Medical Aid contribution but – and there is always a but, we can only do that after we have prevented the medical practitioners and the

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members to steal from the Medical Aid Fund. You cannot increase the contribution that the 98% honest members are making...

HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Honourable De Waal is saying that medical practitioners are stealing from this Fund and perhaps it is so, but has anybody been convicted for stealing from this Fund?

HON DE WAAL: Right Honourable Prime Minister, if we are not very careful...

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable De Waal, I do not want us to go too far. Let us just stick to what you started with, because if you go too far, you are taking us away. Just agree with what was said and then continue.

HON DE WAAL: You cannot tell me what I must agree with.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: No, you said you agree with Honourable Chase.

HON DE WAAL: Chairperson, I am saying I agree with her on condition that we first solve the problem of stealing from the Medical Aid Fund. Right Honourable Prime Minister, I saw somebody with documents and made reference to that in my Second Reading speech. We must be very careful that we do not lose this pending appeal case and I again want to emphasise that we

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must get professional legal advisers to fight that case on behalf of the Government, because if we lose that case, we will lose all the others, which are still pending.

That is all I wanted to say, that in principle I agree with what she said, but only after we have cleaned the Medical Aid Fund.

Then I only want to raise one other issue and that is the question of parastatals and I do not want to go into detail about Air Namibia, I just want to clear one misperception. I have nothing against the staff of Air Namibia, in fact their service on the international flights, which we regularly use, is top class and I want to say it here today for everybody to know. What I have a problem with is the management of Air Namibia, but I will find another way because I have learnt that talking about it in this House is not going to get us anywhere. Therefore, I will find another way of raising this issue in such a way that somebody will be forced to do something. That is all I wanted to say about that.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Honourable De Waal, I am sorry to interrupt because I am totally in agreement with you, but I think the point needs to be made that the staff of Air Namibia that provide this excellent service are very badly and poorly paid, whereas the management get big sums of money that force us to spend almost N\$12 million per month for Air Namibia.

HON DE WAAL: I agree with that. Chairperson, I once again want to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, can we not get the State-Owned Enterprises Governing Council going so that it starts working with individual Parastatals to get things under control. The way you are going now, you are not making any progress as far as I can see and just to illustrate my point, yesterday we received this document on the Lüderitz Waterfront Project and if you just quickly look at page 7, it tells you that this project has made a profit of N\$1,9 million for the 2007 Financial Year. In addition to that, they declared a

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dividend to Government of something like N\$440,000. Looking through it, it seems they are doing well, it makes a profit of N\$1,9 million and pay dividends N\$440,000.

However, where does this profit come from? If you look closely, you will see that they have put a figure in here which is called "*Investment Property Fair Value Estimate – N\$2,330,000*". Do you know what that is? When you draw up your statements and you see you make a loss, you revalue the value of your house. Instead of the house being N\$700,000, you now say the market has picked up and you are now going to value it for N\$1,2 million. That difference you reflect as an income and that way you make a profit. This is what happened here. Do you see what I am talking about?

We spent thousands of dollars to get this Parastatal off the ground. Now either we must scrap it and replace it with something that is working or it must start working. I can tell you, Honourable Prime Minister, if you go through these things, it is a shame. You know, I do not mind to pay tax and I do not mind to even pay more for medical aid. I am prepared to suffer in silence as long as I can survive, but I will not continue to pay people stealing from us. I cannot do it and I cannot ask my people to do it. So please, let us get this right! Thank you, Chairperson.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES

Thank you, Honourable De Waal. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: What I am going to add is what I have seen and what I have come across and if you have not seen anything, you are blind.

If you come to a hospital, they will ask you what medical aid you have. If it is the Government Medical Aid, you must go. If you have another medical aid, you will be admitted. If you do not have the extra one you must go. That is point number one.

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Secondly, when you come to a doctor your N\$50 must be on the table before you will be examined and you know that and I know that. Is it fair that a poor person first has to pay N\$50 before receiving treatment? What is that?

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, who is paying the bills of Parastatals? It is not themselves, it is paid by the Ministry of Finance. For four years this bill has not yet been paid. Their bill is paid by the Ministry of Finance and if there is any problem between the Ministry of Finance and the Parastatal it must be said here. I cannot blame the individual Minister. The money comes from the coffers of the Ministry of Finance.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the management of Air Namibia is highly paid, equal to the Head of State, while we have to pump in money every year or even more than the Head of State. Is that fair? This money comes from the taxes of our poor people. This is a Budget for the poor, but we still finance Air Namibia. I do not know why, but this is what is happening and we must just shut up. If you ask the Minister, the SWAPO Members just yell at you. Can we give this money free of charge?

Mr Chairperson, let us keep quiet until some people somewhere discover that we are going in the wrong direction. (Interjection). I wonder why they have taken you from this department to another department. You have been there before and you could not do anything. (Interjection). You stole the money.

If you go around, you will hear, “that department did not pay our bill” and it is said it is a Parastatal, do not pay the bill to those people whom they owe. The Ministry of Finance is paying the bills the Parastatals owe to other companies.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am calling on the Deputy Minister to reply.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, thank you very much for the support and I will respond to the questions posed.

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Honourable Tjihiuko, thank you very much for acknowledging the good work the staff is doing. I will deal with all the medical aid questions and refer to my statement, starting with the contribution to PSEMAS.

It is true that the contribution to the Government scheme is very low. Secondly, it is also true that everybody contributes exactly the same amount and as a result you may be confronted with some type of treatment when you go for treatment.

It is also true that there has been a challenge in terms of the Medical Scheme Governance. The Public Service Commission is responsible for Conditions of Service and has been approached through the Office of the Prime Minister as we realised we need to do something about it. I referred to this on page 8 and allow me to clarify the Cabinet approval to establish what is referred to as the “Coordinating Committee.”

The purpose of that Coordinating Committee, Honourable Members, is among others to monitor the medical claims. There could still be some duplications, claims that lay there for more than ninety days and there are always good reasons for this. One of the reasons why these claims do take time is that they need to be verified so that no double claims are effected. Some of those who are on chronic medication would continue submitting copies, even if they have visited the medical practitioner. Therefore, there are these kinds of measures to control that what the doctors are claiming is indeed the actual claim. Those are some of the reasons for the delay, but this Coordinating Committee will then monitor the claims.

Also the type of claims, whether it is for spectacles, some of us claim almost every year, sunglasses not necessarily due to medical reasons and some would claim on a monthly basis. These are the reasons why the medical costs are very high.

How can we contain the costs? We also have to look at how we can improve the medical benefits and determine whether the rules are still relevant to serve the members and their dependents. The regulations, the claim process or procedures, but also together with the benefits, the contribution structures and this obviously refers to the tariffs. This is what this Coordinating Committee would be doing as part of addressing the governance of the Scheme.

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I also want to refer to the court case Honourable De Waal mentioned. We were equally shocked when it was on the front page that the Medical Scheme took some medical practitioners to court for the abuse of the Fund. When it was discovered, through the claim assessments that a certain doctor claimed up to N\$7 million per annum and when we analysed the claims, it was clear that this particular doctor was treating patients three minutes per patient. We sought professional advice from the doctors and it was clear that it could not be true. Therefore, we took this to the court. I am not here to criticise the Judiciary, but it is quite shocking to say that the doctor was correct. This is why we appealed. We agree, it could be the defence attorneys who may not have prepared well, but we do not sit and watch. That body would just add in terms of professional analysis and make sure that the Scheme serves the purpose for which it was intended.

That is what I can answer in terms of the tariffs and the governance of the Medical Scheme.

Certainly we as Members will be informed when the various tariffs would be decided in terms of the various contributions. Amongst those we have picked up also included some pharmacists. I must conclude on the Medical Aid by saying that we do have doctors who are contracted in to treat PSEMAS members but others, because the tariffs have not been revised for more than four years and not keeping track with the inflationary increases, do not find the Medical Aid Scheme of the Government attractive. They do not make enough money and we will address that one. However, the gap at this moment is huge and it will take time for us to move closer, although it is being inflated. I believe that is adequate on the Medical Aid.

Honourable Tjihuiko mentioned the equity participation. In my statement, I tried to summarise and the gist is that the decision is that subsidies to State-Owned Enterprises are target subsidies. A typical example is what you have quoted, the issue of NamPower. The N\$120 million is specifically targeted for a backup when there is a need, so that the country is not in darkness. It is targeted for that, not for salaries, not for anything else, specifically targeted for that.

The N\$250 million is targeted for equity participation. We still believe that Kudu Gas may deliver what we want. We cannot drop it halfway if the other stakeholders dropped us. It is targeted for that purpose, equity participation in

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that development. That is what is referred to as ‘infrastructural development’, to get energy.

The Honourable Member said that these amounts give us the total of what NamPower gave or donated to Zimbabwe. Honourable Members, I do not know whether to call it hypocrisy or whether it is shortsightedness. The issue is that Namibia has a shortage of energy. We have energy now because of what we are getting from Zimbabwe through that particular agreement and we have to pay for that. There were a few days when they were talking about load shedding and everybody said, “no, find a way, we want energy.” Now the Government goes out, finds energy and now it is again wrong. Now what do we want? If you withdraw that portion that comes from Hwange through that agreement, we will have shortages in the country because we cannot get it from elsewhere. This is within the regional integration. We have energy and we are prepared to pay for that energy and that is the issue, and it is our responsibility as a Government to see to it that the country has energy.

Therefore, it is not a free donation to Zimbabwe, it is purely a commercial transaction with Zimbabwe and we are benefiting from that energy. This is why we have energy. Please, fellow countrymen and women in the Opposition, appreciate when you have it. The Government is doing its utmost best to get energy from wherever at a cost because we cannot produce it ourselves.

Honourable De Waal, it is a targeted subsidy to Air Namibia. This amount of N\$150 million is less than what was appropriated last year. Next year it will be less and the year thereafter, even much less. We believe that the staff and management are doing their best under the circumstances, to turn the situation around. Worldwide the airline industry is no joke. You have read yourself about one airline that has just gone out of business. If you have a problem with the staff’s salaries, etcetera, the N\$150 million appropriated by this House is for the lease of the equipment. You are right you can deal with this on a different platform in terms of the actual operational costs. That you can sort out there, but this one is targeted towards the lease of the equipment to enable Air Namibia to execute its mandate.

As far as the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council is concerned, you are right. This is in the capable Office of the Prime Minister, that is not within

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Finance. In terms of that law passed here, it is clear that it is being coordinated by another office.

Certainly, we could look at the Lüderitz Waterfront Project on a different platform. I do not want to deal with the issue whether it is creative accounting and we will leave that one. What I asked here is only N\$24 million for the Lüderitz Waterfront. We are satisfied that Phase 1 has delivered the results and Phase 2 looks even more promising to beef up Lüderitz as another coastal town. (Interjection). I am talking about the Lüderitz Waterfront and this time we have not given them anything, so they are already on their own.

Katima is the interesting part. When Government decided to put public funds in the Lüderitz Waterfront, there was exactly the same response of saying it is a waste of money. Now after some years that entity is sustaining itself even though you did not want to give credit. (Interjections). The question was about the Lüderitz Waterfront that has recorded profits and a dividend close to half-a-million. That is financial semantics, I certainly believe Honourable De Waal will at another occasion pursue those financial issues.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, the questions by Honourable Riruako were on the medical aid, which I have already explained. The remarks about the N\$1,2 million were Out of Order because we are not dealing with fishing quotas here and I must thank the Honourable Members for their generous support and I thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 09 – Finance, any objection? Agreed to.

I now put **Vote 22 – “WORKS”** for discussion.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all I would like to commend the Ministry for good building quality, especially the most prominent building, which is the State House that is user-friendly.

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Then I would like to put a question to the Minister. I am aware of building regulations, but I still see some buildings, which are not user-friendly. I do not know whether it is possible for the Minister to introduce a law, which would force the construction companies to make all buildings accessible. Thank you very much.

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

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. In support of this very important Vote, I would like to ask only two questions and also make some comments.

On page 6 of the Honourable Minister's speech reference is made to renovation of different Government buildings and I commend you. I would like to repeat a question that I put last year to Comrade Minister Kaapanda.

In Rundu there is a Government house on the banks of the river that used to be utilised by the Commissioner, that time the Government representative, a very beautiful stone house, but that house has become dilapidated, it is fragmenting in front of our eyes – no renovations, not being utilised. I think it is important that if the Government does not need that house it could be sold under the Alienation Scheme to entrepreneurs who could use it.

Secondly, in the same area there is this infrastructure, which used to be called the Rundu Recreational Club. That particular infrastructure is also falling apart in front of our own eyes, in that prime area of the town. Maybe the Ministry needs to follow up, as we cannot allow Government assets to fragment like that.

The same applies to the Kavango Motel. I know when we had the UNITA bandit activities the Namibian Police, through the Special Field Force, has

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been utilising that place and I do not know what the current status of that place is.

Then on page 9 we commend the Ministry for Operation Cleanup and selling the damaged, abandoned, obsolete Government vehicles, etcetera, but when I look around, some of Government garages still have a lot of scrap and Rundu Garage is one of those and I am sure even Ondangwa and other places. Maybe that programme needs to continue.

Then finally on page 12, I am very pleased that this time around provision is made for the construction of the Independence Memorial Museum. Cabinet already ten years ago decided to construct this museum and I commend the Minister that at least in this Financial Year that decision of Cabinet is now going to be implemented. I support the Vote and thank you.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I have only two questions to the Minister. The first one is on page 302, Main Division – Garden Services. The establishment is 228 and we are funding 91.

I really do not know how you are doing this because the Government gardens outside is very beautiful and you need to be commended that while you do not have the staffing, you are still doing a great job. Therefore, I thank you Honourable Kaapanda for initiating this. It was a good idea.

Then on page 9, I only have a problem with Government houses. People who are renting Government houses have been staying there for more than thirty years now. Is there not a law which says that if you have been staying for longer than thirty years you must now become the owner of that property? I want the Minister to follow up whether there is such a law and if so, when will

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this be done so that the people can become the owners of these houses or flats they are renting? I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Dienda. I yield the Floor to the Minister.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chair. Any new building being constructed must be user-friendly for the people who are not in a position to use stairs or elevators. That is being provided for, but when the old buildings have a renovation programme, then that is included. Where there has been no renovations that might be a challenge, but the policy is in place.

Comrade Mutorwa, the programme for State House renovations is on. I reported in the statement that Swakopmund has been finalised, Oshakati is being finalised and all other houses in the Region are on the programme. Obviously, there is always the concern of resources. We have to balance in terms of what will be available for Government renovations and what must be available for new projects. It is just a question of timing. The Rundu Recreation Club will be looked into and I will also try to acquaint myself with the status at the present moment.

The cleanup operation was not a one-time thing, it is now a programme, but up to now the programme has been to get rid of those redundant vehicles that have been piling up for years. The Ministry plans to annually have such operations in the Regions or as frequently as time may allow.

It is also a process, we have to examine whether the equipment can be repaired. If they are not repairable, they will then be auctioned.

The Ministry intends to recruit new workers to fill the vacancies in the Garden Service. Thank you for the compliment on the improvements.

With regard to the houses, there is a programme for the alienation of Government houses and it has been reported in the statement and also in the

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Government programme itself in the sense that there has been a very handsome income from the alienation of Government houses. Currently there is no policy in terms of how long the person may stay in a Government house. It may be good to think about a timeline when a civil servant should be given a chance, but the policy on alienation is there and currently the Government is alienating these houses to those who want to and those who do not want, move away. Some of the houses are too large for the income level of the person, so they are unable to maintain the house properly because of their income level. They are encouraged to move out of those houses if they are not able to afford them and the policy states that the Government should build affordable houses on an equitable basis, meaning to correspond to the income of a person rather than allowing people to live in big houses which they cannot maintain. The policy is in place. It is just a question of implementation of those decisions. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Comrade Minister. I put Vote 23, any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 14:45 UNTIL 2008.04.29 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
29 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, May I begin by recognising the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of Honourable Glenys Kinnock, Member of the European Parliament and Honourable Wilkie Rasmussen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Cook Islands. Both members are co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, which we have the honour of hosting currently. With them are also Sir John R Kautin and Mr Dietmar Nickel, co-Secretaries-General of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. You are kindly welcomed, we are enriched by your presence.

VACANCY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

HON SPEAKER A vacancy occurred in the National Assembly as a result of the resignation of Honourable Peter Tsheehama of the SWAPO Party. As soon as I am advised by the Ruling Party about his replacement, I will duly inform the House.

I further announced that in terms of Article 48(2) of the Constitution, the CoD has nominated Ms Lisselotte Kaveri Kavari to fill the vacancy which occurred in the Assembly as a result of the passing away of the late Honourable Kala Gertze and I will call upon the Chief Whip of the CoD to escort the Member in, before I call upon the Chief Justice to administer the Oath or Affirmation to Ms Kavari.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEWLY NOMINATED
MEMBER**

HON CHIEF JUSTICE administers the Oath to Ms Kavari.

HON SPEAKER: I now declare Ms Lisselotte Kaveri Kavari a duly elected Member in the National Assembly. Congratulations. I invite her to take her seat. Once again, Your Lordship, we are most grateful to you and on behalf of the National Assembly, I thank you for finding time to come and administer the Oath to the new Member of Parliament. Now you are busy doing justice to our Constitution. I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to kindly escort His Lordship, the Chief Justice.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I lay upon the Table Reports of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the following:

- Social Security Commission Employees Compensation Fund and Maternity Leave and Sick Leave and Birth Benefit Fund for the Financial Year ended February 28, 2006.
- Municipality of Windhoek for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2005.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON BOOYS**

- Town Council of Ongwediva for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2007; and
- Town Council of Okahao for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2006.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Booy's?

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 07, 08, 12, 20, 21, 25 and 31 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90 not interrupted if still under consideration by 17:45. I thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Member and I ask him to table the Motion. Any further Notice of Motions?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 5th of June 2008, I shall Move

That this Assembly

Thoroughly discusses the need for Human Resource Development and all other related matters of the Namibian Police and Prison Services. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Mutorwa?

29 April 2008

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

The floods experienced in our country had, and continue to have a negative effect on life activities of our people. The national infrastructure is not spared.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia is currently busy addressing the challenges posed by such floods in general through various institutions involved in disaster management, which includes the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

Of particular concern to us in the Ministry is the status of the water supply particularly to the four North Central Regions of Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto and Oshana that depend largely on the Calueque-Ogongo-Oshakati canal. A large number of communities living along the canal depend on it for various water uses. As you are aware, the terrain from Calueque to Oshakati is characterised by the Cuvelai flood planes or oshanas that flow from North to South. Unfortunately, the canal runs from west to east and therefore, crosses the oshanas, making it vulnerable to flood damages. The most affected part during this year's flood is the 60 kilometres between Ogongo and Oshakati.

Honourable Members, although the damage is severe, I must inform the Nation, it is manageable. NamWater has already been instructed to commence with the repair work and the technical teams have been on site to affect the necessary repairs for more than a week already. We are already working on redoubling our efforts to ensure that the work is completed on time towards the end of May this year.

Government is therefore, advising the industries and people using the water from that canal in the north-central Regions to remain calm, as we do not foresee any disruption to the water supply.

Comrade Speaker, thank you very much, that is the information that I wanted to convey to the Nation through this Chamber.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Minister, I know that I speak for the entire House, for his very useful information. The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
COMMITTEE STAGE**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Committee Stage – Appropriation Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

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

HON SPEAKER: It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported last Friday, the 25th of April 2008, Votes 01 to 06, 09, 10, 11, 13 to 19, 22, 23, 24 and 26 to 30 have been agreed to and Votes 08, 12, 20 and 25 had been introduced.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 21
HON SHIHEPO

I now put **Vote 21, “PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES,”**
N\$228,486,000 for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, may I join my other Colleagues, Honourable Members of this august House in commending and congratulating the Honourable Minister of Finance on a well-prepared Budget that indeed is a *pro-poor* Budget, well-tailored to address our country's development priorities.

I very much hope that it will go a long way in stimulating the development of our country.

Comrade Speaker, I now wish to take this opportunity for my first time to introduce Vote 21 of the Ministry of Safety and Security, Namibian Prison Services for your consideration.

My Ministry is asking a total Budget of N\$228,486,000, of which N\$203,486,000 is for the Operational Budget and N\$25,000,000 is for the Development Budget.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, once again, may I remind the august House of the responsibility of the Namibian Prison Service, which is mainly the maintenance of law and order in the contribution of public safety to our country.

The Namibian Prison Service, being an integral part of the Namibian Criminal Justice System, is responsible for offenders' incarceration under its custody. The core responsibility of the Service entails carrying out four main functions: custody, care, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. In order to effectively carry out this mandate, we need sufficient and adequate facilities, physically capable of containing prisoners safely and securely in order to prevent them from committing new crimes during the period of incarceration. At the same time, the presence of offenders in prison entails an obligation on the part of the Department of Prison Service to prepare offenders for their safe return to society and to provide care for their basic needs during incarceration and on conditional release. Basic needs include: adequate and safe sleeping accommodation, food of nutritional value adequate for offender's health and

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: INTRODUCTION VOTE 21
HON SHIHEPO**

strength, provision of outfits and sufficient bedding suitable for the climate and adequate to keep offenders in good health, and provision of physical and mental care.

Deficiencies of certain nutrients create medical disorders whereas poor hygiene can cause skin disorder and body fluid exposures that increase risk of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other communicable diseases.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, following the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), our relevant Ministerial Targets are:

- 1) Reduction in the occurrence of major security incidents in the Institutions from 219 to 208 by 2010/11;
- 2) Reduction of Overcrowding with 2% by 2008;
- 3) Minimize the spreading of infectious diseases with 5% by 2008/09;
- 4) Reduction of re-offending from 18% to 12%.

The following is the implementation and progress report in achieving those targets:

REDUCTION IN THE OCCURRENCE OF MAJOR SECURITY INCIDENTS IN THE INSTITUTION BY 5% EACH YEAR:

Symptoms of major security incidents were detected earlier and thwarted before they could cause major occurrence of security lapses. Technological advances are now encroaching in our institutions to destabilise prisons' security situations.

Through thorough procedural searches a number of cell phones were uncovered at Windhoek Central Prison. These cell phones are mainly used by prisoners for communication with the outside world. It was through these cell phones, coupled with negligence by some of our members that enabled 6 dangerous prisoners to escape from Windhoek Central Prison in the early hours of the morning, on the 26th of November 2007. However, their planned escape

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HON SHIHEPO**

was foiled before they could go to commit further crimes while they were at large.

These prisoners were recaptured and brought back to prison, while one of them died in the course of escape.

Trafficking is the main source of major security occurrences. It is a known fact that trafficking is taking place in collaboration with some members of the public. Some of our members, due to negligence, find themselves allowing such contrabands to get through the prison.

The most items involved in the trafficking include money, cell phones, and drugs. All these prohibited articles have a common factor, which is to facilitate escapes through either violent manner or cause lawlessness in the institutions. For this year, cell phones smuggled into the prison and captured through searches were 97. Other contrabands, which were captured from Windhoek Central Prison, included 548 and 43 bellies and pouches of dagga, respectively, and a significant number of knives and sharp objects.

REDUCTION OF OVERCROWDING WITH 2% BY 2008:

Prison Service is legally bound to receive all the people ordered by competent courts to be detained under her custody.

This is in disregard of overcrowding and, therefore, the Prison Service has no control over the influx of inmates, neither can it refuse to receive offenders ordered to be brought to prisons by court's order.

Therefore, reduction of overcrowding depends on different role players: Police in hastening investigations, courts in timely presiding over the cases and politicians in determining the sentencing policies. The longer the sentences, the more overlapping the time spent in detention, creating unsustainable congestion of prisons. The demographic upsurge has the tendency of increasing overcrowding.

However, in cognisance of all these, the Namibian Prison Service is committed to reducing the overcrowding by more than the proposed 2% within this period of 2008/09 by implementing initiatives which are already in progress.

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The following are expected to be the main drivers to ease congestion:

The Transfer of Convicted Offenders Act, 2005: This law has just been put into operation and relevant stakeholders have been informed to start the implementation process. Currently the SADC countries are working on modalities to facilitate the implementation. The number of foreign prisoners has been growing in recent years. For this year, 711 foreign prisoners have been incarcerated in our Institutions. The big number is from Angola, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Zambia. Their crimes range from armed robbery, drug peddling, and entry with illegal documents to theft of motor vehicles.

Expansion of the existing structures and new Construction of Institutions: Farm Scott Prison is currently under construction and on completion it is expected to house 2,000 inmates. Although this may not be a permanent solution to overcrowding, yet it can to a certain degree, contribute to the reduction of overcrowding.

Partnership with other Law Enforcing Agents: We are in discussions with other stakeholders, Police, Judiciary and Immigration for enhancing good case flow management, such as seeing awaiting trial being sent to court in time, processing inmates' appeals in a timely manner, application of bail, using alternatives to imprisonment. All these are intended to ease congestion. They have the prospects of decreasing overcrowding in that they may result in offenders being sent back to communities instead of imprisonment.

Community Service Orders: The introduction of Community Service Orders Scheme has very high prospects of reducing overcrowding and re-offending in the prison institutions. Last year, four Regions in the North (Caprivi, Kavango, Oshana and Kunene), under the sponsorship of the Finnish Government, piloted on Community Service Orders. The results were very encouraging as shown in the following table:

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Offenders Committed to Community Service Orders in Pilot Projects.

<u>Caprivi Region,</u>				
Katima Mulilo	Committed	39	Defaulters	8
<u>Kavango Region</u>				
Rundu	Committed	23	Defaulters	8
<u>Oshana Region,</u>				
Oshakati	Committed	24	Defaulters	6
Ondangwa	Committed	25	Defaulters	5
<u>Kunene Region</u>				
Opuwo	Committed	39	Defaulters	9
Total		150		36

Minimise the Spread of Infectious Diseases with 5% by 2008:

The infectious diseases in our institutions are Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, STDs and accounted for 12,9% of the prison population.

The figure could have been bigger than this, but since the testing of the HIV/AIDS is not mandatory, we therefore cannot be in a position of giving the exact number of HIV patients. However, there has been a good response from the prisoners who are increasingly willing to opt to be tested and know the status of their health. This has tremendously improved the situation in our Institutions and treatment of the HIV/AIDS patients through ARV drugs. It has stabilised the number of deaths as a result of HIV/AIDS in our Institutions. For this year, there were 12 deaths and out of these, 6 were of HIV/AIDS related diseases.

The Department has taken a principle decision to implement a single occupancy accommodation whereby a cell will house one offender. New constructions will be based on this decision.

Other programmes intended to reduce the number of infectious diseases included Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT). Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is available in all prison hospitals for prisoners and prison members in case of blood contact.

Reduction of re-offending from 18% to 12%:

This is the main objective of the Prison Service in terms of contribution to public safety. The Department is expected to reduce recidivism through provision of intervention programmes that will lead to rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. In cognisance to this, last year the Department entered into an agreement with T3 Associates Training and Consulting Inc. as an independent consulting firm specialised in correctional and criminal justice practice to develop a homegrown Offender Risk Management Strategy (ORMS) for the Namibian Prison Service. The Offender Risk Management Strategy is intended to reduce the number of repeat offenders.

Farming Programmes:

The Namibia Prison Service provides work and employability skills training to offenders in institutions to enhance job readiness upon their release to the communities and increase likelihood of successful reintegration. The two prisons, Divundu Rehabilitation Centre and Farm Scott are targeted in providing farming skills to inmates as well as contributing to self-sufficiency in providing foodstuff to inmates in the Ministry. It is our intention to maximise production in these two institutions to be fully operational in production with a possibility of being self-supporting in food production as well as for security storage of grains. Currently Divundu provides 66% of our maize meal requirements and 76% of vegetables. Divundu also produces wheat for bread baking which is also consumed by inmates.

Idleness in the prison has always been considered to be the source of major security incidents and constructive engagement of offenders contribute immensely to good order of Prison Institutions. This has been proven in practice at Divundu where no escapes had been experienced since the establishment of the centre.

Capital Projects:

Funds allocated for Capital Projects for this year were N\$18,256,000 of which over 90% was fully utilised for the construction of Farm Scott and the Omaruru Training College.

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HON SHIHEPO**

Further minor renovations at Windhoek Central Prison and Divundu's kitchen were done. Our envisaged prison reforms would be realised if they are accompanied with the ideal architectural and physical structures designed to accommodate these changes. Farm Scott Prison was identified to be the complex institution to spearhead these changes and is designed to meet all these architectural and physical requirements.

This project involves the construction of the open rehabilitation farm complex, consisting of medium, minimum prisons and an intake assessment centre, administration buildings, educational buildings, store buildings, staff accommodation, abattoir and a sports field. With this current trend of allocation of funds, it is estimated to take a long time to complete the project to the extent of making its usefulness currently being meaningless. The prevailing situation where there are more than 4,000 awaiting trials in the police cells with a possibility of being admitted to prison any time on completion of their trials; this is a potential problem should this construction of Farm Scott Prison take such a long time.

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2008/2009 FINANCIAL YEAR:

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I shall now explain the specific allocation for each Programme of Vote 21: Namibian Prison Service, as follows:

Safe Custody:

The total requested for this programme amounts to N\$209,661,000. Out of this amount, N\$151,300,000 is for personnel related expenditures, while N\$25,000,000 is allocated for the construction of Farm Scott Open Prison Farm.

Namibian Prison Service Training College in Omaruru, upgrading of Elizabeth Nepemba Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre and renovation activities.

The remaining amount is earmarked for ensuring the continued supply of the basic needs such as water and electricity, clothing, bedding, rations, health care, cleaning materials, toiletries, telephone services, procurement of security and office equipment, training activities, purchase and maintenance of motor vehicle fleet.

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HON HAUSIKU

Rehabilitation:

The total needed for this programme amounts to N\$18,324,000 for these programmes, of which N\$9,192,000 is allocated for personnel related expenditures (i.e. specialised staff). N\$4,353,000 is allocated to assist offenders to develop relevant work skills, experiences and attitudes while incarcerated. Other items such as transport, agricultural inputs, training material and gratuity for offenders and training workshops will cost N\$4,779,000.

Reintegration:

The total funds requested for these programmes amount to N\$501,000. In the course of this Financial Year, we are planning to embark upon public awareness campaigns and at the same time identify and assess available core services and support in the community to form an integral part of our programme delivery. Training workshops on risk assessment for conditional release decisions will also be conducted for the members of the various release boards.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I now have the pleasure of requesting this august House to approve the sum of N\$228,486,000 for the Namibian Prisons Service, Department. I thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now put
Vote 7 – “FOREIGN AFFAIRS”, N\$320,714,000 for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade
Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. May I first of all, welcome and

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HON HAUSIKU

congratulate the new Parliamentarians, Madam Honourable Kavari, and Comrade Honourable Kavetuna. Welcome to the House of Honourable Members.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, allow me to begin by congratulating my Colleague, the Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for her excellent Budget presentation. I wish her well, and I believe that we all are proud of her brilliant performance as Minister of Finance.

Comrade Chairperson, I am honoured to present to this Honourable House the Budget allocation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. Generally Honourable Chairperson, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs are considered to be windows for their countries to the outside world, and Namibia is no exception. To emphasise this important role played by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba underlined the following:

“Our Diplomatic Missions abroad provide us with vital links worldwide. They reflect our national efforts towards economic and social development in inter-acting with partners in different countries all over the world”.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, in fulfilling its duties as mandated by Article 96 of the Namibian Constitution, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pleased to report that 2007 was indeed a very busy year.

In the field of bilateral relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitated high-level visits namely: State and Official Visits to Namibia by six Heads of State and Government at the invitation by His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia.

In the same spirit, President Pohamba paid Official Visits to Japan, United Kingdom, Malaysia, and South Africa, upon invitation by the Heads of State and Governments of these respective countries. The exchange visits at the highest level provide opportunities for deepening our bilateral relations and often result in the signing of agreements, which facilitate trade and other important areas of cooperation for mutual benefit.

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HON HAUSIKU

During the year under review, three Sessions of Joint Commissions of Cooperation were successfully held and agreements were reached, covering a wide range of issues of cooperation. It is important to mention that Joint Commissions of Cooperation address the most pressing needs and areas of priorities as set out in our National Development Plans and Vision 2030. Moreover, Joint Commissions of Cooperation are periodically reviewed and adjusted to ensure that short and long-term development goals and objectives are attained.

MULTILATERAL CO-OPERATION:

The Ministry continues to actively participate in the work of regional and international organisations. During the year under review, the Ministry participated in the activities of SADC, the African Union, United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, and the Commonwealth. Namibia was honoured to serve in the Troika of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, during the last three years. Furthermore, at the last Commonwealth Summit in Kampala, Namibia was elected to the membership of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) for the next two years. Generally Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Ministry has participated in all Ministerial meetings convened by multilateral organisations to which we are members during the year under review. I want to refer you to the Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tabled in this House earlier this year by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for 2006/2007 for more information.

Likewise, I would like to indicate that at the end of my statement, Comrade Chair I have attached three documents. One is dealing with properties bought abroad by the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The second one is dealing with or listing properties rented by our Missions abroad, and the last one is the number of Missions at present moment. This will enlighten you more on what the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have dealt with in the year under review.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to now address the specific requests for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

A total amount of N\$320,714,000 is being requested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

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HON HAUSIKU**

An amount of N\$50,158,000 is earmarked for the Development Budget, and N\$270,556 000 for the operations of the Ministry and its Diplomatic Missions.

The amount allocated for the Development Budget will be utilised as follows:

N\$48,108,000 will be used for purchasing and maintenance of our diplomatic premises abroad.

N\$500,000 will be used for the maintenance and renovation of Headquarters buildings.

N\$1,550,000 has been provided for as retention funds for the United Nations House in Windhoek. Chairperson, I have to add immediately, that the House of the United Nations has been completed and Members are welcome to go and view the very beautiful premises the Government of the Republic of Namibia had built for the United Nations System assigned to Namibia.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, I shall now take you through the breakdown of the amount requested by my Ministry for each programme under the Operational Budget.

Program 1: Bilateral Co-operation:

The main objective of this programme is to strengthen bilateral cooperation with all countries in a number of identified priority areas for mutual benefit. An amount of N\$12,564,000 is required.

Program 2: Multilateral Co-operation:

Under this program, the Ministry coordinates the participation of Namibia in regional and international meetings and conferences, with the view to advance the country's interests, promote international peace and security and sustainable development. An amount of N\$33,690,000 is requested for this programme.

Program 3: Protocol and Consular Services:

The Protocol and Consular Services coordinate activities between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and other Governments, as well as

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 31
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

International Organisations. This programme also coordinates both domestic and international official engagements involving His Excellency the President, the Prime Minister and other Namibian dignitaries. It further facilitates contacts between the Government and Diplomatic Missions accredited to Namibia. An amount of N\$8,159,000 is requested for this programme.

Program 4: Namibian Diplomatic Missions:

The objectives of our Diplomatic Missions are to protect the interests of the Republic of Namibia and its nationals abroad and to promote good relations with the countries of their accreditation.

Likewise, Comrade Chairperson, in pursuit of the policy of economic diplomacy, the Missions promote trade and foreign direct investment through, among others, participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions. An amount of N\$266,301,000 is requested for the operation of our Missions abroad.

Honourable Members, in conclusion, I would like to thank my Deputy Minister, my Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary and the rest of my staff for their dedication to hard work and commitment to team work.

As it is usual, I am counting on you to approve the allocation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

I thank you very much for your attention.

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

I now put **Vote 31 – “VETERANS AFFAIRS”**, N\$167,125,000 for Introduction.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: INTRODUCTION VOTE 31
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much. Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Distinguished Members. This is your Vote, everyone here is a veteran one way or the other or maybe veteran on the wrong side. Comrade Chairperson, it is my distinct honour and privilege to introduce Vote 31 of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the 2008/2009 Financial Year for Debate and approval by this august House.

As I indicated last year, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs was established as one of the Government Institutions, in terms of Article 32(3)(g) of the Namibian Constitution by the order of the President. The objective for establishing this Ministry is to provide client-centred services and benefits that respond to the needs of veterans of our struggle for National Liberation so as the dependants of the deceased veterans. This is the cardinal core meaning of the Mission Statement of the Ministry, of granting recognition to the men and women who selflessly fought and sacrificed for freedom and Independence of Namibia.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the 2007/2008 Budget of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs was solely for organisational, structural and planning purposes. In fact, it was institutional establishment Budget.

It was a bridging or transitional Budget aimed at creating an institution, which never existed before. The main task before us for the whole of last year was to draft the Veterans Bill, which we accomplished and which has sailed through both Houses of Parliament. We further drafted the policy and regulations to act as an operational guide and translation of the Veterans Act when enacted.

The most important and effective resource any organisation possesses is its human resources. In view of this, the whole of last year was spent not only for the development of the Ministry and its programmes but we have been busy recruiting the personnel to run the Ministry's affairs.

The recruitment has also been accompanied by intensive orientation of the staff to the policy and regulations of the Ministry. For this reason, various courses in form of workshops and seminars were designed and knowledge imparted to the new staff.

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HON DR TJIRIANGE

It is imperative to note that the Ministry is not only new on the State establishment, it is such of a new and special type. The Ministry is dealing with people traumatised psychologically as a result of a long struggle. These are people whose social situation has been exacerbated by various social ills and are convinced that they have been neglected. Many of our potential clientele have developed negative attitudes and suspicions towards many possible initiatives we are mandated to embark on, aimed at improving on their economic conditions. It is, therefore, not strange and in fact it is common knowledge that some of our veterans do not want to hear about projects and employment creation. They want money; cash in their hands.

It is such negative notions and mindset that we are preparing to address and change. We are putting up various mechanisms aimed at creating the enabling environment in which the socio-economic situation of the veterans of the struggle for National Liberation and their families is fundamentally transformed. Veterans must assume their pride as people whose toil and sacrifice has produced a Nation we are proud of and cherish today.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Esteemed Members, I have spoken about the task through which we had to put structures of the Ministry in place, recruit suitable and qualified staff. I have also mentioned about the planning and conducting courses to sharpen the skills of the new staff. One of the most important and crucial tasks we carried out in the last twelve months is that of putting up regional offices to enable the Ministry to bring the services closer to the doorsteps of the veterans.

As a beginning, our intention is to open 6 Regional Offices in which one office will cover and serve at least two Regions. The objective remains, however, to set up an office for each Region as we go on. It must be remembered Honourable Members, that we are dealing with people who many of them are no longer young. Some of them are physically challenged. We are therefore dealing with people who have been traumatised, people who sometimes do not have the means and we cannot be a Windhoek-based Ministry only, we must take the services to them so that we are a service-delivery Ministry in the true sense of the word.

The Ministry has also completed its Strategic Plan, which will be presented to the Conference of Stakeholders during the second week of May 2008.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: INTRODUCTION VOTE 31
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

Honourable Chairperson, the Veterans Bill has sailed through this august House and awaits only the signature of the President before it becomes law, an Act of Parliament. Once the Bill is enacted, the Minister will appoint the Veterans Board and will start immediately with the major and mammoth task of registration, verification and identification of the veterans.

It is then that we would determine who would be Budgeted for subvention but we expect the number to be higher after the registration exercise has started. I must make one thing categorically clear, there seems to be an impression that the envisaged subvention will be paid to every veteran this Financial Year. That surely is not the case.

The Ministry shall pay the subvention only to those who are in a certain low income brackets and who are indeed in need. So therefore, you veterans who are here, you are not included. You are already affirmed. Others can benefit from other numerous programmes, which the Ministry may design for the veterans. It will be a mockery of justice to affirm people who are already affirmed, but there are other programmes from which you can benefit, that are intended to cover everybody.

The registration will have two main objectives:

1. Registration to determine veterans eligible for subvention.
2. Registration for the general database of the Ministry, for employment and other activities the Ministry has planned for the veterans.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, it is obvious that a stampede from all sorts and shades is expected to overwhelm the Ministry of Veterans Affairs once registration starts, particularly that money is involved at the end of the day. I would like to inform this Honourable House that the Ministry is already inundated with questions as to who is qualified or not qualified for the veterans grant. Some of these questions are emanating even from this august House.

Honourable Chairperson, allow me to reiterate once more that the mandate of my Ministry is unambiguous. Our mandate is to serve the interest of the veterans and dependants of deceased veterans of the struggle for National Liberation, period.

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The question of the former freedom fighters is not only political but it is a moral question and obligation. Any Nation, which went through the war, has a historical and moral obligation to properly take care of and look after those who fought in the defence of the Nation. We are not inventing the wheel. All nations do that, including the SADC countries such as South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, etcetera. Algeria has one of the most comprehensive war veterans' programmes, so does Vietnam.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs is requesting the amount of N\$167,120,000 for the kind approval of this august House. The money so requested would be expended as follows:

MAIN DIVISION 01: OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

The Office of the Minister of Veterans Affairs is requesting an amount of N\$2,323,000 to be divided as follows:

- (a) Personnel expenditure N\$1,123,000
- (b) Goods and other services N\$908,000
- (c) Capital expenditure N\$292,000

MAIN DIVISION 02: GENERAL SERVICES

The total expenditure for Main Division General Services is N\$9,144,000, which is sub-divided as follows:

- (a) **Sub-Division 010**

Personnel expenditure is N\$3,209,000

- (b) **Sub-Division 030**

Goods and other services N\$3,592,000. These make a total current expenditure of N\$7,301,000.

- (c) **Sub-Division 160**

Capital expenditure N\$843,000.

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**MAIN DIVISION 03: POLICY, SOCIAL SUPPORT TRAINING, AND
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

This Main Division is requesting a total amount of N\$141,386 000 to be subdivided as follows:

(a) **Sub-Division 010**

Personnel Expenditure N\$3,210,000.

(b) **Sub-Division 030**

Acquisition of goods and services N\$4,436,000.

(c) **Sub-Division 080**

Subsidies and the current transfers N\$120,000,000.

(d) **Sub-Division 200**

Capital Expenditure N\$13,040,000.

MAIN DIVISION 04: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND LIAISON

This Main Division is requesting an amount of N\$14,267,000 to be shared as follows:

(a) **Sub-Division 010**

Personnel Expenditure N\$2,547,000.

(b) **Sub-Division 030**

Acquisition of goods and other services N\$3,955,000.

(c) **Sub-Division 100**

Total Current Expenditure N\$6,502,000.

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(d) **Sub-Division 170**

Capital Expenditure N\$5,800,000.

This is a modest request, indeed, as I pointed out earlier on and I have no doubt that this august House will approve our request soon after I rest my case.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, in conclusion, allow me once again to reiterate that veterans of the struggle for National Liberation are an integral part of our glorious history, an embodiment and culmination of the brave culture of resistance of our ancestors against colonialism. Some of them died with arms in their hands, fighting the war of liberation. Soldiers do not declare wars. Soldiers do only fight the wars declared by others. In the case of Namibia these were volunteers who put their lives on the line for the liberation of our motherland, Namibia, a noble cause nobody can deny its worth to fight for. I therefore, beg all of you Honourable Members to approve our request for the amount of N\$167,120,000.

I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Tjirirange, thank you.

I now put **Vote 12 – “GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE”**, for discussion.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, thank you so much. This is our Vote and I am on page 160, Estimates - Revenue and Expenditure.

Honourable Chairperson, “*Grants to Women Projects for Capacity Building*”: In 2006/2007 Budget there was a Budget for N\$1 million, in 2007/2008 N\$1 million, in 2008/2009 N\$802,000, N\$2009/2010 N\$642,000. Can the Honourable Minister please explain what is the reason for the decrease instead

of an increase on women projects?

Secondly, on page 162, the Maintenance Grants and Foster Parents Allowance: Honourable Chairperson, we have special maintenance grants for children with disabilities, whereas maintenance grants for children or foster parents allowances. There is no increment provision made for this Budget. Could the Minister please explain why, because if we take into consideration the inflation and our current living standards, why is there no increment for the people I have mentioned above?

The children living with disabilities are receiving social grants until the age of sixteen years and then they receive an adult disability grant of N\$460. Therefore, where do those children who are under the age of 18 years who are still under the care of parents fit in?

The Child Care and Protection Bill, together with the Child Justice Bill, are still outstanding. I asked the Minister during my first Debate in this House, I asked her last year and now I am asking the same question the third time. I will not be at peace before those Bills are brought to this House.

On page 7 and 8 of your speech, you mentioned gender-based violence. The Minister in her speech mentioned a lot of issues regarding gender-based violence, but in the current Budget there is no financial assistance provided for safe and secure environments for women. We only have one place of safety, which caters for the whole country. What plans does the Minister have in place regarding financing places of safety for women who are being abused by their husbands? This is the reason why women withdraw their cases because they have nowhere else to go. After being beaten by the husbands, they have to back out, as they have nowhere else to stay.

On page 8 of the speech, Legal Literacy Programmes: Honourable Minister of Information, women are well-equipped about their rights due to information by your Ministry, but I want to take it a bit further. What is the linkage between your Ministry and the Ministry of Justice? We have all the information, go to court if your husband beats you, but we need to determine which courts are being prioritised... (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. Honourable Dienda must withdraw the point that if men are beaten, it is fine. There are men out there who are really being abused and no violence should be tolerated, no man or woman may be beaten. She must withdraw.

HON DIENDA: I will not because it was not part of my speech, you interrupted me from there and I answered you. It was not from me, so I will not withdraw. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, you are not going to use the phrase *when men are being beaten*?

HON DIENDA: No, it was not in my speech, they provoked me by asking these things. It was not part of my speech.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. I would like to inform Honourable Dienda that we are now discussing gender equality, we are not discussing Justice. Please leave Justice out.

HON DIENDA: I am so glad you will never defend a case of mine, because you will confuse everybody. We need to examine which court administration is prioritised. Is it rape, domestic violence cases or cases where

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people stole cell phones? Prosecutors that are placed within courts dealing with sexual offences... (Interjections). Honourable Chairperson, these people are just trying to confuse me. These prosecutors should deal effectively with victims of such crimes, so that women can feel free to express themselves in the courts of law. Therefore, this Minister can help us.

On page 3 of the speech: With the assistance of UNICEF the Ministry has developed information brochures on services for children in need. Honourable Chairperson, I have noticed in the Financial Reports of 2004, 2005 and 2006 the following: That the Minister has a bank account at Bank Windhoek, Sanlam Centre. On the 1st of April 2004 there was a balance of N\$5,257,000, in 2005 there was a balance of N\$2 million...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed in this Honourable House for a Member to chew gum?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No, it is not allowed. Eating in the Chamber is not allowed. Proceed.

HON DIENDA: No, I do not eat bubblegum. In 2005 there was a balance of N\$2 million on the current account and it was even divided and N\$6 million on the 32 days notice account. In 2006, in the same banking account there was a balance on the current account of N\$1,894,000 and on the 32 days notice account, N\$7 million. Can the Minister please explain the following to me?

Why is the money lying in this account for so long, why is it not spent? Is it simply to gain interest and why was it taken to the 32-day account and not spent on the children in need? Are there no children in need in the country who can benefit from this money? Since this is donor money, what projects

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did the Minister submit to the donors and when will these projects be implemented? (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Dienda, your time is over. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: I thank you very much, Chairperson although we do not belong to the same Political Party I thank Ms Dienda, for the seriousness of her speech which made people think rather than to keep on joking. I may say that women suffer a lot at our hands, but no compensation for that. In our culture there is compensation. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Which culture?

HON RIRUAKO: The culture of this man who is now speaking. (Interjections). I am not going to make mention of those who are joking 24 hours in the House. I am going beyond that to child abuse. We have children going around in the city without proper care. The Police and the Government are not quite aware of that to maintain law and order and asking their names, and where they come from, who their parents are. That is why the parents are not ready to take care of what they have done. There is a lot of punishment supposed to be meted out. I am sorry to say that, we know about that and we cannot remedy that without getting the positions of these people who let the children go around the whole city. Honourable Chairperson, that is something we are supposed to look at.

Secondly, some of the women are wives, some of them belong to the women lib and the Ministry has decided to get into that kind of that. (Intervention)

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Which page is that one? That is general.

HON RIRUAKO: I do not want to teach people here when they did not come here with experience and are supposed to know about that. I am sorry about that.

The point I want to make is that those who are not ready to obey the laws of this country must also know that we are after them.

There is the Anti-Corruption Commission and you can report that to the Anti-Corruption Commission and they are going to find themselves behind bars. The Anti-Corruption Commission is a body, which can discipline you if you have not been disciplined yet.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: We are talking about gender.

HON RIRUAKO: There is a linkage between justice and gender activities. I can go beyond that. (Interjection). Men are suffering, but in certain parts of this country they take everything from the women, they happen to have some girls and (Interjections).

One more thing I want to mention is those kids who are running around without care. Some of the men use that kind of behaviour to run away from their responsibility and they were left just like that. Nobody asked them what they ought to do. It seems as if they do not care, no punishment, they do not do anything to them and some men who do that, know that they have a responsibility but they do not care. We cannot tolerate what they do. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order, I seek the indulgence of the Chair. We are in the Committee Stage and the previous two speakers were very general but my understanding of the Committee Stage is that we have to speak on the details of the Bill. Is it in order for us to be as general as we are now? Is it not against our Rules?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is true, but the first speaker was in line because she was even referring us to the page of the book and the motivation of the Minister. Maybe the Senior Person who is speaking currently is the one who is Out of Order and I do not know how the Minister will answer to that because it is too general.

I think his speech is derived from the speech of the previous speaker. According to the Rules, Honourable Riruako you are Out of Order.

HON RIRUAKO: I do understand you, Honourable Chairperson, but the fact is that it is happening and they must behave and they must answer for what they have done. I am not outside the Rules because I am following her speech.

In conclusion, those who behave this way, from now on we are going to follow you. You cannot do things your way. God has discipline, which applies to everybody. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I call on Honourable Dienda.

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HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I would like to continue on page 12 of the Minister's speech and on page 160 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

Honourable Chairperson, I will not elaborate more on this matter because I am waiting for the discussion of the policy. Honourable Chairperson, all stakeholders were invited in the Honourable Minister's speech to such meetings, except for us, the parents, who were not invited because we are the ones who have children in crèches. The invitations went out to the Principals of pre-primary schools, managers of day-care centres, managers of crèches, managers of kindergartens. My concern therefore is whether the Minister in her Budget could include the parents of these children attending these crèches so that we could also give our views on this very important issue.

Public childcare is provided for the sake of the children and not as a substitute for families. Therefore, parents must have confidence in this form of care.

Honourable Minister, I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, those who are behind bars know what they have done to their own children. There is somebody of my age who happened to have sexual intercourse with his own child for twenty years and he is punishable and he had a child with her. Some of you are doing that. (Interjections).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Chief, do not incite things, which are not among the Honourable Members. There is no Honourable Member who has done that. You are saying "*some of you.*"

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HON RIRUAKO: I am talking from the historical background.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am not going to allow that. It is an insult in front of the children.

HON RIRUAKO: That welfare must be given to every child from her father, from her mother, from the neighbour. It cannot be tolerated. If you do not want to discuss this, I leave it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Just a brief question on the projects. We have a number of Recreation Centres and Community Centres, now I do not know whether these Centres are built solely for the youth or for everybody.

If there is a community centre in town, will the Gender Ministry also build another one? Is it that the one is for everybody and the other one is only for women or how does it work? If one, who is not a woman, wants to go, will he be allowed at these recreation centres and on which basis?

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

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HON MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Before I respond to the questions and the comments made, my cup of joy runs over because when I introduced the people's Budget last Friday we had 30.7% of women representation in Parliament and today when I am responding we have 31%. Viva the women of Namibia.

I will also fail in my duty if I do not congratulate Honourable Kavari, the most recently sworn in Member of Parliament for her new honourable responsibilities and also CoD, the Official Opposition which makes us proud with 60% of women representation in Parliament.

The SADC Gender/Women Affairs Protocol meeting will take place tomorrow morning and I have invited all female Members of Parliament, but I will accept that they have to be in Parliament tomorrow morning and thus invite them to the reception tomorrow evening. You may phone my Personal Assistant on 0811-286287. Now back to business.

The first question was by *Honourable Dienda* and she mentioned the decrease in the grants. What usually happens is that we have more or less N\$1 million available but it sometimes depends on the Finance Ministry, which makes certain cuts and that is how it happens that sometime less women apply for these grants.

The other question was on the special grants, the Maintenance Grants and the Foster Parents Allowances. According to the 2001 statistics we have 156,000 orphans and in 2004 we had only 9,000 on grants.

We have now started with a campaign and with this Budget we have 90,000. Our target is to have at least 171,000 and we are already working on the increment for these children. When we have 170,000 we will give an increment because if there are children in the streets who do not receive the grant and others' grants are topped up, it will not be good for the children.

The children with disabilities are absorbed in the Disability Grants, which fall under Health.

There is already a Child Care and Protection Draft Bill, but it is a very sensitive one and you know that the one on the Status of Children took almost ten years because it was with the Ministry of Health, from Dr Libertine Amathila, to Dr Iyambo. It came to us in 2004 and then it took us another three years to pass the Bill. Our children are so precious and at least we have the 1961 Children's Act, which we are using now and the Children's Status Bill which is now an Act and it has to go through all the stakeholders and public hearings before we finalise it. We might however start with the process of public hearings when Parliament is in recess.

The other question was on the gender-based violence. That one is within the Gender Protection Programme, nevertheless, the money provided for that section is very little. Last year June we had a National Gender-based Conference and there we had recommendations from different sectors and we are now working on those recommendations. I have already tabled some of the outcomes in Parliament and at the Traditional Leaders Conference last year. There is a Joint Gender Programme through the National Planning Commission and UNDP and the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare and I was supposed to sign for US\$8 million which will come to us but the papers were not ready and I must sign it by tomorrow, because it will have to go to the UN. We will use those funds for the protection of women as well as men. It is for gender-based violence, for anyone who is affected by gender-based violence.

We have the Woman and Child Protection Unit which is a joint venture of the Ministry of Safety and Security and our Ministry and there are centres in almost all the Regions. Apart from that, some churches and women groups have also put up such centres and we are going to strengthen them through the money we will receive.

Early one morning in February the SWAPO Youth League called me and told me that there are about 18 children in the Wanaheda Police Cells and I immediately called the City Police and the Deputy Minister. We made sure that these children immediately appeared in court and they were taken to a place of safety and they are now integrated in schools and training centres. We are doing these things and the City Police and the social workers from the After-care Centre are going around the streets— as they did with the *paswette* — and collect the children and bring them to safety. All these things are being done and we have 15 places of safety under the Protection Unit.

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Thank you for the compliments on the Literacy Programme. Tomorrow when the SADC Gender/Women Ministers are finalising the Protocol it will be referred to the SADC Justice Ministers. Even the Deputy Minister of Justice attended the meetings on gender.

There are also mechanisms in place for women and children-friendly courts. Together with UNICEF we have published booklets in different languages and distributed them so that the people know where to get help, when to get help and how to get help.

With regard to the bank account, the Ministry is not aware of this one and the Honourable Member can come to my office and provide information. We have an OVC Fund and we also have a bank account for the After-Care Centre. I do not deal with the funds, but that one was approved by Cabinet for helping the children.

Honourable Chief Riruaoko talked about culture and child abuse and we have programmes to take care of those children.

There was a follow-up question on page 12 on the parents. Parents are included in Stakeholders' Programmes, but I will make sure that we pay specific attention to programmes because I know that there are family programmes within the structure of the ECD and the management of the crèches invite the parents, but on the national level there are programmes on family attachment and involvement.

Honourable Tjiriange, the Women Centres are actually community centres, it is for everybody and it is open to everybody. The one in Kavango will be opened in May by my Deputy Minister and the one in Caprivi also in May/June.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I now put Vote 12, any objection? Agreed to.

I now put **Vote 20 – “AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY”** for discussion.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will be more specific on page 3 of the Minister's motivation, food production 1 to 4, and I need to get some answers here. It says: *"Although the agricultural and forestry sectors were estimated to contribute 6.06% and 6.17% respectively to the Gross Domestic Product during 2007/2008, the GDP percentage growth is expected to decline from approximately 3.2% to 2.9%."*

Honourable Minister, I just wanted to know, what is the exact agricultural contribution to GDP? That is question one.

On the next page it says: *"69.4% of the total Budget will be the Operational Budget. The remaining 30.4% represents the Development Budget."* Honourable Chairperson, I would like to know from the Honourable Minister, if we are facing a critical food shortage in the world, not only in Namibia, if we are talking about promoting green schemes, promoting food production, addressing the issue of poverty in this country and we are spending 30% on the production area of our Budget, what does it mean in real economic terms? What are you trying to tell the Nation? Are you serious with the agricultural sector, the sector that we have been claiming is the sector that would address the issue of food production, the sector that we have been saying that 70% of our people are living in communal areas where the agricultural sector should be promoted and we are talking about 30.4% contribution to that sector. I want the Honourable Minister to explain to us what we are really saying in real economic terms.

The next one is on page 5, Agricultural Planning, Marketing and Food Security. You say: *"The Ministry strives to contribute to the creation of conducive policy environment for the livestock sector"*, yet we were informed that a professional consultant has come up with a Report on the issue of sheep export to South Africa. They have made a clear recommendation, that the small-stock scheme has been a disaster up to now.

The respective Ministries have been ignoring that Report. They continue to insist that one sector, the producers, should subsidise the abattoirs. It has never happened in a free market economy. The report is clear, it says it does not work, it needs to be reviewed, but still Government is sitting back and they say that the sector that drives the economy should subsidise a sector that is not

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producing, instead of saying that Government will subsidise. It is a Cabinet decision. What is the real motive behind the silence? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, are you saying that abattoirs, which are slaughtering small stock should now close and people should lose their jobs or what are you saying?

HON TJIHUIKO: Right Honourable Prime Minister, I will answer your question by asking a question. Are you saying you have to destroy the very same sector that is providing the small stock to the abattoirs for the sake of two jobs? The fact is that the self-sustaining sector must be left alone. If you want to subsidise the abattoirs, Government must come in and subsidise it, but it should not force the producers to subsidise an uneconomic sector.

The point that I want to make here is, why has the Government up to now not yet addressed itself to the recommendation of PricewaterhouseCoopers on that issue and looked at the issue? Until when do you expect the producers to subsidise the abattoirs?

Honourable Chairperson, we should also take note of the fact that South African market, not only because of the World Cup, is the biggest market that we have where we can export our meat right now. If you start sending signals to the South African market that you are going to stop exports to South Africa, they will look for alternatives.

What are you going to do if South Africa, instead of taking our meat, decide to get cheap meat from Argentina or from New Zealand? Are you going to sit back and say, "*thank you very much?*" I want to know from the Minister what is the strategy he has in place to address some of these issues, whether the professionals have come up with a clear recommendation? With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

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

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support this very important Vote for the economy of Namibia and support two or three programmes that are really doing a marvellous job, namely Forestry, by trying to manage the natural resources through their programmes and I want to pay attention to agricultural advice.

This programme does exist here, but many farmers are not really receiving this agricultural advice that this programme envisages to address. I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to this document in my hand, "*Animal Health Declaration Form*". Tomorrow the farms in the Omaheke area are going to be closed if you have not filled in this form and submitted to the Veterinary Services of Gobabis. Let me tell you, there is no communication between farmers in that area and the Veterinary Office and the Government is planning to close farms because they do not have health declaration and many of these Veterinary Extension Service Officers are not visiting farms. They are not visiting people's farms and yet we are compelled to do this by tomorrow. If you have not filled this in long ago, your farm is going to be closed, you are not going to sell animals. How does the Ministry envisage to address that lack of coordination and information between farmers and the Veterinary Offices?

The other issue that I want to raise that is quite important and pertinent is rural water supply. I am talking about the question of the pricing of water through NamWater.

Farmers in the Caprivi who are close to the Zambezi are paying much more for water than a person living a thousand or two thousand kilometres away from any perennial river.

I really want us to understand and to be told what determines the cost prices of rural water supply, because there is some discrepancy if you look at a farm that is close to a natural water source and a farmer that is far away from water. (Interjection). The cost of a pipe of three kilometres cannot be more expensive than the cost of a pipe of 200 kilometres.

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Another question I have is coupled to this issue and it is the affordability of rural water supply. I am telling you, it is a matter that needs review, we really need to review the prices and affordability of water supply. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? Honourable Venaani, I am also a farmer but I am now hearing this for the first time. Would you elaborate more on where you got it from and what is expected from us?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: If you dwell on that one, the next question which will be raised will not be accommodated because of time. It is better that you meet outside and discuss that.

HON VENAANI: The Integrated of Water Resource Management is a very beautiful and enviable programme that is currently searching for new underground water resources wherever they manifest themselves. It is a programme that should be supported and it is good that our agriculture is addressing that question.

Coupled to that question of addressing new water resources, we have a tendency in this country that during drought years the municipalities have water saving campaigns and when it rains that campaign ends, whereas we know that we are living in a country which does not have enough water resources.

I am asking the Ministry, what happened to the “*Save Water Campaign*” that we used to have during many years of drought which we have now abandoned?

Lastly I want to discuss is the timeous service delivery especially to rural water infrastructure. Sometimes a borehole becomes defective in a village in

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Kavango or Kunene during a drought period, but when you call the office, you are told that the truck has a problem and those farmers would be there without water for three weeks and their cattle would be dying because of service delivery. How does the Ministry envisage to address the question of efficient service delivery, especially with regard to rural water supply, because a lot of farmers were experiencing delayed services during the last drought when boreholes and/or pipes needed to be fixed.

With these few remarks, I support our Vote.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. First of all, allow me to congratulate the Minister with the new position. I hope as a communal farmer himself, he will understand my plight.

All along we have been crying for the Veterinary Cordon Fence to be removed and I thought they would come up with a plan and explain how this would be done, because the communal farmers in our area have been exploited by not being able to sell to the national and international markets and it is really a setback to those farmers. Therefore, I would like to hear more on this red line being moved to the Angolan side.

I was impressed when I read about the Rural Water Supply coverage. There is a Tsandi-South phase for livestock water points and Onambutu water points, etcetera. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question? Honourable Moongo, do you remember that during the floods you were addressing this House, saying that there will be a catastrophe, the water, which

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is going this side is going to come back and kill all the people. Honourable Moongo, can you tell us where is this water?

HON MOONGO: It is a very good thing that you still remember my speech which was a constructive speech. I hope the Ministry will solve the problem.

I was dealing with the very urgent water supply to cattle at the area where the water is salty. It is impossible to pay for the water to 200 cattle from the pipeline. When is the Ministry going to provide water to the area of Amilema, Oshana, Ombuga, Uukwiyu Ushona, those areas with salty water? (Interjection).

That water is gone, forget about it, because the SWAPO Government did not construct a dam there during the time of floods. They were too slow, as usual. I however appeal to the Minister to supply water for livestock in the areas with salty water. It is impossible for a small communal farmer to afford water from the pipeline. With this, I thank you very much.

HON BOHITILE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am rising to support the Vote and would like to start by congratulating the Honourable Minister on his appointment in this very important portfolio.

Honourable Chairperson, the food prices are rising, inflation continues to rise and it is expected that it will continue to do so. There are various reasons for that, namely the drought, the demand for bio-fuels, etcetera.

The economists are advising us that we should make more land available for food production and we should use the already available land productively for food production.

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Comrade Minister, I would like to come to the Green Scheme. That is the scheme that is supposed to do just that. Where is our hope that this scheme could take off in a very serious way? At the moment we are importing more than we are exporting.

Main Division 2 – Extension Services is a very crucial division, which has to provide extension services to bring about changes in attitudes, identify target groups to make sure that we participate in commercial production, etcetera. There are only 34 Extension Officers while there are supposed to be 65 and there is a zero Budget for vehicles. How will these extension officers in future get to the communities that they are supposed to support and train to commercialise?

My question is: What has happened to the graduates of the agricultural colleges, because these are the people who could be employed as extension service officials?

On Main Division 6 – Agricultural Engineering: These are the people who are supposed to provide services and assist us with irrigation farming, promote production of agricultural products, teach us how to fix engines, etcetera. There are only 5 staff members in this division out of a component of 25. How on earth will these poor souls be able to do all the things that they are supposed to do and to get this country productive in terms of food production?

Main Division 9 – Emergency Relief: This Division makes provision for aid whereby communities could be assisted with the survival of their core breeding stock. Comrade Chair, I would like to emphasise “core breeding stock”, only the stock which after a drought will assist them to continue with their livelihood, not everything, just their core breeding stock.

We had a very serious drought up to February this year. I remember going to the Korridor, Aminuis, Khorixas area, Sorris-Sorris area, Okaoko, the animals were dying like flies. I had no clue how we were able to assist these communities. Not only that Comrade Minister, this Division had a Budget of N\$100,000 to assist communities. To make things worse, not a cent of it was spent on drought relief. Only N\$20,000 was used for printing seed vouchers. This was the time when people’s animals were dying due to drought. What is the possibility of this Division becoming proactive, becoming an emergency management unit of the agricultural sector like we have the Emergency

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Management Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister for the survival of people?

On page 6 and 7 of your speech, Honourable Minister, I would like to compliment your Ministry and the National Planning Commission for your commitment to integrate the northern communal areas in the mainstream of the economy through beef production, through relocating the Red Line towards Angola, because if we succeed to integrate these communities together with their cattle into the southern part, we would become a big exporting country to be reckoned with. We would have more cattle, we can compete with big countries like Brazil. I would really plead with you to accelerate this process. I am aware that the Millennium Challenge Account can assist us in this process if we really work hard on this and integrate those communities.

Honourable Venaani also spoke on Main Division 3 – Veterinary Services. This Division was supposed to pay visits to the farms and I have realised that this Division seems to have stopped doing that and I suspect it is probably due to constraints on the transport Budget. This Division has to ensure that the country, as a beef exporter, is free of major diseases that would otherwise negatively affect trade. I really want to plead with you not to compromise on this Division. It is crucial, it is important, it needs to keep the farmers on their toes and it needs to do the right thing so that the export of beef is not affected negatively. Comrade Minister, I support the Vote and I would once more like to congratulate you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
I recognise Honourable Deputy Minister Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES:
Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I rise to make my contribution in support of Vote 20 – Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

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My first remark is on Rural Water Supply which is very important project and I only want to echo the concern already raised by those who participated before me, that the price of water is too high and the people we say were disadvantaged are now even more disadvantaged.

The underground pipes become rotten and the communities volunteer to dig and replace the pipes and NamWater and Rural Water Supply only close those taps. When will we realise that the purpose is not to punish but to boost the health of our people?

The Minister shared some information with this Honourable House and said the floods did not disrupt the supply of water, but I do not know whether the officials have informed you that for more than two weeks the people in the Omusati Region, especially in the Okahao area, had no water. Those who had piped water were not even given these tablets to purify the water and something needs to be done.

The Minister mentioned the earth dam project. We really we have a lot of water, but will this project only be resumed after the water has finally subsided so that we will be in a position to relieve the pressure on the subsistence farmers who are made to pay? I regard this as a means to prevent the rural communities from owning many livestock, because the price per cattle is too high. I have never heard that those within the Red Line are paying for water per head of cattle and they are the ones who are exposed to the markets.

Thirdly, I think the Green Scheme was a very good project but I do not know how we came to forget that we are agriculturalists. We still believe if we give it to somebody not of my pigment, it is the only way things will work. We are the ones doing the work – and this goes together with community forests and Government needs its own land to cultivate and the Government is supposed to take the lead in the Green Scheme. We need to learn from the mistakes we made, the progress we made and the obstacles we have come across in the implementation, so that this Green Scheme could make Namibia self-reliant when it comes to food. (Intervention)

HON HOFFMANN: I am very sorry to interrupt the Comrade Ilonga, but I have a question. Honourable Iilonga, do you remember that in those days

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when we were colonised by the previous South African Government, that Government has locked our minds so that we could not think freely for ourselves and do things freely for ourselves and to depend on other people to do things for you? When it comes to Agriculture – and I had that experience – we did not in most of the regions have our own gardens.

We always bought tomatoes just to have a beautiful colour in the food, we bought onions for cooking meat. We were not even taught in school the value of minerals in food and all these things. We just ate food because the food is nice. The problem is that many of us in this country do not understand the importance of having your own garden.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Yes, we really need to think independently and that is why I want us to have our plantations, run by ourselves.

In the past there was plenty mealie-meal in the Triangle, from the Omatako to Tsumeb. There were vast tracks planted with wheat, but today it is bushy. I want us to know that for agriculture we do not need any expert from outside Namibia. We have them and we can use them.

The fifth point is on exports on-the-hoof. We are supposed to learn a lesson from the ostrich. I can remember vividly that I said in this House that you cannot allow fertile eggs to be taken away. Just imagine that a person would buy one egg at **N\$30,000** at that time and we could not realise that it was really aimed to rob us of that diamond. Go to America and Denmark today and you will see our ostrich. This is one of the lessons we need to learn so that we ensure that we protect our resources very jealously.

The last point, Comrade Chairperson, is on the issue of the immunisation of our cattle against diseases which they say is more harmful to Europeans and not harmful to ourselves, the foot-and-mouth disease. Really, it is high time that we have a joint operation such as the one launched against malaria in the five countries. If it is already in the pipeline we have to think how to strengthen it. I support Vote 20.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support this important Vote and my interventions will be confined to 3 programmes. One is Agricultural Planning, Marketing, Food Security, secondly is Agricultural Infrastructure and thirdly, Agricultural Advice.

Firstly, on Marketing and Planning. Comrade Chairperson, marketing is a very, very important component of agriculture. Every product that you produce, be it minerals or agricultural products or services, needs to be marketed. Marketing is a great challenge to rural communities in this country across all 13 Regions. Marketing centres, especially for agricultural producers, be it those producing mahangu, be it those producing livestock, remains one of the biggest challenges 18 years into Independence. Maybe because of not having the capacity to negotiate prices for their produce they are taken for granted, be it accessing places where they can sell their products, like Meatco or Namib Mills. These centres still remain a problem to many of the producers and this matter really needs to be addressed in order to empower our people in the rural communities who are tilling the land and who are producing livestock. Marketing is a very complex matter and we need to engage and educate our people on how to sell and market and get better value for their products. It is a challenge.

With regard to infrastructure development, in areas such as Caprivi and Kavango and recently also in Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati, etcetera, the development of earth dams is very important. The development of earth dams is important in all the regions of this country, but I am mentioning these regions specifically because of my experiences. Sometimes one cannot believe that the people in Kavango and Caprivi would complain about water while at the same time complaining about the floods. It is an irony and I would like to support your programme of building earth dams in these areas. I would also like the Ministry to coordinate with other Ministries, because sometimes there is equipment of the Ministry of Works or the Roads Authority doing jobs in those areas and somehow there is a need for cooperation. That when this

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expensive equipment is performing a specific job there, the communities should also have access to the equipment at a certain price to build earth dams in order to capture this water for other purposes. This is very important across all the 13 Regions because these machines are currently working in all 13 Regions.

Back to infrastructure development and marketing. Before Independence, for argument's sake, we found that tarred roads were built for two purposes: Before Independence these bitumen or tarred roads were only going to mining areas or built for war purposes, but it is very important for the transportation of animals. In areas like Omaheke and Otjozondjupa which solely depend on agricultural projects we need economic development and economic development is not about mining alone.

Agriculture contributes a lot to the GDP of this country. In areas such as Omaheke and Otjozondjupa we need to develop tarred roads based on Agriculture development so that the communities have access to Meatco and transport their animals on tarred roads. It is a flawed and very unconvincing argument that it is only economical when there is mining or fisheries. Livestock and grain production is also contributing to the economy. Therefore, we also need to develop tarred roads for communities to access the markets as part of marketing, because for our people to access markets like Meatco, our trucks are overtaking these poor roads and our people are remaining poor. Therefore, we must start considering agriculture as an economic means and we need tarred roads in areas like Omaheke and all over this country. It must become a priority.

To conclude, I also agree with the development of agricultural centres but we must also consider the issue of pricing. This country is for those who have the power. People are going there, they are taking our products for nothing and these communities cannot bargain because they do not have roads to access a better market and they have no alternative.

In the same spirit, I would like to know who is the owner of Meatco. Who is the owner? I will keep asking this question, who is the owner of Meatco, because this concerns the livestock producers and Meatco is the big buyer and sometimes we do not know how to negotiate because we do not know who is the owner of Meatco and the people dependent on livestock production want to know.

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With these words, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank you.
Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Chairperson, I would like to join others in supporting the Vote, but I will speak to two main issues, namely agronomy and horticulture.

It is unfortunate that this Vote came at a time when the food crisis has already started and in Namibia and worldwide people are talking about having their own horticulture plantations in their own backyards, but in Windhoek, if you plant two mealies or two watermelons in your backyard, you are told you depreciating your next-door neighbour's property. It is, therefore, necessary for a new mindset and a whole revolution around this issue.

A previous speaker has mentioned the colonial mentality that, "*do not grow this, because you can get it somewhere else*", but now people are producing for bio-fuel and what do we need to do? I want us to think about this and that we later have a debate around these issues.

We were producing tomatoes at Berg Aukas, but when we approached Shoprite or the likes, they told us they had a running contract of five years with Bloemfontein or Cape Town. Therefore, where will you sell your produce, even you have all the roads, if you do not have your own outlets?

The other point is on the Cuvelai-Etosha Basin Integrated Water Resource Management. I see some negative comments there, that the project was not successful because of maybe willingness by our Northern neighbour. Let me remind everyone involved that probably our friends in Angola do not appreciate the problems we are facing downstream of the Cuvelai Basin, but

given the situation as it started, I think it should really gain momentum and we should inject more life into these negotiations.

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My comrades in the fishing sector and transportation will remember that in 1991 there was an oil spill in Alaska. After that what happened? The next year there was a very hectic legislative programme in the US Congress to address these issues. However, before that everybody was reluctant. I support the Bill and maybe you will do research and find out about international legislation. I really encourage my Colleagues to look into this and probably find a solution and investigate the infrastructure development in the Basin that contributes to flooding. These are the things that you could look at and later a Bill could be brought so that we could debate on these issues. Because of the time I only invite you to look into the things I was talking about.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Nambahu. Honourable Mbai.

HON MBAI: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson, I will be very brief as usual and I have only two points.

The first point was partly covered by the previous speakers and it is on the relocation of the cordon fence. On page 7 of the Minister's motivation he mentioned the programmes that the Ministry is aiming at in the process of relocating the fence, but I failed to pick up the physical programme.

On page 7 of the Minister's technical paper on the Budget, under the planned activities for 2008/09 concerning the relocation of the cordon fence the Minister is merely concentrating on the reparation and maintenance of the Quarantine Camps, the procurement of vaccines, the consultation with community leaders, etcetera. People want to see the gradual relocation of the fence from where it is today. It is only then that the people will believe that this fence is going to be relocated one day.

The Minister Budgeted an amount of N\$3,6 million for the planned activities, but one really fails to pick up the actual physical work of the relocation of this fence. We cannot wait for the Millennium Challenge Account, the preparation

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has been done and it is only the provision of money. Even if the money is not coming forth from the Millennium Challenge Account, why are we not gradually Budgeting from our own resources to start the relocation of this fence?

The second and last question is on the Waterberg Okakarara-pipe Scheme. I understand that the volume of the Eastern Water Carrier has become too small to carry enough water for future expansion. When is the Minister envisaging to look into the replacement of this pipe scheme, because the pipe scheme has become too small, the volume of carrying the necessary water for future consumption has become too small. When is the Minister envisaging to replace this pipe scheme? I thank you and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank you Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Page 17 – Rural Water Supply. “*Water plans have been handed over for full ownership to user communities in all Regions except for Khomas.*” Page 18: “*Decentralisation has been effected in 12 Regions except for Khomas.*”

Honourable Chairperson, everything is just “*except for Khomas*”. When I contributed, I said that this Windhoek Municipality is run like a private company and the Minister did not agree with me and here it is.

Honourable Chairperson, I would really like to see that we must bring in pre-paid water meters here in Windhoek. The Windhoek Municipality is working on estimates every month and whether you are on holiday or not, your water account will remain the same month after month and I think this has gone too far.

My second question is on Forestry, page 3 of the Minister’s speech. Honourable Chairperson, the free use of our natural resources is no longer

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possible. We need to have controls to safeguard it. My problem is, we have demolished our trees so much, but we do not plant other tree. We do not plant another tree for every tree removed. I want to know what measures the Ministry has in place to ensure that we do not deplete our natural resources. I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: you very much. Honourable Minister Tjiriange.

I thank

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Chairperson, things are becoming difficult. Farming itself is not so easy and if it is being complicated every time, it becomes a problem. Honourable Venaani has produced a form here and some of us do not know about its existence.

Honourable Minister, the veterinary officials used to visit farms once a year and made on-the-spot inspections of what is happening there, *what did you use as vaccines, what did you use as lick and all these things*. They looked at the records and then off they went.

Apparently this practice has been stopped and no wonder, that last year I was waiting for these people to come and they did not arrive. Little did I know that it was stopped. Some of us are members of the Farmers Association, but we did not know. Now there are irritating factors here.

We have to fill in this form twice a year, in January and then in June and we must collect this form from the nearest place. For example, if you are on a farm somewhere in Okamatapati you must go all the way to Otjiwarongo or Gobabis and that is extra expenditure. To make things even worse is that you must put these ear tags on your cattle. You have three hundred cattle, you have to put tags on cattle which are not going anywhere, they are just grazing on the farm, then you have to spend something like N\$9,000 per year just on those tags. Those cattle are going nowhere. They are just grazing there. In addition to that, you have to pay land tax and then you have to go all the way to the

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nearest town to go and fetch these things and bring them back. It is a problematic situation because farming has apparently become an area of punishment.

I suspect that this is done because of the conditions by the European Union. Maybe the European Union is forcing us to do these things. Why do we not try to get other equally important markets? I am informed that the markets of Dubai and many others are reliable markets. Now we are being subjected to all this torture and inconvenience because we have to do it otherwise the European Union will not take our meat and I suppose that is the reason why these things are being done. I do not know how we are going to survive. Some of us are new in the trade and we are trying to get on our feet, but with this kind of load on us, I do not know whether we are going to survive.

Honourable Minister, I think you have to really seriously consider these things and why did they stop coming to the farms as they were doing without even telling us? They are dealing with people, they must respect us too instead of just deciding there and then that we have to smell that there was a decision somewhere else. It does not make sense.

Honourable Minister, I am very serious about this, it is cardinal to us and we have to sit down and discuss this issue. Decisions must be taken collectively and those who are going to be affected by the decisions must be consulted. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Chairperson, I rise to support this very important Vote and I just wanted to comment on the Green Scheme.

I agree with the previous speakers that the world is facing a serious food crisis at the moment and Namibia is most vulnerable because we import almost 90% of our foodstuffs from elsewhere. That is a serious challenge and it makes us extremely vulnerable. Therefore, my comment on this Green

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Scheme is that it must take off now. A lot has been said about the Green Scheme and apparently the investors...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask a question? Honourable Nujoma, are you aware that Ndonga-Linena, which was cleared, the bush has retaliated? Are you aware of that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: This is what we are saying, that a lot of money has been spent to install pumps and prepare the land, but apparently the investors, the so-called relevant investors, were demanding houses and a lot of things. First you have to create the comfort zone so that they are comfortable and then they will be able to implement the Green Scheme.

There are investors who want to do the work now and I really want to ask the Honourable Minister to consider these investors so that they can start producing the food.

Today China is the biggest grower of foodstuff. Ten years ago a family was eating one kilogram of meat and today they eating one cow. This is the challenge and I really want to emphasise the point that we have to start producing food or otherwise we are going to be held hostage. The food will be withdrawn and there is the politics of the belly and we are going to be challenged. They will keep the food away and our people will say no more SWAPO, the DTA will bring the food in through the DTA or all these small parties, which are coming up now, the pressure groups. We must start to produce food ourselves and give the incentives and the money to people who want to do so. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Venaani.

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HON VENAANI: The Honourable Colleague agrees that DTA is an alternative Government, which is a good thing. (Interjections). Zimbabwe said the same thing, do not worry, it will happen.

On emergency relief: We have one problem and is that we always argue in this House when we have drought. It is a question of availing fodder to cattle. You can talk about all the other drought relief schemes that you want, but fodder remains paramount if you want the cattle to survive. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Venaani, can you as farmer tell this House what was the price of P12 last year and what is the price of that P12 today?

HON VENAANI: The cheapest last year was roundabout N\$280 something. The cheapest now is N\$387 this year. The top class goes up to N\$400. It is a nightmare and the banks are tired of our overdrafts.

Nevertheless, I think that we in this country should know and understand our conditions and the Ministry should look into a programme where during drought years, we have a secure scheme where we can allow and allocate fodder to farmers that are affected by the drought. This thing of saying we are going to subsidise those farmers to relocate their cattle does not work because if you are putting cattle into a truck, you are telling them to die because if they have suffered and you put them on a truck, you are giving them a licence to die at offload or on another farm.

I was arguing with the Prime Minister about this transportation and we should find consensus in a very good year like this one, that we should have a scheme in this country that would allocate fodder during drought periods.

I do not know whether the Honourable Minister is aware that at the Lutheran Church in Mariental there are food stock piles meant for drought relief a year or two ago and it is very painful that it is the Government officials who do this.

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The problem lies with officials who do not know how to address these things. Do we order more than we can consume whereas there are people in Mariental suffering from hunger? (Interjections). If they have expired, why do you rent a place? We should not let the same happen as in Caprivi. Whether it comes from heaven I do not mind, but they are there and they need to be taken care of.

For once I want to agree with my younger brother on the other side, Honourable Nujoma, that this thing of believing that this country has no capacity is a problem. When you find a consultant who has done an MA-degree in Oxford and he tells you do something and then when you find a Namibian who can do the same thing, then you ask, "*how does he know, where does he come from?*" Also this thing of looking for appropriate investors, I can tell you that to develop Ndonga-Linena we do not even need a foreign consultant to do that. We are able to do that and if there are companies and consortiums which have the capacity to do it...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask a question? Are you aware, Honourable Member, that along that eyesore place called Ndonga-Linena, which has become a bushy area, there are ordinary Namibians who have developed fields on which they are depending and they have done it without the advice of consultants?

HON VENAANI: I am aware of that. Lastly is on the question of marketing livestock in this country. Currently in the communal areas where I come from, people coming to auctions are no longer willing to buy cattle, they want the weight of the cattle and buy according to the weight and I want the Minister of Agriculture to address this problem of one ethnic monopoly at buying. You have one group of people, an organised cartel, buying cattle and they have contacts with the people and they monopolise the whole system. It is about time that we get stakes in AGRA, it is about time that we have stakes in Karoo so that we know that our people there get a fair value for their products.

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We are somehow supporting this cartel in silence, because we are not doing anything and we should also get a consortium of black Namibians who will also start buying cattle. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Venaani, are you aware that with the current state of the roads in areas like Gam, Otjinene and Rietfontein, myself and a farmer there cannot transport cattle in a bakkie? These guys are coming with their own new transport and their brothers here are giving them money to buy transport and therefore you are forced to deal with these guys. There is no way a person living there could under these circumstances come up and start competing with these guys.

HON VENAANI: For some of these things we also have ourselves to blame. Look at the situation in the North, white commercial farmers are buying cattle there, buying oxen to feed Meatco. They feed them and slaughter them and these are some of the problems that TESEF should address.

We really need to come to the question. We are producing the numbers, but yet the control and the money are in the hands of others. We are just intermediaries. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Why?

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HON VENAANI: Why? Because we are not getting support. It is not that we do not have the ideas it is the support. Look at the Green Scheme, we are looking for consultants to do this project. Why can Namibians not do these things?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, I know that there are a number of affirmative action farm owners and some of these farms are under-utilised because of stocking problems. What prevents us to team up with communal weaning producers and work out a system whereby I go to Otjinene and a farmer can come and graze on my farm or I buy his weaners to take to my farm so that at least there is no intermediary between us. What prevents us from doing that?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Prime Minister, in conclusion, the problem does not lie with your proposal, the problem is that if you are a fulltime farmer, you have spent N\$400,000 on the deposit for your farm and you are told to pay 12% immediately whereas you need to stock. If that N\$400,000 down payment could have been used to buy additional cattle so that your farm could run at full capacity, there would be no need to turn to another farmer. That farmer should be assisted to run at full capacity. Currently we are doing ourselves a disservice that a fulltime farm earning more than N\$30,000 is supposed to pay 10%. If you buy a farm of N\$3 million, you have to pay N\$300,000 every year.

Those are the problems. We are not creating the necessary incentives and facilities for the formerly disadvantaged farmers.

In 1964 there was a drought in this country and the white farmers were in serious trouble. The Land Bank would come to their farms and ask *how many cattle do they need*. If he said eighty, he would get his hundred cows. We do not have those schemes, we are addressing this issue haphazardly.

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Then the question is: If these farms are repossessed, who are the next farmers who are going to buy these farms? Van Der Merwe will buy them again at auctions. It is our role as legislators to make sure that we have a system in place that assists the farmers.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, your time is over. I recognise Honourable Helmut Angula.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I just want to welcome Comrade Mutorwa on board. This is the Vote of the people and he will feel it.

I just want to say that you should consider yourself lucky that the Green Scheme got N\$55 million for this Financial Year, N\$65 million for the next Financial Year, N\$106 million for the last medium term expenditure. I think that it is very important to speed up the construction of the horticulture marketing centres now, to address the issue of production, because that has really been the constraining factor that people were able to produce, but the marketing has been a challenge. That is what you really need to speed up.

It has been difficult to find markets for mahangu and this discouraged people to continue with the production of mahangu, but the Minister must find a solution by introducing public auctions for mahangu at major centres. Now that you have silos, it should be easier to bring those products from the silos into the market and have periodic auctions.

I can tell you of my own experience. The previous season I produced a substantial tonnage of sorghum and I took it to the North where about 5 ton became spoiled because nobody was able to buy it. Last year I produced only 3 tons and I brought just one ton here to Windhoek and my agent was almost beaten up because this one ton was sold in a matter of one or two days.

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People wanted more, but there was none. It shows that the real challenge is to find a market. If the product is brought to the marketplace, people will be able to buy, but currently a lot of these products may be rotting because the producers cannot afford to transport it to the marketplace.

Just for the information of the House, particularly Honourable Mbai, about the relocation of the cordon fence to the north, there have been several attempts, one under the late Honourable Hannekom, when it was moved about 30 kilometres north and the people cut it to pieces and dismissed it. Then very recently under the leadership of Comrade Mutorwa's predecessor, the Ovahimba people proposed a cordon fence running north-south to cut them off from the Central North, because their animals are relatively free from diseases, but that was rejected by the population through which this cordon fence would pass. Very recently, the previous Minister also agreed with certain farmers and communal leaders to move the cordon fence. While they have agreed and the Ministry was ready to start, somebody came and said, "*no fence among our community.*" It is because of this that the MMC came and said the option is to move the fence to the northern international border and I, already last week signed a financing agreement which provides for the interim agreement which provides for the veterinary cordon fence between Namibia and Angola. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? What makes you to believe today that when moving the cordon fence to the border the people will accept the idea, which they never accepted before?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Yes, there is a complex situation going on in terms of talking to the people. Firstly, there is the allocation of an amount of money for compensation for those who will be affected. Then there will be a period of 1 to 18 months for dialogue with the people who will be affected and there is already an agreement between the two countries that there will be interim gates for the people and livestock at agreeable points. We therefore hope that with the efforts in terms of

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convincing the people that will work at the end of the day, because that is the real solution.

Finally, among the weaners, when you greet, the man with the cow agrees by saying “*baah*”, so if you do not have cattle, do not talk among those people. It is the same with grain producers, if you do not produce grain, do not talk when people talk about grain. You need to know these things because they are not as simple as we imagine, they are very complex. Thank you very much.

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

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, thank you very much. Honourable Chairperson, these types of discussions on the Green Scheme and running of agricultural affairs and animals need extra and substantive discussions. Maybe we should bring Motions in future.

A Nation, which cannot feed itself will never be counted in the world as a Nation. We have to feed ourselves as a Nation we must be literate and healthy. Those three Ministries are very important – Agriculture, Health and Education.

When we talk about the Green Scheme, some of us do not have information. Are we talking about the Green Scheme at Katima or Hardap or where is this thing and when is it going to start? I remember some 6 years ago, that the Founding Father requested Agriculture to drill some boreholes along the Khowareb River. At Warmquelle there is a waterfall, water running 12 months of the year. I remember the Founding Father starting an agricultural project there, but up to now we do not know what has happened. It is between Khowareb, Warmquelle and Sesfontein. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information. The project was not for agriculture, it was for game and it is still operational. I was in that Ministry that time and that project was to increase the game population. It is not really for Agriculture.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, I am not talking about game, I am talking about agriculture and I am talking about what I know, I was there. I know about the agricultural project which was put up between Warmquelle and Khowareb where we draw water from the fountain. I am talking about that one, I am not talking about the game. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask a question? Is Comrade Booy's aware that the reason why irrigation at Warmquelle and those other places could not work is because the community was divided among themselves in terms of tribal leadership and therefore it could not work? The irrigation ended up growing weeds and I personally went there to try and encourage them and the weed had overgrown the irrigation fields.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, I am pleased that the former Minister of Agriculture has agreed that the project was about agriculture. I was not aware of the divisions.

When Government plans things for people, we as stakeholders are supposed to get involved. We cannot rely on the media alone. When you are not involved as a stakeholder that is where ignorance comes in.

If these areas are identified for the Green Scheme the people are supposed to be trained. (Intervention)

HON HOFFMANN: May I ask the Honourable Member a tiny question? Honourable Booy's, when you start agricultural projects, you will have your business plan, your feasibility studies and everything. You will go to AgriBank and ask for funds, etcetera, but you will not be supported. When the Government officials are not involved, then that is not counted as a project. Did I understand you correctly in that way? Because it is very painful that after you have done all these things, involving the community, even the poorest of the poor contributed to make that project possible and then at the end of the day, because the officials are not involved, the project cannot take off. Did I understand you correctly?

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, I cannot remember that I said Government officials should be involved. I said a Nation that cannot feed itself cannot be counted as a nation. If Government plans programmes, the stakeholders need to get involved and not the officials.

We had the case of an entity to supply meat to Etosha. Before Independence we were shouting that we want to be masters of our own destiny, but now that we are getting involved in creating wealth for this Nation, getting into business, our own brothers will come and tell you that you got that through corrupt means. It is the same as Etosha, if it comes to beverages, is supplied by Van Der Merwe, and if it comes to bread, it is supplied by Koekemoer. If it comes to whatever they consume at Etosha, it is supplied by Van Der Merwe or Van Tonder, no problem.

What I am saying is that we should not only use these things as talking points, but really be serious to get involved in the Green Scheme and people should know in which areas this Green Scheme is going to be implemented to get involved. Why be so secretive? Why only in certain areas? Why do we not discuss these things? Who are those colleagues or friends that were brought into the Green Scheme? We should know because it is our own food production and we cannot only get products from Shoprite and Pick & Pay. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you said the Green Scheme seems to be run under cover, but do you recall that the Green Scheme policy was discussed in this House? What information has been secret and not available? The Green Scheme policy was discussed here. Every year that policy and that scheme is being discussed here, unless you say people in the Ministry should come and sit down with you and tell you about the Green Scheme. We must also be encouraged to make these things available, you cannot say it is not available. No, it is.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, the Green Scheme Policy has been passed in this House and many policies have been passed in this House. We have been talking about this veterinary document and it has been passed in this House, but how come that we do not know about it. There are many policies, but policies and implementation thereof are different.

You can draw up a policy but when you implement it, we are supposed to know. Policy and implementation are two different things.

What I am saying is that we should find ways to bring discussions to the House for all of us to understand what is going on. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. This thing was not here, it is not true.

HON BOOYS: I support the Minister of Veterans Affairs that he was not aware that a veterinary policy was passed in this august House.

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

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. Fourteen Honourable Members took the Floor and let me start off with a disclaimer.

As I said in my introduction, I am the sixth Minister responsible for Agriculture. Fortunately there are two who are still in the House and I must commend them for their interventions, especially Honourable Helmut Angula who has responded on the issue of the veterinary cordon fence, which I would not like to repeat.

If during the course of my response to the questions that were raised, I do not specifically respond to a specific question, it is for two reasons: One, obviously I cannot claim to know all the answers although my officials outside here provided some responses to some of the questions that were raised. Secondly, it would not imply that what the Honourable Members have raised is ignored. It has been recorded and we would probably have to follow up.

Let me start off with *Honourable Tjihiuko*, who is not here. I am informed by the experts that the expectation is that the agricultural contribution to GDP will be around 3%. That the Development Budget is 30% versus the Operational Budget of 69%, that is the trend in all the votes. I would have been a happy man if the Development Budget had been 60% and the other one 40%, which is not related to Agriculture.

Honourable Tjihiuko referred to the consultants' report with regard to livestock marketing. Let me respond by saying that that particular report is still under scrutiny by the relevant Ministry officials and stakeholders and it is not a *fait accompli*.

Honourable Venaani and Honourable Dienda made reference to Forestry. Yes, indeed, we do have some nurseries in the Regions where people can buy trees and the idea is to plant as many trees as possible, but it is again a process of educating the people on the importance of tree planting.

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Honourable Venaani, I cannot agree more with you with regard to agricultural advice, extension officers and experts visiting the farmers. Last week I was in Rundu and I raised this issue, saying that extension is really like teacher not being in the classroom. I said that planning and administration is important but what is more important is the actual practical visits.

Many Honourable Members mentioned the high price of water. I think it was last year when Honourable Minister Nicky Iyambo brought this issue to Cabinet where it was debated and consensus reached that Cabinet commissions a study into water tariffs. That study is underway and once finalised, will be brought to Cabinet so that we have something concrete before us on why tariffs in certain regions are what they are.

If the Save Water Campaign has been discontinued, there is a need that it be brought back, the importance of water and why it should be conserved.

Honourable Moongo raised the issue of the red line, the veterinary cordon fence and Honourable Helmut Angula has responded to that and I do not need to repeat and dilute what he has said.

Honourable Moongo, you argued forcefully that providing drinking water from the taps to animals is expensive and I agree with you. Therefore, in this Budget we have earmarked N\$11 million for earth dams in certain areas, which water could be utilised for animals. You said SWAPO is too slow, no we are not too slow, the country is big, we cannot be everywhere at the same time, but we will reach there. That is the response to all the Honourable Members who raised the issue of earth dams.

Honourable Bohitile, I agree with you that the other posts for extension officers should be filled. As a teacher, I agree with you that extension officers are the educators and the trainers and they must demonstrate what they know by teaching, by providing the services to the farmers. I do not have the statistics for graduates from agricultural colleges, but I would like to believe that some of those graduates must be employed as extension officers and in other positions. I cannot see how we could train those graduates and then just discard them.

With regard to breeding, we do have research stations in specific areas which are responsible for breeding stock.

Honourable Ilonga said the price of rural water supply is too high. The Cabinet, as a collective body responsible for policy-making, has decided that there is justification for a study and as I said, that study is ongoing.

The town of Okahao does not depend on the water from the canal, but get their water from the pipe system and the Ministry has not received a report that there is no water at Okahao, but we have already ordered the officials to look into the matter so that proper attention could be given.

Many Members talked about the Green Scheme. As Honourable Iyambo has said, it was during the time of Honourable Helmut Angula when the Cabinet adopted the Green Scheme Policy. It is not a secret document the policy is in place. There are many factors, which delayed the implementation of the Green Scheme. Obviously, you cannot start on the basis of a policy as feasibility studies should first be conducted and the funds previously allocated were not sufficient, but we should not be under a wrong illusion that nothing is happening with regard to the Green Scheme. I have enumerated certain projects, including Shitemo and Shadikongoro, and even at the Orange River, there are certain projects under production.

At Ndonga-Linena the piping has been laid, the pump station is ready and I hope that with the amount that we have been allocated, things will now start moving. However things must move in a planned manner, but the Green Scheme is very important in terms of food production and Government's commitment to the Green Scheme can be clearly seen from the allocation in this Budget.

I liked the intervention by *Honourable Hoffmann*, when she talked about what I would summarise as "*a mental shift*." We have people who are knowledgeable in certain things. The same people that are employed in big projects are the same people who are producing for themselves and for their families on a small scale. Therefore, a mental shift in our way of thinking is definitely required in all of us.

Honourable Kazenambo, I agree with you on marketing, planning and road access, but I think it is also important to mention that in terms of road infrastructure there is nobody in Government who would say there is no need or justification for a road somewhere, but where do you start when the demand is so high? I remember that when the Minister of Transport responded on the

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issue of roads, he was not saying that there is no need for tarred roads. He was simply saying that we should start with bitumen roads in those areas that do not have even gravel roads.

When I travel to my cattle post and I am not personalising matters, it is applicable to many people, it is 60 kilometres, but I travel four hours to reach there. Roads are important to get access to the markets and I agree with you, Comrade Kazenambo. The same with the earth dams, we have provided N\$11 million in this Budget to address the issue of earth dams.

We have a programme to develop some agricultural centres in constituencies, close to where the clients, the farmers, are.

Honourable Kazenambo asked who owns Meatco and again, this question has been asked to every Minister of Agriculture since the time of the late Honourable Hanekom and Cabinet has been battling with this particular question. What is the situation right now? We have an Act and last year Cabinet commissioned a consultancy to look at the ownership structure of Meatco. Maybe that study would inform us better as to what is the way forward with regard to Meatco, a valuable institution as it is.

Honourable Nambahu spoke about the Cuvelai-Etosha water basin. I am informed by the experts – and I have no reason to doubt what they are saying – that the project is back on course. SADC plus the two riparian States and the Government of Finland are discussing the modalities to get the project implemented. The Angolan Government is in full support of the project at the present moment.

I fully agree with all the Honourable Members who raised the issue of outlets and markets. Our priority is both storage facilities and market outlets. In the current Budget it is envisaged to have market outlets in Rundu, Oshakati and Windhoek to enhance access to markets for the produce of farmers.

I am informed that the Waterberg Scheme is under renovation to make water available to all households in the area. This is one stage of the project that must be completed first before commencing the rehabilitation of the main pipeline and that is what is being envisaged to be done.

Honourable Dienda, I have been informed that rural water supply is catering for rural communities in the communal areas. The Khomas Region is largely a municipal area and therefore, the supply of water to the larger part of the Khomas Region is done through the Municipality of Windhoek.

On the question of pre-paid water meters, the Municipality of Windhoek does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture. It is more under the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and this particular issue should probably have been raised when we discussed that Vote.

Honourable Minister Tjiriange, I am not a commercial farmer yet, but it is true that farming is becoming complicated. Farming is a business and farming on a scientific basis must be complicated and expensive. The form that Honourable Venaani has given us is probably from Veterinary Services and it is their responsibility to distribute it to all the farmers. We can only encourage them to do so. We should not allow officials who are supposed to render services outside to sit in their offices – 15% in the office, 85% outside, but the shortage of vehicles is a real issue. The Veterinary Services people in Rundu told me that lack of vehicles inhibits their mobility and I reckon it is applicable to all the other Regions. It is our responsibility as the Ministry and the Government to look at the issue of mobility if we expect people to provide services. Otherwise it would be futile.

Honourable Tjiriange said the ear tags are expensive and on top of that the land tax. Yes, *Comrade !Naruseb* will probably also talk about the ear tags and those are some of the things we have to contend with.

I am sure as a senior Minister you will agree with me that the issue of alternative markets is receiving attention at the level of Cabinet, that we have to look at alternative markets to the EU market and I cannot disagree with what you are saying.

Honourable Nujoma, you are right that the bush at Ndonga-Linena has retaliated, but I have explained the issue of the Green Scheme and the commitment of the Government to the Green Scheme. We who are entrusted with the implementation of the Green Scheme should not have so many excuses. We plan and utilise the money and if the money is not sufficient, the only way we can convince the Treasury is by taking them out there and showing them that this is what we have produced with the money you have

allocated and if you could add some millions, then we can expand. I am talking to my officials and the other stakeholders when I say this. It is not good to say, “money, money, money”, but you cannot demonstrate what you have done with the little money that was allocated to you. It is a matter of principle and N\$30 million or N\$50 million is not small money.

Honourable Venaani mentioned emergency relief, fodder to cattle and a scheme to provide fodder. It is a good idea and we probably have to look at the feasibility thereof. I cannot give a categorical response to this one, it looks quite good but it needs follow-up.

We have to follow up on the food at the Lutheran Church in Mariental because I do not know about this. If it is true, then it is exactly the same as the money, which was allocated to Ministries by the Parliament and we are standing here, telling the public so much is allocated to this project and people wait and when nothing happens, then the people will demand to know what is happening. Some of our bureaucrats are so good at explaining, some even go and contradict and say there is no money, whereas there is money in the Budget. If it is true that this food was meant for drought relief and it is stored there, we will probably get a response through the Governor’s office, but otherwise I do not know about this particular issue.

Honourable Angula thank you very much for your explanation. I liked your explanation and the information about the marketing of mahangu and your experience of bringing the mahangu to town for auction. This is probably something that we need to further investigate and follow up.

Honourable Booys also talked about the Green Scheme and I have responded. Let us not think that since the time the Government has adopted the policy of the Green Scheme nothing has been happening. Something is happening and I am informed that at some of the agro projects we are doing well. It is however also true that in some cases, such as at Ndonga-Linena, things have not moved. There are reasons why things have not moved and therefore, it is now our responsibility to see how we can move forward, but the Green Scheme is not a secret, it is something that Government has adopted, there is a policy in place that we must implement to ensure food security in our country.

Honourable Nambahu, talked about growing vegetables in our backyards. I am not so conversant with the by-laws of the town, but as the Agriculture

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Ministry, we are encouraging this. Why should somebody in an area where there is water always go to a shop to buy tomatoes, onions and cabbage? We have to encourage our people to produce in their own backyards for their own consumption. Sometimes people think that what we buy in the shop does not come from the soil and that is the mental shift Honourable Hoffmann mentioned. At my house in Rundu I have some fruit trees that I use for my own consumption and if each and everyone could multiply that, it would be good and then we can buy the bigger things in the shops that we cannot grow ourselves.

Honourable Angola has tried to respond to Warmquelle. I am not dismissing what you are saying, but he has explained why that particular programme could not continue.

Honourable Members, I would like to thank you for your support of this Vote. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now put Vote 20. Any objection? Agreed to.

I now put Vote 25 – “**LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT**” for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I will be very brief. Maybe I will sound like a broken record, but I have been saying this for some time and I will continue to say that the way we are implementing our resettlement programme is politically correct, but economically it is wrong because just imagine that you resettle people on a productive farm and after three or four years it has turned into wasteland. Even the houses on the farm are in bad shape and I have examples of such farms. Go to De Wet and see what is happening there.

Therefore, politically it is correct, we give land to the people but there is no follow-up. These people have never been engaged in this economic

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activities before and once you leave them there without follow-up by Extension Officers, you will never have productivity on these farms.

Ironically, if I get money from the AgriBank and I buy a farm, they follow up. They will come and see what I am doing with a loan from AgriBank, but when you are resettled there free of charge, nobody follows up. As long as we are doing that we are going to turn productive farms into wasteland and I wonder whether we shall reach Vision 2030 goal. I do not have an immediate solution, but I think we have to look at these things.

Some of the people do not have the capacity to produce. They are resettled and then they start renting this land to somebody else who does have the capacity. Because the land is not theirs, they do not supervise the activities of that person to whom they have rented the land that was given to them and that other person does not care because he is not the one who was given the land. This is happening.

Sometimes we need to have political sensitivity when we are resettling people. Not long ago in the Karas or Hardap Region there were people who were working on a certain farm or renting the land and those people are from that area and they cannot go anywhere, they were born there. Then you are evicting them and bring somebody from somewhere else who has maybe never even seen that area before. It is politically insensitive. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, are you aware that that happened as a result of a court order? Are you saying we should defy a court order, which is part of our Constitutional set-up?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: The court did not dream about this thing, somebody must have taken the case there. The court was not hunting for cases. (Intervention)

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

On a Point of Information. The Government bought a farm somewhere in Outjo – it was in the media – and even before the applications for resettlement were advertised, an MP went in and there was a court order. It happens in many cases that Government buys a farm and before the farm is even demarcated and advertised, people move in and that is illegal. The farm was just in the process of being bought and these people were apparently chased away from another farm and while arrangements were made to advertise the farm, the people already settled on that farm. It is not the first time, it happens all over the country. It happened in Kunene, Omaheke and Oshikoto. Does it mean that if the Government buys a farm, people may just move in? There is a procedure to be followed. For instance, if the National Housing Enterprise builds a house and there is a long queue of people who have applied, can one person just move in and occupy the house? It happens all over the country, it is only that people are politicising it. If a person enters illegally, the Government has to institute legal proceedings and that is a law that was passed by this House.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I am talking about the political sensitivity. Whatever explanation you give, there must be political sensitivity. There are people who were born in certain places where the land was taken away from them and they have not gone anywhere else, they are from there and they are as hungry as anybody else for land. (Intervention)

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

Comrade Chair, when the Act was passed in 1995 it went to the CCL which is under the Ministry of Justice and the Honourable Minister was the Minister of Justice that time.

Let us take Windhoek, Otjimbingwe, /Ae/Gams, if I just come in with my cattle and occupy Windhoek because it is my ancestral land, the law makes provision for application and any person can apply. If the Government buys a farm you must give out applications and the person must apply.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I think the best way is to take the Floor, let me say what I want to say. I am not pointing a finger at

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anybody, I am talking about political sensitivity and I think I have made my point in the sense, but if you want me to, I can be political on this issue.

I know that the graves of my great-grandparents are in an area and I apply to be resettled there. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: They did not apply.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Some of them did apply. I am not talking about a specific farm; I am talking about what happens generally. The person who has to be considered, is it a person who is from there, who had nowhere else to go when the land was taken or is it someone else? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point or Order, Comrade Chair. The farm was not even advertised. We were in the process of advertising and the Commission was still in the process. I think, as Government we should not encourage people to move in when Government buys a farm or that other people have to apply but because you are from the area, you do not have to apply.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: The fact is that the land has been taken, that area is not empty, there are people who have been there for time immemorial and they must be given the first option, but since everybody is ready to talk about it, I rest my case.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Bohitile.

HON BOHITILE: Honourable Chairperson, thank you very much. I think we all run the risk of sounding like broken records as long as things do not improve in the Resettlement Programme.

Main Division 05 – Land Reform has an objective of ensuring that the landless have access to land and become self-supportive; ensuring socio-economic empowerment and securing sustainable economic growth from the usage of the land, so that those who are resettled can also contribute to the national economy. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Bohitile, would you agree with me that the reason resettlement has become so cumbersome and problematic is because of the ownership of land in our country? Article 100 of our Constitution stipulates that: “*Land, water and natural resources below and above the surface of the land and in the continental shelf and within the territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone of Namibia shall belong to the State*” and it is supposed to stop there, because now it is diluted by the words, “*if they are not otherwise lawfully owned.*”

HON BOHITILE: Unfortunately, the way we utilise the land is where the problem lies. I was saying that there are certain objectives why resettlement has to happen, to reduce unemployment, to reduce poverty, that through the land people would be able to take care of themselves.

However, and that is where the broken record comes in, post-resettlement support to resettled beneficiaries is not happening. How will all these noble objectives be achieved? There is no facilitation of development of water

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infrastructure and I will come back to that later. There is no provision or assistance with farm implements. There are no visits by agricultural extension officers or advisors. Why are there no visits? These people do not exist in the Ministry of Lands.

If you look at the personnel under Main Division 03, there are 30 development planners, 70 clerks, 24 labourers. If you go to Main Division 05, the Land Reform personnel, 14 chief planners, 7 chief clerks. I have no clue what these people are planning that cannot be implemented and if it is going to be implemented, who is going to supervise that implementation and make sure it happens if those people do not exist in the personnel?

Honourable Chairperson, there should at least be agriculture officers, water technicians, people who would be monitoring, advising and assisting the resettled farmers. There is an urgent need to change the kind of expertise in the Ministry of Lands for them to be able to meet the goals and objectives that they have set for themselves.

Chairperson, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Lands to page 58 of the technical paper of the Ministry of Agriculture. It reads: "*The Main Division: Rural Water Supply was not established for, nor does it have the resources for the maintenance of water supply infrastructure on resettlement farms.*" The resettlement farms remain the responsibility of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, however the Ministry of Lands does not have one water technician or agricultural technician. How will these noble objectives be met, to reduce unemployment, to reduce poverty, secure sustainable economic growth, how will it happen? It is not possible.

Honourable Chairperson, on page 6 of the Minister's speech there is N\$62 million for farms that were bought. Six Farms were bought in the Karas Region for N\$62.2 million, which means one farm cost N\$10.3 million. Since when have farms become so expensive in the South?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
on Honourable Kazenambo.

I call

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much. I want to confine myself to Programme 3 mentioned in the Minister's speech – Acquisition of land and resettlement and I just want to appeal to the Honourable House not only to listen to me, but also to hear what I say.

Perhaps I shall first express my concern and then put my questions. My concern when reading the Minister's speech, it says that in the 2008/09 Financial Year we were able to purchase a total of 17 farms, unless I got it wrongly. Seventeen farms for the entire Financial Year is a concern to me. It means that our land reform programme is going at a snail's pace and I do not know when we are going to address this matter.

Apart from that concern, I feel we need to be honest with ourselves while building this Nation. I do not want to risk putting words in Dr Tjiriane's mouth, but we are saying that we need to apply political sensitivity when dealing with land reform and perhaps other issues that goes with economic distribution in whatever form. Historically there were Namibians in this country who were uprooted from their land of their origin and we cannot deny that. There were people who were displaced. All of us were colonised, all of us were oppressed but there are Namibians who are in their places of origin today. Can we deny this historical fact? This is nothing that is undermining the Nation, we can only build this Nation in a truthful manner when we are settled where we are coming from and this is the political sensitivity that we are talking about. We should acknowledge this fact, that there are Namibians who were displaced, uprooted from their areas of origin and thrown in concentration camps and when they were taken out, they were put in what is known as reserves, concentrated in those reserves. While many of us said we are going home, we have Namibians who have no place to settle. These are historical facts and that is honesty in nation building.

Those who have advanced this argument for the past eighteen years – and I am one of them – the Namibians who were uprooted and displaced are not saying that other Namibians from other Regions, Regions which could be described as Regions of their origin, should not be settled in the areas that belong to them.

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Nobody has said that and it would be reactionary to advance such an argument, it does not contribute to nation building. It would negate the building of this Nation, just like those reactionaries who say that because all of us were colonised, all of us should be settled at will. It is hypocrisy at its highest level and this nation cannot sustain peace and reconciliation on those premises. I doubt it.

We need to accept that historical reality and that is the political sensitivity that we are calling on, that if we are resettling Namibians, we should acknowledge the fact that those Namibians who were uprooted and displaced should also be considered.

While I am on that point, it is painful, Comrades, and we can look at our records, that a person like Kazenambo will be resettled in Otjimbingwe while I am a deputy director, while I am a general manager, while I am qualified in agricultural skills. One person explained that you also need to resettle those who have the capacity and I agree with that, but it should be in exceptional cases and the needs of the have-nots should be prioritised. To resettle a deputy minister or a former general manager of social security, who can afford a loan at AgriBank and ignore the poor does not fit with our National Liberation struggle, it negates it.

These things are building resentment when we have people falling into a certain category being resettled in areas where the people are landless. It causes resentment.

There are farms in the different Regions of this country which are owned by absentee landlords and these farms are vandalised. I will be a caretaker for a farm in the Otjimbingwe area which belongs to an absentee landlord, who is in Germany and its infrastructure is being vandalised and it is just kept for hunting while you have people in the neighbouring area with land hunger. These issues need to be revisited, they need to be addressed, some of these farms need to be targeted and this should be addressed. This is what some of us are saying.

We should not be misunderstood. We are not saying that other Namibians from other Regions should not be resettled. No, Namibians must be resettled but then resettled based on categories. If you take a person who has two chickens

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because his name is on the list and resettle him on 2,000 hectares. How do you expect this person to survive? He or she will rent the farm.

These are weak points and loopholes, which are in the resettlement programme and we do not want to embarrass one another, but if it is doubted, we can pinpoint areas and farms.

Let us hear one another, let us respect one another, let us have categories, let us investigate as we are progressing with land reform.

The issue of willing seller, willing buyer in Namibia today – and I have been saying this for the past few years – the prices have today reached the point where even those, whom I said could afford a farm through AgriBank cannot do so anymore. Forget about a Namibian buying a farm through AgriBank. We need to have another national land conference because the first one was in 1992, so that we can revisit these matters. With these words I support the Vote.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chairperson, I think the Honourable Members are raising very important fundamental issues and the current problem with the resettlement programme is the fundamental legislation that we have legislated for the programme to operate and that we need to revisit and I want to substantiate why I am saying so.

Before I do that, I want to raise one issue, which is quite fundamental. The question is that currently we have a particular Clause in our law whereby, if a previous disadvantaged Namibian wants to sell his farm, he could not come through the door of the waiver process, he goes to South Africa, scout for a farmer near Thabazimbi or Johannesburg who wants to sell his farm because of crime. He comes here, signs a deal of a 99-year leasehold and he buys that farm and the bank approves those loans on the basis that you can only repay a farm over a period of 25 years. It is a worrisome Clause because there are many farms in my area, which have been bought in that way. You would find a new guy on this farm, you wanted to buy the farm, you offered the money and if you ask this person how he got the farm, he will tell you he is leasing it. For how long are you leasing this farm? Ninety-nine years.

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I feel the Minister should really look at that loophole. It is a serious loophole. All the land is sold to other owners through a system of leasehold and we really need to address that loophole, it is a serious problem and I know what I am talking about.

The other fundamental issue which I want to raise, is that the problem lies with the legislation. The problem is giving land to someone for 99 years free of charge and saying that if you die, your children can inherit the land. I am a father to daughters and suppose these daughters marry Spaniards, Portuguese or Gabonese and they go to Gabon and live there and I die, I can give that land to any other person or my daughters will give it to any other person. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask a question? Honourable Venaani, are you aware that the ownership of land is only in three countries in the whole Africa and that is why we suffer, because the land is owned by individuals and our Supreme Law makes it even worse, because they put property under fundamental rights.

HON VENAANI: The right thing to do under the circumstances is to look at the target, that we are targeting 357 families by 2009 and there are landless Namibians in their thousands. We cannot reach there because we are giving the land as free property to people. You must resettle a person for ten years, give him a loan, assess him over a period of ten years and after ten years he must go and buy his own property and the next one will come in. If you want to resettle 50,000 families, you would have to buy the whole Namibia. You will not be able to reach those targets economically.

What I am talking about is how we legislated the programme and it cannot work that way. I am talking about giving land to somebody free of charge for 99 years. We will never reach the target of 10,000 families in this country.

Coupled with the farming prices you are giving a farm of N\$5 million to six families, how do you want to sustain food security in this country.

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We need to go back to the drawing board and address the question of how resettlement should work. It should be probation centres, train somebody and let him move on.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Venaani, your question is so interesting on the 99 years. What are you suggesting?

HON VENAANI: My suggestion is that if Honourable Sioka gets a piece of land, I must make sure that there are assets. She gets 2,000 hectares, how many cattle does she have? No, she does not have any or she has two. I make her to go to AgriBank, take a loan, try to produce. For 10 years I give you all the incentives so that after ten years Honourable Sioka can go and buy her own land. That person will be able to buy the land if you have given him the incentives.

The current problem we have is that we are not giving the economic incentives to somebody to become self-sustainable. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information. When you rose to support this Vote you were very right, but at the end you are confusing yourself in the sense that you are saying the system must be improved and a person must only be given ten years and then buy. The question, which we must address, is productivity. Therefore, you are lucky to have 99 years, produce and feed the Nation. That is what we have to focus on, not just to get property and because you have this mentality of privatisation. Is that what is driving you?

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HON VENAANI: It is just about transformation of society, my elder brother and father. There are societies where the Government owns all the land and you must make sure that resettlement brings value to the country and to other people.

I will bring a Motion discussing the overall land reform and I will have my say.

The other issue that I want to raise is the legislation on waiver exemptions on the Affirmative Action farmers. There is currently competition whereby the Resettlement Ministry is fighting to buy farms and when an Affirmative Action farmer wants to buy a farm, there is competition between the two and there ought not be competition because a person who is buying and a person who is getting a free farm are equal.

They are all disadvantaged Namibians at various stages, so there should not be competition for a waiver between the Lands Ministry and the Affirmative Action farmers.

The other issue is the question of land tax exemption for Affirmative Action farmers. Currently the law says every Affirmative Action farmer must apply for an exemption for land tax. It is logical to argue that every Affirmative Action farmer will apply for exemption and we must ease the burden on these farmers to know that the reason why I am under Affirmative Action is because of my background. Now you are saying I must go and say whether I want to be exempted or not. I do not think it is really necessary. You just want to embarrass me and say I am earning so much a year and the Prime Minister is a new farmer.

In conclusion, I support the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Programme and I want to thank the Minister for what he has done, because if you look at the maps that this country has created especially on farmlands and the rivers, the data is very accurate and it is something very enviable. There are countries on this continent that cannot produce such maps.

On the question of Security and Property Programme, I am saying that I want people to have property. The only way to fight poverty is for people to have property. You cannot fight poverty without property.

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“Eiendom is rykdom” and whether my elder brother who wears a tie, who never used to wear a tie a few years back agrees with me or not, there is nothing wrong with people owning property and the way to go is to own property. All the rich countries in the world acquired all the riches because of property. If you do not have property, you will be poor.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Chairperson, as far as I am concerned the problem lies with the resettlement policy. Every time I went out on hearings in this country, we encountered problems with the resettlement policy.

Everybody is complaining, people are not happy with it. The time it takes for us to update our policy is worrisome. There is no monitoring and supervision of our policy and that is where the problem lies. When you speak to the colleagues in the Ministry, the staff complement is wrong. The people, who Honourable Bohitile referred to, are not there. Who is supposed to analyse and supervise the policy?

We can complain and fight each other, but why are you waiting for us to go to a land conference to update the policy? These are the problems and we end up fighting. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I pose a question? Comrade Nambahu, it is right to analyse and review the policy. The policy that you wish to be reviewed, does it include the reintroduction of the Odendaal Commission? The policy now criticised by many is that of resettlement of people wherever in Namibia and Article 21, Fundamental

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Freedoms, says *“all persons shall have the right to move freely throughout Namibia, reside and settle in any part of Namibia.”*

Under the review of the policy that we want, do we also want to review this constitutional provision and guarantees that Namibians may settle anywhere in Namibia? One of the contested issues says that people must be settled in their tribal area, as I understand it. (Interjections). Honourable Nambahu may not have said that, but certain Members have demanded that people settled in wrong areas must be moved.

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Angula, what you have said is critical. When you are debating and saying what you are saying, we must all come to the same table and argue that case and the one who has reason and logic on his side, his argument prevails. That is what I am advocating. Tribalism is something we must really debate, because I can also not go to Swaziland and find a Shangaan working in the sugar plantation and conclude that it is tribalism, because our people also specialise in certain areas.

There are certain members who have farms, but it is not necessarily their sisters that are working there. These are the things, which we must face and say this is not tribalism, it is because of this and that. When you employ certain people in a certain industry cannot be classified as tribalism.

What I am saying is that we must call this conference, talk about these things and.... (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information, Honourable Chairperson. The Odendaal Plan has created homelands, it is a reality, but are you aware that up to today some of our parents are still buried in commercial areas, we take them there. Therefore, when one is talking about political sensitivity, it is like when you have the South and you have mineral resources there, but who owns the concessions there?

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The people of the South are not saying “*do not own concessions*”, they say, include us. If you want to challenge me on those scores there is no law in black economic empowerment. Do you know whose cousins are benefiting from black economic empowerment in this country? Let us not dilly-dally with the truth of this country and we know what is happening and we must be pragmatic and sensitive to issues and raise them as they are to build a Nation.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information on land reform. We are aware of the constitutional provision, but we also have policies and it does not mean that because the Constitution says you can settle anywhere, that there are no provisions that if you want to settle in Kavango, you must consult and respect the relevant Traditional Authority. It has nothing to do with the right to settle anywhere. It does not say that we must trample on other people’s human rights, unless you are a racist and using national liberties to advance your tribal domination and oppression.

Let us not use the Constitution to oppress one another. We are talking about sensitivity when you resettle people in areas, when you are resettling people in Okahandja.

My father was kicked in Okahandja and I have no problem when you resettle Nambahu there, but I am saying that when there is a Kazenambo in Okahandja who is impoverished, consider that person. That is nation building, not tribalism.

HON NAMBAHU: All that I am saying is that most of these things that we are not happy about are not done by the policy-makers. It is the absence of that review, it is the absence of guidelines and the absence of consequences for those who implement their tribal agendas within the policy of Government. These things must be analysed timely before it gets out of hand. People should

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be called to order and a solution found and then we debate, we do not have to wait for the Budget.

In summary, I am calling for periodical, timely, continuous surveillance of the policy and guidelines for those who are implementing to do it within a certain framework.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Basson.

HON BASSON: Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, much has been said about land resettlement and we should know that we have fought for this land and we should talk about land.

On page 6 of the Minister's motivation speech, the Minister mentioned people who have been resettled and I quote: *"During the last Financial Year 122 families, consisting of 730 people were resettled on 122 Farming Units."* Mine is not a question, mine is a humble request to the Minister to make sure that those who are resettled on those farms are on those farms, because some of us have information that people have been resettled but they are not there. That is the problem, people have been resettled, but they are still not there and that is why the other people have come in.

I understand the point of illegal resettlement, but I know about people in the Hardap Region who moved into farms bought by the Government and are still on those farms today. I can mention names, but not here in Parliament. I want the Minister to look into this because this resettlement programme is painful.

I therefore support all those who say we should call for a second land conference and let us talk about land. (Intervention)

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HON VENAANI: May I ask a question? Honourable Basson, are you aware that nearly all Regional Councillors, political office-bearers, nearly all from Omaheke and Hardap and Karas are living on resettlement farms? They have allotted themselves resettlement farms.

HON BASSON: It is true. I am a Regional Councillor so I ask my wife to apply. I have tried to apply for a resettlement farm and up to now I did not get it. I am however happy with the piece of land that I have.

The people who are resettled on the farms should go and stay on the farms because some of the people are struggling to be resettled. With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Hausiku.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I did not really want to take the Floor on this Vote, but I decided to do so in order to raise a comment and two proposals.

Comrade Chair, I support the Vote of Lands and Resettlement wholeheartedly and commend the Minister, the Deputy and the officials for the good job they are doing.

Comrade Chairperson, in many cases development in Africa becomes a problem to those who have planned it. Now we are fighting each other emotionally, Honourable Schimming-Chase is angry with me because she does not want me to diffuse the situation and we are small dogs fighting over one small bone while the bigger dogs are waiting to take the bigger bones. I am just saying that I know this is a sensitive issue, but I also know that we are

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the top leaders in terms of legislation and, therefore, the expression of what we say could be guided properly so that we convey exactly the message that we want to convey.

Comrade Chair, I do not agree with this notion of a land conference. Sometimes we want to jump to something that we think is going to resolve our problems, but they do not. I agree that there should be a regular review of our policies, but since the quarrel is amongst ourselves as Parliamentarians, I would like to propose that we all agree that there is a need for productivity on the resettlement areas. That is the first reason why these people have been resettled.

Can we have a proper review, which may also be attended to by Members of Parliament in those areas where you feel you want to expose what is happening and indeed give us a thorough report of what activities are happening on those farms? This issue has been discussed for long and every time we answer in general, but no progress is reported specifically in terms of farm A, farm B and farm C.

Secondly, I believe that there should be a regular briefing on procedures and allocation of farms to settlers by Parliamentarians. Put up a programme so that you regularly appraise us on how many people have been resettled, in which areas, where do these people come from and what the status of these people has been. This will acquaint us with the procedures and also to be acquainted with the basis on which the decisions are being made to resettle certain individuals on those specific farms.

Comrade Chairperson, the main reason why I took the Floor is just to caution that sometimes we are saying these things, but I do not know whether we are saying this to the benefit of our system and the people we are serving. Thank you very much.

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

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 25 and to welcome and

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congratulate my dear brother, the Minister. I know that he is new on the job and, therefore, I will not ask him any questions and only express my sympathy to him and his team on the issue of resettlement. In fact, I am amazed to note that seventeen farms were purchased in one year. According to my calculation there will only be 170 farms in ten years, in a hundred years there will be only 1 700 farms if we are going at this pace and it seems the prime obstacle is the prices and this is something we really have to address urgently.

I want to say this on the issue of resettling landless Namibians. The basis of our struggle was all-inclusive economic emancipation, regardless of gender, especially for those who were previously disadvantaged and therefore, the policy of exclusion is contrary not only to the struggle for our Independence, it is also contrary to the aims and objectives of our SWAPO Party Government and the SWAPO Party itself. If, indeed, the resettlement policy excludes certain Namibians, as I have heard here, I am really disappointed and for us to build a peaceful, prosperous Namibia where we include every citizen, I think it is only fair to investigate further.

Therefore, I now want to take this opportunity to urge the Honourable Minister to look into this matter, because at the moment we are just talking, we do not have statistics. If it is true that the other Namibians are resettled in those areas and the locals are excluded, I must be on record that I am disappointed in this regard.

I however think this is different from a situation whereby people just occupy farms without following procedures. I feel we should separate the two issues, because if we do so, then this land of our ancestors, the Land of the Brave will become ungovernable. The laws passed in this Honourable House by democratically elected members are the laws that we have to uphold when it comes to resettlement. I do however not want to be part of that system where other Namibians, who need more land to be resettled because of historical reasons, are excluded. I definitely do not want to be part of that.
(Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask Honourable Kawana a question? Honourable Kawana, the exclusion of certain Namibians, is it that they did apply and they were not accorded those farms? I am informed that the Governor of that particular Region chairs the Resettlement Committee. Have the people who are excluded applied and they are ignored or what is the exact situation here, or is it that because they are in the area, they must be resettled automatically?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Member. I think we must leave this one to the Honourable Minister to investigate because we do not have facts, but there are complaints in this House coming from Honourable Members, saying that the locals are excluded and people from other communities are resettled. I do not know whether it is true and that is why I am pleading with the Honourable Minister to look into the issue and find out. If it is true, it is contrary to the aims and objectives of our struggle, it is contrary to the aims and objectives of our Government, contrary to the aims and objectives of the SWAPO Party. That is all I am saying and the Minister is more than capable to address that issue.

As I however said, Comrade Chairperson, we do not want to deny our citizens to exercise their rights because this is a democratic country and those who have grievances must utilise the established procedures. If I do not have land, I cannot be allowed to just go and occupy the land without following our laws, democratically passed laws of our country. On that score, I have a problem, but if there is exclusion, I also have a problem. Otherwise I support Vote 25.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Honourable Members, you are speaking in general and I am requesting you to put questions. I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister and if he becomes too general, I will Rule him Out of Order.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Chairperson, I am very much in Order, because I want to explain a few things regarding land resettlement and redistribution.

Land is a scarce commodity and we must understand that, very scarce. Secondly, the demand to buy land outstrips the land available. 17 Farms were bought over a period of one year and I am quite sure that if the list of people who applied were to be produced here, it would be a very long list. My Office is ever bombarded by people thinking that perhaps the Prime Minister has some clout on how land is distributed for resettlement and in fact, I do not. The only consolation I have is that the Minister has promised to review the Land Act, because right now, the process of resettlement does not have political leadership and I think that is the problem.

Yes, there is that long process of starting from the councillors and it ends up in a certain committee, the Land Advisory Committee, chaired by a Permanent Secretary. Then there is no oversight. When they decide to resettle somebody, they do not even report to Cabinet that they are proposing to resettle this person on this farm. There is no political oversight at all and the Minister cannot intervene at any point and say that this type of resettlement can be politically problematic. There is nothing like that and I understand the Ministry is going to review the law so that there is direct political supervision because the Minister, as he listens to your concerns, will be more sensitive to those concerns.

Land being scarce and we want to approach it from the background of poverty, obviously is a contentious issue. Any contentious issue should be dealt with sensitivity, especially political sensitivity if we want those who are going to be resettled to also live in peace.

If you resettle people and the people in the area have the perception that the resettlement was not fair, those farms will be constantly burnt down or animals killed. It will happen, people will react and we must be sensitive about these things.

My appeal is that we give the Minister an opportunity to amend the law so that there is political supervision over this process. I believe in that way it will improve. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The last person is Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: I would like to support the Vote under discussion. My short question is on page 4 of the Minister's Budget speech with regard to the United Nations' extension of the continental shelf. I have heard that has already been submitted. My question is, how many nautical miles are being proposed to be extended?

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

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and all the Honourable Members. You can rest assured that there will be no broken record in my case, because I have been in this capacity for not even three weeks.

Ten Honourable Members took the Floor, with so many interjections that we were probably approaching Members that participated in this Debate. It just shows that the struggle was all about land. There were no direct questions posed to the Minister, but there were rather very enriching comments in terms of the dynamism of the situation that we are confronted with as a Nation coming from the background that we are coming from in terms of the challenges that confront us, particularly when it comes to the quest for land by our people.

I particularly liked the sentiments that we need to have sensitivity when we deal with this question of allocating land to the masses of our people and be conscious and mindful of the circumstances where we are allocating land. It does not necessarily have to negate the constitutional provisions that people

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can move freely in this country and people can resettle wherever they would want to resettle, where their skills would take them in terms of having secured employment. There should not be any barring mechanisms in terms of that.

Then we also have to be mindful of the realities on the ground. We have so many challenges, that we are describing situations, which unfold before our eyes because of certain shortcomings within the communities that we function and maybe because of the mechanisms that we have put in place as a Government and ultimately, as people responsible to deal with the situation.

For instance, I do not like the word “*illegal*”, but if it happens outside the confines of the laws that we have enacted, then probably that is illegal, but then, are we looking at what were the driving forces? Not that we should try to condone certain actions, but we have to be conscious of the realities that certain individuals are experiencing. Yes, it is illegal in terms of the legal framework that we have enacted in this House, but when you find that someone had to take action at that point in time, I think it would ask for a little bit of circumspect understanding of the situation and dealing with the situation as circumstances dictate.

Like I said, most of the issues were comments and the officials have fed me with what they think I should respond in terms of the comments, but I would really just like to state the following to economise on the time that we are spending here, because these issues are raised every year, but I have taken very copious notes and when I entered this portfolio, I was so grateful for the work that was done by the very able and capable people that preceded me in this capacity. We as a Nation and the National Assembly must thank them for what they have done in the service of our Nation.

Communities and societies are dynamic, it demands from us to revisit our policies from time to time. That is why we have policy analysts in all our ministries. It is the task of those individuals to look at the current policies within our Offices, Ministries and Agencies and advise the decision-makers accordingly. They are here with me. Let it be a direction given to them to look at the current policies of the Ministry so that together we try to find challenges for the perpetual challenges facing us as a Nation, particularly our Ministry. Suffice to state now that I have taken note of what you have said and I will not venture into reading out the comments sent to me by my officials, only to tell you that we will make work of it together with your support and I thank you.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 08
HON MOONGO

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I now put Vote 25, any objection? Agreed to.

I put Vote 08 – “**DEFENCE**” for Discussion.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. First, allow me to congratulate the Minister for the allocation of the money, although I was disappointed that the members of NDF, although their salaries were increased last year, are still resigning and looking for greener pastures.

When we visited the bases we realised that they had no beds, they sleep on the floor and their accommodation is very bad. Their uniforms are torn and even now, I am shocked that they are still resigning after their salaries were improved. This is very disturbing and I ask the Honourable Minister to consider another improvement of their salaries and benefits.

On the 20th of this month a Toyota bakkie of NDF with the registration 3329, was overturned while used for private purposes. Is this because they are underpaid that they are using the vehicles illegally? We read this in the newspapers that the Anti-Corruption Commission, but you do not want me to mention it. We want proper control of these vehicles. (Interjections). I was a secretary of transport during the colonial times.

The members of the NDF are constantly complaining that their salaries have been reduced with N\$500 since that time and I put many questions to the Minister. The people are unhappy and now that the people are beginning to resign, I have to ask you to change this behaviour.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Chairperson, may I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, the salaries of the NDF members are reduced by N\$500 every month. Are you serious? (Interjection)

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 08
HON MOONGO

HON MOONGO: I am serious, it is true!

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Can you inform this House, in the first place, who deducted that money and where did that money go? Who authorised it? To deduct money from somebody's salary at will, that seems to be strange.

HON MOONGO: The Minister might not have been here, but I have put the question four times and I got answers and I informed the members that they took some part of their salaries to do a, b, c, but the members are not happy. Please look into this matter and solve their accommodation problems. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? Honourable Moongo, you said that there was a car with the registration number you have mentioned which was being misused. Since you know about this accident, what action has been taken against those whom you allege have been using this vehicle illegally?

HON MOONGO: I just want to inform the Minister that on the 20th of this month, NDF 3329 Toyota was overturned in the area of Muyako in Caprivi while on an illegal mission. Therefore I appeal to the Minister to seriously control the transportation of the NDF since I was happy the Machinenfabrik is doing good work. (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. I deliberately asked this question because I know the discipline in the army. If the people had done something illegal to that effect, certain steps must have been taken. Therefore, the one who brings this information must also bring information on the steps taken against these people.

However, if he knows that they were using this car illegally, then the Ministry must know even more than that and they cannot be left without being punished. We cannot create the impression as if people are just going around using cars and they are not punished.

HON MOONGO: I conclude by thanking the Ministry, it seems they have a shoe factory in Okahandja which produces shoes for the NDF and I appeal to the Ministry, if possible, to also produce school shoes for Namibians so that we stop importing those shoes from South Africa and all other countries. Shoes for nurses can also be produced and I really commend the Minister for a job well done.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Chair, we have peace, the Defence Force is in place, the Air Force, the Navy and everything is in order and I am sure the House is going to support me if I ask that we just support the Vote, because at the end of the day we are eventually going to support the Vote. I Move that we support the Ministry of Defence and move on.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Chairperson, I rise to support the Vote, but I wish to make two points. (Intervention)

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HON MBUMBA / HON DR KAWANA

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Deputy Minister, did you hear what Honourable Jerry Ekandjo proposed, which I seconded?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I only want to know when we are going to be given our ranks. Will we only be given our ranks after we have died? We are soldiers just like other soldiers now in service and our ranks need to be given. When will we be given our deserved ranks? I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I call on Honourable Mbumba.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I am rising to support the Vote of the Ministry of Defence and to cite two issues. One is the recruitment of new blood into the army. We are building a Nation, we must build institutions and also the funds that will rehabilitate our military bases. The army is there to support the civilian authorities and as we have witnessed in the case of the accident, which took the life of Honourable John Alfonso Pandeni, the Defence as well as other forces played a pivotal role which the civilians could not have done. I only want to say, let us support the Vote.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Comrade Chair, I rise to support Vote 08. I am also happy to see that the terms and conditions of our soldiers have been improved and I look forward to further improvement and I also look forward to further upgrading of our equipment and living quarters.

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE

I only have one question to the Honourable Minister and this is with regard to the promotion policy of NDF. From time to time one hears especially on *Open Line* soldiers complaining that they have been in one position for ten years or more without promotion while other new ones are promoted. I am aware that in other countries there is a promotion policy which is predetermined and I do not know what is the promotion policy of the NDF. Can this issue be addressed? Otherwise I support Vote 08.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Minister, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security has made regular and extensive visits throughout the years, including camps of the Defence Force. I understood that in Grootfontein there was at one point 300 cows, but when we visited Grootfontein, we saw that the margarine and butter was bought outside, the meat and vegetables were bought from outside and there was not a single garden or an attempt at a garden. I grew up in the Grootfontein area and we made butter, we planted vegetables, we were self-sufficient and when I see the food that some of those Military people are getting, I really have to respect Namibians, because I think in other countries there would have been problems.

Can we not get to the point that the army, as is the case with prisons, start planting food and become productive? Because food is going to become more and more expensive and I cannot understand how 300 cattle can walk around and you have to go and buy milk.

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HON SIMUNJA

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Let me firstly thank all Members who took the Floor in support of Vote 08 of the Ministry of Defence.

Let me start with *Honourable Moongo* and I would like to thank him for his support and concerns on the living conditions of the Namibian Defence Force. Your concern is equally our concern. We have taken especially the improvement of living conditions into serious consideration and that is why you will see in the Budget that we have catered for the improvement of buildings at bases. They will be building a base at Oluno, Keetmanshoop, Luiperdsvallei, Karibib is under construction and these are our serious concerns, to improve the living conditions, because the bases they are currently living in were inherited from the previous dispensation and they are at the end of their lifespan.

The other question you posed is on the resignation by members looking for greener pastures. I guess this does not only happen in the Ministry of Defence, but all other Ministries are affected as well. As members get qualifications, they opt to apply for other jobs where they are offered better salaries. The most resignations we get are in the Air Force by pilots and technicians and that is a serious concern. That is why we have improved the salaries of the members of the Air Force and other services. The pilots are leaving for greener pastures because there is a demand for pilots and technicians elsewhere.

The Ministry of Defence is the only Institution that just takes children after they have completed high school, train them as pilots and technicians, but at the end of the day they resign when offered better salaries and we have no way to prevent them from leaving. It is a real worrying factor but we are trying our level best.

The shoe factory has just been opened last month and it is still in its infancy. If it progresses well we will contemplate to include making shoes of different types, but we have started with military boots.

You mentioned that you were informed by some members that N\$500 is being deducted from their salaries. This I will definitely dispute, because even the laws governing the salaries of all civil servants would not allow us to employ a person at a high salary notch and next month he is at a lower salary notch. That is strictly prohibited. What I can tell you is that members of the Defence Force are contributing N\$15 to the mess fee. They have canteens at the bases and they contribute a mere N\$15 to the mess fee and contribute about N\$100 to the Group Scheme. That is why when a member of the Defence Force dies, we provide a coffin and the immediate family are paid N\$30,000 from this scheme. This is the contribution they themselves are making for a decent burial, etcetera. The N\$500 is not a true story. Just go back to your source and try to find out about that N\$500.

You mentioned the Toyota 3320 which overturned in the Caprivi Region and you alluded that it was driven illegally. The vehicles in the Ministry of Defence are strictly controlled. If it overturned, I would assume it was on official duty. If a vehicle is involved in any accident, we immediately constitute a board of enquiry that would determine the circumstances of the accident, this board of enquiry makes a recommendation, and then a court marshal will convene. Statistically the vehicles of the Ministry of Defence are less involved in accidents. I think I have done justice to your concerns, Honourable Moongo.

I thank *Honourable Ekandjo* for his support. *Honourable Ilonga*, with regard to the ranks, this is the prerogative of the Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, which is the President of the country. We will get directives from there to give names of people to be promoted. Maybe next time you will be on the list and just be patient, my friend.

Honourable Mbumba, thank you very much for your support and let me come to *Honourable Kawana* on the promotion policy. It is a real fact that there is a complaint and discrepancies in the Ministry of Defence with regard to promotions. This is attributed to the fact that we have a promotion policy in place, that after serving so many years in a certain rank one needs to be promoted, but it is also coupled with the courses that they complete. For

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example, when somebody is a second lieutenant after graduating from the Military Academy, we have a provision that he remains a second lieutenant for 18 months and if they prove themselves, they get promoted to first lieutenant. From first lieutenant to captain one needs to attend a junior staff course. In most cases, they attend these courses outside Namibia and then the person can be promoted to captain or major. From there he has to attend a senior staff course again and that is coupled with the promotion.

Most of the members of our Defence Force are those who were in the liberation struggle and some of them cannot fulfil the requirements at a college so that he could improve his skills to get promoted through this procedure. That is why in many countries a soldier is not inducted to live permanently as a soldier to the age of 60. If it is found that you can no more be promoted, then you are retired, depending on the rank. Only a very few people in the Namibian Defence Force can reach the rank of general. Those who do not need the requirements to attend foreign colleges will definitely have limitations to get promoted. That is why they are claiming that young soldiers are promoted because we do not have that retirement policy.

Honourable Schimming-Chase, we do not have cattle in Grootfontein. As far as I know, we only have cattle in Otavi and the Mangetti area. We do not have farms for agriculture and the farms that were allocated to us are for cattle farming and goats, but not food production. If we get farms for food production we would definitely look into that.

With those few remarks, I thank you very much for your support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 08, any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES:

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before I adjourn the House, I have been advised by the Whips, and I agree with the advice, that we meet tomorrow morning instead of tomorrow afternoon. Their fear, which is also my fear, is that we might not have a quorum. After the Motion, which tabled the Draft Constitution of the Republic of Namibia before the House, a Motion which introduces the Appropriation Bill is very important. If we do not have a quorum tomorrow morning and I walk in, I will adjourn the House and you will have to deal with the consequences thereof. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:45 UNTIL 2008.04.30 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
30 APRIL 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEW MEMBERS

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in terms of Article 48(2) of the Constitution, the SWAPO Party has nominated Ms Anna Katrina Bayer to fill the vacancy which occurred in the Assembly as a result of the resignation of Honourable Peter Tsheehama.

I invite the Chief Whip to escort her into the Chamber and I call upon His Lordship, Chief Justice Peter Shivute to administer the Oath or Affirmation to Ms Anna Bayer.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE: Administers the Oath.

HON SPEAKER: I now declare Ms Anna Katrina Bayer as a duly elected Member of the National Assembly. Welcome back.

May I once again on behalf of the National Assembly thank you, Your Lordship Peter Shivute Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia, for assisting us in this way and I thank you very much that you were able to set aside your pressing duties to come and perform this onerous duty in terms of our Constitution. Once again, thank you very much.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON DR KAWANA**

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

**TABLING: REPORT ON PUBLIC OFFICE-BEARERS
COMMISSION ACTIVITIES**

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table the Report to His Excellency the President of the Republic Of Namibia on the Public Office-Bearers Commission's activities from 10th April 2006 to 31st March 2007. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

MOTION OF BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 7, 21 and 31 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 21
HON SHIHEPO

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

SECRETARY: Resumption of Committee Stage - *Appropriation Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

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

HON SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objections? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 1 to 6 and 20, 22 to 30 had been agreed to and Votes 7, 21 and 31 had been introduced.

I now put Vote 21 – “**PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**” for Discussion. Any objection?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Colleagues, I have to thank you very much for accepting what we have asked. It does not mean that there are no questions, but questions on

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSIONS VOTE 07
HON KAIYAMO / HON HAUSIKU

this Bill will rather be discussed on the 5th of June when we polish up everything in the Police and Prison Sector. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now put Vote 21, Any objections? Agreed to.

I put Vote 07 – “**FOREIGN AFFAIRS**” for Discussion.

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Chair, I would like to register my support for Vote 07 and also to inform the Minister that when we as Members of Parliament are travelling to foreign countries, we receive good cooperation from his officials.

I also note when we are travelling that there are still High Commissioners who are not accompanied by their spouses. The reason given is that some of these spouses cannot afford to leave their jobs and I want to ask the Minister whether he could not look into this issue of providing something to these spouses to stay with their husbands when abroad. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? I revert the Floor to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Chairperson, thank you very much for the support by Honourable Members. The concern expressed by Honourable Kaiyamo has been dealt with for the last two years

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON DR TJIRIANGE

and you know that Government systems require that when you introduce a request for allowances, it has to go through the Public Service Commission.

The Public Service Commission has been working on a number of issues, one being the allowances to spouses, the other one the car scheme for those ambassadors who qualified for the car scheme before they left. The other one is the allowances for children and quite a number of other allowances. This issue has now been approved by the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and, indeed, their allowances were supposed to have started officially the beginning of this Financial Year.

We also tried to look at what you can provide to a spouse as an allowance that does not exceed what other employed people earn at home. That will assist us in that case. I am told it has already been implemented as from the 1st of April. Almost all the complaints on allowances have been addressed successfully and I hope we will move to a new area of concern, this one has been addressed successfully. Thank you very much, Honourable Members.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I put Vote 07, any objection? Agreed to.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 31 – “**VETERANS AFFAIRS**” for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I want to thank the Honourable House because it is their Vote and I can see the spirit is that they only want to see me doing something. I thank them very much.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON DE WAAL

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 31. Any objection? Agreed to. The Committee further has to consider the Bill.

Clauses, Schedule, as amended, and Title put and agreed to.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Bill reported with Amendment.

APPROPRIATION BILL: THIRD READING

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I think it would just be good that when we talk about the implementation of this Budget that we congratulate the Anti-Corruption Commission for what they have achieved during this last week. I think it is important that we send a message to all the people in this country, including ourselves, that stealing of Government money and misuse of Government assets is simply not on and we must accept the example.

From our side we want to congratulate Mr Noa and we hope that he will continue to do that work and we hope that all the Ministers, when they find something in their Ministries, will follow that very good example. Thank you.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion in the Third Reading? Does the Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I thank the Honourable Members of the House and the public for the fruitful Debate that they have made possible through their comments on this most important Bill. It will help us to improve with Budget formulation, it would have provided us with more insight into aspects that still need to be addressed and it would help us to improve on our strategies for tackling those remaining challenges.

I have noted the concerns of the Honourable Members and some members of our public about inadequate allocation of resources in some areas that are important. I want to assure them that we appreciate these concerns and when additional resources become available we would strengthen the allocation to these areas and we were limited in our financial support to these areas only by the limited resources. In economics, we say that *the means to address the problems fall short from what is required* unfortunately. I hope that we will receive the same support in the implementation of this Budget as we have received in a passage of the Bill.

I know that implementation will face many challenges, especially given the flood situation in the country that would hinder the execution of some of the capital projects, but I hope that with the cooperation from all stakeholders, we would be able to minimize the negative impact of that situation in the implementation of the Budget.

Once again I thank the House, I thank the public and I hope that the National Council will help us to expedite what is left of the approval of the Budget. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for her reply. I now put the Question that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Third Time.

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**MOTION ON ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS
HON MUTORWA**

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: I shall now, in terms of Article 75(1) of our Constitution, refer this Bill to the National Council for its consideration. The Secretary will read the second Order of the Day.

MOTION ON ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the provisions of assistance to farmers in the Caprivi, Kavango, Okaoko and the Four O-Regions.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 15 April 2008, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Kaura. The Debate was adjourned for consultations. I now put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any further discussions? Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. After consultation we agreed that I should amend the Motion to read as follows: -

I shall Move that this Assembly discusses and take note the provision of tractors to the Regions that have potential of becoming the breadbaskets of Namibia, namely the Four O-Regions of Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati, Kavango and Caprivi as well as the provision of pedigree bulls and rams to Caprivi, Kavango, Kaoko in the Kunene Region and the Four O-Regions. That is the Amendment.

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**MOTION ON ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS
HON MUTORWA**

HON SPEAKER: Any objection to the Amendment? Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further discussions? Honourable Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. From the side of SWAPO I would like to thank Honourable Kaura for his understanding and magnanimity to have accepted our proposition not to get the House divided on this very important matter of assisting our people, the communal farmers.

Comrade Speaker, as Article 45 of the Namibian Constitution reminds us that we, the Members of the National Assembly shall be representative of all the people and shall in the performance of our duties be guided by the objectives of this Constitution by the public interest and by our own conscience. The Motion that we have just debated and taken note of necessarily is a Motion that is meant to further and improve the material conditions of our people.

By way of information to the Honourable Members and the public out there, my Colleague, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, is scheduled to officiate at a ceremony on the 7th and 8th of May, respectively, at Omatjene and Onankali specifically to hand over breeding bulls to our farmers. I will do likewise on the 9th of May at Mile 46 in the Kavango Region.

Comrade Speaker, thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Minister. Any further discussions? Is the House ready to adopt the Motion? Is it the wish of the House to adopt the Motion as Amended? So decided.

SECRETARY: Resumption of consideration of National Integrated Early Childhood Development policy 2007.

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NATIONAL INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 15 April 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Gender and Child Welfare. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab adjourned the Debate and I will give him the Floor.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Comrade Tsudao Gurirab is with Pan African Parliament business in South Africa. We postpone the Debate till the 5th of June.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Hoffmann, any further discussion?

HON HOFFMANN: Thank you Honourable Speaker. It is also the same. I wanted to postpone the Debate until the 5th of June if it is possible.

HON SPEAKER: The 5th of June. Any objections? Then the consideration of this Motion stands adjourn until the 5th June 2008. The Secretary will read the fourth Order of the Day.

MOTION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR BY-ELECTIONS

SECRETARY: Resumption on Debate on the provision of additional funding for By-Elections in Namibia.

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**ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR BY-ELECTIONS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 15 April 2008, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Moongo. The Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney-General adjourned the Debate and the Minister now has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker this Debate was adjourned some two or three weeks ago and many of us might have forgotten what was the issue at hand. Let me just briefly refresh you at least from the background of our argument as SWAPO Members of Parliament.

We feel that democracy is a very expensive undertaking, we have accepted the principle of democracy in our country, in our society, and therefore this institution of lawmaking has to be supported financially in order to achieve the stated objective we have undertaken.

During the past years we have realised that inasmuch that we proclaim Parliament to mean the two Houses, that is the National Assembly and the National Council, this principle we have adopted of financially assisting Political Parties has been one sided and discriminatory in actual fact. We are just lucky that we did not get the challenge from the National Council that only Members in the National Assembly were considered for the purpose of funding Political Parties and therefore, in supporting the Motion by Honourable Moongo, we have also proposed an Amendment which I am just about to read to the House now for adoption and Comrade Speaker, the Amendment we have proposed reads as follows:-

- a) Whereas the Namibian Constitution recognises the principle of proportional representation;
- b) Whereas the Namibian Parliament adopts the principle of Party funding based on the formula which takes into account Parliamentary representation;
- c) Whereas the current practice of party funding excludes members of the National Council;

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**ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR BY-ELECTIONS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

- d) Now therefore, in order to complement the resolution on Party funding letter and spirit, this Assembly resolves that Members of the National Council be taken into account for the purpose of Party funding.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you Honourable Member. I take it that the Amendment has been circulated

HON BOOYS: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, the Whips, according to their terms of reference, consulted each other and because today was very much marked for the Appropriation Bill, the Whips thought that the House would, in terms of Rule 91, be adjourned. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: That notwithstanding, the question was whether the Honourable Members were able to look at the Amendment being proposed. Minister, I need to put the Amendment.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I mentioned right at the beginning of my intervention that the Motion was adjourned some three weeks ago. Probably the Honourable Members have just forgotten. When Doctor Kawana intervened in the Debate, he proposed such Amendment but he did not have the text and I adjourned the Debate. For Honourable Members to claim that they did not know of the Amendment they probably did not see it in writing but they heard about it. Thank you.

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**ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR BY-ELECTIONS
HON DR KAWANA**

HON SPEAKER: Even so, Honourable Minister, the practice is that we submit Amendments in writing, not only for the purposes of record, but that we are of the same mind whether we agree with the Amendment or not agree with the Amendment. To submit the Amendment in writing is a requirement. We may break in May, but everything that is on the Order Paper would stay. Honourable Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I wanted really to suggest exactly what the Honourable Speaker suggested, that maybe my Senior Colleague, the Honourable Minister, can table the Amendments, but one of the Members if they so wish, they can adjourn the Debate thereof and then we come to look at the Amendment maybe in June. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Can Honourable Minister table the Amendment? Honourable Tjihuiko would adjourn the consideration of the Motion and then we can come back.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. In the absence of any contribution, I would like to adjourn the Debate until the 5th of June 2008.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to. The Chief Whip rose at the wrong time to make an intervention. I ask Honourable Booy to repeat again?

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ADJOURNMENT

HON BOOYS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. In consultation with other Whips, what I have said is when we came this morning, we had in mind to discuss the Appropriation Bill. To do justice to the other items, I, in terms of Rule 92(e), request that the House adjourns until the 5th of June 2008 and the programme as it is, continues. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: If the House collectively supports the proposal being made by Honourable Booys, the Speaker would consider that. Is the House in favour of supporting Honourable Booys' proposal that the House should now adjourn?

Honourable Members, the Nation and our people have sustained heavy losses in terms of human life, devastation due to prolonged droughts and floods and many of our people died on the roads. We shall rise today and return for business on the 3rd of June 2008, but I am aware that many of you will be travelling to be reunited with family members or to do other important business outside Windhoek. I plead with you to drive carefully. On the 3rd of June I would like to see all of you back in one piece, safe and sound, to do work for the Nation and be productive. I know the Prime Minister will and I call on all of you to do that. Everything else on the Order Paper would stand as it is until we resume on June 3rd.

PricewaterhouseCoopers has arranged some snacks for the Honourable Members after adjournment. I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until 3rd June 2008.

HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the House now adjourns until the 3rd of June 2008 and 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 10:10 UNTIL 2008.06.03 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
03 JUNE 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me welcome everybody back from the short break we had. Welcome, Comrades, to the struggle of making laws for our country.

Honourable Members, we have received a request from an Insurance Company, Old Mutual Namibia, to address Members of Parliament on investment opportunities, etcetera, for Members of Parliament at retirement and this is a matter of concern to all of us. We arranged that representatives of the company address Members of Parliament this afternoon at 16:00 in the Parliament Gardens. The House will therefore, rise at tea break, which is 15:40, to allow Members to proceed to the Parliament Gardens to attend this occasion, during which refreshments will be provided. All Members of the National Assembly are urged to attend.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

QUESTION 53:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 12 June 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance the following:

In view of the current soaring oil and food prices experienced around the globe and in our country, affecting thousands of poverty-stricken citizenry, would the Minister answer the following?

1. Is the Government to provide an economic stimulus plan to curb the soaring food prices through any form of subsidies?
 2. If question 1 is in the affirmative, when will the Government introduce these measures to curb and ease these pressures and in what form would it be done?
 3. What other sector does the Government wish to assist to ensure food security and reduce prices?
-

QUESTION 54:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I further give Notice that on Thursday, the 12th of June 2008, I shall ask the Minister of Information, Communication and Technology:

1. Whether it is true that the current cell phone operators, namely MTC and Cell One are apparently, charging consumers per every N\$10 credit airtime bought a tax deduction of N\$1,40.
2. If the answer is in the affirmative, may the Minister provide a breakdown of taxes charged on the consumers from these institutions?

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS
HON VILJOEN**

3. How do our cell phone charges compare with the region and all over in the world?
-

QUESTION 55:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 12 June 2008, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration the following questions:

Honourable Minister, are you aware of the fact that the Immigration Selection Board of your Ministry does no longer conduct meetings to deal with very important matters, like applications for work permits and other immigration issues? If the Immigration Selection Board is no longer functioning, who is dealing with the aforementioned applications?

A year ago a delegation from a church group and I visited the office of the Minister to get clarity on procedures for work permits for reverends/preachers of the mentioned church group. The intention of our visit was to get clarity from the Minister to prevent political questions in Parliament. Up until now, this situation is still the same.

Honourable Minister, can you please advise the public which procedures church groups should follow, because despite several letters of enquiry no answer was received from the officials of Home Affairs.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the questions, Honourable Member. Further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? I recognise Honourable Venaani.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 26th of June, I shall move –

That this august Assembly –

Debates the current prevailing problems experienced by our country regarding the current resettlement programmes with a view to propose different categories and assistance packages for the resettlement farmers rather than the current one-size-fits-all and all other matters related thereto;

This Motion be referred to the relevant Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration to further study this proposal and to do a review audit on the current resettled farmers and to advise this Assembly on the way forward.

I so Move.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 5th of June 2008, I shall move –

That this august Assembly –

Debates the current xenophobic violent attacks that are showing their ugly face in our neighbouring sister Republic and the lessons we can draw from friends on our policies on integration and counter xenophobic tendencies that exist in modern state Namibia. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Ministerial Statements.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHIMTINA**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my honour to address this august House and share some information regarding the worrying rising energy cost that is starting to cause economic threats for our people. I am sure you have all felt the effect of rising energy prices in recent years.

Recently ESKOM, the South African energy utility, announced that energy bills will rise. They proposed a tariff increase of 53%. This was only the first sign of things to come. Energy costs are locked into a worldwide up-trend that will probably last the rest of your lives.

They are the product of a supply/demand squeeze, caused by the tremendous economic growth and industrialisation, taking place in Asia. Unfortunately, the situation will only get worse. In fact, available analysis suggests that within a few years the oil situation will cause energy prices to double, undermining both stock market returns and the world economy.

Consider for example that India's economy has been growing by more than 8% a year for the past 4 years, while China's annual growth rate has risen from 7% in 1999 to 11,4% higher this year. That is five times that of the US and nearly four times of the UK. This rapid Asian growth is pushing up demand for all types of commodities, including oil, which is why oil prices have climbed nearly tenfold since 1998. Yet in Asia the *per capita* consumption of every single thing including energy is still very low compared to the West. While the average American burns 26 barrels of oil per year and the average British consumer 10,4 barrels, the Chinese use only 1,5 barrel and the Indians less than one barrel.

As economic growth raises the average Asian standard of living, its energy consumption will grow too. Soon every Chinese would want a car, every Indian family will demand a refrigerator and an air-conditioner. Bearing in mind that China and India alone hold 4,4 billion people, the amount of additional oil needed to meet the Asian demand will be staggering.

In fact, the International Energy Agency expects global oil consumption to rise by 50% in future years, largely because of the Asian growth.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHIMTINA**

Therefore, rising oil demand will not be a problem if oil production would increase by an equal amount produced, but no one has discovered a major oil field in nearly four decades. Instead, a growing body of evidence suggests that growing oil production peaked in 2005 and has already begun to decline.

Oil production, for instance has been falling since 1970 despite the US having the best technology in the world. Oil production in the North Sea started dropping in 1990, with the result that Europe is now forced to import oil from abroad. Today we are also seeing oil output declining in countries such as Mexico, Kuwait, Russia and Venezuela. Iran, currently the world's fourth largest oil exporter, recently introduced petrol rationing to avoid becoming a net importer in a few years.

In fact, the only countries where oil output can still increase are Iraq, which we cannot count on any time soon, and Saudi-Arabia which is hardly a safe bet. According to analysis by Mathew Simons, former Energy Adviser to the US President George Bush, Saudi-Arabia has far less oil than it officially claims and may be at its maximum production already.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am not saying the world will run out of oil, but from now on it will be harder and harder, if not impossible, to pump enough oil to satisfy demand and that will lead to ever-higher oil prices. Commodity expert, Jim Rogers, believes oil prices will reach US\$150 a barrel within a few years, another 50% on top of what it costs today. If you think N\$9 is too much to pay for a litre of petrol, just wait. In a few years, it will seem like a bargain.

Of course, while the energy squeeze will certainly lead to economic hardship and lower profits for most corporations, it is also creating some peculiar investment opportunities. As energy becomes more expensive, companies in the energy industry will see their profits expand exponentially. I would not be surprised to see some energy stocks double and triple in coming months. You must have this industry in your stocks portfolio.

As oil prices rise, they add to the cost of everything, from getting to work each day to transporting food to your table, to manufacturing virtually every product you buy. In other words, the rising price is, of course, inflation and the same inflation is the second challenge that will attack your savings over the next few years.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHIMTINA**

If you are old enough to remember the 1970s, then you will know skyrocketing of oil prices can drive inflation into double-digit figures. During 1970, as OPEC embargos forced the oil price from US\$5 to US\$40 a barrel, inflation soared the world over. This time, however, oil supplies are not tightened for political, but for geological reasons, which means a solution will be much more difficult to find.

Every investor needs to pay attention to inflation, because rising inflation can cripple returns from nearly all investments, even a house, even those traditionally considered safe. It increases expenses, reduces corporate profitability and the share price again. It eats away at the returns from bonds and cash. For instance, if you keep your savings in bonds that pay annual interest of 6%, but the inflation rate climbs to 13%, then you will lose 7% of the purchasing power of the savings each year. That is what happened in the 1970's and is likely to happen again. Already inflation in South Africa, our neighbour, is at its highest level in four years as measured by the Consumer Price Index and 8.4% according to the Retail Price Indexes.

As energy and commodity prices continue to rise over the next decade, we expect to see inflation return to double figures once more and when it does, the last place you want your money is to collect safe investments such as bonds. They will not be safe anymore. Of course, while rising inflation dips the returns, for most investment it creates new opportunities in areas most investors will miss.

Let me give you an example of inflation already becoming a problem in the food industry. Food prices are increasing, it currently stands at 14,1%, the highest in several years. Several factors are causing food prices to climb globally, including rising wealth in Asia and climate change. However, what may surprise you is that the oil squeeze is also a major factor. You will see that as the developed nations become more concerned about future oil supplies, they are prompting the use of new fuel made from agriculture products. Europe wants bio-fuels to meet 10% of energy demand by 2020. By 2012 half the cars made in the US will be designed to run 85% ethanol, a bio-fuel made from corn.

One consequence of producing more bio-fuel is that food becomes more expensive. For instance, the US internal policy also caused corn prices to reach a ten-year high in the spring of 2007. That is in spite of that fact, the

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: QUESTIONS
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

2006 saw the further largest crop on record. Protests took place in Mexico because the prices of tortillas rose by 60% to 70%.

As the US increase ethanol production, corn prices will continue rising and as they do, so will demand for other grains as people substitute wheat or rice for corn. The meat price will also climb since most corn had traditionally been used to feed livestock. Higher meat prices will in turn raise the demand for fish. As the small land becomes devoted to growing corn and other bio-fuel crops, such as grape seeds and tropical oil, less will be available for food production, adding to the supply-demand pressure on food price and inflation.

While rising food prices are making life more expensive for everyone, they are also creating new opportunities for smart investors to profit. Taking advantage of this opportunity is an excellent way to preserve and grow wealth as inflation rises. For example, we expect investments in food commodities. This is a major important issue we have to look at it as Namibia, and Agriculture will make excellent returns as the push towards bio-fuel continues.

With this information, I believe you will be able to cope with the difficult situation ahead. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask the Honourable Minister two short questions? Honourable Minister, during the Budget Debate you raised our spirits by expressing the possibility of oil being discovered in Namibia, yet today the Honourable Minister is saying that in our lifetime we will not have new fuel deposits. Can the Minister just clarify that?

Secondly, the cost of living, especially with regard to basic foodstuffs, is not going to rise, it has already risen. Is the Government doing anything to try and alleviate the burden of the poorest of the poor? Because the increase of 14% the Honourable Minister is talking about has already been swallowed by the

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: QUESTIONS
HON NUJOMA**

cost of living – if you only think of the old-age pensions. Is there anything being done to prepare for what may come? I thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I thank you for the opportunity, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I want to ask the Honourable Minister a tiny question.

I listened carefully and it appears that the developing countries, the emerging markets of China and India, seem to be blamed that they have become the biggest consumers. You hear that the Chinese have been eating 1 kg and now they eat a whole cow, you hear that their fuel consumption was half a barrel per person and now it is 10 barrels and all these things. Can the Honourable Minister tell us why, before the invasion of Iraq, the oil price was 18 to 20 Dollars? That is the truth in this matter, you came with a big well-researched paper, but I do not buy that. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, in answer to Honourable Schimming-Chase: The oil exploration in Namibia is continuing, it is more than three kilometres deep now. I am however not talking about Namibia specifically, I am talking about the whole world because the prices are not only for Namibia, and it is high all over the world. It was however only to sensitise you of the difficulties which are coming. Although we are better off, the problem is still coming. If we find oil, it might change the situation a bit. If it is only different in Namibia, what about other countries, because oil is a commodity which is required by everybody?

The Government already has a programme to look at what it can do about the food prices and I cannot divulge this one.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON ULENGA**

Honourable Nujoma, you may not buy what I am saying but I am telling the truth. It is going to happen, no matter what. The issue of Iraq is another issue, but what is more important is only that China and India are developing very rapidly and the demand for commodities, including oil, is very high and the supply is less than that. This is the reality of the situation.

Iraq is another issue but the development of the Asian countries is the major problem. Let us also work hard so that we can compete with them. Let us work very hard. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me go back to the Notice of Motions to allow Honourable Ulenga to introduce his Motion.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thank you very much for allowing me, despite the fact that I did not have the Motion at the time when you called for them. I would like to give Notice that on Thursday, the 12th of June 2008, I shall move –

That this Assembly –

Cognisant of the functions and powers invested in it under Article 63(1) and (2) from (a) through to (j) of the Namibian Constitution, and in the light of recent announcements through the media pertaining to the predicted scaling down of mining activities and the pending retrenchments expected especially with regard to the country's largest and oldest diamond mine at Oranjemund;

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MOTION ON SECURITY OF COUNTRY

Further, in the light of the fact that multi-national mining corporations have historically exploited the mineral resources of this country, often to the detriment of the Namibian Nation

Cognisant of our duty to protect the interests of the Namibian Nation;

That this Assembly, therefore, debates the situation in the mining industry and the activities and practices of mining houses in this country, with the emphasis on diamond mining and NAMDEB specifically, and finally refer the Motion to the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration for relevant recommendations and actions. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Motion, Honourable Member. The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

MOTION ON ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the allocation of funds to strengthen the security of the country and to provide shades and ablution facilities at roadblocks.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 6th of March 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Moongo. The Right Honourable Prime Minister adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

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MOTION ON SECURITY OF COUNTRY
RT HON ANGULA

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I adjourned this Motion pending the Debate on the Budget and I am happy to inform Honourable Moongo that the Budget has sufficiently taken care of his concerns about the security of the country. That is why the Vote of the Police was N\$1,3 billion to fight crime and the Police can only fight crime if you also support them.

With regard to shades and ablution facilities at roadblocks, this is normally provided at permanent roadblocks, but I do agree with you that even temporary shades and ablution facilities should be made available at roadblocks to make sure that the officers operating these roadblocks are comfortable enough. As I however said, the Budget of the Police is N\$1,3 billion and I hope that the Minister of Safety and Security will definitely pay attention to your recommendation and even if it is not attended to in his Budget, it will be attended to in the next Budget. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, are you aware of the fact that the Honourable Member who moved this Motion has been vehemently opposed to the increase of the Budget of the Ministry of Defence, which is the prime defender of this country, and the organ which may bring security to this country and said that we are wasting money on irrelevant things. Are you aware of that?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, Honourable Chief of the Veterans, I am very aware of that. When we were at school, I was a couple of years ahead of him and he was a new one, he was opposed to everything and he continues to be opposed to everything. (Intervention)

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MOTION ON SECURITY OF COUNTRY
RT HON ANGULA

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Prime Minister, I believe that we should be serious when we make statements in this House. There is no need for me to defend Honourable Moongo, but I would like to remind the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs that the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security travelled throughout the country and Honourable Moongo was part of the delegation. On our return, we reported to the Head of State and an increase was made at that point in time, not even waiting on the Budget. I do not think it is fair to make such assumptions.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I was saying that I had known the Honourable Moongo since the late fifties. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. It is unfortunate that Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase has to come to the defence of the Honourable Member. I am not hallucinating, the Member said these things. If we want, we can go and read the HANSARD. He has been opposed to the increase of the Budget of the Defence Ministry and he is on record.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, as I have said I had known him to be opposed to many things. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not think it is allowed for a Minister to come up with falsehoods in the House. What the Minister of Veterans Affairs is talking about is untrue, unless he can refer us to the HANSARD that he is quoting. As far as I remember, Honourable Moongo specifically, has never stood up, attacking the Budget of

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MOTION ON SECURITY OF COUNTRY
RT HON ANGULA

the Ministry of Defence. In the whole issue we are not talking about Defence, we are talking about security and security does not only involve Defence. Therefore, the Minister should withdraw or refer us to the HANSARD. It is disgraceful for the Minister to stand up and say that.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, history will judge us on whatever we are saying. (Interjections)

HON ULENGA: No, judge him now!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Honourable Members! Whatever we say in this House is recorded in HANSARD. The green books are there and our future generations will judge us. Proceed.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, I am saying that the Budget of Safety and Security is N\$1,3 billion strong. The Budget of Defence is N\$2,4 billion strong, so you are well defended. Feel secure and sleep in peace all the time, you are well defended. Therefore, this Motion is unnecessary for now until further notice. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion? Does Honourable Moongo wish to respond?

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**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON DIENDA**

HON MOONGO: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion stands over until tomorrow.
The Secretary will read the second Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON ADJUSTMENT OF SALARIES OF
TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND STAFF MEMBERS**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the adjustment of salaries of
Traditional Leaders and of staff members.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on
Tuesday, 11 March 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by
Honourable Moongo. Honourable Ms Dienda adjourned the Debate and she
now has the Floor.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable
Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, we are dealing with a very sensitive
issue once we talk about traditional matters – matters which deal with the
entire traditional leadership in our country.

The former President of the Republic of Namibia, now our Founding Father of
the Nation, said in his statement when he officially opened the First Regular
Meeting of the Council of Traditional Leaders on the 7th of December 1998 in
Windhoek: *“Traditional leaders all over the world are the pillars of any
Nation and they exercise jurisdiction over the people under them. Their main
duties*

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MOTION ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON DIENDA

and responsibilities are to protect, to defend and to ensure that traditional norms and values, peace and stability are maintained in the land.”

I am of the opinion that no one in this august House would argue with this fact. The Father of the Nation, Dr Sam Nujoma, further said: “*In Namibia Government is wholly committed to the institutions of traditional leadership and the roles they play in the national fabric of the country. As such, the Republic of Namibia ensured that this commitment was reflected...*” (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Dienda, I am very sorry, what you are saying is very true, but I just want to ask you a tiny question. Who is your traditional leader?

HON DIENDA: Thank you for that question. I did not hear that SWAPO has announced who is their Chief Whip, but if they do announce, I would like to appeal to them to please organise a capacity-building workshop to train the Right Honourable Prime Minister on the issue of national leaders and their responsibilities. I am here as a national leader, I am not here to represent any chief or king.

“As such the Republic of Namibia ensured that this commitment was reflected in the Supreme Law of the Land.” (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I really did not want to say anything on the first day, but Honourable Dienda’s comment and response to the Right Honourable Prime Minister is not parliamentary. No matter how democratic we are, that is insulting and she must withdraw that the intelligence of the Right Honourable Prime Minister is zero and he needs to be educated. I ask that that statement be withdrawn, it cannot be reflected on our records without being challenged. I ask that the statement be withdrawn.

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**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON DIENDA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, you always put the Chair in a difficult situation. I understand how you took the response by Honourable Dienda, but I think Honourable Dienda and the Prime Minister are friends and it did not offend the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Honourable Dienda, proceed.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, to please you, I do not know what I have done wrong...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Is Chief Kamuzu Banda your Chief?

HON DIENDA: That is why I was saying I am a national leader. I do not represent any chiefs here. If the Honourable Member does not understand the words 'national leaders', that is not my concern.

"This provision was made to ensure that traditional matters are adequately dealt with in the traditional domain."

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the same sentiment of the Founding Father of the Nation was shared by our President Hifikepunye Pohamba when he presided on the occasion of the opening of the Eighth Annual Conference of the Council of Traditional Leaders on the 21st of November 2005 in Windhoek.

His Excellency said:

"I believe that as an African country, Namibia's culture, practices and traditional values must be enhanced to continue to shape our way of life and guide our decisions in the promotion of good governance and socio-economic development. They must serve as the pillars and strong

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**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON DIENDA**

foundation upon which we can build and promote participatory democracy, development and national reconciliation, so that all Namibians can enjoy the fruits of our Independence.”

The respective Ministers who serve in the Line Ministry under which the traditional leaders resort can agree with me, like Honourable Dr Libertine Amathila, Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo, Honourable Joel Kaapanda and currently, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, that the traditional leaders are underpaid and consideration of their allowances and possible benefits are long overdue. It is now for years that they are on the mercy of our Government to make ends meet.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, traditional leaders were liberation fighters, they were the roots and they were the torchbearers, they were the defenders and maintainers of this country. They were also the politicians.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let us be very serious and think progressively and positively about the fate of our leaders. A reasonable increment for the kings, the queens, the chiefs and their senior councillors will never harm the progress of our beloved country. Traditional leaders, kings, queens, chiefs, etcetera, have to travel long distances to serve the members and the community. They have to solve problems in their community and look at other issues. Transport goes along with money and resources, which they do not have. No transport allowances or vehicles are available to them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities.

Orphans and vulnerable children are increasing in our country with nobody to take care of them. If our traditional leaders and kings, queens, chiefs, etcetera, should have the resources, they could have been in a position to take care of these children. Namibia is a small country, if more responsibility towards OVC's can be given to the traditional leaders with the support of the Government, a lot of our problems can be solved.

However, if our traditional leaders cannot even look after themselves, how will they be able to look after others? (Intervention)

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**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON DIENDA**

HON DR ANKAMA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Dienda, before you proceed any further, perhaps it would help us if you could give account of where the traditional leaders have historically drawn their resources from, so that we can sketch a way forward.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think it would depend from community to community.

Drought relief food distribution is also an area of concern and I think we have to involve our traditional leaders when it comes to the distribution of food in the areas. They are the ones who know everything that is happening in their areas.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let us therefore give more credit and responsibilities to our traditional leaders. Are we trusting them enough to give them responsibilities or not?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not think that the Honourable Member wants to score political points, but rather a way of changing the minds of our Cabinet to think locally and to act globally. Never deprive someone of hope. It might be all they have. Our traditional leaders are still hoping that their Government will change its attitude towards them.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the home of a traditional leader is everybody's home. With these few words I support the Motion and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussion? Honourable Kazenambo.

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**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL LEADERS
HON KAZENAMBO**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much. I know very well that 2009 is around the corner, the year of general elections and Parties with a declining and sliding political base will desperately try to take any issue and unfortunately, even if matters are presented here on the Budget, because the focus is on the year 2009, some of the Parties in this august House will not listen. This is the drama, which we are seeing unfolding in this august House on the issue of traditional leaders, the propaganda by those Parties, whose support base has been waning.

The issue of traditional matters is a very sensitive one, I do agree with those who are saying that and as we are talking here, the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, through the Traditional Council, is busy reviewing all matters that concern the traditional leaders in this country. Therefore, this process is underway and those who are launching their campaign from this august House will not change it. The fact on the ground remains as such. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: May I ask the Deputy Minister a question, please? Is the review that the Honourable Deputy Minister talking about still in the light of the same issue of 2009 that the Ministry is reviewing this or is it something different?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: In answer to Honourable Ulenka, the review that Government is busy with is not in line with the statement by one Member of the faction of CoD. It is however in line and consistent with Government policy from day one, as the Honourable Member of the CoD has quoted the former President of the Republic of Namibia to the current President on the welfare and understanding of the plight of traditional leaders. Therefore, it is consistent with the Government policy on addressing the plight of our traditional leaders.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I move that the House adjourns until, tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:43 UNTIL 2008.06.04 AT 14:30.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
04 JUNE 2008
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we proceed with the business, I would like to recognise the presence of the El Dorado Secondary School from Khomasdal. Welcome, future leaders.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the following:

- The Village Council of Kalkrand for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2006;
- Minerals Development Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2006;
- Municipality of Otjiwarongo for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2007;
- Town Council of Ondangwa for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2006;

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- Municipality of Otjiwarongo for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2006;
- Municipality of Karibib for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2005 and 2006;
- Namibia Central Intelligence Service for the year ended 31 March 2006;
- New Era Publications Corporation for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2006 and 2007;
- Municipality of Windhoek for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2006.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. Notice of Questions?

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 56:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 12 June 2008, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister:

Is the Honourable House aware that there is always tension or war after national elections in SADC, whereby national and international observers are prohibited to monitor the elections and confirm whether the elections are free and fair? Is it not the right time to propose that Namibian national elections in 2009 be run by the UN in order to avoid court cases and confusion during elections and to be recognised?

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**MOTION ON SECURITY OF COUNTRY
HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please table the Question. Further Notice of Questions. Notice of Motions. Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO
STRENGTHEN SECURITY**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the allocation of funds to strengthen the security of the country and to provide shades and ablution facilities at roadblocks.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, the 3rd of June 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo. The Honourable Member adjourned the Debate for his reply and he now has the Floor.

HON MOONGO: I request the Honourable Minister to say a few words before I conclude.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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HON ULENGA: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to plead with you and the whole House to ensure that we find and get rid of this electronic device that is causing the noise that is going on. I am sure that it is Members whose cell phones are on or something is not right because it also happened yesterday and it is very irritating in my ears. Could you please switch the phones off completely?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, please continue.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I will make a short intervention on Honourable Moongo's Motion.

I want to confirm what the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said yesterday, that the security of the country is maintained. There is no problem.

However, I also take note of what Honourable Moongo has said that there is a need that more funds be made available to strengthen the security of the country and we can look at that at an appropriate time.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister also mentioned that the Budget of the Police is N\$1,3 billion and that is correct, but I must indicate that more than N\$900 million of the Police Budget goes to operations, salaries and other incidentals. Only N\$69 million go to the Police Capital Budget. I mention that to demonstrate that what Honourable Moongo mentioned yesterday about the need to have shades and other facilities at the police roadblocks is a fact, that need exists. In fact, we do not have shades at our control points, even those permanent ones. For example, the one at Brakwater, the one to the South, the one on the road to the airport hardly have ablution facilities.

The question is, if there is a long queue of cars and nature calls, particularly should there be people who have to be asked many questions, one wonders where will these people go. There is, therefore, a need for such facilities at these places, but the fact that they do not exist is not neglect, it is just because there are many competing needs for the funds we pass in this House.

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As the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said yesterday, if they are not attended to this Financial Year, hopefully in the next Financial Year they could be attended to. I am saying that just to demonstrate the fact that there are indeed various facilities and various social needs that need to be erected at those roadblocks. If a big truck is to be searched while it is raining, you do not even know what to do, because there is no cover.

During the course of this month, I will introduce a Motion in Parliament so that the Honourable Members will have ample time and opportunity to debate the Police issues and problems, so that all these problems be addressed systematically by all of us.

I would, therefore, plead with the Honourable Moongo that when he replies, not to ask this House to adopt this Motion now, but maybe to refer his Motion to a Parliamentary Committee. When I move my Motion, Parliament should see fit to refer it to the same Committee and the appropriate Committee could then consider the two Motions, so that we inform ourselves and in the next Budget, we are going to be well placed to say what we can do with this particular Motion. That is what I wanted to say, Honourable Members. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I revert the Floor to Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much. I appreciate the proposal by the Minister which is very constructive and a step forward, unlike other Colleagues who never consider issues in the same spirit. I really salute the Honourable Minister.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, welcome back from the recess. I hereby salute the Police from the top to the lower ranks because they control crime and round up the perpetrators in Namibia, although they are doing it without proper facilities and decent benefits and salaries.

Honourable Members, the Motion is non-political and it is aimed at promoting and strengthening national security and to promote the standards and working conditions of the Police, who stand in the cold winds the whole night.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, SWAPO will ignore everything as long as it does not affect ... (Interjections).

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. He used an unparliamentary word. I want him to withdraw that word.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: What does it mean?

HON MOONGO: It means those who never consider anything good Moved by the Opposition, who are opposed to it whether it is good or not.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, it seems like you are dodging the point. Can you translate that word?

HON MOONGO: I withdraw the word. Provide shade, toilets and other facilities at roadblocks.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the point was made by the Prime Minister that there is enough money to cater for it, but it is a fact that sometimes that if the priorities are not right, it will be prolonged. I, therefore, ask the Honourable Minister to reconsider and I am happy with what he has said now. The Police at the borders need facilities to work under better conditions as Namibians. The Namibian Government built accommodation in different Regions, which are used while they are there, while the Police have to operate under inhumane conditions. Let us get our priorities in order.

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I salute Honourable Dienda who supported the Motion. Let the House allow this Motion to be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security for further scrutiny and report back to this House.

With this, I Move the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Motion. The Motion is referred to the Committee on Defence and Security for further scrutiny. The Secretary will read the second Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON ADJUSTMENT OF SALARIES OF
TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND STAFF**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the adjustment of salaries of Traditional Leaders and staff members.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, the 3rd of June 2008, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development had the Floor.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**
Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was saying that the welfare of traditional

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leaders needs to be treated on non-partisan grounds. The welfare of traditional leaders is very important to all of us, because traditional leaders are doing a great job. They are leading communities, especially in the rural areas, communities with vast needs, communities that were subjected to underdevelopment and, therefore, for one to trivialise this very sensitive and important issue to try to score political points on the eve of the 2009 elections is indeed a desperate move by those who are doing that.

Honourable Dienda has quoted the Founding President and the current President on their commitment and pronouncement on the importance of traditional leaders in Namibia and that is the consistent policy of this Government. The SWAPO Government is committed to the well being of the traditional leaders and their conditions of service are being reviewed now, spearheaded by the Council of Traditional Leaders.

For the information of this House and the public out there, Namibia is in the top league amongst SADC countries and, for that matter, amongst all African nations. Namibia is amongst the top four countries where traditional leaders are treated well and the plight of traditional leaders is given the highest recognition by the Government of the day. This came out of a SADC Meeting of Traditional Leaders, which took place in Swaziland recently. I can see Honourable Dienda is trying to intimidate me, but she was there and she can testify that Namibia is one of the few African countries where traditional leaders are treated with much respect, resources are allocated to them, although I know very well the resource may not be enough to cater for the needs of traditional leaders. Our Government is doing its best to try and address the unlimited needs of our traditional authorities.

Both Honourable Moongo and Honourable Dienda in their contributions made some pronouncements that are really of a policy nature and these pronouncements are not only confined to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, especially the pronouncement on the issue of orphans and vulnerable children. (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: On a Point of Order. It seems to me that the Honourable Deputy Minister did not read my contribution. I was talking about the orphans

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and vulnerable children and I said that it would help if we give our traditional leaders more responsibilities, while the orphans and vulnerable children are increasing in this country. I can give you a copy of my speech.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: There is a saying that when the tide is sweeping you, you will try to support yourself in the tide. That is exactly what I am saying, the responsibilities to be given to traditional leaders. Maybe the suggestion made by Honourable Dienda is a type of political exaggeration on the eve of the crucial elections, because it does not mean anything in reality.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? It seems that every time the Honourable Member is up to speak, he talks about elections. Does he really believe that anybody believes that when he talks that way he is not campaigning? The more nervous he becomes about the election, the louder he shouts in the House.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I am definitely not campaigning. Unfortunately, when you are dealing with the mindset of those who have started campaigning, then it will appear as if you are campaigning. I am however not campaigning.

I am giving facts about matters surrounding the welfare of the traditional leaders and the facts are that the responsibility for orphans and vulnerable children has already been given to traditional leaders. That is why I am saying that under these circumstances it seems that some Members on the other side of the Isle do not consider facts on the ground before they make statements here. The traditional leaders, through the decentralisation programme of the

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Government, are involved in matters of governance at the regional and local level. They are participating in activities such as REMU – and Councillor Mbai is here, he knows that there is no way that traditional leaders are left out of matters at the regional level. There is none, be it on land allocation, be it on orphans and vulnerable children and even on other developmental matters. The traditional leaders are involved, they are a component ... (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I would like to know whether the Deputy Minister is aware that of all the people serving the public, some are paid and some have done so voluntarily for ten to twenty years.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On the matter of participation, there are procedures on how the traditional leaders are involved at both levels. The existence of the Council of Traditional Leaders in Namibia is testimony that the Government of the Republic of Namibia is engaging, recognising and highly values the input of traditional leaders.

On the issue of allowances and remuneration, I have mentioned earlier that this is a very critical subject. Government is reviewing this matter to see how it can be addressed. I will not stand here and say that the remuneration of our revered leaders ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kazenambo, knowing that Honourable Moongo is one of the traditional leaders and he is being paid as a Member of the National Assembly, is it really fair for him to come here and cry to be paid for the work that he is doing as a traditional leader in his village?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: That one sounds like a conflict of interest and greed at its best. Nevertheless, I was saying that the issue of payment of the traditional leaders is a very serious one and the Ministry and the Government are involved... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask a question? Comrade Kazenambo, are you aware that whenever the Government sets up a programme and the Opposition hears about that programme, they always come with a Motion so that they can pretend they are the ones who initiated that programme.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: We are aware of that and we are used to that and it is unethical. It is called, stick to the board policy in order to steal and then accredit that to yourself. Unfortunately, we are subjected to that. (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kazenambo, if it is true what Honourable Ilonga has just said, do you not think it is taking a long period for your programmes to be implemented? The Member next to me has been talking about this problem now for five years. If we stole it five years ago, it is taking more than five years to implement a Government programme. I do not believe that is the truth.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable De Waal, in life there is a concept of interference and interference

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on its own has nothing to do with rationality, it has nothing to do with reality. You can repeat what has been addressed, it is immaterial and I am not saying the Honourable Member is making a noise, but the only objective is to interfere, interrupting. Interference is when the wind is blowing while you are on your cell phone and you cannot hear and you are a teacher, Honourable Kaura, and you always interfere and that is what I mean. (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: On a Point of Information. The role of Members of Parliament, especially of the Opposition, is to oversee what you are doing. We are here to keep you on your toes and if you plan to fail or fail to plan, it is not our problem. We are controlling you. We want to ensure you are doing your job.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I will agree a little bit with what Honourable Dienda is saying, but I have expected more than that, because I thought the role of the Opposition is not to put their minds on what is being done and control, I thought they are an alternative Government. Apparently you are confessing that you are not an alternative Government, you have nothing to offer and it is a serious confession!

HON DIENDA: Honourable Kazenambo, the Opposition wants to be an alternative Government and we will be, but every time we table a Motion in this Parliament you reject it and you will bring the same Motion back in another form. You are using our Motions!

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: For the sake of progress, I will just make a quick remark and then go to the remuneration.

When the Opposition are not doing what they have been doing this afternoon to the Namibian public and come up with new ideas on governance, then your Motions will be supported. However, if you copy what has been introduced, then it is definitely outdated and people want to move on and you definitely have to move on.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are getting Out of Order. What I want to listen to is the remuneration of the traditional leaders.

HON DE WAAL: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kazenambo, the problem with this argument that we are having now is exactly what Honourable Iyambo did. The Colleague next to me proposed something from the Opposition that we will do when we become the Government and all of a sudden we have stolen a programme. You see, you do not want to admit that we came with something new. It is just like when the Honourable Kaura came with a Motion on pensions, that eventually this year we got a small increase, which is anyhow behind times because of the petrol price. That is the problem, you cannot admit to anything that comes from the Opposition.

However my question, Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a more serious note: I spoke to one headman the other day and I will not mention his name because maybe he will be punished, but you just said earlier this afternoon that you are looking after the headmen and their advice is very valuable to you, that they are taken into consideration.

Let me tell you, Honourable Kazenambo and I think you know this, the headmen in this country are very, very unhappy about the resettlement scheme and they complain about it, but your Government is not listening. I am saying

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to you today, it might be true and I believe what you are saying that you are looking after the headmen.

It might be right, but let me tell you, the headmen in this country are very unhappy because they are overruled when it comes to people being resettled on farms, they are not looked after when it comes to remuneration and there is a problem with the recognition of certain headmen. Unless you solve those problems, you cannot say that you are looking after the headmen and chiefs of this country.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I listened and I will not ignore what Honourable De Waal has said, I will address it, but I was on salaries.

Yes, all of us are concerned about the salaries of traditional leaders. I said, with the limited financial resources that we have ...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Clarification. Are we talking about salaries or allowances? Traditional leaders do not get salaries.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion mentions salaries.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Yes, Traditional Leaders are getting allowances from Government, but there has been a proposal from certain quarters that Traditional Leaders should be paid salaries and there are those who are advocating that. We say that yes, but

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according to the interpretation of 'salary', a salary is paid to a person who is employed by that specific structure. Government does not employ traditional leaders. They are not Government employees, they are Leaders of Traditional Communities, appointed or elected by their traditional communities based on their traditional customs. As I have said, Namibia is one of those countries in the Region, which is taking care of the needs of the traditional leaders and is giving them allowances.

There is a need to review these allowances, whether they are really in line with inflation and other economic considerations and we are doing that.

Again, on the issue of voluntarism, which Honourable Moongo has mentioned, it is true that some of our traditional leaders are in various capacities, like junior councillors or headmen who are not receiving allowances. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, Chapter 12 of the Namibian Constitution, Structures of Regional and Local Government under Sub-article (2) and when we go to Sub-article (5) it states the following: "*There shall be a Council of Traditional Leaders to be established in terms of an Act of Parliament in order to advise the President on the control and utilisation of communal land and on all such other matters as may be referred to it by the President for advice.*"

Now Regional Councils are established in terms of an Act of Parliament, but you pay a salary to regional councillors, but at the same time, under the same Act you say what you are giving to traditional leaders is an allowance, not a salary. How do you justify that within the same Act some people are paid a salary and others an allowance? Is that not discrimination against our traditional leaders?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Honourable Kaura, President of the DTA, let us not interpret constitutional

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provisions and clauses selectively to suit our partisan agenda. Honourable Kaura, regional councillors are elected political leaders who work on a daily basis and I am really puzzled by what Honourable Kaura was saying here, trying to compare the activities of the traditional leaders with those of regional councillors. To whom are they accountable? Where is the accountability here under the same constitutional provision? No wonder that DTA regional councillors have failed miserably, because there are no clear guidelines whom they have to account to. They have become traditional leaders on their own and therefore, that mess.

Traditional leaders are accountable to their communities – and I was moving to that point – under the same constitutional provision, which you have so selectively quoted. In their Act of Parliament it says that some of them will receive allowances or remuneration from Government and the bulk of them...(Interjection)

HON MEMBER: It is discrimination!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Not discrimination. Can I qualify it? (Interjections). Can we have decorum in this august House? (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I only want to advise the Honourable Deputy Minister. The same Constitution says the Government must pay adequate salaries and not a meagre allowance. That means it should be enough for their day-to-day needs.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL
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Honourable Moongo knows that there is a trust fund for the traditional communities, which is supposed to augment their allowances. The communities themselves must establish trust funds and when these are up and running, we can talk. That is part of the review.

Why is the Government being condemned left, right and centre before the outcome of the review? I know there is pressure from somewhere and unfortunately, we cannot address political pressure here. Their fate will only be decided by the voters. That is the situation and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. It was very interesting to listen to the Debate going up and down. The issue of adjustment of salaries – whether you call it salaries or allowances – I do not think we need to look at it from the salary point of view or allowance point of view. What we need to look at is that we are talking about a constitutional structure that has to perform certain duties. In order for that structure to be able to do their job, they need to be put in a position that would enable them to do their job effectively.

Now, when you are talking about traditional leaders who are supposed to be giving ...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Does the Queen of England receive a salary or an allowance?

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HON TJIHUIKO: The United Kingdom is a kingdom, the Republic of Namibia is a republic, and so I cannot compare pears to apples.

When we are talking about traditional leaders, we are talking about empowering the traditional leaders in order for them to be able to deliver. That is the point.

When we are saying salaries, wages or whatever, let us look at the broader picture of traditional leaders. If you want traditional leaders to carry out legal work, they have to have courts and staff. They have to travel through the country to be able to talk to their subjects. How do you expect them to perform that job? Are we serious about the role of traditional leaders? If we are serious about that, let us not think that Honourable Moongo is trying to score political points.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:16 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was saying that we should not only look at the salaries of traditional leaders in isolation, we should look at it in a broader perspective. We should try to strengthen the traditional leaders for them to be able to contribute meaningfully to the role of Government.

The traditional leaders have a big role to play in the areas where they are, to control crime, etcetera. If they are not properly empowered, then we have a vacuum in our legal system, for instance. We have a vacuum in our development programmes, because the moment we are saying that we are not going to look at traditional leaders, they have already been empowered, they are getting allowances, that is not the issue. The issue is that we have to see to it that the legal system of our country is unified at all levels, that the developmental programmes of our country are unified in all the ministries and other agencies that also play a role in that process.

I would therefore like to advise the Honourable Moongo that maybe, instead of looking at the salaries of traditional leaders in isolation, let us look at the possibility of either amending the Motion in such a way that we look at the

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broader role of traditional leaders, including the empowerment of traditional leaders in all respects.

With those few comments, I support the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Kawana

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I move that the Debate be adjourned until next Wednesday.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion stands adjourned until next Wednesday. The first Notice of Motion is the one by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs. Since the Minister is absent, the Motion will stand over. The second Notice of Motion is by Honourable Schimming-Chase. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I beg your indulgence to do the motivation next week, Tuesday.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motivation will stand over until Tuesday, next week. The third Notice of Motion is the one by the Honourable Minister of Works, Transport and Communication. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion? The Motion stands over. The fourth Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

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MOTION ON FLOODS IN NORTHERN AREAS
HON VILJOEN

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I move that the Motion stands over until tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion stands over until tomorrow. The fifth Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Viljoen.

Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

HON VILJOEN: I move the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Proceed.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think many people may ask why it is necessary to discuss this Motion in Parliament and why does Viljoen or MAG introduce it and not the Honourable Members who are living in the northern parts of the country? I think the reasons are mainly the following:

This is not a Party political issue and what happened in the northern part of our country made a very important contribution towards unity amongst Namibians of all colours and cultures and touched the hearts and minds of people from abroad.

Secondly, the vast majority of the Namibian population lives in the area affected by the recent flood and has in the first place the inconvenience and danger of this disaster in terms of the flood itself and the health risk due to certain diseases.

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In 2008, the mentioned area was declared a flood-stricken area and apart from contributions made from all over the world, it also placed a financial burden on the Namibian economy. I think we must discuss it to prepare ourselves for similar disasters which could happen more frequently in future due to climate change, as I am convinced that it will happen more than in the past.

There were many speculations about the reasons and the origin of the flood and I think we must evaluate it from a historical perspective.

The Etosha Pan, as known to us, is situated in the southern part of the Owambo Basin. The basin consists of material, which was laid down by water over a period of million years. The pan covers an area of 4,760 square kilometres or 80 by 120 kilometres. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON VILJOEN: This area has almost no hills and the altitude varies between 1,077 and 1,085. The area is very flat and I think this is the reason why many of the schools and hostels had a problem with their sewerage systems.

The Andoni formation forms the upper crust of the Pan floor. It consists of sand and salt and some parts, limestone. The geological history of Etosha Pan is a very interesting one. A prehistoric lake was formed by a drainage system including the upper Kunene and Kavango some five to seven million years ago.

Should it have existed today, it would have been the third-largest lake in the world. Then a west-flowing river, the Kunene, eroded its way inward and captured the water or the large lake. The Kunene River took the water away from the pan instead of bringing it down to the Etosha Pans. The size of the lake became smaller through evaporation and the Cuvelai system, with small

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seasonable rivers, better known as oshanas, took over the function of the Kunene River.

Once the lake vanished due to drought conditions and the role played by the Kunene River, a pan developed which is only supplied with water during years of good rain and flood events, called *efundjas*. Due to severe drought conditions and wind erosion, the floor of the Etosha Pan changed over time. At some places, rocks are visible and springs were exposed in the southern parts of the pans. This is the source of water for the animals.

Namibia is blessed with an abundant supply of underground water in some areas. The dolomite rocks of the Tsumeb-Otavi-Kombat-Grootfontein area provide inexhaustible sources of underground water. The water presently pumped into the Eastern Water Carrier from Berg Aukas and Kombat is only a fraction of the real capacity. The water is being pumped into the Omatako Dam and from there to the Von Bach Dam.

If we should build a pipeline from Von Bach Dam to the Swakoppoort Dam, we can provide water to all the mines in the Erongo Region. The proposed plant at Wlotskabaken to desalinate seawater will eventually become a white elephant roaming the vastness of the Namib Desert due to unaffordable charcoal.

Back to the floods in the North. During the rainy season of 1908-909, a hundred years ago – I do not think some of the Honourable Members will remember it – the area from Tsumeb to the southern parts of Angola received 2,000 millimetres of rain. The Kavango River could not accommodate all the water from the north and the overflow of the Kavango River changed the flow of the Omuramba-Omatako to flow from north to south. I think the Members know that the Omuramba-Omatako normally flows from south to north, but the overflow of the Kavango River changed the flow of the water into the wrong direction. The Omuramba-Omatako could also not accommodate the water and spilled water into the Omuramba-Tsinsabis. It was called Omuramba Owambo.

Then the Omuramba Tsinsabis flowed for one year into the Etosha Pans and brought along crocodiles and hippopotami into that area. There was nothing in Etosha for the game to eat because the whole area was covered with water.

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Consequently all the wild animals immigrated to better grazing areas. According to information in the Tsumeb archives, lions preyed mainly on the cattle of the farmers because there was no game to feast on. In 1934 a similar but smaller flood was experienced in the North of the country.

The whole world is concerned about global warming. There are different views and it was said that Namibia would become drier. However, it seems as if the opposite is true. Global warming may warm up the cold Benguela stream along our coast. If it happens, we will get more rain. Although it is speculation, we must be prepared. More rain will cause more floods and it may happen that the northern parts of our country will be flooded more frequently. If this should happen we have serious problems. It is not only very inconvenient for the people living in the mentioned areas, but it is a threat to their whole existence because the water destroys crops and large parts of grazing areas. It disrupts schools and other community activities. On the other hand, it brings life to the northern area in the form of fish and other creatures. It also leaves a fertile deposit for the crops of next year.

In 2007 some of us attended the CPA Conference in India and we became aware of the fear of smaller islands being covered by water in a few decades. A delegate from the Cook Islands said that in less than twenty years they will lose their entire country to the sea. I do not think that anybody has a solution for what happened this year in northern Namibia. However there are countries where the ways of nature were challenged and changed by embarking on very clever and well-planned projects, like Holland where the people pushed the sea back and created new living areas. I think these people succeeded in doing the impossible.

We can make a study of the situation and make use of experts to come up with the best solution. I am convinced that we may find a solution to minimise the problem. The solution may be in organising the people in such a way that future floods will have the smallest influence on the living places, public and Government institutions. We can work out an emergency plan and an early warning system to reduce the risk of people being caught unexpectedly.

We should take the possibility of such disasters into account when we do planning for the erection of future buildings and projects.

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We can establish a fund especially for such circumstances or we can ignore the natural disaster of 2008 and hope that we have another fifty years to live in comfort and prosperity. We cannot deny the fact that there is a change in the weather patterns worldwide and that we must prepare ourselves for more floods in future. We cannot prevent natural disasters but we can make provision to face the consequences. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further discussions. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Motion as eloquently motivated by the Honourable Chief Inspector and teacher on the flood situation in our country, especially in the northern Regions.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my contribution will be very brief. He had more scientific, historical analysis of what transpired that created all these streams, but I think one question, which is central to this Motion, and it is inherently a weakness of all states in the world, is our preparedness capacity to deal with natural calamities. Sometimes human beings, in their own nature, would not think about death, nor do they so much plan for it but it is a reality that happens and many states around the world, even richer nations, are suffering and are really walking very much behind in addressing natural calamities. If you look at Hurricane Katrina that swept through New Orleans, there was a lack of response by the largest economy in the world.

For us it is so much needed, because of our smaller economies. Everything we have is so precious that we need to protect it and we really have to beef up our natural disaster preparedness.

If you look at the situation in the northern Regions at this moment and that because of the water there is no grass for the cattle, it is a very disastrous situation, which has affected people's homesteads, businesses and also

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livelihoods. The crops cannot grow because of the water and the animals are suffering because of a lack of grass.

It is my opinion that we should really look at how we as leaders can prepare our country for these calamities. China was recently hard hit because of the earthquakes and for a Nation to lose 50,000 people within three days is terrible. Therefore it is important for the Right Honourable Prime Minister to keep the Emergency Unit alive to deal with these issues. Next time it is important that we also do some contingency planning to make sure that every year we allocate money, not through the Contingency Fund only, but through Budgeting for boats and whatever we need so that our preparedness would not leave our people disappointed.

Mariental was hit twice, a lot of people had to start from scratch and we should look at how best we can address some of the effects of the problem and how we are going to help the farmers to get grazing land because they are really suffering and I would like to thank the mover of the Motion who brought this very important Motion to this House. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you Comrade Deputy Speaker. First, I would like to thank Honourable Viljoen for moving this Motion and before I talk to the Motion, I would like to express my sympathy to the people of China for the natural disaster they have experienced and for the loss of life and property.

Coming to the Motion, firstly, I would like, on behalf of the Emergency Unit to thank the people of Namibia for rising to this challenge.

I was so touched that even one pensioner from Swakopmund decided to make her contribution to the disaster efforts and I would like, through the Chair, to find out from Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase as to when we are going to

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announce our contribution as the Parliament to the flood disaster. The Chairperson will give you the Floor.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I cannot give her the Floor because I was supposed to announce it today. I do not know what happened, it was supposed to be with the Announcements.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The staff is also diligent in this regard. I would like to thank all the Namibian people who rose to the challenge of this major calamity. We should keep it that way and the people affected from Schukmansburg to Oshakati are very grateful for your support and understanding. This was really a peoples' response and I would like to concur with Honourable Venaani that we have to strengthen the national capacity to deal with disasters, whether floods, fire, drought, wind, or earthquakes. We should be prepared.

The good news is that the Minister of Finance has put aside some money for a disaster fund, so that, as Honourable Venaani said, we should not just rely on the Contingency Fund, we should actually have an Emergency Fund. Once the Appropriation Act 2008/09 is signed into a law, we have to sit down and see how to establish that Fund, whether it is going to be a statutory fund or which form it would take, so that this is a national fund and those who might want to contribute to that fund may do so.

These floods have affected almost all the four northern Regions in one form or another. The worst form is flooding as it happened from Engela in the Ohangwena Region through to Endola in the Ohangwena Region, far south to Uutapi in the Omusati Region and coming down to Oshakati in Oshana Region. People's villages and their mahangu fields vanished. The road infrastructure, some schools and clinics have been flooded.

What happened, as Honourable Viljoen has said, there has been intermittent floods. Perhaps the biggest one is the one of 1809 which he talked about.

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I still have images in my head of 1951 and goats having nowhere to sleep and looking for anthills. (Interjection). I was looking after goats and just count from 1943 to 1951 and you will know how old I was. I was not a toddler, I was a young man looking after animals. Thus there was that flood and the fish were all over the place.

What happened in the interim is that when there are no floods, these water courses, called *oshanas*, disappear and people sometimes do not realise that they are building in a water course because of the sand filling up the *oshanas*. Even the town of Oshakati was built in a watercourse and I am quite sure if you ask the father of Mr Ruppel who was there to build a dam, he put a dam in a watercourse. However, you now find that the dam which provides Oshakati with water is surrounded by townships, which was wrong. The point is however that these people thought that because it was filled up with sand, that was not a watercourse, but in fact, it was a watercourse.

The situation was worsened by the construction of roads. When you build a road and you put up a small bridge, that causes a disaster in Oshakati. Water was now forcing itself to pass through the bridge, but the bridge was so narrow and the water had to find another place to go. That is how Oshakati got flooded, because of people settling in the flood area and because the engineering works was not properly responding to the flooding.

I understand now that Oshakati town is trying to relocate people from that flood area and I wish them well, because I know that Oshakati itself is just an island in a watercourse. I do not know exactly how they are going to manage that, but perhaps just to advise the people that they should go back to their villages where they came from.

I see now the Headman of Omalaala is counting, his *Omukunda* was also affected and Uukumwe was equally affected. As for that, he is the one who built in a watercourse, he should not complain because he knows that is a watercourse. Honourable Moongo is the one.

The situation now, as we are sitting here, is that the water ran to its natural destination, namely the Etosha Pan. The water flooded the Etosha Pan and now the elephants do not like that.

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They are breaking out of the fence and destroying people's property at the lower part of Etosha. That is the current situation now of the competition between animals and people for survival.

As much as the water has gone to the Etosha Pan, the water is creating its own situation there in Etosha so much so that the animals are actually running away from the water and are now competing with people. Unfortunately, they are destroying mahangu fields which feed those people and when provoked, they attack people.

That is the situation facing us and the same thing is with lions in that area.

The Government is now in the process of assessing the impact of the flood, in the first place, on the livelihood of the people in the area, but also on the general food production. The soil patterns in this Cuvelai-system, which covers most of the former Ovamboland, are called Deep Kalahari sands. These Deep Kalahari sands are easily waterlogged. Even if you do not have a flood, your mahangu field becomes waterlogged and, obviously, in that situation there is no air in the soil and the plants cannot grow.

Therefore, besides those people who were in the eye of the flood, many others are affected in terms of food production and that is the huge challenge we have: How do we feed half a million people before the next harvesting season? That is the big challenge facing us now. The assessing is continuing and after the assessment we have to come up with a contingency plan on how to feed those people.

It is, therefore, of great necessity that those who have not made their contributions to the Fund which was initiated by Honourable Schimming-Chase and Dr Amathila, should do so.

We call on the private sector's social responsibility, but we ourselves do not want to ...(Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I would like to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question. Right Honourable Prime Minister, does '*social responsibility*' only mean a social responsibility when one contributes from the Floor of Parliament or does it also mean when you contribute in your individual capacity as a citizen of this country? Could that not be regarded as social responsibility?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, called 'common responsibility' and I am talking something about the common social responsibility of Parliament. We as a Parliament have to express ourselves in solidarity with those who are affected by the floods and I hope that tomorrow the Honourable Deputy Speaker is going to announce how much was collected and read the names of those who contributed.

This is really a national challenge. Almost half a million people are affected by the flood in terms of food security. Food in the world is scarce and expensive; food prices are up and even those who are salaried might not be able to buy that food. This is a national challenge we as a Parliament should not fail to address and I think the Motion by Honourable Viljoen gives us an opportunity to reflect on the after-impact of the floods on the food security of the people. (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, I am very happy that this Motion came today, because I was asked by a businessman earlier in the week whether I know about the tender which is circulating in town for a very, very big amount of cooking oil. The figures which were given to me were more or less mind-boggling. I wanted to know from the Prime Minister whether your Office is already circulating tenders so that I can tell them this is what it is all about and they must tender, because they thought it was some or other scam.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Well, we were still waiting for a pledge that time. The Emergency Unit did not issue a tender for anything, because I told you that the assessments are ongoing.

My suspicion is that somebody might have gotten wind that the Government is about to zero-rate cooking oil and wants to cash in and speculate. I suspect that that is the situation. That is however not from the Government, it is somebody else who is doing that and I want to warn that person that we are not going to zero-rate the cooking oil for now just to make some people rich in the process.

Yesterday Honourable Nghimtina told us about the energy and fuel crisis and that we must be prepared to tighten our belts and I think the same situation prevails with regard to food security in the country for the next twelve months.

However, for now, let us await the assessment and I am convinced that this assessment is going to give us a big challenge as a country and we should be prepared for that. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you very much. Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I must thank Honourable Viljoen for bringing up the important Motion that deals with the flood that devastated our people in those areas it occurred. It is true, as the others said, that this flood came and destroyed the livelihood of our people.

As the Right Honourable Prime Minister correctly said, not only the people in the Cuvelai Basin are affected, the rainfall was also above normal in the areas where there are no watercourses and therefore, that did affect the crop production as well as the germination of grass in those areas.

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I feel that in these modern times we have to learn a lesson and that is how to deal with such floods in the future, because floods do not only have negative impacts, it also has some positive aspects. A lot of fish came with the water and these were available to the community and gives special nutrition to the people as well as some extra income for those who were able to collect more than they needed to eat.

I must also thank the people who helped others during this flood. I am only going to differ slightly from the Right Honourable Prime Minister with regard to the list that is probably going to be announced next week. I would really think that the best point for this announcement is at Ongwediva or in Oshakati, in the Oshana Regional Council, because that was the centre where all the donations and help were going.

For us as Members of Parliament, because we have access to the media, to announce that we have contributed and leave the other people who do not have access to this, might be a self-advertisement. I however think people did contribute in different ways. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I admire your democratic principles, but how many Namibians come to talk in Parliament? That is my question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I think we are 78 in Parliament and we are also talking on behalf of those who are not here and, therefore...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Katali, some of us went to the area and made donations. Does it mean that those of us who contributed there must also come here and make known that I did that there,

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because we already contributed there? I am not going to contribute because I did my part. We go and address meetings and make a contribution. Does it mean that I must come here and say that on such a day and time I contributed? I do not think it is necessary.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, the proposal came from this House, therefore we have to do it tomorrow and I already have the list here.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I was just saying that the fact that we are here talking about the people who are not here, does not really qualify us also to donate on their behalf.

There are actually people who are not here, but we speak on their behalf and they have probably donated more than what we are donating here. Comrade Ekandjo, I say the point for announcement is supposed to be at the point where everything assembles in Oshakati or Katima or Rundu or wherever the donations have been directed. Some of us here have contributed there, but because they did not contribute here, they will be characterised as not being patriotic.

That aside, all the water has run to Etosha and there will be people who have a lack of water in those villages. Therefore, it is unfortunate that when there is a lot of water, it is also not easy to do the work. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Comrade Katali a tiny question? Comrade Katali, we used to make donations here and I never saw it as being compulsory. What I would like to find out is whether you and me who were directly affected by the flood and

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already spent a lot of money to mitigate this flood, how on earth can I still spend money? They must also have sympathy towards people who were heavily affected and some of us are not going to benefit from that fund. I only want you to inform the people that some of us are directly affected, lost cattle, lost everything. How can it be said I did not contribute? I have already contributed more than N\$20,000.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Katali, can you take us back to the flood situation in the North? Let us not dwell too much on the donations.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I have left the donations. I do agree with what Comrade Ilonga has said, but it is just unfortunate that when it has rained so much, the dams, which were filled up are still full of water and if you do want to do some rehabilitation work to the dams, it would prove difficult at this stage. However, we need to engage our engineers so that they can ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? Honourable Katali, my geography is very poor, maybe you can assist me. Can you tell me what is referred to as the Owambo Basin? Where is that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I tried to read but I could not see it. Maybe the Honourable Member will give us another map with the names that he was referring to. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. The Owambo Basin is a geomorphologic term, indicating a land formation, which stretches from southern Angola to Etosha. It is not cultural, it is a geomorphologic term.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: The engineers could really advise the Government and the people on how to collect water and how to mitigate this flood.

It is going to be a huge battle with regard to the people affected, especially in Oshakati. Some of the people went there in the fifties when this town was established and this was maybe the worst flood that they ever experienced. Things that need to be looked at are the bridges, etcetera, so that we have either more bridges or widen the existing ones.

The other suggestion that I would like to make is on the way our houses were constructed. I met a friend in the United Kingdom once who is from the Island of Guiana and he sent me a picture of a house by e-mail. Because they are prone to water, floods and wind, they build their houses on poles, so that the water will flow below the houses. I would thus suggest...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Is the Honourable Member aware that Guiana is in the tropics and they have a lot of forests?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Yes, even if I am aware of that, I do not know what prevents Namibia with less forests from building houses on poles, so that when the water comes it flows to Etosha while the people are up there. We should not only stick to our traditional houses and then we are affected by the water. Leaving all the infrastructure there is going to cost a lot of money and we need to improvise.

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With that, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Members, I am rising to take part in this Debate on the Motion introduced by Honourable Viljoen. My contribution will be very brief in the sense that I am taking the Floor to congratulate the private sector, through the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who has taken the initiative of launching the *Project Efundja*, whereby the private sector has contributed substantially towards the flood victims in the Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati and Caprivi Regions. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? The Honourable Deputy Minister is congratulating the private sector on their initiatives, which I fully agree with. Do you not think that the private sector and individuals, like ourselves, will continue contributing to the Government efforts if there was not the problem that no provision was made. For instance, in the Oshakati area we knew that there was an *efundja* coming every year, which will affect the people, but for 18 we have not built a single bridge. Do you not think the problem is perhaps not a question of contribution, it is a question of proper planning? We have perhaps developed an attitude of 'Autere'. Until when will the people be saying 'Autere?'

HON DEPUTY MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, we as the SWAPO Government we have all along fought against this culture of dependency. We have been fighting against that syndrome of 'Autere'. We want to do our things within the means that we have.

I want to come back to my contribution and thank the private sector...(Intervention)

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HON DR AMWEELO: On a Point of Information. Comrade Deputy Speaker, I only want to give some information to those who say there are no bridges. We have more than sixty bridges and culverts. The only problem is that some bridges were established a long time ago, some in 1965, which means that those bridges need to be rehabilitated and made wider and some have already reached the end of their lifespan and need to be rehabilitated. I can however not agree with you when you say that there are no bridges and culverts, but those who have reached the end of their lifespan need to be rehabilitated.

HON DEPUTY MINES AND ENERGY: I thank the Honourable Moses Amweelo for the information. It is true that our infrastructure is very strong in terms of bridges. I want to come back to my contribution and congratulate the private sector. I know that the private sector has raised funds to assist the affected households, businesses and has also contributed physically to the victims through *Project Efundja*. I want this assistance to be extended to the Caprivi Region which was also affected by the floods. It is not mentioned here, it only says northern Namibia, but they need to extend this project to the Caprivi Region. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask a question? I want to know whether the Honourable Deputy Minister said '*to take this assistance to the Caprivi Region?*'

HON DEPUTY MINES AND ENERGY: The assistance should be extended to the Caprivi Region as well. Comrade Deputy Speaker, in view of others who also want to take the Floor, I would like to rest my case at this point in time and also support the recommendation that this Motion be referred to the relevant Standing Committee for further investigation. Thank you.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I would also like to contribute to this Debate and I would like to thank Honourable Viljoen, my good friend, because we exchange views on a number of issues and we differ, but we also sometimes agree. I feel that is a good thing for democracy in our country. I support you on this specific Motion, Honourable Viljoen, and I agree with the previous speakers that we need to prepare ourselves properly because this will be a continuous occurrence because of the phenomenon of global warming. Unfortunately, the countries which are responsible for these emissions are not coming forward to support the poor countries.

I also agree with the previous speakers who mentioned that the problem is that the people tend to settle in these disaster-prone areas, for example the river courses. This phenomenon only occurs every hundred years, sometimes every fifty years and a person as young as Venaani would see there is a nice place in Oshakati and set up his *kambashu* there, which is a problem. I was in Oshakati during the floods and I looked at the surveyed areas. Those areas which were previously surveyed were not affected, which means that these areas mostly affected are the areas which were not surveyed and where the young people, such as Venaani and Kazenambo coming from Gam, would set up businesses without consulting the Municipality. Those are the people who were affected.

This is however not only unique to Namibia. If you look at the floods, which occurred in Mozambique, they started building the Cahora Bassa Dam and the Kariba Dam in Zambia and when these areas received heavy rains, the Governments were forced to open the sluices as we have done at Hardap. This time we have done it correctly and we must congratulate our experts for coming to the rescue of this town. Now we are releasing the water gradually, keeping it at a constant level. In other countries, they are forced to do that, because if not, the dam will crack or something will happen and then it will be a catastrophe. In Mozambique the people also settled there because this phenomenon occurs only after forty or a hundred years and people tend to live

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in those nice areas where it is green, they can make good business and do agriculture and later on they are affected.

The most important thing is that we must not allow our people to settle in areas which are not surveyed. It is something we need to do, starting immediately because unplanned settlements are extremely dangerous. We have seen this phenomenon in Windhoek, people are now settling in the mountains on the way to Katutura. We need to do something about that, but we have poverty and Government is facing problems. We have poverty, we need to plan properly and we need to develop the rural areas so that the people can go back to their rural areas and start growing food.

It is so painful when you go to Katima Mulilo or Rundu and you see all this water going somewhere else while our people are going hungry. We have to start planning and make credit available to our people so that we can settle our people in those areas. Let us give those who want to work the opportunity. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask Honourable Nujoma a question? I hear you saying the people must go where they can be settled. If you say the people must not settle in areas, which were not surveyed, but at the moment the higher areas which are not flood prone are under private ownership. When are you going to survey the land and give the people enough places to stay? One thing I want to ask you as a lawyer, the land is supposed to be the property of the State, but it was put under Chapter 3, the holy cow. Where are you going to settle the people, because the biggest part of the country is privately owned and classified as commercial? What can we do to get them out of these flood-prone areas to higher levels? What can be done in that regard?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Lilonga. I do not see commercial farms in Oshakati, these are homesteads owned by our people. (Intervention)

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HON NUJOMA

HON VENAANI: May I ask a question? Honourable Nujoma, have you realised that when the Honourable Ilonga sees anything that looks good, he thinks it is privately owned. He assumes that anything that looks good should belong to the State. Everything that is nicely painted or a nice farm he thinks it is privately owned.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I think Comrade Ilonga is a genuinely concerned Namibian who wants to see the land returned to the rightful owners. That is the bottom line. How we are going to do it is another question, but we need to engage that process.

We cannot accept a situation where 90% of the land is owned by other people and the rightful owners own only 10%. Even if the people say we are crazy, that is an unfair situation, it cannot be allowed in a democratic society.

When it comes to Oshakati and other towns, Government has plans to purchase these commercial farms and commercial lands at affordable prices. (Interjections). In Oshakati the landowners around the town own the land and we need to engage those people. (Interjection) No, we cannot take the land from them because it is their land. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Nujoma, are you saying the people owning land in Oshakati have the title deeds to that land or who holds the title deed?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: They inherently have title deeds by virtue of being born there. They are inherently entitled by birth and you cannot take that land away from them unless you negotiate and pay them. The bottom-line remains that this land is owned by the State but those people own this land have inherent rights to that land. That you cannot take away from them. (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? Honourable Deputy Minister, you made a very strong point by saying that land is inherently their land, therefore they cannot buy that land. The question is, the land that you are buying, is that land not inherently our land?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, we are talking about Oshakati. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, answer that question and then come back to the flood situation. Proceed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: We are talking about Oshakati which has been flooded and the land has been affected there. We cannot run away from the truth.

Honourable Tjiuiko, the point is that the people are inherently the owners of that land even though it belongs to the State. The land belongs to the State, but the indigenous people are inherently the owners, like in Okamatapati and elsewhere. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. The land in communal areas belongs to the chief and the chief lends it to the inhabitants for the rest of their lives provided they do not commit crime. If they commit a crime, the chief will repossess their land. Therefore, there is nothing inherent in terms of the ownership of the land in the former Owamboland. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, but the chief is not the owner, the chief is the

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custodian. He is just an administrator on behalf the people. That is what we were taught by SWAPO. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, do you agree that the whole of Namibia was communal land belonging to our traditional leaders and when the Honourable Prime Minister starts making a distinction between communal and non-communal, is he justifying colonialism, that this part which is called non-communal is correct that it was colonised?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Nujoma, do you agree with me that colonialism was justified by those who bought the farms first?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I think I will agree with you, Honourable Prime Minister. The first indigenous people who bought land justified colonialism. (Laughter).

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, if those who bought the farms first, justifying colonialism, then those who bought later, was that a question of '*monkey see money?*' (Laughter)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, those who bought later could not do otherwise, because they were... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Deputy Speaker,
I want to ask Honourable Moongo a question.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are Out of Order. Proceed.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? This question of land and those of us who had land taken away from us and who therefore, because of our policies bought our own land to maintain peace, sometimes get so hurt when we talk about Namibia like this part did not belong to us before. That is very painful. Therefore, I would like to ask, do you think it is fair that we, because of peace, bought the farms not even with Affirmative Action loans, but with commercial loans. Are you now saying I should go and claim the money back and grab the farm?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Minister, I agree with you, but unfortunately we tied our hands at the constitutional conference. We have accepted the principle of property rights and that we need to pay for property. That is the problem and because of other people not honouring their commitments, those who promised that time that they will assist us to acquire those farms. Therefore, we are back to square one and Zimbabwe is a classic example. It was indicated at Lancaster House that, "*Mugabe, we will support you in the next twenty years to acquire those farms*" and the people of Zimbabwe agreed. When they came home, nothing happened so that they could purchase those farms. I think those who were historically responsible for our problems should assist us and that is why we need a dialogue while Government is purchasing these farms with its meagre resources in order to resettle our people. What can we do? People need land they need food and they need resettlement.

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The best option at this particular moment is to follow the constitutional principles we have agreed to and see how we will resolve this issue. Back to the floods. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of Rule 90, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:48 UNTIL 2008.06.05 AT 14:30