

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

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

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

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Mr A. Chilinda	
Ms E Dienda	
Ms L. Kaveri	
Mr T Gurirab	<i>(Deputy Whip)</i>
Ms N Schimming-Chase	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr J De Waal	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
Mr K Kaura	<i>(Party Leader)</i>

Mr P Moongo
Mr M Venaani *(Deputy Whip)*

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

Mr J Viljoen *(Chief Whip)*

**NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA
(NUDO)**

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

REPUBLICAN PARTY

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

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Dr L Amathila (Ms) *(Deputy Prime Minister)*
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)
Mr N Angula *(Prime Minister)*
Mr H Angula *(Minister)*
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)
Ms L Basson
Ms A Bayer
Ms C Bohitile
Mr H Booys *(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House
Committee)*
Ms H Christian
Mr Dinyando *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr J Ekandjo *(Minister)*
Mr B Esau *(Deputy Minister)*
Dr H Geingob (Mr) *(Minister)*
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr) *(Speaker)*
Ms P Haingura *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr M Hausiku *(Minister)*
Mr P Iilonga *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms E Ipinge
Ms P Iivula-Ithana *(Minister)*
Dr A Iyambo (Mr) *(Minister)*

Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(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 N Nashandi	
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 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	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr M Goreseb	
Ms G Tjombe	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

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

Mr R Diergaardt

Ms I Hoffmann

Ms A Manombe-Ncube

Mr C Namoloh

(Minister)

Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)

(Deputy Minister)

Mr P Smit

(Deputy Minister)

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
17 MARCH 2009
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: The House is called to Order. I have a brief announcement to make. During tea-break we are going to officially launch a French or Francophone exhibition displayed in the corridor of the Chamber to celebrate with the Francophone the use of the French language, its culture, its achievements, recognising that 200 million people on five Continents speak French language. It is the official language of the African Union, of the Pan-African Parliament, and of the SADC Parliamentary Forum.

I remember that way back in the seventies, none other than the Director of the United States Institute for Namibia, then located in Lusaka, Zambia, took a personal initiative and impressed upon the French Government and as a result of that, a good number of graduates from the United Nations Institute for Namibia, some known to Honourable Members, got scholarships and studied in France and are not only proficient in the French language, but have gone on to do university studies and hold high degrees in the French language. Many of us are struggling to at least say “*Bonjour*” in the French language. We will do that during tea-break. Everybody is of course invited, needless to say.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Kaura

17 March 2009

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON KAURA**

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 34:

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 19 March 2009, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance the following:

1. Cognisant of the high inflation rate in our country and the economic hardships the world over, have you considered an increase of old-age pension in the Main Budget this year?
 2. What is the percentage increase to be expected?
 3. If not, why not?
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HON SPEAKER: Please table the Question. Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Ekandjo.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 18th of March 2009, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Local Authorities Act, 1992 so as to make sure that provision for the period within which the next general election and subsequent general elections for members of Local Authority Councils must be held. I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

17 March 2009

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 19th of March 2009, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to appropriate amounts of money to meet the financial requirements of the State during the Financial Year ending 31 March 2010. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on unemployed Namibians.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 on Thursday, the 12th of March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Dr Ankama. Honourable Tjihuike had the Floor and he may continue.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, if one looks at the bigger and stronger economies of the world, for instance the United States of America, Europe and Asia, unemployment among youth graduates is indeed a serious concern to all of them. Consequently, when we reflect on the issue of job creation, we ought to be conscious of the fact that unemployment is a global phenomenon.

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON TJIHUIKO**

Honourable Speaker, before we take half-baked decisions, let us look at what others have done.

In 1991, India, in response to a fiscal imbalanced payment crisis, launched a programme on economic policy reforms, consisting of stabilisation-cum structural adjustment measures, put in place with a view to attain macro-economic stability and a higher rate of economic growth.

The same year, in July 1991, India again launched a new policy measure known as economic reforms with a view to restore fiscal confidence. The measure came in packages containing seven reforms: fiscal policy reforms, trade policy, industrial policy, financial policy reforms, agriculture policy reforms, poverty alleviation programmes and human resource policy reforms.

Honourable Speaker, in his book called, *“Economic Reforms: Unemployment and Poverty”*, Mr Meenu Agrawal, stated that: *“These economic reforms have affected the whole social fabric of the country and changed the entire way in which the economy in India functions.”*

The biggest challenge in Namibia is unemployment, Honourable Speaker. This problem has created a challenge to all of us as lawmakers, economic planners and the country at large. Unemployment is a state of the economy in which the number of jobs available in the country is less than the number of people seeking jobs. This is the problem we have in Namibia. Our economy does not create enough jobs for all jobseekers.

In the United States of America, for instance, Honourable Speaker, President Obama introduced what he called, *“Economic Stimulus Bill,”* to stimulate the economy and to create the necessary jobs. The Bill sets tangible targets of stimulating the US economy, economic reform and job creation and the creation of over three million jobs for the next three years and a range of other socio-economic imperatives. These are the factors that we need to look at as a country.

Honourable Speaker, I personally was very encouraged by the initiative taken by the Honourable Minister of Trade, Dr Hage Geingob. I was made to believe that this is a Cabinet decision to allow captains of industries to give their views on the best counter strategies for our economic downturn and to

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON TJIHUIKO**

enable Government to do a proper fact analysis. That is an encouraging move by the Government.

I understand that Government, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry, is planning to formulate an economic rescue package as a way to stimulate growth in the most vital sectors of our economy. If this is something to go by, we are all encouraged. I am sure, Honourable Speaker, that an effort of this nature will be welcomed by any progressive-minded Namibian. It is, indeed, a good start, but Honourable Speaker, my concern or NUDO's concern is the implementation of these efforts. Namibia is not short of good and implementable ideas or programmes, but we simply have a problem with implementing Government programmes. If this new initiative is going to be implemented, I believe that everybody in this country will be supporting you Honourable Minister, and through you, the entire Government for this effort.

Honourable Speaker, the current top Civil Servants we have in Government today have proven beyond reasonable doubt that a programme of this nature cannot be successfully implemented under the current inefficient, bureaucratic set-up in our Civil Service. However in March 2009 the *New Era* reported that a trade Committee was put together to study private sector potential and that the Committee will be headed by the Deputy Permanent Secretary from the same Ministry.

Honourable Speaker, I consider this approach as a mistake. A project of that nature is too big to be handled by a Civil Servant. Our experience of Civil Servants to deal with projects of that importance speaks volumes.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: On a Point of Order. Dr Robin Sherbourne is going to lead that Committee. The Deputy Permanent Secretary is in-house.

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. If that is what you have done, then you must have read my mind. Thank you very much.

Honourable Speaker, obviously this decision was taken to implement programmes. Without doing a proper fact analysis it will lead us to nowhere.

Honourable Speaker, I do not under any circumstances underestimate the ability and wisdom of our able Minister of Trade and Industry to make a sound decision, but mine is simply kind advice that a Chairperson of a Committee of this nature needs to be experienced, qualified and he or she needs to command respect among those stakeholders. I think what you have said to some extent answers my point and let me say what I was actually proposing.

I was actually looking at retired professionals in the sector, people who have sound knowledge of the sector, like the one you have just mentioned, Honourable Minister. I was actually thinking about somebody like “*Boetie Ben*”, the former Minister of Trade and Industry, well-informed, the first person that has set up the Ministry. These are the kind of experiences that I was actually thinking about and wanted to advise. We are looking at the Governor of the Bank of Namibia, the Deputy Governor, people who can command respect among everybody. However, your proposal is not that bad, but what I have proposed also makes sense.

Honourable Speaker, let me conclude by saying unemployment is a national problem, it therefore needs a national approach, not only a SWAPO approach but a national approach. The effort of the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry, if properly managed and properly implemented, will make a difference. The primary objective of this effort should be to generate productive work opportunities in the growth process by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour oriented.

I have seen some efforts, Honourable Speaker, taken by the Honourable Minister of Fisheries to intervene in the Cadilu Fishing Company. I have also seen what is going on in the mining sector, especially CDM. These are encouraging efforts.

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON TJIHUIKO**

The primary objective of these efforts should be to generate productive job opportunities in the growth process by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour oriented.

We should also understand that unemployment in Namibia is a multi-dimensional phenomenon and it is not only restricted to one section of our population, the trained and qualified citizens of this country, but we should be looking at the broader picture, as the Honourable Minister of Fisheries realises that it is not only the qualified but the masses of our people. Honourable Minister, take note of my support. It is a widespread condition, touching almost every segment of our society and it needs to be treated in that fashion.

If at all, Honourable Speaker, what has been proposed by Cabinet through the Ministry of Trade to put money into the economy, into the productive sectors to stimulate and sustain and maintain jobs, I believe that from our side you will get our support, but it needs to be implemented, it should not be a good idea on a piece of paper and we are watching you. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. Honourable Speaker, last week I was talking about the need for us as a country to clinically address our loopholes in immigration and I was talking about the weakness, that we see a lot of people entering the country from all over the world and competing with the most simplistic, ordinary job that Namibians can do. I said last week that I am not pursuing a protectionist approach towards our jobs, but we have to protect our jobs, because the other day I saw a fellow from Pakistan in a particular northern town in this country and he is just selling things that my old neighbour could sell here in this country. One wonders how that person got papers to come into the country, what did he do to get citizenship or to get a work permit to come here. Therefore, it is important for us to

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

address that question of immigration to protect our jobs.

Honourable Speaker, central to the question of unemployment in our country, which is not a unique problem to Namibia, nor a unique problem to the continent of Africa, but an international problem at this point in time, coupled with economic recession, is the question of free trade. Of course, I must commend the active participation of our Government in trying to get the best of these deals. It is important for the international community to hear us out, to make sure that we are trading as equal partners in the global market so that we are able to gain more from our products and for our people to have more access to jobs. Therefore, it is important for us to continue to pursue the route of free and equitable trading rules in the world.

Honourable Speaker, last week I spoke of an idea that, for example, how SADC behaves as an economic Region also determines what kind of jobs we are going to maintain and I was talking of the weakness that we all have with our allies. Air Namibia is suffering, South African Airways is suffering and the other day Air Tanzania was nearly on its knees. I do not know why we as a regional bloc behave in a way that every person runs his own show and all of us are trapped in this problem. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: It is better to embark on one section rather than having a variety that can also reduce the burden. I hope that we understand one another.

HON VENAANI: I do not know what the Chief said.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I do not want us to create a variety, let us stick to one section and endorse it and proceed to another section. It is quite clear.

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: No, Chief, it is really clear in your mind, but I am not clear on what you are saying. Nevertheless, be that as it may, there is a need for us at the regional level...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. If in a small area like this one, the Parliament of Namibia, there are four parties, how do you expect sovereign countries not to have independent airlines? That is what the Chief is saying.

HON VENAANI: The strength of the European Union today is because they are doing things together and we are competing with stronger economies. (Interjection). Why we are not doing things together here is for the same reason why you are not doing things with your own brothers on the other side. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I said “jointly”, not separately.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chief, you allowed your mind-reader to misquote you, but thank you very much for having corrected your mind-reader.

However, be that as it may, it is really important for us as a Region and it is encouraging to see Finance Ministers meeting and discussing the situation in Zimbabwe. That is very important, we must do it, but we must also do more to try to create an aid scheme to help the Zimbabwean economy, but we should also do more intra-regional trade between our countries.

What is amazing is that if you go to Mozambique, for example, and see the amounts of fruit there, one wonders why those fruit do not reach the markets of Namibia. We should really address the question of SADC trade.

Honourable Speaker, going further to the issue is the area of technology and

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

innovation and this is where we as a country have lagged behind. For example, Namibia is a country with one of the best time-zones in the world. When America is awake, Asia is asleep and Namibia would be in the middle of it. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

On a Point of Information. The reason why we do not see the products of Mozambique on the Namibian market is because we are not the ones controlling the market. The other information is that the Americans are currently sleeping and the Asians are working. It is contrary to what you are saying.

HON VENAANI: It is the intention of the speaker that is important. I am trying to say that Namibia is located in the best time zone in the world and many companies in the world are now outsourcing their core centres and it is one way of creating jobs. Nigeria is one country that has really gone into this market and I think Namibia can even do a better job than Nigeria for a variety of reasons. However, we have a lack of thinking entrepreneurs or there is a lack of something in this country. A lot of companies want to order things from this side of the ocean or the other side of the ocean and Namibia can play that role, getting our graduates from the Polytechnic to run call centres here and it is a big business in the world. We will have cheaper telephones, we can run call centres here as a way to stimulate job creation in this country.

The other important issue that really touches my heart and I am very passionate about this issue is the question of Namibia linking itself to these pharmaceutical companies. It is just not fair from our entrepreneurs' side and from our banking institutions not to finance a company that is going to produce the most elementary drugs for our people, whether Disprin or whatever we need in Namibia and it is important that we stimulate some of these sectors to create jobs for our people. We as a country should do more in looking at areas where we can lead and technological innovation is one way.

India was mentioned as an example. Of course, there is poverty in India, but India is a destination of technology and it is important for us to even copy what

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

India has achieved through their technological advancement. It is important for us to diversify and even if we train 10 people in the area of technology, we must make sure that these people are properly and well-trained to be able to run some of these sectors.

Honourable Speaker, I want to be candid and very bold in addressing this question of cultural behaviour. One cannot address unemployment without discussing the cultural behaviour of Namibians, the cultural behaviour of Africans in general when it comes to productivity. A lot of companies and more so Asian companies are complaining that our people are not willing to work long hours and to deliver. This is a serious problem that we have in this country. We should not shy away from addressing the cultural behaviour of our people towards work. It somehow has to do with a colonial mentality and many of our people who are farming can bear testimony to the fact that our employees on our farms are producing much less than employees working on our neighbours' farms.

HON MEMBER: White neighbour.

HON VENAANI: Yes. When a person works on your farm he thinks he co-owns it. He thinks it is a brotherly institution and Chinua Achebe, in his book "*Things Fall Apart*", spoke about it when they got liberation. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. You have to educate them, put them in positions where they are going to operate and react to what you command.

HON VENAANI: Thank you, Chief. I think we should really address the cultural behaviour of our employees, coupled with a unionised country. Sometimes our unions are also doing the wrong things and we must be very bold and tell them that a lot of people are losing jobs because of unnecessary actions. There must be a common understanding between our unions, our

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

labourers and the employers. I am not saying the employers are correct in what they are doing. Of course, reports have consistently shown that there is a lot of labour abuse in this country. However, I do not want a company to choose another country for investment, their reason being that Namibians are – “*lazy*” is not the word I want to use, but slow, less productive. We really have to address this issue.

We know of the failure of Ramatex, that they had management problems, but productivity was also a problem and that ought not be the case. If we want this country to be an investment destination, our people should not be found wanting in terms of productivity. We really have to address it candidly and boldly, that the unions, the employers and employees must play a role to ensure that we accelerate the economy.

Honourable Speaker, the other issue that is very paramount to the question of ... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Venaani, I think you are touching on a very important issue, the employer-employee relationship. How do you think it should be done especially at this critical time of economic downturn, for the union and the employee to work together? Is there something that we can perhaps say that there should be this relationship?

HON VENAANI: This is a cross-cutting issue. The unions are playing a very important role in protecting the interests of the employees, but it should not be to the extent of employees losing their jobs, because we cannot afford any job losses in this country. Every time before action is taken, there must be thorough consultations between all stakeholders so that they find an amicable solution before they come to the point of laying off workers.

I want to be very bold and thank the Minister of Fisheries for what he has done in trying to save that company. Those are the kinds of bold interventions that we need in this country. The world economy demands that we protect each and every smallest job that we have in our economy and if we have to rescue

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

certain companies, we must do so in order to protect jobs. You have already raised the issue of the mining sector and it is very serious to note that NAMDEB was saying that they have a lifetime of up to 2025. However because in the world market people are no longer getting married with diamond rings because there is no money, our diamonds are not selling and our people are about to lose their jobs. These are some of the issues that we have to consider when addressing unemployment. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Venaani, may I ask you a question? I just want to find out, you are talking about rescuing Cadilo and all the other smaller companies. I agree with you, but do you not think it is also time that when we rescue these entities, we must also take up equity in these Companies? We cannot just put taxpayers' money into institutions which belong to individuals. We always talk about taxpayers' money here and I know of institutions which were rescued, for example in the United States, AIG and so many other banks. They have rescued these banks only to find out that these Chief Executives were paid huge bonuses. They used the money for severance packages for these Chief Executives. What we need to learn from that experience is that whenever we rescue a company, we need to take up equity, because this is taxpayers' money and that money should belong to the Namibian people.

HON VENAANI: Well, I think you are walking on a very thin line with what you are proposing. I believe if we rescue companies they must be held responsible to repay and their proposals for repayment should be of a sound nature. If they repay, they can keep their Companies. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I do agree with you, but you have to know that it was too late for us to participate in those companies. Those are assets of this country and the people of this country are here, they must participate in our business world. They cannot just watch and get money free of charge without us getting something out of it. It is high time for us to know how much we are paying and how much we are getting back and not into the pocket of an individual but the Nation as a whole.

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: Chief, I have great understanding for your sentiments. You can buy equity in some companies, but some companies are so technical that if you buy equity, you need to be able to supervise. How many companies do we run in this country that we cannot control? We own them but we cannot control them. The AIG is one example. Honourable Nujoma, for example, you are today employed as a Chief Executive Officer and you are telling them, *“if you do not renew my contract after three years, I want a package of N\$4 million, signed, sealed and delivered.”* Whether the company is not performing, you would say they have agreed on the package. Even if you buy stakes in AIG, you cannot renege on the already existing contracts. You have to look at all the pros and cons of the company, because it is a competitive market, Chief Executive Officers are being bought, Brazil wants them, China wants them and they get huge packages.

Honourable Speaker, I was trying to bring my thoughts on the question of investments in this country. 19 years have passed and we must accept the fact that most of the investments that we have made in this country were the wrong investments in terms of job creation. We have to look at new ventures of investment that would create employment in this country. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, you are really talking business. You are partially accusing the workers that they are the ones who sometimes cause problems and you did not want to call them *lazy*. Are you aware that we were not exposed...(Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Who is we?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Namibians. If you are not part of Namibia, shut up. We were not exposed to this work. You do not even know how to fix a broken tap in your house, but for example, if you take the people of Rehoboth who were exposed to this, you cannot compare their houses to your house.

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

Secondly on a Point of Information on Ramatex. I have to tell you that the workers at Ramatex produced to the expectations of the company and to say that the workers were not producing is not true. As the Deputy Minister of Labour I know that is not true, the workers were well aware of what they were expected to produce.

Why do we only find a few shops in Namibia open on Sunday? If you go to other countries, the shops are open 24 hours. They do not want to do that because they do not want to pay the blacks. These are things that we need to talk about. You are a business oriented person and you just talk to yourself. Honourable Venaani, are you aware that what causes us to be put in that category of unskilled people is because people do not want to pay us. Are you aware of that?

HON VENAANI: I must say that I become scared, your tone will not create jobs in this country, your tone as the Deputy Minister of Labour.

Let me explain the sad story to you. You are talking about the Rehoboth people but the building tenders are going to other people while they were exposed and can build in this country. I want to refrain from name-calling, from politicising this very important Motion, therefore do not try to derail me for me to answer you, you are the Deputy Minister of Labour. Why is the headquarters of Ministry of Lands being built by foreigners while we have big builders in this country?

However, there is also element of truth about the foreign builders and I will be very bold and frank to say that the Chinese are building faster than the conventional builders in this country and if we do not want to learn from them, we need to catch up. If a tender is given to them, they must be able to share with Namibians. One can learn from any experience, I have learned something from you and I hope you will also one day learn something from me.

Honourable Secretary General of the Ruling Party, I asked you a question outside Parliament and I said I am going to ask you here. Have you ever propagated your socialist agenda in the confines of the Ruling Party, because you are talking about a different economic policy that you want to see in this country and the Government is pursuing another one? Now I do not know

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

which policy are you selling and I have great respect for your views on socialism and how Government can own buildings and industries, but I do not know what stops you to achieve those positions that you believe in your own Party. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order. He seems to be addressing a different Secretary General of the Ruling Party.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Secretary-General, of course you are the creator of all these platforms in the Party for people to air their views, so create that platform for Honourable Ilonga to articulate these socialist policies that he espouses.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, is the question of foreign direct investment vis-à-vis foreign investments. We are also taken for a ride. People come to this country and they have this tendency to go and see high-powered people, either the President or the Prime Minister and say that they want to create this company. (Intervention)

HON KAIYAMO: On a Point of Order. I am defending the library of archives, the records. I think the Secretary-General was correct by asking the question. You were referring in your speech to the Secretary-General.

HON VENAANI: No, I am the Secretary-General of this Party that I represent. She is the Secretary-General of the Ruling Party, the creator of intra-Debate in the Political Party. I was just talking to her, advising her to allow the Honourable Member to have time in the Central Committee of the Ruling Party to articulate his socialist views. That is what I was talking about. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. I do not want the Honourable Member to go with a wrong impression. What I say here, I say everywhere and even to you

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

yourself. The problem is that you cannot just talk about investment without also trying to have equity.

I want you to explain what you meant by the words, “*tongue*” or the “*tone*” which would discourage the investors, while you are saying our workers are lazy and I am saying our workers are not lazy. Who is scaring the investors here? It is you, because they will say, “*how can we go to a country where the people are lazy?*” They will come because I say it is not true, our workers are hardworking and that is why we have liberated this country. It is because of our bravery, hard work.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour, you hold a very important portfolio, you can play the political gimmicks that you are playing, but it is important that you also understand that if the international companies are accusing us, perceptions are very close to reality and we must fight that perception by proving otherwise and I did not call any person *lazy*. That word was not uttered by my mouth and the Honourable Minister of Environment advised me to say “*less productive*” and I used that word.

Coming to Ramatex, I do not really know the mechanics of Ramatex, but I know that we were cheated in the project of Ramatex, but the allegations were not refuted. I always challenge the Ministers, “*Make us envy your work. If an allegation is made in this country, it is your prerogative as a Minister to stand up and make a Ministerial Statement and refute the allegations.*” However, to let it stand for two years and now to say it is not true, is wrong. What stopped you to make a very profound statement in this House? (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a simple question and then come up with information about what you are talking about? Who created Ramatex? Somewhere somebody else out there and these people got away with murder. Let me say that. They were punishing our people. That we know. What did they gain out of it? They got everything free and they have taken everything away from us without a cent being paid back to us and for that matter, we should not keep on talking about that disaster, let us talk about something

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

tangible. Forget about what happened, because everyone was there but they could not prevent what happened.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I was talking about Foreign Direct Investment versus foreign investment. Sometimes these big companies who come here, do not even spend what they promised and just take the money out of the country. We are known to be used for that. We should also try to find some means to be able to retain some of these funds for development in the country.

Lastly is the question of the **Basic Income Grant**. I am a firm believer of this income grant, that there is a need for this country to articulate the need for unemployed Namibians. I disagree with the current proposal that each and every Namibian must be entitled to it, but I espouse the idea that we must look at ways and means to create this Basic Income Grant in the interest of those who are destitute and have nothing to take home. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question to Honourable Venaani? My question is on this Basic Income Grant. I think it is a noble effort, but do you not think that it is very important that instead of the Government giving cash to a community living near a dam, we could create some incentives for projects? Do you not think that we must come with innovative ideas? I am not against the idea, I want our people to have the basics to survive, but where there are opportunities we must also learn to cultivate. This thing of just receiving money is a problem to me. We need to create a culture of self-reliance, where people are given seed to produce tomatoes or potatoes where there is water available. We must really start thinking about that and not only to dish out money. That may be counter-productive to this culture of not being productive.

HON VENAANI: You were supposed to have given these incentives that you are talking about, they are not there. At this point in time there is a need for us to address this basic income grant. There is a need for this country to do so. This country might be a developing country...(Intervention)

17 March 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON VENAANI

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I think there is a Point of Order that needs to be made here, because an impression is being created that the Government advocates state intervention into the economy but it does not practise it and I think that is untrue, because the State owns industries, the State implements a range of projects to stimulate the economy and the extent of our investment as Government is only limited by available resources. We are in energy, we are in transport infrastructure, we are in telecommunication, we are in different sectors. We own close to 30% of the GDP. I am not saying that that is enough, but I think it is wrong to create an impression that we are only saying the State can invest and we are not doing anything about it. It is the same with job creation. We have agricultural schemes, we have aquaculture projects, we have labour-based work in the implementation of capital projects. Yes, we do implement schemes to create jobs for people, it is not true that we are not doing anything about it.

HON VENAANI: Colleague, you are entirely wrong.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:30 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Venaani, you were wrapping up.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Finance was saying that there are some Government interventions and I must be very bold and candid. I have been consistent on this matter, that if a politician can stand up and say that this country has not seen some gains in development, then you are not talking the truth. (Interjection). No, I have said it, check my record and I am saying it again. It is not true that since Independence this country has not developed or we had not improved. No, but there are some areas where we need to do more and one of those areas that we are talking about is unemployment. Therefore, when I am talking about the Basic Income Grant, it is in the interest of those people and there is a need for us to look

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

after them. We must continue to look at ways and means to protect the jobs and to create wealth.

Honourable Speaker, a person would not want to say it too loud, but all of us in our own inner-beings are very proud of this country. Tell me in which country on this continent would you drive from Windhoek to Otjiwarongo and you are seeing grass next to the tarred road, the grass is being cut for you to be able to see the road properly. It tells me that this country is a great country and we could do more to make it a greater country and we should look at those ways and means how to improve and bring this country to greater heights. I support the Motion by Honourable Chief Ankama. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister of Justice has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to make a contribution to the Debate on unemployment in our country. Comrade Speaker, had I known what was going to happen during the tea-break, I would not have enlisted myself to speak shortly thereafter. Nevertheless, let me follow in the footsteps of the previous speaker and make a meaningful contribution to this Debate.

Comrade Speaker, unemployment, as a factor in our social set-up, cannot be debated in the abstract. Unemployment in Namibia is very unique. When you talk to people from countries on the African continent, they tell you how surprised they are to see that we seem to be unable to grasp obvious opportunities for job creating.

A friend of mine from Nigeria was telling me that when she came here as a teacher, she started a tailoring project and she employed two Namibian ladies and for years she has been using them to do the cutting and sewing with all the accessories necessary to make a dress. After some years she asked them, "*can you not start your own business, do you still just want to work for me?*" They asked, "*but how do we go about it?*" Other people are so surprised because they do not understand where we are coming from, the mould of our mentality and I do not know whether this mentality can only be attributed to

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

colonialism or probably cultural upbringing.

I am a person who believes that open talk does not break a bone. If we cannot tell ourselves how it should be, I do not know who else will come and tell us the naked truth. Who? A foreigner? Somebody from outer space?
(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am sorry to disrupt the Secretary-General, but I have some information to share. She asked the question why Namibians are not trade-oriented. The reason is the red line. There is also a cultural red line. Prior to colonialism there was big trade among Namibians, at least between the Hereros and the Ndongas. We used to sell salt, iron, *Otjize (Ochre)* and other things in exchange for cattle. It was an established trade, but when colonialism came they put up the red line. If you are found selling something, they say you have stolen it. If they found you selling something on the street, they would say, “*waar het jy die goed gekry? Jy is ‘n dief, gaan tronk toe!*” (Where did you get those things? You are a thief, go to jail). That is the reason.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, the Right Honourable Prime Minister is right, but this is just one aspect of my enquiry. Is it just that one?
(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, in the colonial system we were taught to serve, not to own. It was servitude education. All of them know that they were taught to serve their bosses, the servitude education, not to be yourself.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The Chief is right, he just amplified what the Right Honourable Prime Minister started with. However, my question still is: Is that all? If you want to tell me that this is all, then we must sit down and look at that problem. How do we get around it? Why can we not think in

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

terms of employing ourselves? It is not only that we do not think in terms of employing ourselves, but we are averse to anybody like ourselves being self-employed. Just look at the recent records of people who are being investigated – it is corruption, it is this, it is that. Just study those situations. (Interjection). No, I am the Minister of Justice, I have not forgotten that and justice must be seen to be done and there is no way I can defend the indefensible. I am just saying there is a tendency among ourselves to be suspicious of anybody like ourselves becoming different from ourselves. *Why? Why is he now driving this car? Why is she now wearing this dress? Why does she not wear the same shoes as me? What has gone wrong?* An investigation must be carried out.

I am not saying there are no corrupt persons in Namibia. If there were no corrupt persons in Namibia, the corruption index could have exonerated us. There must be corruption, but I am just saying the corruption investigation level that we have reached is so pertinent. For anybody to attempt to be different from Pendukeni, to be different from Mbumba, there will be questions asked in dark corners.

One thing that I know for sure, I am an African inside out. If I want to I can also say I am an Ovambo through and through. I grew up in those communities...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask my fellow Ovambo a question? (Laughter). Fellow Ovambo, do you know the word “*ekumbu?*”

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: That is part of our culture. If you have something, you have to create it.

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Indeed, this is what I was leading to. In certain communities in the former Ovamboland wealth must be hidden at all cost. If not, you are exposing yourself to danger. You will be raided, your cattle will be taken away at night and you are robbed so that you look like all others. That mentality is at the core of what we are today. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: You know that if you are dealing with humans it happens that way. In human life there is jealousy and they can destroy what you have in order to be equal and until now we believe in the so-called dictatorship.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I was going to talk about artisanship among the Ovambos. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Before my Chief here moves to artisanship, may I just give some clarification about why it was thought necessary by those who were in authority then to make sure that the territorial unity and the tribal unity or national unity is maintained. It was not just that they did not want other people to get rich, it was specifically because when certain people become rich, they become powerful and they start threatening the established authorities and, therefore, you send your Police or your army or your militia and that has kept Nations together, not just because of wealth.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Indeed, there were reasons why things happened the way they happened, but I want us to understand our mentality and why things are what they are today. What is it that is keeping us from jumping out of ourselves, grabbing the opportunities and doing what others do? (Intervention)

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Senior Member a question? Comrade Minister Ithana, you are making a very deep analysis of the situation. You have now been asked a question by the fellow Ovambo, but do you know that if someone outside the Ovambo clan were to ask that question, you would have taken exception?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Well, that may be true, because we have not shared enough of our historical backgrounds. We feel offended to talk about ourselves. At one time I went somewhere in this country and I spoke my mind because that community was being seen as the perpetrators of a certain crime in the country. I spoke my mind and when I told people that I am from Ombalantu not many people believed me because of the dialect that I speak. When I went to that area and said what I said, the inhabitants of that area said, *“how on earth could this foreigner dare to come here and tell us that this is what we are?”* I said the truth hurts, but I said it. It is only unfortunate that nobody ever recognised the impact of my statement in that area and what happened thereafter. Nobody said anything, but the results became obvious within a short period of time.

Comrade Speaker, I was going to talk about artisanship, that skill among the Ovambos. I recall in our neighbourhood there was somebody from Angola, very skilful. That man could turn metal into whatever he wanted, an axe, a bucket, a hoe, anything. He had his own traditional smelter, he was a blacksmith. When people use to refer to him, they denigrated him to such an extent that not even the children should go there to his house. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask a question? Honourable Pendukeni, do you remember in 1996 I instructed agricultural extension officers to distribute hoes and ploughs in Kaoko so that they can live from grain instead of every day just receiving mealy-meal and the Honourable Leader there of one of the Opposition Parties ordered that *the Owambos must take hoes back, the Hereros cannot use hoes.*

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Minister, you are reminding us of ...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I cannot call it a lie in this House, I am sorry to say that. Go to my homestead, I plant everything, I do not buy it. When am I going to visit your area and find where you live? Then you can talk the way you talk, not at this juncture, because I have never seen where you are. It is unfair to me.

HON SPEAKER: He did not mention a name.

HON RIRUAKO: He did not mention a name, but it does not go anywhere. He is afraid of me, even when he lies down he dreams about me. You were not at Augustineum, others were soldiers by then, you moved about the whole world. You were running and running, I do not know where you were.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, my intention to participate in this Debate is not just to reveal the background to our mentality, but to also make us understand where we are coming from, why we are whom we are, but the big question is, are we going to remain there and ever looking forward to foreign investment to come and develop Namibia? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I put a small question? Are you aware that Honourable Venaani cannot use an axe?

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, now I am forced to venture into another phenomenon. You know, there are people here who feel offended, they feel that their tribes are being called names. You know the Ovambos have a different way of being what their offspring...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, may I ask my Senior a question? When I go back to my Brother, the Minister of Works, it is not the Himba themselves chasing the *Omatemos* away, it was the leader from here who directed them to chase those people away.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: You have clarified the issue, thank you. I was moving to a point of clarifying certain expressions meant to invoke courage and hard work in a young person. I talked about this gentleman from our village who was a blacksmith and how they used to refer to him. If you were unable to help yourself, to work for yourself, there was a word for that. You would be called that and it is not because that is your tribe, it is because you live like somebody who is just in the bush, because animals in the bush do not cultivate, they do not store food for tomorrow, they live as nature provides and, therefore, those expressions: *Omubwela*, *Omukwankala*, *Evaya* is not a tribe, those expressions...(Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. Are you aware that today's modern husbands only get to use the hoe when they pick up a fight at home? That is when you find some men doing something in the garden, it is not ingenuity, it is only when there is trouble in the house.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Indeed, across the tribal lines they behave in the same fashion. They do not know how to use their hands to produce, the only fortunate aspect is that the educated ones will be able to use their brains. Their hands, no. Therefore, I will be surprised if Honourable Venaani knows how to use a hoe. I will really be surprised because men of his age do not know how to use their hands and, therefore, Comrade Speaker, this society is faced with serious challenges, serious challenges that our workforce does not

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

have a work ethic. Nobody wants to use his or her hands any longer, but we all know that to survive we need money. (Interventions)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am terribly sorry to disturb my Senior, I just wanted to give some information and ask a question. I was listening attentively to her comments about the Nigerian who taught two Namibians to do everything and then she was asking why they have not started their own business. The other day there was a Nigerian Ambassador here and there was a discussion about Nigeria getting a lot of revenue from oil and yet the Budget is so small in comparison to South Africa and other countries. I remember the Nigerian Ambassador was saying that, *“no, our economy is informal, everybody is trying to do something, this one is catching fish, this one is growing mahangu and they sell everything there, so this is an informal market.”* Economies are driven mostly by women, they are the driving force and it is an economy measured in billions of dollars. You will not see money in the banks there, but everybody is surviving. The country has food and people are eating. I just wanted to comment on that, that the Honourable Minister was correct, there is a lot we can do with what we have, we only need to drive the economy ourselves.

The economy in Ghana is driven by women, everywhere in Africa, but here we are just saying that everybody must get money and then relax. We have to take another look at our mentality. Where is the money going to come from? They say because Namibia is a semi-communist country, they are not going to invest, therefore we have to drive the economy ourselves and that brings me to the question:

We had a meeting one day and somebody mentioned that we must construct silos for mahangu, so that we can produce enough food and somebody was against that, saying that, *“in my cultural background we do not eat mahangu.”* This is the mentality the Minister is talking about. Why not learn to eat mahangu which you produce yourself, rather than buying maize-meal from somewhere else? That is the mentality.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, the interventions are becoming very interesting, it is a speech on its own going parallel to mine.

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Be that as it may, I think we are on the same wavelength, I know we all would like to arrive at a point where we look at ourselves with a view to bring out the person who would be driving this economy tomorrow.

Our young people nowadays do not like to hear the word, “*work*” and when I refer to young people, I am truly talking about all the people. I am talking about people younger than myself. I am almost 60 years old, I am talking about those younger than myself, they do not like to work. When you tell them to work, they feel you are bringing colonialism back. Our young people will nowadays tell you, “*we have liberated ourselves from colonialism, now you want to bring colonialism here*”, but I am appealing to Namibians to tell the truth, this country cannot be developed by anybody else other than ourselves. The unemployment we are crying about is our own creation because we do not want to work and the majority do not even want to think, they want others to think for them.

A person wakes up in the morning without knowing what will happen through the day, but at the end of the month he is expecting at least to get money.
(Intervention)

HON HOFFMANN: I am very sorry to come in while the Honourable Minister of Justice is speaking, but I want to come in on a Point of Information. In the light of what the Honourable Minister was saying right in the beginning, straight talk breaks no bones, Honourable Minister of Justice, what I know from my little knowledge is that the majority of the people in the country were fighting for the total liberation of the country and we did not know about development and self-employment. The majority of the people were thinking that if the country becomes free, everything will be free. Luckily enough, some of us had the opportunity through the Council of Churches and SWAPO to go abroad and to see to it that there will be another war after Independence, which I would like to call a war of survival. People talk about economies and all those beautiful words our people do not understand and immediately after Independence when our people from abroad had come back, they did not bring participation in development down to the grassroots, making the people understand that development starts with yourself. When you start yourself and you know where you come from, where

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

you are going and how to get what you want, then it makes the person also understand.

Some of the people were lucky enough to unlock their minds, because our minds are locked. The minds of a few have been opened a little bit to start thinking of doing things for themselves. Therefore, it is so important to come together and help the people on the ground to get their human dignity back. They must start understanding that development starts with them and understand democracy and all these things. It will help us and even the new generation to employ themselves, to start talking about development and to start doing things for themselves. Is that maybe some of our shortcomings and that we have to see how we can come together Region by Region, town by town, district by district and start talking about development, unemployment and all this?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Indeed, that is why I appreciate the interventions, questions and comments parallel to my speech because it enriches ourselves and those listening to us.

Comrade Speaker, I am now going to move to what can be done. You know, we are squandering so many opportunities. One effective instrument in our Republic that could benefit our people is the radio, NBC. NBC is not playing its role as it is supposed to be doing or we are probably not driving NBC in the direction where it is supposed to help us to reach where we want to reach. Unfortunately I do not speak many of our vernaculars. Apart from Oshivambo I understand a bit of Otjiherero and Rukavango, Afrikaans and English.

Sometimes while I am travelling I tell my driver, *“please do not tune into that station, you are depressing me on a long journey.”* It is all about deaths for two hours, this and that one died. It was probably started when there were not sufficient communication systems in the country, but nowadays every second person has a cell phone. How come that we still continue to announce our private matters on the radio? Can we not use that spot for certain people who are knowledgeable on certain subjects to educate our citizens?

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Why can we not do that? How much are we benefiting from announcing our personal circumstances on the radio?

Not only that, if you find a very useful programme on especially Radio Oshivambo, it is probably on agriculture. Sometimes you hear the extension officers announcing something related to crops or animal husbandry. That is all. Honourable Minister of Information, where are you? He is not even here. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Hard talk does not bring votes. That is the quotation I take from my Honorable Ithana. At present we have different interests and different interpretations. These programmes only last one or two hours. The death announcements are on all the different language services. Comrade Ithana, no matter how you feel, it is not yet time as communication only reaches my village at *Etilyasa* and less than 20 kilometres further no more communication. This is not private interest and if the Nation hears you, they ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, my speech does not have to be... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: ...interrupted by somebody like that one, no. I refuse.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

On a Point of Information.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Please, I am going to refuse.

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON SPEAKER: Minister, continue.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, it is our society, it is our people, it is ourselves, it is our radio, it is our programmes. How does somebody who is out of reach of the network reach Oshakati for that message to be announced? There are circumstances in which we can say there should be a slot for such messages, but I am saying that the predominance of these messages are just so overwhelming that the people do not learn anything else than death, death, death. Why do we not organise our programmes in such a way that we also take care of some of these aspects which we recognise as drawing us back, as keeping us where we are? We are saying at this point where we are, we are not making progress. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. If the Comrade refuses to take my Point of Information and continues to speak on the same topic, that is not supposed to be allowed.

HON SPEAKER: You posed a question, which implies that I allow the Minister to take the Floor at your expense. You have the right to inscribe and make your own speech.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, this is what I am saying, the Honourable Member seems to have a speech and he has the right to deliver his speech at his own slot. My speech is saying, let NBC be used as a tool to educate the Namibian Nation. We have so many people sitting around the robots every morning looking for a job and I have realised these are skilled people. They have participated in construction two years ago, they have participated in farming some years ago, but currently they are unemployed and if we have a programme designed to address this particular component of our unemployed persons, then they can attain some skills.

The radio is meant to educate, to inform and to entertain. We concentrate more on information and education is completely neglected. I am saying

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

we should concentrate on programmes to educate our people on how to set up small enterprises, what they need to do. If you know how to build or if you are a carpenter, what do you need to put these skills together and become a small successful entrepreneur. We should do that. We cannot just talk about unemployment yet we are not addressing the core problems sitting at the bottom of our society.

The issue raised in the Motion is very, very crucial and I think we will not do justice to the issue if we just debate for the sake of debating and probably playing to the gallery and not coming out with concrete resolutions as to what is it that we need to do in order to address unemployment in the country.
(Intervention)

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

May I ask a question? Comrade, are you aware that some of the youth, even those at the National Youth Service at Berg Aukas, now at Rietfontein, used to produce a lot of watermelons and other products, but had no market? I agree with you that we must educate these people, but the resolution taken in this Parliament must be linked to the Executive so that the Ministries of Health and Education and others must buy local products to be consumed in hospitals and schools. In that way the youth who produce something could have a ready market. Nobody is presently buying from them, the products are rotting there. I am suggesting that this resolution be coupled to that, so that these people could have a ready market.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, that just enriched my speech and this is the point I was driving home, that NBC should design programmes in areas such as marketing. What prevents Namibians from coming together and setting up a company which will just be specialising in selling this produce? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Honourable Ithana, what prevents a Member of Parliament to set up a marketing organisation as a business?

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Indeed nothing, provided that the Member declares his or her interest. However, I will be quick to tell you that that person will soon be investigated for corruption. That aspect of our society is really derailing the minds of those who would like to start doing something.

Let me say, although I know there will be those who will attack me for having said so, I am happy that the Chat Show has now been reduced to those hours in the evening, because people were being judged, condemned, investigated and sentenced, insulted, name it, on the Chat Show and that programme is also one of the programmes that has stifled the minds of our people. It is us talking about ourselves. I have never, up to now, heard of any person of a different colour from ourselves being investigated for corruption and I keep asking, *“does it mean that to be black is to be corrupt or what is going on?”* It is because the Chat Show is being used to spread rumours, to spread unfounded stories and somebody picks it up tomorrow, takes it to the Anti-Corruption Commission that so and so must be investigated. I am happy that at least some brakes are being applied to this programme. (Intervention)

HON IIPINGE: Comrade Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question? You have said that we need to take the people off the streets who have acquired labour skills elsewhere. Do you agree with me that we also need to create programmes for those who have not yet acquired skills to use those skills to get jobs? Do you agree with me on that one?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: What I have mentioned is just a fraction of what can be done and I have concentrated on the use of the radio, because I know how effective it has become. There are many other methods and I thought many of you were going to take the Floor and make your own points, so that after this Debate we will be able to take up those points which could be used to achieve what we want to achieve.

Comrade Speaker, I was about to conclude, if nobody asks me a further question. (Intervention)

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? Honourable Minister, the two-and-a-half hour speech is very informative, but I really want to be clear on what you are saying. You are talking about investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission. The impression that I got is that you were saying that every time that a black person starts becoming different he or she is investigated. Are you questioning the sincerity of the Anti-Corruption Commission? Are you questioning the ability and credibility of the Anti-Corruption Commission?

Secondly, are you as the Minister of Justice trying to create the impression with us to start suspecting the role of the Anti-Corruption Commission and what they have done? I just want to be clear on that, because I do not want to leave here thinking differently. I am having a bit of a problem with you as the Minister of Justice putting a question mark on the Anti-Corruption Commission, a Government institution.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: It is good that you asked the question and did not just keep quiet and go and spread those rumours. The Anti-Corruption Commission is a credible organisation. It has cleared so many names that were taken to them and the Anti-Corruption Commission does not go around sniffing. I mentioned the Chat Show, I mentioned a specific programme in which names of people are thrown into the air and the following day somebody would write a note to the Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate and Anti-Corruption Commission has investigated so many people and has cleared so many names.

Therefore, for you to insinuate that I was probably accusing the Anti-Corruption Commission or doubting its credibility, is wrong. I am just saying that somebody's name is thrown into the air and by the time the result of the investigation is known, nobody will mention it publicly that such and such a name is cleared, people will live with the impression that such and such person is corrupt. This is what I am talking about.

There is loose talk because we want everybody else to be like ourselves and if somebody happens to look different from us, then that person must be investigated. I am saying that approach is wrong and it is discouraging

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR KAWANA**

potential young entrepreneurs, black entrepreneurs. They do not want their names to be thrown around as being corrupt. That is what I was saying.

Having said that, Comrade Speaker, I am now really concluding.
(Intervention)

HON NASHANDI: Honourable Speaker, the Minister of Justice spoke about the people sitting at traffic lights, seeking jobs, but if you go around town, especially at the construction sites, you find courageous ladies providing breakfast and lunch and if we are only speaking about those who are seeking jobs, they might feel offended. At least we have to commend them.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, it is good you said that, it is adding to my speech. The whole intention of my speech is for us to find a solution. Unemployment is a concern to all of us without exception and, therefore, I do not want us to leave with the impression that I was saying this because I want to exclude this. No, let us embrace all of them and see how we can find a solution to at least reduce the unemployment in our country. Whether it is women or young men on the street corners, let us focus our attention on the issue.

Having said so with very few words, I thank you, Comrade Speaker, and I support the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for her very creative and constructive contribution. Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Motion before this Chamber, but before I do so, allow me to say that today we have a baby in this Chamber and, therefore, allow me to wish Honourable Jerry Ekandjo a happy birthday.

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR KAWANA**

Honourable Speaker, the population of Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, is about three million. The population of Chitungwiza, a suburb of Harare in Zimbabwe, is about four million. All these figures are far more than the population of this country. Now I ask myself, why is it that we are facing high unemployment and high poverty rates in this country?

Comrade Speaker, in terms of natural resources, Namibia is one of the richest in the SADC Region and yet we find an unacceptable rate of unemployment and poverty. The Government has tried to employ a number of people and, indeed, there are even Members in this Chamber...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Kawana a question? Honourable Kawana, are you aware that the best manufacturers, distributors and sellers of Swapo scarf are the Zimbabweans?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Indeed, I am aware of that, not only Zimbabweans but other citizens who helped us during the liberation struggle.

Honourable Speaker, I was saying, we in Government tried our utmost best to employ as many Namibians as possible. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: We give aid to Zimbabwe although they are the underdog. In their troubles it is only this country which provided aid to Zimbabwe. How about that? You and I have been talking about it.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I was saying that we in Government tried our utmost best to employ as many citizens of our country as possible and yet, I am aware that some Members in this Chamber are not happy with this situation, they are saying the Civil Service is bloated and therefore they are not happy to see any further employment in the Civil Service. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. We said, do not let them become our bosses, we are paying them. They look at us as the underdog and we

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR KAWANA**

are the Parliamentarians who give them money and you keep us behind them, which is wrong. That is our argument.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, let me put it on record, as my Secretary-General said: Frank talk does not break a bone. I am one of those who sympathise with the plight of the Honourable Members, the backbenchers in this House, because I know that contrary to what is being reported in the press, their packages definitely need urgent attention. I know that even the most highly paid ordinary Members of Parliament are at the level of Chief Control Officer. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I want to provide information to the Honourable Minister. When I was a backbencher and Chief Whip and a Chairman, I was taking home N\$24,000 a month. When I became a Minister, I was taking N\$23,000 home and the reason is that when I was that side, I was getting a car allowance and when I came here, I did not have a car allowance. Therefore, I do not know who is worse off. Everybody sitting here is worse off.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I did not want to venture into our own benefits. If you ask me in private I will tell you, but if you quote me in public I will deny it. I am of the view that particularly here in SADC our ordinary Members of Parliament got a raw deal and I would go along with the suggestion that their lot be improved. I am aware that they are at the level of Chief Control Officer and yet they are the democratically elected leaders of this country. I definitely agree with the Honourable Chief on that score.

I am aware that some of our citizens are saying the Civil Service is bloated and it must be reduced, but my question is, if you were to reduce the Civil Servants, what will happen to the rate of unemployment, what will happen to the poverty situation? At the moment we are not being assisted by the private sector. We say the private sector is the engine for economic growth, but I have my doubts, because we are the victims of capitalism in this country.

17 March 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR KAWANA**

China has 1,3 billion people and yet it has one of the lowest rates of unemployment. Why? There is no private sector there which is the engine of economic growth. The private sector in China is very negligible. That is why I am saying we are victims of capitalism in this country, we are victims of the private sector, we are victims of non-participation in this country by previously disadvantaged Namibians. As long as the previously disadvantaged Namibians and women do not take part in the means of production of this country, we will never solve this problem.

We, the indigenous Namibians or previously disadvantaged Namibians have a right to own the natural resources of this country. Why today virtually all the mineral licences belong to foreigners? Let me give an example of uranium, the majority of the licence holders today are Australians. I am saying we have to empower our people economically.

HON SPEAKER: You will continue from that point, we must empower our people economically. The House shall rise under Rule 90, automatic adjournment, until tomorrow 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.03.17 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
18 MARCH 2009
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I hope that you share my outrage about military-political coups in the SADC Region. Some of you will remember that in the eighties there was an attempt made by one misguided Nito Alves and his gang of misfits to overthrow the Government of Angola. Luckily that failed thanks to the support given by the Cubans to the Angolan Army. Zambia too had a scare in 1990 or thereabouts when drunken soldiers attempted a coup, but luckily that was a bloodless coup, but the consequences were serious politically. We all know what happened in the DRC because our brave men and women went there to help that country restore its territorial integrity and Independence. Lesotho, shortly after the DRC, also experienced an attempted military coup. Thanks to the intervention of other SADC countries, South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique, that was prevented.

Madagascar's coup is a repetition in recent memory. In 2001 when the African leaders were trying to transform the OAU into the African Union, a similar situation took place on the eve of the creation of the African Union in 2002. The very President who is now on the run did exactly the same thing. He has now been overthrown.

In the history, military interventions in socio-political affairs have served a very useful purpose, but for the most part, the military must stay in the barracks and act only as and when called upon by elected political authorities to carry out their activities. Therefore, we must condemn military coups at all times. There is no justification, we are trying to build democracy, stability and prosperity in the SADC Region.

Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Prime Minister.

18 March 2009

**TABLING OF REPORTS
RT HON N ANGULA**

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT, 2007/2008
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, in the true tradition of transparency and accountability, I have the honour to lay upon the Table, the 2007/2008 Annual Report of the Office of the Prime Minister.

**TABLING: NAMIBIA DISASTER RISK
MANAGEMENT POLICY**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I have the honour to lay upon the Table for discussion, the Namibia Disaster Risk Management Policy, March 2009.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Prime Minister table the Report? I understand it is the wish of the Prime Minister that we go through this Report and the Rules allow that you do so. I give you the Floor.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, let me give you some details about this Namibia Disaster Risk Management Policy.

18 March 2009

**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY
RT HON N ANGULA**

Currently, Namibia does not have a national policy and statutory instruments to ensure compliance and accountability during disasters and significant events. The colonial administration used the Civil Defence Act and Civil Defence Ordinances that are no longer in keeping with the new political dispensation.

Furthermore, the existing legislation and National Disaster Plan were response oriented. This Policy offers an alternative to disaster management that seeks to address the root causes of disasters through reducing the exposure and vulnerability of people and economic assets.

The Namibia Disaster Risk Management Policy seeks to:

1. Minimise the loss of human life, property and damage to the environment from hazards of natural and ecological origin.
2. Advocate an approach to disaster risk management that focuses on reducing risks, especially to those sections of the population who are most vulnerable due to poverty and general lack of resources.
3. Advocate for a shared awareness and responsibility to reduce disaster risk in homes, communities, places of work and in society in general.
4. Give effect to the application of cooperative governance on issues concerning disasters and disaster risk management among the levels of Government and allocate responsibilities in this regard to relevant stakeholders.
5. Advocate the involvement of the private sector, Non-Governmental Organisations, communities and volunteers in disaster risk management and to facilitate partnerships between organs of State and the private sector, Non-Governmental Organisations and communities.
6. To provide a framework for the development of the Disaster Risk Management Act of Parliament.

The National Disaster Risk Management Policy of the Republic of Namibia is the instrument which gives direction and defines the parameters for the

18 March 2009

**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY
RT HON N ANGULA**

application of total disaster risk management within the established National Disaster Risk Management Systems in Namibia.

To contribute to the policy goal of the Disaster Risk Management Policy is to contribute to the attainment of sustainable development in line with Namibia's Vision 2030 through strengthening national capacities to significantly use disaster risk and build community resilience to disasters.

Policy Strategies in the presence of the goal of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy, the following broad strategies will be applied:

- (a) The integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning at all levels.
- (b) The strengthening of disaster risk management structures, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards at national, regional, constituency and community levels.
- (c) The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.
- (d) Build of multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels to contribute to the implementation of total risk management.

The National Disaster Risk Management Policy for Namibia has the following five policy objectives:

Policy Objective 1: Make disaster risk reduction a priority at all levels in Namibia by establishing sound integrated and functional legal and institutional capacity within the established National Disaster Risk Management System to enable the efficient application of the concept of total disaster risk management.

Policy Objective 2: Improve risk identification, assessment and monitoring mechanisms in Namibia.

Policy Objective 3: Reduce the underlying risk and vulnerability factors by improving disaster risk management application at all levels.

18 March 2009

**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY
RT HON N ANGULA**

Policy Objective 4: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response and recovery practices at all levels.

Policy Objective 5: Enhance information and knowledge management for disaster risk management.

I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion on the Prime Minister's policy statement? Honourable Mudge.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Speaker, just a very short contribution. I have a feeling that the Nation by and large does not really know what is going on with this disaster that is currently taking place up north. It is one thing to read in newspapers and to see photos, but I think the people will be shocked to know exactly what is going on. We want to encourage those in the private sector to make contributions towards the people who have been affected and I am not quite sure how it should be done. Maybe, since it is a quite a big disaster, we should have continuous reports in this House that can facilitate the situation on hand and to give factual figures on the situation. I want to repeat that from reading the newspapers and seeing the photos the people do not really know what is going on. I however, want to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister, I think it is time that we have such a policy in place. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion? Honourable Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, if nobody wishes to take the Floor, I pray for your indulgence to adjourn the Debate on this until tomorrow, the 19th of March.

18 March 2009

**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY
HON DR KAWANA**

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister for tabling this very important Policy and, indeed, I agree with him when he says that although there are currently proclamations to this effect to regulate emergency situations in Namibia, those laws are part and parcel of the repressive laws of apartheid which have no place in today's Namibia, a Namibia founded on the Rule of Law and democracy.

I am, indeed, aware that most of those powers were given to the Minister of Defence and normally what happened when an emergency situation was declared, it removed a number of rights, including the jurisdiction of the Courts, to the extent that by the order of the Minister of Defence, property could be sequestered without regard to fair compensation. In addition, people could be commanded to evacuate certain places without regard to human rights and people were liable to arrest and, indeed, properties could be destroyed if deemed necessary in the interest of security. Those laws are really very harsh and that is why I do concur and congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister and his Office, including the Deputy Prime Minister, for coming up with this Policy. I wish and hope that this Policy will be adopted very soon so that statutory provisions will follow with a law which will be in accordance with the Namibian Constitution, Namibian values and Namibian democracy and that all of us will look forward to address this situation which seems to be repeating itself almost on an annual basis.

Honourable Speaker, let me also use this opportunity, after listening to Honourable Mudge, to request my Senior Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Information, Comrade Kaapanda, to ensure that the whole media statement of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia of yesterday where he declared an emergency situation in the north and north-eastern parts of our country be broadcast both on television and radio, just to echo the sentiments of Honourable Mudge, because that is the most official statement or information from our Government since it comes from the first citizen of our country.

With these few remarks, Comrade Speaker, I support the Policy and I thank you.

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON EKANDJO**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Any further discussion? If not, then the further discussion on this Policy Document stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30. Any Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements?

The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Objections? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Minister please table the Bill? Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL:
SECOND READING**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Seconded? Objections? Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON EKANDJO**

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

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the purpose of my addressing this august House is to inform the Honourable Members of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development's intention to amend the Local Authorities Act, 1991 (Act 23 of 1992) to provide for the extension of the Local Authority Council elections so as to coincide with those for Regional Councils.

The implication of this extension is that the current Local Authority Councillors will remain in office for another 18 months. Regional Councils and Local Authority Council elections have been taking place on different days ever since the first elections in 1992. Their terms of office are also different, being 5 years for Local Authority Councillors and six years for Regional Councillors.

The Local Authority Council elections were last held in May 2004 and are due in May 2009, whereas those for Regional Councils were last held in November 2004 and are due in November 2010. It is established that this arrangement is undesirable and not cost effective. It involves a lot of duplications in terms of logistics and resources that could be avoided if they were held at the same period.

Additionally, holding of these elections at different times is also considered to be one of the root causes of voter apathy as voters regard it to be too much to participate in elections one year after the other or, in some instances, twice in the same year.

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development has, therefore, considered it prudent to hold both elections for Regional and Local Authority Councils over the same period. The next planned dual election is November 2010. It is expected that this arrangement will be cost effective on the part of Government. This will particularly be so by the use of the same facilities, same personnel, same equipment and materials for both elections at the same time.

It is also expected that unification of these elections will make it easier for the voters to participate, especially those who have to vote for both Local and

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON RIRUAKO / HON DR KAWANA**

Regional Councils. They will now be required to vote only once for the two elections at the same time and with the same enthusiasm.

The Regional and Local Authority Councillors in Namibia are in support of this alignment. I, therefore, request the Honourable Members of this august House to support these Amendments and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for his motivation. Any further discussion? Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, we have an important duty to take care of tomorrow, namely the Budget, and to prolong the discussion on this Bill is a waste of time. It was done in a very wrong way, we were in a hurry when we established what we have today. Now the changes are right and there is a time to go and a time to come and a time to establish. Now is the time. I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Let me join my Senior Chief and congratulate the Honourable Jerry Ekandjo for tabling this Amendment and as he correctly stated, our Nation was unnecessarily subjected to electoral fatigue in 2004, because during that year we had four elections, namely, the Local Authorities, Regional Councils, National Assembly and Presidential. I definitely concur with the Honourable Minister that it is a waste of resources. Although it is part of our democratic process, people cannot eat democracy, we need to preserve some of the resources to address the socio-economic conditions of our people, which to me are more important. Therefore, I applaud the SWAPO Party Government for coming up with this policy to hold Local Authority elections together with Regional Council elections.

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Comrade Speaker, let me also use this opportunity to congratulate the SWAPO Party Government and more specifically the SWAPO Party on the outcome of the Afro Barometer which points to the fact that the SWAPO Party is firmly in control of this country. Let everybody know that the SWAPO Party has won the 2009 elections. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Honourable Member, you are spoiling the broth. You always come here to spoil the broth. Let us say it the way it is, that is a start. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Some of us are traditionalists and we listen to Senior wisdom and I will go along with the advice of the Honourable Chief, although I think I will reserve that for another occasion. With these few remarks, I support the Amendment Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I will also try to be very brief and not spoil the good and wise words already expressed by Honourable Chief Riruako.

I too rise to support the proposed Amendment to the Local Authorities Act, especially for the reasons of reducing costs. As you all know, we are facing an economic crisis and the resources that we have at our disposal need to be utilised optimally. However, I only wanted to say something on the equipment since we are now going to have one team of electoral and presiding officers who are going to register people for these elections.

I feel this is a time that we need to think about our youth, the high school leavers that have no place in tertiary institutions, not because they cannot be accommodated but because of financial constraints. It is a time to think of

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON TJIHUIKO / RT HON N ANGULA**

students trying to fund their own studies at tertiary institutions when it comes to recruitment of registration officers and presiding officers. We are talking of the unemployment youth. Often you see Civil Servants being used in the elections while leaving out the unemployed youth. I want to appeal that this be a chance for the unemployed youth. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. It is better late than never and I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister for bringing this Amendment to the House. It is really long overdue and we need to learn to do things in good time so that we as lawmakers will have enough time to make the right changes, to check the notes and see exactly what has been amended and what has not been amended. In that respect I support the Amendment and I thank you very much that you have done it.

However, as much as I appreciate the action of the Honourable Minister, I understand that there is an Amendment of the Electoral Act that has been submitted to the Honourable Minister 7 or 8 months ago and an Act that could have helped to streamline the coming elections. That Amendment is still on your table, Honourable Minister and I hope that it is not going to be submitted to this House in October so that it could either lapse or not be considered properly. I would have appreciated if the Minister could have done that yesterday. Otherwise I support the Amendment.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I would, first of all, like to thank the new Senior Citizen for introducing the Amendment to

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

this Bill and to say that this Amendment is very important in many ways but I only want to talk about two things.

One, it is important to note that by virtue of its representative authority, Parliament is extending the term of the Local Council Authorities without subjecting these individuals to some form of test as to whether they have been effective. For the next 18 months they are going to work under the name of a representative body, Parliament. I hope that they are not going to disappoint the trust Parliament has put in them and that they are going to redouble their efforts during the next eighteen months until the next elections, so that they can vindicate Parliament's trust on behalf of the people. That is the message to the Local Councillors.

The second issue is the harmonisation of the Local and Regional elections. This harmonisation will require that people in the proclaimed urban areas receive proper education to make a distinction between voting for a Constituent Councillor in Windhoek Urban and the Local Authority Councillors for Windhoek, because that can cause confusion if people are not properly educated. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the Electoral Commission to make sure that when these harmonised elections are held, urban dwellers are properly educated not to be confused by the two ballots and to think this Councillor is now going to be in the municipality or in the Regional Council within the municipal area. There is a need for proper voter education in order for people to make correct choices in terms of their political preferences.

Honourable Kawana, since I am also a Senior Citizen, the Afro Barometer is telling us that there is apathy among the youth, especially the *born-frees*. Some of them want to vote for the wrong Parties and I want to advise them that their future is only in one Party and that Party is SWAPO. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: The Electoral Commission will soon announce the campaign time. Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise as a Member of the National Assembly which has an oversight function and I

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

believe that would be amiss in my duty as a Member of the National Assembly not to take the Floor on this Debate.

Whilst I would seriously and honestly want to support the extension, I am encouraged by the promise made by the Right Honourable Prime Minister as to the performance, not the part of his campaign speech. But in all seriousness, Honourable Speaker, I make it my duty to read the Annual Reports of the Auditor-General and when I look at those reports, I read the repeated opinions of the Auditor-General that in quite a number of these Local Councils the situation is tragic. There is mismanagement, there is lack of executing their duties. As we as Parliament give blanket extension of one year, then my question is, do we extend the inefficiency for a year or do we seriously take the role of Local Councils into consideration and what they are supposed to do, especially when we have problems of unemployment, of ill-health and all of that. I honestly do not believe that we can just extend without ensuring that there must be some sort of mechanism built in that the term of non-performing Local Councillors cannot just be extended. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. What was done was to avoid a predicament. We could not allow one year extension, it was done for us to scrutinise whatever happens. I think there is no way of discussing that. We are going to discuss after that, as you said, but we cannot prolong what was done wrong and what is committed, we have to scrutinise afterwards. This Bill shows the way it is supposed to be done.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Chief Riruako has a complete right to put his position. "Parliament" is derived from the French word "*parler*", to talk. It is my duty to talk, it is the Honourable Chief's prerogative to say I am wasting time, but when it comes to wasting time in this country, I do not believe that I am one of the major culprits. With all due respect to the Chief, I still believe I have the right to talk and I will, because that is why people voted for me. I am an elected Member of Parliament, I am not by birth like the Chief. He can do that in the family thing, I am his subject outside, not here.

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON VENAANI

I believe that I will find it difficult, with all due respect, to extend the term of Local Councils that are, to name it bluntly, “*useless*”. If a mechanism can be built in that those who do not perform could be supervised...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask a question? Honourable Member, I hope CoD has Councillors in the Local Authorities. What makes it impossible for CoD to recall that person if you see he or she is not delivering? It is not necessary for you to bring it here, it is for the Party to take a decision if your member is not delivering. What prevents you from doing that?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, I do not know whether that is a question or a statement, but I can assure the Honourable Member that I am not talking about CoD Councils, I am here talking of Councils that function and Councils that do not function and CoD has withdrawn a Councillor when his performance was in doubt. It is nothing new, we do that and we shall continue to do that. It is unfortunate, but it is the wish of the electorate, if we accept the results of elections, that CoD does not run any Local Council. We participate, we are not in the management. However, I am not absolving CoD Councillors who are not working from being extended, I am not making it party-political, I have not started a campaign. I am talking of Councillors irrespective of political affiliation, those who do not perform and Local Councils where you regularly have the fact that even the finances are in disarray, which are public funds from the taxpayer. Then I am duty-bound to challenge and question it.

I would support this Bill on condition that mechanisms are built in to get rid of those who are wasting taxpayers’ money. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This is indeed an important Amendment, but it is also a very technical Amendment in the eyes

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON VENAANI

of democracy. Of course, we are aware that democracy is a very expensive process and at times many countries cannot afford the exercise of democracy, but of course, we should not be found wanting as a country to use the expensiveness of democracy as a conduit for not having regular democratic exercises.

The purpose of this Amendment is to try and harmonise the elections, but one question one should put to the responsible Line Minister is, what happens after the harmonisation of the 2010 Regional and Local Authority elections? Would the term of Regional Councils become five years? (Interjections). The Amendment seeks to harmonise. This is the Local Authorities Act, so you will have to harmonise the regional elections.

HON SPEAKER: You will continue after the tea-break. The House will rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, the argument that I am advancing is the fact that we are talking about a harmonisation of elections in 2010. The Regional Councils currently have a 6 year term and the Local Authorities a 5 year term. If you harmonise today, will you again harmonise in 2014 with another Amendment?

The argument is that we are amending a piece of legislation, an important test to our democracy, before the right thing. The right thing would have been to first bring an Amendment to the Regional Council's term of office and let it pass. We have attempted and failed the last time. When you are speaking of harmonisation of elections, then it should be consistent with an Amendment in the future, but in the current form that we are amending this piece of legislation, we are harmonising and will in future harmonise again and that is not good. (Interjections).

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON VENAANI

If you want to be accountable with the legislation that you are implementing, you need to think holistically and not amend today in order to again amend tomorrow. You need to be consistent with your Amendments.

I believe all political actors are in agreement that it is expensive to hold elections now. We are not prepared, it is good to harmonise for 2010, but we have not answered the future harmonisation of elections and that was my concern.

Secondly, Honourable Speaker, I want to agree with Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase on what she has said about the lack of efficient administration in some of the Local Authorities. We have some Town Councils who do not even have financial reports for the last 5 years and this is a serious concern to the resident and the ratepayers of those Councils and we need to address this issue.

Then there is another issue which needs to be debated at a higher level and that is the over-control by the Chief Executive Officers of towns. You find a proper, legally constituted, elected body is run by one person, the CEO. People are allowing it because of the lack of knowledge and lack of authority and I want to address the lack of authority.

Chief Executive Officers, especially in towns and cities, are highly paid and they are running the affairs of the Councils. The remuneration has so much to do with power. If you do not remunerate somebody, he does not have the respect of his junior staff. It is that psychological aspect, that a Mayor comes to a Town Councillor and borrows money or when you borrow money from your driver or whoever works for you. Later they are saying this man is not for real, how could he be called the Mayor of the city and he is borrowing money from us? I have been a strong advocate of looking into the remuneration of Chief Executive Officers of especially Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Windhoek, maybe Keetmanshoop, Tsumeb and Oshakati.

I have interrogated many people of the City and Town Councils and ask them why they do not have financial reports, they say, "*no, where is the CEO?*" (Intervention)

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON VENAANI

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

May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? What you are saying is correct. The Mayor of Karibib is a lady and she once phoned me, complaining that she once called the Treasurer, someone who is heading the Finance Department in Karibib and said, "*Madam, it is the Mayor, I want to make an appointment with you.*" This is a Mayor and it is a DTA Mayor. Some of your Opposition Councillors disappoint us because many of them are being controlled by the Chief Executive Officers, like this one asking an appointment with a head of the Department of Finance in Karibib. She said, "*no, I do not have time*" and then she was complaining with me that she went there twice and she could not get an appointment. She said, "*no, I do not have time*" and then she was complaining with me that she went there twice and she could not get an appointment. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Let me not go to the Councillors. Some of you on the other side of the House are not controlling Ministries, you are controlled by the Permanent Secretary. Some of you are just "*workshop Ministers.*" (Intervention)

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

Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Order. Although the Honourable Minister did not have the Floor, the intervention that refers to a particular person in a particular town may not be parliamentary and auger well. If that could be withdrawn or be ruled Out of Order it would be better, because that was a reference to a person who is not a Member of this House.

HON SPEAKER: I got that the Minister said that this person is a member of DTA, subject to correction. No, I do not think there was any harm done.

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: Be that as it may, Honourable Speaker, I was speaking about some Ministers who are “*workshop Ministers.*” The only time when you see them is when they are opening a workshop. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Do not talk about Permanent Secretaries controlling the Ministers, I told them they should shift all the Secretaries just like peanuts in something I cannot mention. No one is controlling anymore.

Some of the kings have been moved to other Departments or Ministries. All the Ministries have new Secretaries. I demanded that here. I said you cannot allow your Secretary to control you in front of the whole Nation. After that everyone was taken away from his Ministry to another Ministry. I think you have observed that and I said it bluntly and then someone somewhere took cognisance and has already acted that way.

HON VENAANI: I can tell you that we have a sickness in this country, some of the Permanent Secretaries and Chief Executive Officers are controlling us and sometimes when you go to a Minister to consult on a certain issue, you would find that the other person is speaking more than the Minister. (Interjection). Not you. I do not want to go to personalities of Ministers, but the issue I want to address, Honourable Ekandjo, is that it is important that a leader, even if people are subordinates, asks for an appointment. It is just a good gesture of leadership. It depends on whether that person wants to see you or not. If he does not want to see you, then you have the right to intervene as the supervisor, but if you want to see your Permanent Secretary, you can go and say, “*I want to make an appointment with you at 15:00.*” That is the virtue of leadership, you must consult and show respect even to your subordinates. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. That particular Councillor wanted an appointment and then go to that office, not calling the staff member to her office. She said, “*I want to see you, can you*

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON VENAANI

give me time?” Then the Head of the Department said what time she had to come. (Interjection)

HON DE WAAL: Were you present when it happened?

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: In fact, as a Councillor she is the one to pick up the telephone and call the other one. She was supposed to call her and say, *“this is the Mayor, can you come to my office?”* (Interjections).

HON SPEAKER: Actually the whole discussion boils down to trivialities. Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I want to appeal to you, I do not know whether the Honourable Minister was present when this happened and if he was not present, then he is relaying a hearsay story against somebody whom he has identified and I think you should rule him Out of Order and he must withdraw everything that he said about that person, otherwise we will do exactly the same next time.

HON SPEAKER: I am not going to rule him Out of Order, but I want the Honourable Minister and you also to get to the discussion and let us stay away from trivialities.

HON VENAANI: If the Honourable Speaker would just allow me to respond to this one. (Intervention)

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON VENAANI

HON DE WAAL: Hearsay stories are not allowed in Parliament.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Ekandjo, there is nothing wrong, for a leader to go to your subordinate's office. If you are a good leader, you do these things and you cannot be a leader that leads from the Minister's office. You must go down and check on the operational activities. (Interjection). Obviously you are wearing a very black suit and there is a saying in my language that probably what you are saying may not be entirely correct.

Honourable Speaker, Local Authorities are problematic in that sense and many of them are controlled by the other side of the House, but the many reports which we are not receiving are those of the SWAPO-led Councils. That is however not the crux of the argument, but after elections the next Parliament should really address the plight of Local Authorities and their remuneration. The Mayor of a particular town would get an office without a computer, without a personal assistant. You are only a Mayor when you are officiating with the mayoral chain and even the community cannot see a Mayor. When you come to a particular town and say you want to see the Mayor, the official will tell you, you need an appointment. There is no direct office or secretary where people can consult the office of the Mayor, being the leader of a particular town and we really have to address the plight of Local Authorities. (Interjection). I have been very consistent on this matter, I do not shy away from reality.

Finally, I support the harmonisation and I want the records for posterity purposes to quote that we are supporting the Amendment as a result of the current predicament in which we are because the election was supposed to take place in June, but that we would have thought that it would have been ideal for us to amend the Regional Councils Act prior to bringing this Amendment. That I want to stand the test of history and I thank you and I support the Amendment.

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Initially I did not intend to participate in the Debate because the whole essence of this Amendment is very, very clear. It is to harmonise the elections of the two institutions and hence, my thanks to the Honourable Minister for bringing this Amendment to Parliament.

The idea to harmonise our elections has come a long way. I remember during the tenure of the late Minister of Local Government and Housing, Comrade John Pandeni, this issue has been dealt with. However, there was always that snag in the process of harmonising. I take note of what Honourable Venaani has said about the Amendment to come after this one and my question is, what harm is there, why should we make a big thing of it, because the results at which we will arrive will be the same. The intention will be served the same way. Therefore, let us not make a big thing out of this simple and straightforward Amendment.

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. The idea of getting the Regional Council's term of office to 5 years to harmonise all elections was tried and it failed. The National Council Members vehemently objected to that proposal. Therefore, the test of time is, would they accept it this time? You would need a two-thirds majority because when you want to amend the term of office of the Regional Councils you have to amend the national Constitution of the country and you need a two-thirds majority in both Houses. Last time it failed and that is why I am saying that we should have first tried that process before coming to this one.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, they say, let us cross the bridge when we come to it. For the Honourable Member wanting us to cross that bridge before we have even reached the river is unheard of. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I hope that we understand what happened and why. Now we cannot continue and create a problem within a

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA

problem. It is quite clear that these people were reluctant, but sometimes things are supposed to be changed one way or another.

As a Government and as a Parliament we have the right to change things whether you want it or not. If you do it all the way, it is in order, but if you do only one at the time, it is also in order, but sometimes we have to have the guts to face a problem the way it is. That is the right word to answer the gentleman this side.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I was saying, let us not cross the bridge before we are there, the issue is straightforward. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Minister of Justice a question? I want to find out, if we want to harmonise this once and for all, even the fact that the National Council's term of office is 6 years, would it not be proper for the Minister to amend this and correct the 5 years and say, "*and thereafter an interval not exceeding 6 years?*" Then they are in harmony for ever. Just change the 5 to 6 and then they are in harmony for ever and we need to come back in 2014 to amend them again to bring them into tandem with the National Council. Why does the Minister not just take it back and change the 5 to 6 years? Then there is total harmony.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, the Honourable Member seems to regard me as the Mover of the Bill. The Honourable Member can take the Floor, address the issue and the Line Minister may answer. The rationale behind 5 years is the issue of the Line Minister, and the drafting of legal language of the Bill is of the Legal Office. These are two separate domains.

Comrade Speaker, I was going to move to the issue which I regard as separate, the issue of whether to have Executive Mayors or the type of Mayors we have.

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

I think it is warranted that the issue be discussed, but I do not think this is the time. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The proposal of Honourable Kaura, would that do harm to the draft Bill as it stands? It is simply on the merits of the language of the Bill as it stands, not the politics. Would it do harm? If logically there is a likelihood that the House would come back to amend the present Amendment in the future, is there such a likelihood? If not, then approach it that way, but if there is a likelihood, could that be considered? It need not be answered now, the Minister may continue with the other aspects.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Speaker, I am caught up in the proceedings. The whole intention of Amendment or the rationale behind the Amendment lies with the Line Minister and, therefore, I would appreciate...(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: No, we have passed that, address the second one.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, I was moving to the question of the Executive Mayor or not and I was saying that there are good arguments and negative arguments against an Executive Mayor, but can we do justice to the issue now as we are discussing this Amendment? I feel we are mixing up very important points in a Debate where it does not belong and I wish the Minister would bring that Motion here so that we discuss the possibility to either let the Mayors continue what they are or to elevate their positions to Executive Mayors. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. A lack of control creates irregularities in the Mayor's office. He or she does not have any right to say:

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

“no, do not do it that way, do it this way.” It is as simple as that, you cannot run away, tell us the way it is and we will support you in that. These irregularities have been mentioned here, it derives from that lack of power to say no.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: To come back to the argument of Honourable Venaani that certain officers, including Ministers, are controlled by their Chief Executive Officers or Permanent Secretaries, that is not unique to Namibia. Have you seen a film called, “*Yes Prime Minister and Yes Minister?*” What does it tell you? It tells you that those people, despite the fact that we see ourselves as their boss – and excuse me for using that word – they know more than we do by the mere fact that as we are sitting here, they are busy dealing with those issues that we float over. They are the ones who advise us. Legal Drafting is a directorate within my Ministry, but I do not have time to draft legislation and those who do it every day become experts and for you to think that since I am the Minister, I know it all, more than those who do it every day, is really just to deceive ourselves.

HON VILJOEN: May I ask a question, please? Honourable Speaker, I want to ask the Honourable Minister whether she can remember that last year in this Honourable House one of the Deputy Ministers who was sitting over there said, and I think it was on the overspending by the Ministry, that the Permanent Secretaries are running the Ministries?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I do not quite understand the question by the Honourable Member. Is he supporting the position or contradicting it? If the Deputy Minister had said so, he was probably just being truthful, because if you ask the Honourable Member right behind you, he would tell you that he had never summoned a Minister to come and explain the under-expenditure or over-expenditure of a Ministry. Why does he do that? Honourable De Waal has never summoned a Minister. It is because he knows who controls the purse of Ministries. We even use the words “*Accounting Officer*”, what does it tell you? The Accounting Officer is the Permanent Secretary. Obviously

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Ministers are there to oversee the policy implementation. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Because of that they have taken advantage of the Ministers and that is what we do not want to hear and see. You are the Minister and even though you get some information from him, he cannot be your boss. It is as simple as that.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Well, being a boss in that situation is relative to who says it. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: I am just reciprocating. On a Point of Information. Honourable Minister, you are entirely correct by saying that the Permanent Secretaries know more. They are the Accounting Officers, but the overall political leadership lies with the Minister and there are instances where the Permanent Secretaries are controlling the Ministers to the point that they are controlling the political leadership in those Ministries. That is what I am talking about, Permanent Secretaries controlling Ministers, relegating the Minister to a job of a diary, when you have to open a school, when you are doing this. Your authority is relegated only to officiate and you do not know about anything in the Ministry. It is important when you are given a certain Ministry for you to educate yourself on all the components of that Ministry so that you will be able to understand. Yes, the Permanent Secretary must also give directives on things that must be done.

HON SPEAKER: Please, the Speaker being the boss of this House, we have now moved away from the Amendment. We are discussing the pros and cons of supervision of Ministries. Can we deal with the Amendment?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, thank you for the protection. I initially said I did not intend to participate in the Debate because

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

the Amendment was straightforward, except for the query which I hope the Line Minister will be able to clarify later.

However, let me say this in conclusion, I cannot leave this issue hanging in the air. The political heads, wherever they are, are mandated to direct the policies of those institutions. The Accounting Officers are equally responsible...(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Before the Honourable Minister of Justice concludes, I just want to ask her a small question.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, I am concluding. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: I hope one of these days we are going to have a seminar to go over the Rules. I do not know why the Honourable Members cannot take the Floor and make contributions. In the Rules there is a point where you really seek information, but just to ask the Floor and make a statement or ask a question, you are reducing this Parliament to kindergarten business. We need somebody to come and explain to us what the Rules mean and what they are supposed to facilitate. We should rise above this kindergarten business. Take the Floor Honourable Member and make your point.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, may I ask a question?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No. Comrade Speaker, I will now be concluding abruptly because my whole intervention is being interrupted and I am happy that I am being protected now.

In the Civil Service, the Heads of the Administration are supposed to know their limits. If a Head of Administration in a certain institution is behaving

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON DE WAAL**

precisely Honourable Venaani explained here, it means that the Permanent Secretary, that Chief Executive Officer does not know his limits and his role in the Ministry or in that institution.

Having said that, Comrade Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this Amendment. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I actually did not want to participate in this Debate because I did not think it was necessary and I think we have consensus about what we want to do, namely to harmonise the elections. Unfortunately the Honourable Line Minister did something today which I think is in very bad taste.

Honourable Speaker, I accompanied my President this morning to President Pohamba, we had a good discussion, he invited us to come and talk to him on a regular basis. He also invited us to talk to the Line Ministers, to discuss issues with them, to give them our ideas and I have always been under the impression that once you become a Minister, you are a Minister for the Namibian people, for the Ministry for which you are responsible, for all the Namibian people.

Honourable Speaker, if any Namibian goes to the office of the Minister and discusses issues with him and the end-result is what happened here today, where somebody has been castrated, castigated, everything (Interjections). No, yesterday I withdrew, today I will not withdraw. If information that was given to a Minister is misused the way it has been done here today, I think the SWAPO Party will have to have a very deep discussion about where they are taking this country.

Honourable Speaker, I have said in the beginning that we agree with the idea of this Amendment Bill, but after I have heard the Attorney-General saying

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON DE WAAL**

that we should cross the bridge when we reach it, I now have very serious problems with it, because last time when you tried this one, the National Council rejected it and we cannot misuse the Legislative Assembly to solve the internal problems of the SWAPO Party. What we need to do is to send this Amendment Bill back to SWAPO, ask them to have a Congress and decide what they want to do, whether they want to make it 6 years or 5 years and once you have taken that decision, to come back to us and say the SWAPO Party has now, without firing any Councillor, decided that this is what they want to do, Can we now please pass this Bill? That is what I propose, I think we should send this Amendment Bill back and ask the SWAPO Party to have a Congress and to make up their minds about where they want to take this country, Sir.

Honourable Speaker, while the Honourable Minister today did what he did, I want to say a couple of other things. My Honourable Colleague behind me mentioned the Local Authorities which have not submitted financial statements for up to six years, and there are quite a number of them. They are not controlled by the DTA. However, I want to draw your attention to the Local Authorities Act where it makes provision that all the minutes of the meetings of the Local Authority Councils must be sent to the Ministry and there is a very good reason for that. The Act wants the Minister to actually do his job. If there is a problem in a specific Local Authority, it is his job to go and correct it. That is why the Act makes provision that the minutes of the meetings of the Council are sent to his office so that it could actually be read in the office, not thrown in the dustbin or put on a shelf somewhere. You should actually read it. Honourable Minister, if you have done your job, you would have noticed that many of the Local Authorities have not submitted financial statements for the last 6 years and I am sure you or your Permanent Secretary would have gone to that Local Authority Council to correct the situation.

However, this is not happening, but the Honourable Minister feels free to talk about the young lady in Karibib who is not educated, who does not have a degree, who did not have the exposure you had, Honourable Minister. I wonder what you would have done in her position when you were her age. (Interjection). All you can do is fight. *My pa het gesê, met geweld kan jy jou vinger in jou agterent afdraai.* So, stop fighting, Minister, and start doing your job. We do not need fights anymore, we need economic development and you are not making a contribution to that, you are just breaking everything down.

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON SHIFETA**

Honourable Speaker, with those few words I want to repeat my proposal that we send this Amendment Bill back to SWAPO, ask them to have a conference, whether it is the Central Committee or whatever they need to do, let them get consensus whether it is 5 or 6 years and then come back to us and then we will support you, because we support the principle of what you want to achieve. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: The Karibib issue has been blown out of proportion. The issue was incompetence and incompetence charges made back and forth across the isle. There are times that we protect people who are not represented here because they do not have an opportunity to defend themselves, but there are other times when the subject that we are discussing is of such nature that the Presiding Officer is left to use his judgment. It was not something exclusive. The very discussion has blown the issue out of such proportion than what the Honourable Minister has originally intended it to be. It was a generalised discussion, right or wrong, true or false, about incompetence – incompetent Ministers, incompetent Ministries and so on. It was not an exclusive thing, so that is why I would refuse if it is proposed that I either reprimand the Minister or ask him to withdraw and I would stand by what I am saying now. It was not an exclusive matter limited to that person, but it was a discussion of incompetence all around. Honourable Shifeta.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I think I would technically agree with Honourable Venaani on the question of the two Acts, but I do not agree with him on other political things. (Interjection). I just have to assure the Honourable Member that SWAPO continues to have a two-thirds majority. There are only two issues to harmonise the two elections and that is either to bring the Local Authority elections to 6 years or bring down the Regional Council elections to 5 years. That would however mean we need to amend the Constitution, because Article 70 of the Constitution requires Amendment.

The logic about this is that the Local Authority elections are due, whereas the Regional Council elections are next year and thus we will have time to amend the Constitution first and then the Act. I want to assure the DTA that the SWAPO Party will still continue to have a two-thirds majority in both Houses,

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON SHIFETA**

so we are going to make sure that the Amendment is done. However, technically you are right and for now we can still have elections and after that we have to amend this. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Shifeta, are you aware that SWAPO is going to win by more than a two-thirds majority?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Yes, of course, even my 5 year old son was telling me that. (Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I want to know whether the Honourable Deputy Minister is aware that the last time you had a two-thirds majority in both Houses they rejected you and you could not do anything about it. What guarantee do you have, even if you have a two-thirds majority after this election, that they will not reject you again? You cannot make laws like that. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: It is a question of Party discipline.

HON DE WAAL: You do not have Party discipline.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I do not understand why the Colleagues from DTA have to speak on behalf of SWAPO. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, especially after Honourable Muharukua and the

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON SHIFETA**

Deputy Minister spoke about percentages. Is that the reason why we are not getting the Amendment to the Electoral Act in the House so that we conform with the AU and SADC peers and the rest of Africa, vote one day, count the same day, have the results the same day? Is it to ensure the 90% majority? If that is the case, may I challenge you to bring the Electoral Amendment Act here and then we will talk percentages after the vote?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I do not know why some Honourable Members on that side of the House are so harsh. Even Honourable De Waal whom I regard as a peaceful man is so harsh. However, it is understandable, given the fact that some of them can already see where they are going to be next time. Their Parties are going to be buried and I understand that. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: I know I am abusing this Point of Information, but what the Honourable Colleague, who is agreeing with me for once, is saying cannot be left unchallenged. You can only know the election results of you know the trick to fix it and the one trick to fix it is to have these ballots printed by your own company. Your former Colleagues are saying you printed double ballots. The previous Director said you printed double ballots. Will you ensure that you will not print in your own house?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: We have to have a company to print the ballot papers. Whether it will be Honourable De Waal's company, as long as it is a company that is qualified to do the printing. I do not think that we have to go into that, because SWAPO does not run the Directorate of Elections. The Directorate of Elections is independent. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Honourable Venaani made a serious statement, that during the last elections there were double ballots, but Honourable Venaani knows there was a recount of these ballots by order of Court. Why is it so that this double voting was not detected?

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON SHIFETA**

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, are you aware of the fact that with the last meeting of the Electoral Commission where the former Director-General Kanime was, on the printing of the ballot papers by Namprint he said, *“that will happen over my dead body because I know exactly what we were doing?”* (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: I will not rule Honourable Kaura Out of Order. He mentioned a gentleman who is not here, because the context within which he is saying it does not require that the Speaker should defend Mr Kanime whose name has been mentioned. Things should be looked at in the context.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Comrade Speaker...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I am not asking any questions, I may say this, do you know that during the election I lost four seats, NUDO, and this man was not even ashamed of himself, he said, *“we know that we have taken your four and gave it to somebody else.”* And you know you lost, some of your people are there and they say things up to now, but I know they are not here, they were there, they were leaders of the liberation. I cannot mention names, they are Colleagues and you know whom I am talking about. I may say this, let us forget that we have a new system. Using SWAPO printing machines is unethical, it is a company attached to one of these organisations. It is unethical. That is the crux of the matter. Let us choose somebody who is independent from any political affiliation.

HON MEMBER: Who?

HON RIRUAKO: Even outside this country if you want to. Now you want to do these things, because you said *“who?”*

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON SHIFETA**

HON SPEAKER: Chief, it was a question.

HON RIRUAKO: I am talking for the benefit of the entire Nation, it is not just for an individual who wants to jump in.

HON SPEAKER: Chief, you do not have the Floor. I thought you wanted to ask a question.

HON RIRUAKO: I did not ask a question, I want to say that some of the unethical methods cannot be followed. Choose independent printing machines in order to be ethical.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE; Honourable Chief, which company is independent? Which one is independent? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a serious Point of Order. If what is said about Mr Kanime is true, then I do not know what our police are doing. If it is true what the Honourable Members have said in this House about Mr Kanime, then Kanime has committed a serious crime that is even addressed in the Electoral Act. I just want us to be very, very sure. We should not raise issues for whatever reasons we want to without thinking about the consequences. I hope Mr Kanime has said what other Members are saying he said and I am going to pursue that matter to go to the core, why Mr Kanime has not been picked up.

HON SPEAKER: That is a serious one and let it stay on Record and when Honourable Venaani has answered in an inquiry or Court of Law, then it will show. Deputy Minister, please continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I think there is no problem passing this

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON SHIFETA

Amendment, there is no conflict in passing this one and to later look at the Constitution, because that has to take place. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, the determination of the number of years is done by an Act of Parliament, it is not in the Constitution. The determination of how many years the Local Authorities should be in office is done by an Act of Parliament as provided for by the Constitution. It is our prerogative to amend this by an Act of Parliament from 5 to 6 years. That is a prerogative of Parliament and not the Constitution. We do not need to change the Constitution to change the 5 years to 6 years for the Local Authorities.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I said there are only two ways to harmonise the two elections, either to make it 5 years or to make it 6 years for both of them. However, we have to amend the Constitution if we go for the 5 years. (Interjection). Check Article 70 for the National Council. I do not know whether Honourable Members understand me, I said there are only two ways to harmonise the two elections. One way is to amend and make both 5 years and if we go this way, we have to come back and amend this one. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. The point the Colleagues are missing is this: Ideally all the elected offices in Namibia should serve 5 years. Therefore, the rationale is that the Regional Councillors should also just serve 5 years. That is the ideal. If they reject it that they want to serve 6 years, that is something different but SWAPO has its own procedures.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: There are only two ways. If we go with this one, the 5 years, for now, it means we will have to come back and amend the Constitution, because the Constitution provides for six years for the Regional Councils. That means we will have to come back and there is no harm to amend this one now. This one is urgent because the Local Authority elections

18 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR N IYAMBO / HON IILONGA**

are due for this year and then afterwards we can look into harmonising the two. Honourable Speaker, that is my contribution and I say there is no harm in amending this one and then later on to come back and amend the Constitution and consequently, amend the Regional Councils Act. The idea is that all elections should be every 5 years and we cannot do that without amending the Constitution. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, I will be very brief indeed. First, I support this timely Amendment and I support what it says here, “*and thereafter at intervals not exceeding 5 years on a date to be determined.*” The reason is what Honourable Shifeta has explained. Just to clarify what Honourable Members have said, that the Regional Councils have rejected it before and why do we think that they will agree this time?

What was attempted that time was to amend the Terms of Office of the Regional Councils from 6 years to 5 years while they were in office, whereas the election that brought them into office was for 6 years. They argued that why should their mandate be shortened? They came into office for 6 years, not 5 years. They had a contract and that is why they rejected it.

What is going to be done this time is that the Constitution will be amended before the next Regional Councils elections to stipulate five years for the Regional Councils and then the Regional Councils Act will also be amended to read 5 years so that when the election for the Regional Councils take place, it will speak of 5 years and the elected officials will know that their mandate is for 5 years – as very simple as that. That is what is being attempted, nothing else. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to make my contribution and support the

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON KAAPANDA

Amendment. Comrade Speaker, I did not want to contribute as I think I understand the Amendment. Whatever

understanding we have, we need to keep in mind Article 70 of the Constitution which makes it categorically clear that the Term of Office of the Regional Councils is 6 years. Therefore, no matter what Amendments we pass here....(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: The Minister explained, the whole issue is closed and sealed, why harp on it? For what purpose?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I have no problem, I just wanted to explain. If my namesake has already said what I am saying, then we are together, then we do not differ, I am only cementing what my namesake said, that we will amend the Constitution to bring the Regional Councils to 5 years because currently the Constitution stipulates 6 years. I support the Amendment.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Kaapanda.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Comrade Speaker, I would also like to add my voice in supporting this Amendment Bill, because this is an important piece of legislation which will enhance the efficiency of the electoral process. Therefore, I support it wholeheartedly.

As was mentioned by a previous speaker, some of our Local Authorities are found wanting as far as their performance is concerned. Comrade Speaker, Local Authorities are supposed to be the pillars of our economy by attracting both domestic and foreign direct investment. However, this has not been happening at some of the Local Authorities, but quite a number of them, such as Ongwediva, Outapi, Eenhana, Rundu, have been doing very well and when you visit these Local Authorities, you would find economic activities. Go to

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON KAAPANDA

Rundu and see what is happening, go to Outapi and go to Ongwediva. The level of performance could be appreciated when the Local Authorities are able to pay their water and electricity bills. Apart from that, the Local Authorities I mentioned are doing very well. There is also general improvement in the performance of our Local Authorities in the country.

Nowadays you do not hear complaints of Local Authorities' water and electricity being cut off and I was informed by NamWater that Local Authorities, such as Karibib, Okakarara...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, on a Point of Order. We cannot open a Pandora's box again. Please leave this Pandora's box where it is.

HON SPEAKER: I agree with the Chief. Minister, we are really dealing with an Amendment and your predecessor has provided clarification that the House agrees to. There is no need to be telling us about what your current successor is busy with. This is an Amendment and there is agreement in the House. Dr Iyambo has closed the case, so what is it that you want to address about the Amendment?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, I support the Amendment but there were allegations by some of the Members that painted a gloomy picture of the Local Authorities and this is not fair. Anyway, I support the Bill and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Speaker, I was wondering whether we are discussing Vote 17, Local Government and Housing, because that is where we can discuss everything, Regional Councils, Local Authorities' performance, but this is only one simple sentence. Therefore, Comrade Speaker, I thank everybody who participated and I will

18 March 2009

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL

wait for Vote 17 for the rest of my response.

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objections?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, especially after the last speaker, I would like to *Invoke Rule 69* and request that my objection to the Motion be reflected in the Minutes of Proceedings so that I am not misquoted outside.

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: *Local Authorities Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: The Second Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Kavetuna. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Seconded? Objections? Agreed to. The Honourable Member has the Floor.

18 March 2009

**MOTION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
HON KAVETUNA**

MOTION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to introduce to this august House a Motion on gender-based violence with the maximum passion that I have for this salient topic.

Before I proceed, let me pay homage to the women, men, boys and girls who are survivors of these inhuman acts which they experienced in various capacities, gravity and form. They are indeed heroes and heroines in their own right.

I would further like to express my heartfelt sorrow to those who lost their lives, for those who became paralysed and for those who developed unhealed wounds at the hands of these barbaric acts. In the same vein I would like to salute the great women and men who committed themselves to the issues of gender development and gender equality.

Honourable Speaker, in 1979, the United Nations opened a Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women for ratification by its members, and Namibia ratified it in 1994. This was an important tool to take on and to make laws that will protect women against abuses, violence and discrimination they have undergone for centuries. Unfortunately, it did not contribute satisfactorily to the elimination of social ills against women. However, while there have been initiatives that attempted to increase the national capacity for CEDAW, monitoring and advocacy, there remains a gap between theory and practice, requiring research for innovative approaches that will increase effectiveness of the Convention for the guiding of women and women rights.

The United Nations, in another attempt to enhance the well-being of women, in 1995 held the Fourth Conference on Women in Beijing, China. A powerful instrument in the name of the Beijing Platform of Action emanated from this important gathering. The Beijing Platform of Action with its twelve critical areas of concern came to our country as a clear mandate to ensure the upliftment of the livelihood of women in their respective capacities. This lively document gave direction and sensitised our Government to realise the

18 March 2009

**MOTION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
HON KAVETUNA**

importance of gender inclusiveness. From this mandate for the women, by the women a number of lobbying strategies were accepted and women became citizens with strong worth. Namibia captured this opportunity and seriously set up structures and the legal framework with the intention to empower and capacitate women who were left behind for so long.

One good immediate outcome of the Beijing Platform of Action was the commissioning of the Department of Women Affairs in the Office of the President, which changed into a fully-fledged Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare now and then in 1997, the formulation of the National Gender Policy and a National Gender Plan of Action of our country.

Honourable Speaker, there are many definitions that intend to capture this broad concept of gender-based violence. One broad definition says that gender-based violence is an act that results or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, economical and verbal harm or suffering to another person within a relationship. This includes such acts as arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

It is also important to know that this violence is experienced by both men and women, but it is high amongst women. The terms “*abuse*” and “*violence*” are used interchangeably, unless otherwise indicated. One thing we should bear in mind is the fact that gender is not solely about women, it is merely the social relationship between women and men.

Gender in our context as a country has been severely misunderstood as it is always being referred to as a process where women want to undermine men. Apparently it is when a woman tells her male partner to wash nappies or to cook. This is an absolute wrong interpretation and efforts should be made at all costs to educate the Nation about the true meaning of gender equality. This phenomenon is a signal of a sick society in a deteriorating stage and its symptoms are visible in our general life scenarios, created by people whose souls are in ill-health.

Let us take practical examples that we are living in today. I am talking about financial abuse. It is about that young woman who has 5 to 10 boyfriends only for financial gain. Thomas is there to pay rent, Johannes is buying groceries, Uncle Joe who is an MD is responsible for paying the clothing account of this woman, while Charles who is a taxi driver is driving her up and down. It is

18 March 2009

**MOTION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
HON KAVETUNA**

about the brothers and sisters of a deceased. After the death of the husband the widow is being accused of being a murderer and they painfully grab the belongings she worked for so long. It is about that man who cannot sexually perform any longer due to his own physical condition, but who is constantly torturing the wife who apparently has bewitched him. It is about that married man who is sexually obsessed with women, he just wants to take every woman to bed, no matter the shape, the size, the class, the length and the mental status. It is about the mental capacity of that specific individual.

The woman who decides to put herself on fire when John says that **the relationship is not successful and he is quitting**. It is about that woman who comes with 5 children from her previous relationships, find children with the husband but unilaterally decides to turn them into slaves and expects hers to be treated like kings and queens. It is about that HIV-positive man who knows his status very well, but who decides to infect young girls and even sodomize young boys just to spread the disease. It is about that young woman who is good enough to be the third child of that couple, but who decides to take the father-figure for a lover with the intention to destroy that marriage. It is about that woman who is pregnant for nine months, delivers a healthy baby and buries her alive, because apparently the alleged father denied that he is the real father.

It is about that executive man who constantly reminds his wife of the poverty, how less educated she is and how he bought her cheaply with *lobola*. It is about that man who is known for his uncontrollable temper who hits his partner constantly when she does not want to do a, b, c and that partner who feels more loved when she is beaten or kicked.

These are some strange but true critical examples that demonstrate the level of the sickness of our society. This, however, at no cost justifies the simple reason why one has to lose a life or be injured by a partner or a parent in one or another way.

Honourable Speaker, this sick society does not need our peaceful demonstrations, neither does it need our constant appearance in black attires, singing "*Tae ta di ha, what have I done?*" Our request for refusal of bail and stiffer sentences for perpetrators is not needed. This deviating behaviour of our community needs a sole provider. The technicians of social ills, people

18 March 2009

**MOTION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
HON KAVETUNA**

who understand the psychology of these people and who can effectively provide psychotherapy.

Mark my words, all the current efforts will be in vain if we do not identify the causes of violence. Cohesive and multi-sectoral intervention is essential in this regard and the Ministry of Gender will not succeed in this fight if it takes a lone man way. It will be much more beneficial to our community if the line Ministry strengthens the policies, capacitate and revive structures such as Men for Change, the Namibian Women Organisation, Women Groups from various Political Parties and religious groups and community gender groups themselves.

It should further ensure that the policies and plans of action are adhered to, are implemented, monitored and evaluated. For instance, the 1997 National Gender Policy stipulates the formulation of a Gender Commission. Eleven years later this is not in existence. It is talking about a gender focal person in various Ministries and institutions. I know that two or three people were appointed, but my question remains whether they were capacitated and are they delivering? These people, if well nurtured in gender issues, can make a great impact in their work and in their society.

There is a dire need for harmonisation of gender issues and the facilitation and implementation of programmes. The Ministry should, however, put more emphasis on supporting, monitoring, evaluating all activities relating to gender in our country.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am convinced that the current fashion in which we are using social workers is ineffective in terms of cost and outcome of their work. Social workers are trained in multi-disciplinary approaches of social aspects. To employ them just to deal with OVC registration, pension registration and counselling is making them monolithic. Why do not have them under one Ministry in a pool where they are working in shifts in collaboration with other Ministries?

I believe prevention is better than cure and one successful practice that I learned is that, for instance, if John is stalking you or he is threatening to kill you because you do not want to accept his love proposal, it would be better that if I report this case to the Police for the first time, someone must start talking to John and counsel him, rather than the police officer giving John

18 March 2009

**MOTION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
HON KAVETUNA**

a restraining order that John will only adhere to for a few days and then wait for me at my working place and kill me there.

Other modalities could be devised and appropriate strategies can be implemented. It is possible and it may alleviate the cases of gender-based violence.

I, therefore, request us to act towards the successful strategies of overcoming the cycles of conflict, exploitation through gender-inclusive peace-building strategies, while looking at a provision for protection of people and enforcing justice in all stages where social injustice is prevailing.

I thank you for your undivided attention during my intervention.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, indeed, you have our undivided attention because you were truly thoughtful. Before I adjourn the House, I want to remind the Honourable Members that tomorrow the Minister of Finance will introduce the Appropriation Bill. A good number of Honourable Members, led by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, will join the President in welcoming an important guest just around that time that the Honourable Members would be finishing your lunch to come this way. Those of you who are not going to the airport should try to be here as early as possible and as usual, members of the public are invited. The Motion stands adjourned under automatic adjournment and the first speaker will be Honourable Dienda. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.03.19 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
19 MARCH 2009
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: I have two brief announcements. I believe all the Honourable Members have received the Parliament Calendar. As you listen to the Minister you would be advised to plan your participation in the Budget Debate within the timeframe indicated therein.

Secondly, as tradition has it, PriceWaterhouseCoopers will host a cocktail lunch at an appropriate time in the courtyard area following the Minister's Budget Speech. We once again, want to express our gratitude to PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Standard Bank for what we have now come to expect as a customary cooperation.

Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Deputy Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the following:

- (a) Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2007;

19 March 2009

**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

- (b) Municipality of Otjiwarongo for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2008;
- (c) Municipality of Usakos for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2005 and 2006;
- (d) Meat Board of Namibia for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2007;
and
- (e) Karakul Board of Namibia for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2007.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister please table the Reports? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Justice.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, 2006/2007**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice, 2006/2007.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Minister table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Minister of Labour.

19 March 2009

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON NGATJIZEKO**

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I give Notice that on the 24th of March, I shall Move –

That this Assembly appoints the following nominees as members of the Fourth Employment Commission, as endorsed by Cabinet in terms of Sections 6 and 7 of the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, (Act 29 of 1998). Representing the State would be the following:

Mr Morimunu Kavijtjene, the Under-Secretary in the Public Service Commission Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister.

Ms Elizabeth Gideon, Local Authority Councillor, Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region.

Ms Herta Komuti, Director, NIED, Ministry of Education.

Mr Alpheus Mooja, Deputy Director, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

Representing registered trade unions would be Mr Moses Shikwa, National Union of Namibian Workers; and

Mr Ujama Kaahangoro, Trade Union Congress of Namibia.

Representing registered Employers' Organisation would be:

Mr Mike Hill, Namibia Employers Federation; and

Ms Lizelle Davies, Namibia Chamber of Mines.

Representing racially disadvantaged persons would be:

Ms Mildreth Jantjies from the SWAPO Party

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Ms Hiltraut Hubsch-Karigus, Congress of Democrats.

Representing women would be:

Ms Rosalia Ndakola, community activist; and

Ms Jatova Erenfriede Ueitele.

Representing people with disability would be:

Mr Gerson Mutendere, National Federation of People with Disabilities in Namibia; and

Mr Henry Wolman, National Federation of People with Disabilities in Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Member Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**APPROPRIATION BILL: INTRODUCTION
AND FIRST READING**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Will the Honourable Minister please table the Bill? The Secretary will read the Bill a First Time.

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time? Secondment? Objections? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with the current Financial Year reaching its end, I am once again honoured to table the Budget for the 2009/2010 Financial Year and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework covering the years 2009/2010 to 2011/2012.

Much has been said about the global financial crisis and the resulting global economic downturn. There is now a worldwide consensus that indeed it is a global crisis from which no country is spared. This calls for global reactions, but it also calls for domestic interventions. In this context, allow me to quote our President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba. He said during the opening of Cabinet at the beginning of the year: *“As much as we strive for our effective and vibrant democracy, we must also focus on the bread and butter issues, including infrastructure development, housing, health, education, rural development, social welfare and job creation.”*

In this Budget, we have managed to find a balance that satisfies both these demands, that is, an appropriate reaction to the global economic crisis, while at the same time addressing the needs of the local economy.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, some local analysts have been suggesting that this Budget will be an *“Election Budget”*. This year is indeed an election year, but I must emphasise that we in SWAPO Party are always

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

responsive to the needs of our people, not only during election years. As a people-centred Party, our actions are always aimed at improving the lives of our people and, therefore, our Budget interventions are aimed at the bread and butter issues, as His Excellency the President highlighted. I am, therefore, happy to reiterate our Party's determination to remain people-centred, pro-poor and pro-growth in all its actions.

For the past four years, we have managed to increase revenue considerably and this has allowed us to pursue an expansionary fiscal policy to address our developmental challenges without jeopardising fiscal sustainability.

The robustness of our fiscal policy was put to the test during the first half of 2008 with the inflation crisis and the significant depreciation of our currency. I am pleased to say that we rode out this storm successfully. Not only did we manage to maintain debt at optimal levels, but we could afford to zero rate VAT on some basic goods to alleviate the effect of the price increases on the poorest. Even before that crisis was over, another crisis hit the world markets, resulting in a global economic downturn of historical proportions. Given the limited room for the use of monetary policy because of our membership in the Common Monetary Area, we have to rely on fiscal policy interventions to weather the economic storm.

Our fiscal policy response is diversified and sustainable. Expenditure increases and targeted tax concessions will render high multipliers to improve GDP performance and address strategic issues for the economy, such as diversification and improving the competitiveness of our economy.

MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Economic Developments and Outlook

Global Economy

Honourable Speaker, at the end of last year I appraised this House of the impact of the global financial crisis. While there was a global consensus that global output growth would decrease as a result of the crisis, the proportions of such a decrease could not be exactly predicted. By now global output projections for both 2008 and 2009 have been revised downwards, with output projections for 2009 being barely above breakeven and most major economies expected to experience negative growths.

Regional Economy

Although the impact of the crisis on the African economies was expected to be limited, with most of the economies being dependent on commodities, the impact of decreased commodity prices is already taking its toll on many African economies. Output growth for the African economy for 2008 and 2009 is thus projected to slow to 5.4% and 3.5% respectively from the pace of 6.9% recorded in 2007.

South Africa, the Region's largest economy and with which our economy is highly integrated, is also expected to experience an economic downturn, with declines in output growth estimated for the manufacturing, retail and mining sectors, although growth is projected to remain positive over the MTEF period. GDP growth in South Africa is estimated to decline to 3.1% for 2008 and 1.2% for 2009, compared to 5.1% recorded in 2007.

Domestic Economic Developments and Outlook

Namibia's growth slowed as a result of downturns in both the mining and non-mining sectors.

Preliminary indicators put GDP growth for 2008 at 2.4%. In addition to the unfavourable global developments that negatively impacted on export-oriented industries, the domestic economic slowdown is also attributed to weak output in the primary industry and a sharp deceleration in consumption. For 2009, the economy is expected to further slow down to 1.1%.

However, the economic outlook beyond 2009 holds some promise. During this period, growth will mainly be driven by both private and Government investments. New investments are expected in the mining, water and electricity as well as in the construction sectors. Imports are expected to rise as a response to slightly higher demand in consumption and investment.

Balance of Payments

The external sector of Namibia continued to show positive results with a surplus of N\$4.1 billion recorded for 2007, compared to the N\$1.1 billion in 2006. This continuous surplus since 2005 mainly stems from significant

current account surpluses. But this level is expected to come under pressure due to a surge in imports and a reduction in exports resultant from low commodities demand.

The deficit on the capital and financial account narrowed from N\$7 billion in 2006 to N\$4.9 billion in 2007. The improvement was due to an increase in foreign direct investment, representing 8.3% of GDP mainly from investments in mining and the net inflows of capital to commercial banks.

Inflation and Monetary Policy

During 2005-2007, inflation averaged 4.7%, underpinned by prudent fiscal and monetary policies and a favourable external environment. However, inflation accelerated progressively, reaching 10.3% by 2008 mainly due to high and persistent increases in international crude oil, food prices and a weaker Namibia Dollar. To prevent second round effects of the global prices increase, the Bank of Namibia increased the bank rate by 350 basis points during 2006 and 2007. By the end of 2008, consumer price inflation showed responsiveness to monetary policy tightening, leading to reductions in repo rate by 50 and 100 basis points in December 2008 and February 2009.

Investments

Gross fixed capital formation in 2007 contracted to negative 4.2 % compared to the robust expansion of 32.8 % recorded in 2006 and 10.7% average for the period 2005-2007. The expansion of investment was caused by high global demand for minerals as well as an increase in public investment. The contraction is mainly attributed to a contraction in private sector investment.

Exchange Rate Developments

The Namibia Dollar experienced significant depreciation last year, thus putting substantial pressure on expenditure in the foreign debt category which increased by some 30% for US Dollar denominated loans and by 20% for loans denominated in EURO. Over the MTEF period, it is expected that the Namibia Dollar will depreciate further by 6.5% per annum. Although the State's foreign loan portfolio is relatively small, the weakened Namibia Dollar puts additional pressure on Government expenditure in as far as the servicing of foreign debt is concerned.

FINANCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

Stability of the sector

Private sector credit growth slowed significantly over the past two years as a result of the inflation control measures introduced by the Bank of Namibia, but lending margins remain relatively high. Banks remain very profitable and prudential ratios are sound. Treasury bill and bond yields continue to be profitable, tracking regional trends. Public and private sector savings remain high and smaller capital outflows helped increase reserve coverage.

The exposure of our financial sector to the global crisis is limited because of stringent foreign exchange regulations in the Common Monetary Area. In terms of these regulations only up to 20% may be invested outside the Common Monetary Area. Therefore, potential losses as a direct result of the financial crisis are limited to that exposure. However, there is an indirect exposure through a downturn in the South African equity markets in which a substantial part of our savings has been invested.

As a whole, our pension funds, including the GIPF, and insurance companies are adequately capitalised to shoulder these losses. The insurance industry had surplus assets of N\$1.8 billion by the end of 2008.

As regards the banking sector, our banks were well-protected by conservative lending practices and remain well-provisioned and profitable. Non-performing loans are very low despite a modest increase in 2008. However, given that banks have a high concentration in real estate and consumer lending, the sector may face increased risk going forward.

Overall, the financial sector remains exposed to the crisis through its impact on the real economy. However, the sector has benefited from continued prudent supervision and capital controls. The sector is therefore able to meet claims without any difficulty over this period and the solvency levels will improve as the global markets recover.

To improve supervision, the Bank of Namibia and NAMFISA will strengthen the stress-testing framework and implement some elements of the Basel-II framework in 2009. NAMFISA has also introduced standardised reporting structures for pension funds and insurance companies that should help address

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

deficiencies in data collection and monitoring. At the same time, a risk-based auditing system is now being implemented.

Legislative Amendments and broad-based economic empowerment

Government introduced Amendments to Regulations 15 and 28 of the pension funds and insurance companies last year. Although there were objections on the part of some industry members, most industry members are currently supportive of these Amendments. In addition, the current financial crisis has revealed the vulnerability posed by offshore investments. Implementation of the Amendments has revealed a need for Amendments to the legal framework as well. This will receive priority attention in the coming year.

The long-awaited Financial Service Sector Charter is now ready to be launched. Just recently the Ministry of Finance and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration was briefed on the draft Charter. In terms of the Charter, the industry will monitor members' compliance by a balanced score card.

This development is commendable, but it should only be seen as a point of departure for further structural reforms. Government will thus take the industry at its word to ensure the commitments made under the Charter are implemented.

Foreign Exchange Liberalisation

No new Amendments to exchange controls are made this year. This decision is based on the fact that our controls are already fairly liberal and the current turmoil in the financial markets does not warrant any further liberalisation at this stage. In fact, the controls that are in place have served us well in limiting our exposure to the risks from the global market.

FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS

Public revenue outturn

Total revenue and grants amounted to N\$20.7 billion in 2007/2008, which is N\$2.3 billion above the estimates and N\$4.5 billion greater than the revenue collection for the 2006/2007 Financial Year.

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Preliminary observations for the 2008/2009 Financial Year suggest that revenue will exceed estimates, improving the Government's fiscal position. By January 2009, N\$18.8 billion had already been collected, representing 97% of the tax revenue estimated for the year. Non-tax revenue collections stood at N\$909 million, representing only 70% of their annual estimates. Although non-tax revenue is performing at a slightly slower pace than was expected, this is not anticipated to have a significant impact on total revenue because of its relatively small contribution to total revenue.

The overall positive tax revenue outturn is a result of a strong performance on Taxes on Income and Profits, on Domestic Tax on Goods and Services, as well as international trade taxes.

However, this positive revenue trend may not persist going forward with the impact of the global crisis expected to factor in as from the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Public Expenditure Outturn

Expenditure for 2007/2008 totalled N\$17.3 billion, 3% lower than the N\$17.8 billion allocated in the Budget.

Vote level results vary widely with some Votes under-spending, while others overspend. However, the number of Votes that overspent reduced from seven in 2006/2007 to only four in 2007/2008 as a result of improved Budget control achieved through implementation of the Integrated Financial Management System – IFMS.

Preliminary estimates indicate that by December 2008, total Vote expenditure for 2008/2009 amounted to N\$12.1 billion, representing 60% of the total budgeted expenditure. The rate of expenditure is expected to improve sharply in the last quarter of the Financial Year.

To overcome the delays in the implementation of public projects, Government undertook a project cycle audit to identify possible bottlenecks in the implementation of public projects. As a result, a range of measures have been proposed to improve delivery rates. It is expected that the roll-out of the decentralisation agenda will further improve outcomes of project implementation.

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Main Achievements in 2008/2009

The priorities for the current Budget were:

- To improve the social safety net to relieve poverty, particularly in rural areas.
- To foster human resource development through better health and education.
- To invest in improving competitiveness and promoting growth with new jobs.

Looking back on the year's Budget implementation, I am proud to state that our Budget interventions succeeded in being pro-poor, pro-growth.

- This year, we substantially increased the old-age grants by 21.6% to N\$450 per month and improved coverage to about 90% of the target group.
- Further, coverage for OVC grants increased with an additional 10,489 children benefiting. The school-feeding programme was also expanded and is destined to be boosted further under this budget.
- Since the 1 April 2008, close to 2,000 Veterans are covered under the veteran's grant scheme and as registration progresses, more Veterans will benefit.
- Provision to the Emergency Management Unit made it possible to provide relief to vulnerable people affected by natural disasters.
- Government availed additional funds to the Ministry of Education to allow for Grade 10 learners in 2008/2009 to repeat the course. A total of 16,740 learners benefited under this scheme.
- With an increase in allocations to the Students Financial Assistance Fund in 2008/2009, an additional 2,251 students were enabled to study at tertiary institutions. Particular consideration was given to natural and applied sciences.

- An increased funding to National Youth Service enabled 900 youths to receive skills training in 2008/2009.
- The growth in health expenditure has enabled Government to enhance the roll-out of anti-retrovirals. A modern cardiac unit has become operational and upgrading of health infrastructures was also undertaken. This included replacement and upgrading of health equipment, as well as upgrading of hospitals and clinics.
- The current MTEF provides N\$610 million to NamPower to address power shortages. This was to accelerate both transmission and generation projects in order to guarantee continuous and affordable power supply. The transmission project enabling us to import power from our neighbours is on schedule and is envisaged to be completed next year. The projects in the energy sector have also attracted significant private sector interest, demonstrating the catalytic role played by public funding.
- Similarly, water infrastructure development, including both rural water supply and supply to the industry, is subject of growing cooperation with diversified stakeholders.

Performance of State-Owned Enterprises

During the last three Financial Years, total dividends received from State-Owned-Enterprises amounted to N\$915,747,781. During 2008/2009, some N\$164 million on dividends were paid, about N\$74 million above the projected N\$90 million, rendering Government a return of 16.4% of its inputs in 2008/2009. A number of State-Owned Enterprises however still are still loss-making and are receiving Budget transfers. This issue is receiving the attention of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council.

Budget Balance, Public Debt and Contingent Liabilities

Given the strong performance in collections for the third consecutive year, the Budget balance was in a surplus position again. The surplus increased from N\$2.3 billion in 2006/2007 to N\$3.3 billion in 2007/2008. In relative terms, this translates into a 5.2% surplus as a share of GDP.

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

For 2008/2009, a surplus of about N\$138 million or 0.2% of GDP is predicted, a significant improvement over the 2.3% deficit projected under the current Budget.

This favourable fiscal situation reduced debt to N\$13.167 billion by December 2008. The stock of Government contingent liabilities also reduced to N\$3.2 billion as of 31 January 2009, as compared to the N\$3.4 billion in 2007/2008. In spite of this improvement in total debt, foreign debt increased by N\$300 million or some 10% as a result of currency depreciation. Total debt at the end of 2007/2008 stood at N\$14.071 billion.

FISCAL OUTLOOK

The global financial crisis poses risk to the fiscal outlook. Subdued growth means reduced demand for our export products and decreased commodity prices will exert downward pressure on profitability of companies. This in turn erodes the public revenue base. In addition, trade liberalisation agreements to which Namibia is party to and regional economic integration, portend a fiscal adjustment process that may hold opportunities but also costs.

On average, total revenue and grants are projected to decelerate by 9.4% during the MTEF. The deceleration is expected to affect all major revenue streams, although in varying degrees. Tax on international trade, which accounts for about 40% of revenue, is expected to decline by about 15% over the MTEF.

All tax categories are expected to remain flat over the MTEF due to a sharp decline in 2010 with recovery only expected in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 Financial Years.

Grants are anticipated to increase moderately during the MTEF as a result of the coming on-stream of a number of sector Budget support programmes from a range of development cooperation partners, including the European Union. Releases from the Millennium Challenge Account as well as a number of other donor support is provided as support outside the State Revenue Fund.

Fiscal Policy Stance “Weathering the Storm”

The fiscal policy stance underlying this Budget is geared towards promoting

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

economic growth and welfare for all Namibians, while maintaining fiscal stability.

Thanks to the fiscal consolidation achieved, we have the necessary fiscal space to expand the Budget in order to mitigate the impact of the global crisis.

However, with the anticipated revenue declines, fiscal expansion will have to be pursued with caution and properly targeted to augment the resilience of the domestic economy without compromising fiscal sustainability.

Long-term growth and sustainability

The Budget interventions do not only aim to stimulate economic growth in the short term, but they also seek to consolidate the basis for sustainable growth in the long term, while at the same time addressing welfare needs of our people.

Productive Sectors and Competitiveness

Investments in economic infrastructures and the productive sectors are increased to support the productive capacity of the economy and to provide the necessary services. A total additional N\$1.87 billion is allocated to economic infrastructures and productive sectors over the MTEF, bringing the total allocations for these sectors to N\$12.7 billion over the MTEF. Apart from augmenting the GDP performance, these programmes are expected to create employment during implementation.

The additional allocation to the productive sectors includes funds for Small and Medium Enterprises support, aquaculture projects, agricultural production, tourism development and environmental management.

Investments in agriculture are aimed at livestock production, animal health improvement and irrigation. A large portion of this allocation will cater for infrastructure. Further, AgriBank will receive support to provide production loans to farmers under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme.

Additional allocation to infrastructure development will focus on infrastructure development in rural areas where the majority of our population reside. They relate to improvement of energy supply and security, water supply and

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

transport and communication. This increases total allocation for infrastructure development to N\$5.1 billion over the MTEF.

Investing in Human Resources Development

The largest increase in expenditure is to the education sector with an additional N\$908 million provided, lifting its total allocation to N\$16.9 billion over the MTEF of which N\$5.3 billion is for the next financial year. This amount represents 22.5% of the total expenditure allocated for all the Votes, clearly illustrating the emphasis placed on productive skills for economic growth.

The additional resources will be mainly directed to build classrooms and hostels for the primary and secondary schools, remuneration of teachers, bursaries and to finance diverse faculties at the University of Namibia, the Polytechnic of Namibia and the Vocational Training Centres.

To guarantee access to quality health care services, the Ministry of Health has been allocated an additional amount of N\$801 million, raising its total allocation by 12% to reach N\$7.4 billion over the MTEF. The additional resources will facilitate construction of clinics and hospitals, purchase of essential medicine, including anti-retroviral, malaria and TB medicines and to operationalise the newly established cardiac unit.

Resources are also made available to provide assistance to cover medical expenses for children who are in need of special medical treatment.

In order to guarantee quality medical services to Civil Servants, PSEMAS tariffs were increased to align them with market-related tariffs. This results in an increase in PSEMAS allocations to N\$2.9 billion over the MTEF.

Strengthening social safety nets

Additional resources are being provided to increase coverage for social grants for pensioners and Veterans. This amounts to N\$200 million over the MTEF.

With the emergency caused by current flooding, we are availing an additional N\$109 million to the Emergency Management Unit to provide relief to the affected communities.

Law and Order

Law and order is important not only for the safety and security of our citizens but also for business to operate. We are therefore availing a total of N\$1.3 billion in additional funding to the Police and Prison Services, Justice and Anti-Corruption Commission.

Most of this will go to recruitment of police, judicial staff and crime investigators, and for required training, equipment and the improvement of the general work environment for law enforcement staff.

Tax concessions as a driver of economic and social welfare

Apart from expenditure expansion, a range of tax concessions aimed at stimulating businesses and individuals are proposed. The total concession package is valued at N\$800 million in 2009/2010 and constitutes mostly lower tax income rates on personal income, amended tax and transfer duty brackets; lower corporate tax for non-mining companies. Further, basic food items and medical supplies will be VAT zero-rated. The tax-free amounts for retrenchment payouts will be increased.

Expenditure Summary

Total expenditure

With the above allocations, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the total expenditure, including statutory payments, will amount to N\$25.5 billion, N\$26.6 billion and N\$26.6 billion for the financial years 2009/2010, 2010/2011 and 2011/2012, respectively. For 2009/2010, this represents a 12.5% expansion as compared to the previous Financial Year, illustrating the counter-cyclical expansionary approach of this budget. The total additional amount made available for the MTEF period 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 is N\$10.5 billion.

By sectoral allocation, the greatest year-on-year increase in nominal terms is in the social sector, with an expansion of N\$1.28 billion or 17%. In relative terms, the economic sectors received the highest increase with 33% increase.

Financing the Expansion and Debt Management

With the depreciation of the Namibia Dollar, foreign debt has become more expensive. Total external debt increased by N\$450 million or 12% over 2008/2009 as a result of currency depreciation. We shall engage in active management of debt to minimise cost of servicing and to mitigate currency exposure risks.

In the current economic environment one must be mindful of the need to keep the market assured of our ability to redeem public debt. Government shall, therefore, allocate part of the cash balances to the debt redemption fund to maintain the State preparedness to honour debt. This will improve coverage of maturing debt.

Budget Balance

Of a total cash balance amounting to some N\$6 billion as at mid-March 2009, we will allocate N\$4.5 billion towards financing the deficit over the MTEF. This will bring the deficit to an average of 5% of GDP over the MTEF. Annually, the deficit will stand at 4.5% in 2009/2010, 5.8% in 2010/2011 and 4.9% in 2011/2012.

Total Debt

Total debt is therefore estimated to average at 25.6% of GDP over the MTEF. Each of the MTEF years, debt will stand at 21.7 for 2009/2010, 26.3% for 2010/2011 and 29% for 2011/2012.

TAXATION REFORMS

Tax policy as a tool for equitable wealth distribution and stimulus for economic growth.

As indicated previously, our tax system as a policy instrument fulfils two objectives, that is; raising revenue for the State and intervening into the economy to pursue specific socio-economic objectives.

In pursuance of that, we are proposing a range of tax Amendments. These Amendments are primarily aimed at improving competitiveness of our

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

businesses and providing relief to individuals.

Tax exemption on accumulative gratuities will be amended as follows:

The tax exemption applicable on payment of retrenchment packages will be increased from the current N\$100,000 to N\$300,000. This will especially offer relief to people who will become redundant as a consequence of retrenchments.

Tax on pension payouts will be amended as follows: The amount that may be taken as a full lump sum tax-free pension payout where the full benefit was less than N\$20,000 is now increased to N\$50,000.

On personal income tax the following Amendments are proposed:

To avoid bracket creep, brackets on personal income tax and levels of tax to be adjusted as follows:

- Increase the threshold for tax-free amount up to N\$40,000 per annum.
- Above N\$40,000 up to N\$80,000 – the tax rate is decreased to 27%.
- Above N\$80,000 up to N\$200,000 – the tax rate is decreased to 32%.
- A new tax bracket is introduced for the income category of an amount above N\$200,000 up to N\$750,000 and is to be taxed at a rate of 34%.
- A further tax bracket is introduced for personal income above N\$750,000 per annum to be taxed at a rate of 37%.

Corporate tax for non-mining operations will be lowered from the current level of 35% to 34%.

Transfer duty schedules for property purchases by natural persons in terms of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme for commercial farmland and individuals who buy properties are to be adjusted as follows:

- The threshold for transfer duty on properties by individuals is increased to N\$400,000.

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

- Property purchase value above N\$400,000 to N\$800,00 is to be dutied at 1%.
- Property purchase value above N\$800,000 to N\$1,500,000 is to be dutied at 5%.
- Property purchase value above N\$1.5 million is to be dutied at 8%.

Transfer duty Amendments for purchases of farmland to be registered under natural persons who are benefiting under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme are as follows:

- Threshold for transfer duties is lifted to \$N500,000.
- Commercial farmland with purchase value above N\$500,000 to N\$1 million is to be dutied at 1%.
- Commercial farmland with purchase value above N\$1 million is to be dutied at 3%.

Further zero-rating of essential basic items as follows:

- Milk and sugar to be zero-rated
- Medical services (medical services are currently VAT exempted but will now become VAT zero-rated)

Change in Excise Duties

In accordance with requirements of the Southern African Customs Union Agreement of 2002, the following increases in excise duties are applicable with effect from 11 February 2009:

- Malt beer – increased by 7% to 79% per 340 ml can.
- Unfortified wine – increased by 14% to N\$1.98 per litre.
- Fortified wine – increased by 32% to N\$3.72 per litre.
- Spirits – increased by N\$3.21 to N\$25.05 per 750 ml.
- Cigarettes – increased by 88 cents to N\$7.70 pre packet of 20

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Tax measures to augment and broaden the revenue base

The current transfer duty rate of 8% by corporate bodies, including foundations and trusts, is increased to 12%.

Tax measures to protect the environment: An environmental levy is introduced on disposable products that are harmful to the environment. The details of this will be announced at a later stage.

Strengthening Revenue Administration:

With the projected downturn in revenue, it is essential that revenue collection from existing sources is optimised. In this regard, the Government will strengthen collection through capacity-building, compliance enforcement and improved general revenue administration. We will also continue with optimising Public-Private Partnerships in revenue collection.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to refer to two quotations, firstly, from Honourable Nahas Angula, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, who in reaction to the current financial turmoil said: *“...it is critical for Namibia to encourage savings, boost investment in infrastructure, attract foreign direct investments and improve productivity.”*

Secondly, some 10 years ago, Honourable Hage Geingob, Vice-President of SWAPO Party and the then Prime Minister said in *“Decade of Peace, Democracy and Prosperity 1990/2000.”* *“Our actions are increasingly being driven by a commitment to give the citizens value for money, and making sure that Government spending is also a function of value for money.”*

This confirms the SWAPO Party’s consistency and steadfastness in pursuing actions that not only satisfy the needs of our citizens, but also safeguard macro-economic stability.

Namibia was blessed with close to two decades of peace, democracy and prosperity. We have utilised these good years to build a Nation with the resolve and commitment to continuously confront the challenges facing it. We owe it to our future generations to build and grow a better Namibia for the future. It is also an obligation we owe to our forbearers who have sacrificed for us to have the liberty and freedom we have enjoyed for the last 19 years.

19 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

I am grateful to His Excellency the President for his trust and support during a difficult Budget process. Equally, my thanks goes to the Right Honourable Prime Minister and all my Cabinet Colleagues for their support and understanding.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all my officials who worked very hard in preparing and compiling the Budget and MTEF.

I also appreciate the continued support that we have received from our citizens and our development partners. This MTEF is nothing else but money from the people for the people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I now have the pleasure to table the Appropriation Bill for 2009/2010 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Years 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 before this august House for its consideration and approval. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister of Finance for her Budget Speech. Any further discussion? Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate on the Budget be adjourned until next week, Wednesday.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The Appropriation Bill stands adjourned until Wednesday next week at 14:30. The House shall rise for refreshments.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:20 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

HON SPEAKER: Question 10 is by Honourable Tsudao Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 10:

HON T GURIRAB: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, these Questions were asked in February and seem to have been overtaken by events, but all the same, I am sure they are entitled to a reply.

I thank Honourable Tsudao Gurirab for the questions and the contextualised answers to them are as follows:

Firstly, it is statistically correct to point out that Namibia has experienced more learner enrolments in schools since Independence. Remarkably, in 2001 we have seen many learners being enrolled and the average growth rate in the learner population has been about 1.3% from 2001 to 2007.

Secondly, the Ministry of Education had over the years attempted to meet the high learner enrolment demands. Enrolment rate stands at 93.4%, that is school-going aged children in schools. Since 2002 the Ministry provided about 2,320 more classrooms to existing schools. Permanent structures increased from 78% to 86% in 2007. In addition, a remarkable increase in the provision of sanitary services to schools countrywide has been made, with the national average standing at 75%. The overall supply of water increased too, however there are areas where new schools are being built that remain poorly serviced in water supply.

Thirdly, there are certain areas that are highly densely populated and demand for classrooms and other resources are and remain high. Recently, due to urban migration, more learners have been found in the Khomas Region, to the extent that tents had to be temporarily used. The high number of learners in Khomas and Oshana can be attributed to the effect of urbanisation. Our policy at the Ministry of Education has been of expanded access and no child that comes to school must be turned away for lack of space in school. In the past it was possible to do that: "The school is full, go home". Today we do not do that and that is why every time we have problems with space, because we have to accommodate as many learners as possible.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

It is, therefore, pertinent to stress that tents and trees are always regarded as temporary structures and are normally used at a time when there is an increase in learner population or when other arrangements, such as renovation and constructions are done at a specific school. The Ministry is aware of these challenges and relentless efforts are being made to provide classrooms when funds are available, and as you will see from this very favourable good Budget, you would have seen the money that has been allocated towards that.

Therefore, my answer to Honourable Gurirab's question can thus be summarised as follows:

Question 1: How many learners are being taught in tents and under trees?

As initially stated, there are instances when tents and trees are just temporarily being used for teaching and not as permanent structures, especially in the northern education Regions of Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto. Parents normally erect shacks or temporary structures for teaching, especially when a school is being established and if the number of learners is less than what the norm requires.

Currently in Khomas Region we have 360 learners that are being taught in tents. A school that will accommodate these learners is under construction and the building will be ready for use by May 2009. Therefore, while we are building a school we do not tell them to wait until next year, we enrol the students, we put them in tents, complete the school and they move in. The name of the school is Okahandja Park Primary School in the Tobias Hainyeko constituency.

In the Oshana Region 25 learners at Okaukuejo Primary School are taught in a tent because their classrooms are still under construction.

Question 2: In which Regions and places are these tree and tent schools?

There are no tree and tent schools, I am sure you understand that from the explanation that I have just given. The Ministry is not aware of the existence of a tree or tent school *per se* in the Regions. However, such structures do exist in the Regions of Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati Regions which are erected by parents to use for teaching.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HON T GURIRAB
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO / HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Question 3: When does the Minister think these learners can look forward to proper schools with ablution, power, water and other facilities which should not be considered luxuries in this day and age?

Within the Development and Capital Budget the Ministry has plans to address the additional classrooms, sanitary facilities and the buildings needed in the Regions. In 2008 alone, which is this year under discussion, 577 classrooms in addition to new schools were built.

In conclusion, it is pertinent to stress that in line with his mandate, within the confines of the resources made available to the Ministry of Education and the constant pressure of having to do more with less, the Minister and his team at the Ministry of Education are constantly and tirelessly working to ensure that every Namibian child is catered for and is accommodated in proper schools. I thank the Honourable Member. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. Question 11 is by Honourable Tsudao Gurirab. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 11:

HON T GURIRAB: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I rise to respond to questions posed by Honourable Tsudao Gurirab on the 5th of this month and I thank the Honourable Member for raising questions as the Caprivi Treason Trial is one of those issues which is often cited by our detractors as lightning Namibia's otherwise commendable human rights record. It is important, therefore, that I use this opportunity to provide some perspective of what has been taking place in trying to bring this case to a close.

The Government is very eager to see the case brought to finality at an earliest opportunity. As the matter is in the hands of our Courts, we have to go through the prescribed judicial process before we put this case behind us.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HON T GURIRAB
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Question 1: I would like, therefore, to preface my response to this question with some background perspective as follows:

Traumatic and tragic events of the 2nd of August 1999 remain indelibly edged on the psyche of all Namibians. The ongoing criminal trials of the alleged perpetrators for multiple murder, treason and other crimes continue to receive wide publicity in both print and electronic media as living testimony of the State's commitment to adhere to the Rule of Law and observe the due process, although the process must be seen as painstakingly slow and frustrating to most citizens who would wish to see justice done quickly. Our apologies to all Namibians.

Considering the time that this case is continuing since the incidence in and around Katima Mulilo took place on the 2nd of August of that year, the question by the Honourable Member is the most frequently asked by almost everybody who is aware of this case. The proceedings in Court, however, need to be placed into a proper perspective for everyone to understand what is happening, hence the following rather lengthy reply to the question of the Honourable Member which is as to when the case will be behind us, as he put it.

Honourable Speaker, the trial in the High Court commenced with 122 Accused persons during May 2003 after pre-trial issues were addressed and adjudicated upon in the Lower Court, High Court and Supreme Court. These issues involved bail applications and the right of the Accused to be legally represented. When this case started in Grootfontein during May 2003, the Defence lawyers gave notice of a Request for Further Particulars on the indictments. The Request for Further Particulars was received on the 20th of May 2003. Further Particulars could only be provided at the end of September 2003 because there are so many Accused involved in the matter. The case had to be postponed in the meantime.

Upon receipt of the Further Particulars, the Defence lawyers gave notice of a Jurisdiction Application in respect of 13 of the 122 Accused at that time. The application was decided upon by the High Court after numerous witnesses had testified. The State thereafter petitioned for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court and the application was only settled when the Supreme Court eventually gave a Ruling on the 21st of July 2004, giving the Trial Court indeed jurisdiction to try the case. No progress on this merit of the case was made

19 March 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HON T GURIRAB
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

until 23 August 2004 when the first witness for the State started giving evidence. The case is very complex, complicated and unique. In fact, it is the first case in Namibia where so many Accused are tried at once with so many charges. There are 278 charges against the Accused. The charges consist of, *inter alia*, the most serious common law and statutory crimes in Namibia.

Apart from the unique circumstances, the progress in this case was further hampered by incidences outside human control. Police Officers, witnesses and even the prosecutors were involved in fatal accidents as a result of which the case had to be postponed for months from time to time. The longest period was about nine months when surviving prosecutors had to recuperate after an accident which claimed the life of one of their colleagues. In the meantime many material witnesses to the case and fourteen Accused passed away.

Honourable Speaker, other factors that hampered the progress on the merits are necessary arguments by both the Prosecutors and the Defence lawyers and Ruling of the Court. Both the Prosecutors and the Defence lawyers needed time to prepare arguments to address issues to the Court and the Court in most instances needed time to properly adjudicate on these issues. These arguments and rulings include applications and objections by both the prosecution and the Defence lawyers.

Further, it needs to be mentioned that the witnesses in the case are scattered all over Namibia and some are in South Africa. Locating, transporting and preparing them to be ready for Court takes time. The Namibian Police have to travel long distances to execute these tasks.

The case dockets consists of 800 plus statements from potential witnesses. The State was on the 2nd of February this year leading its 314th witness when one of the lawyers withdrew, leaving ten Accused persons without legal representation. However, on 2nd March three of the lawyers who are already involved in this matter put themselves on record to represent the said ten Accused.

Honourable Speaker, the prosecutors in the matter in their planning anticipated at the beginning to have finalised the State's case in the second or third year after commencing with the trial. The abovementioned factors, however, disrupted proceedings to such an extent that any prediction on the finalisation of the case may only create false expectations from anyone that wants the case

19 March 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HON T GURIRAB
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

to be finalised. The prosecutors in the case are doing their level best to finalise the case as soon as possible.

It can be stated as a fact that the end of the State's case is now in sight. The State has tried to present evidence in phases and is now busy with the third-last phase, the experts' evidence phase, in their planning. The last three phases in the case will cover expert evidence, confessions, admissions and pointing out and the last phase consists of evidence of police officers, investigators who have done the investigations in the case. Thereafter the State will have to make an assessment and close its case.

The lawyers of the Accused will in all probability apply for discharge in terms of Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Act after closure of the State's case. These proceedings will require time for the lawyers to prepare their applications, time for the prosecutors to prepare their opposition thereto and time for the Court to consider and adjudicate upon it. It can only be speculated how much time is needed for these exercises.

If it so happens that all the Accused are discharged, the case will be behind us apart from an appeal by the State. Otherwise, if the Accused are put on their defence, all of them are entitled to present their evidence by either testifying and/or calling witnesses, where-after both the prosecutors and the lawyers have to prepare and present their respective arguments to Court. Considering the bulky evidence, number of Accused and charges, the length of the Court Records, the Court will need its own time to consider and adjudicate on the matter. Yet again, the length of such proceedings are unpredictable.

The above circumstances and facts spell out the impossibility to positively answer this question at this point in time.

Question 2: Honourable Speaker, it is worth pointing out that unlike the Treason Trial which everyone knows the State spends large amounts of money to prosecute and provide Defence services, what is less known is that almost all the Accused have, as individuals, civil actions pending against the Government. The causes of action include, but are not limited to, alleged unlawful arrests and detention, malicious prosecution, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, assault, torture, denial of medical treatment and so forth and claims for constitutional damages. Most, if not all, such claims were instituted during 2001 and 2002 with the assistance of the Legal Assistance

19 March 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HON T GURIRAB
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Centre, a non-profit-making organisation, at no cost to them, however at tremendous cost to Government.

There were as many civil actions pending as there were Accused persons facing trial at one stage. However, charges against some of the Accused were withdrawn over the years, resulting in the reduction of Accused in trial but not diminishing the claims against the Government. In fact, those against whom charges were withdrawn, amended their pleadings to bring new causes of action, such as malicious prosecution and to increase the amount of damages claimed on the basis of extended periods of incarceration.

Honourable Speaker, cumulatively the amount claimed for damages in all the claims exceeds several million Namibia Dollars. A handful of claims were settled out of Court on a without prejudice basis for a significantly large amount of money. The majority of claims have not been resolved and will probably be the subject of civil trial for several years to come, if acceptable solutions are not found. This will inevitably increase not only the cost of litigation but also, should the Court hold the State liable, payment of huge sums of money in damages, with a high probability of further Amendments to the amounts claimed in the light of the continuing detentions.

At the time of the original summons, claims for alleged unlawful detention dealt with periods immediately after the 2nd of August 1999 to the date of issue of summons, at the most 500 to 600 days. It is inconceivable that those who may be acquitted will seek to amend their claims by increasing amounts claimed for unlawful detention and/or malicious prosecution, with the inevitable consequence that the overall figure will grow.

It must be pointed out that the claims were settled without admission of liability on condition the respective Plaintiffs accepted individual payments in full and final settlements of their claims.

Question 3: All the settlements were entered into subject to a caveat of confidentiality. Neither the Government, through my Ministry, nor the Legal Assistance Centre or anyone else may publicly or on any forum discuss or disclose the terms of the settlement agreement as same were made Orders of the Court. I am, therefore, not at liberty to disclose the details of the settlements because that will be a direct violation of the agreement that was entered into between my Ministry and the Legal Assistance Centre.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HON T GURIRAB
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Question 4: Comrade Speaker, the alleged perpetrators of these heinous crimes are being defended at huge cost to the public after the Supreme Court ordered that they all be granted legal assistance by the Government. By way of background to the cost which the State has to bear for the defence of the treason trialists, it is worth pointing out that on the 7th of June 2002, the Supreme Court of Namibia ordered as follows:

“The First Respondent, that is the Government of the Republic of Namibia, is directed to provide such legal aid to those of the Applicants who are indigent as assessed by it, so as to enable them to have legal representation for the defence of all the charges brought against them in the trial referred to as the Caprivi Treason Trial.”

Between 14 June 2000 and 3 September 2002, the Directorate of Legal Aid assessed the applications from all 128 Accused in question, *ex facie*. The applications of all the 128 applicants were assessed as indigent, in other words, entitled to be given legal aid. Legal aid was thus granted to all 128 Accused subject to two qualifications: Government may at any time during the proceedings for which the said legal aid is granted, require the guarantee to provide information regarding the circumstances of one’s indigence.

Government may at any stage during the proceedings for which the legal aid is granted, require the guarantee to make contributions to the cost of the proceedings. For that purpose 9 lawyers were appointed, 4 Namibians and 5 foreigners who all started working on this case effective from the 24th of April 2003, making it about 5 years and 10 months or about 70 months to date.

An informed estimate shows the legal fees for the said period at about N\$29,374,999. In addition, there are operational costs such as expert witness fees and similar incidental estimates at N\$1.5 million. With regard to the cost of prosecution, the Government does not spend extra money as far as the prosecution of the case is concerned. The prosecutors involved in the case receive their normal salary as public servants. The prosecution in the case is not outsourced to private lawyers and is done by public prosecutors. It happened once in the case during the jurisdiction appeal to the Supreme Court, because of the importance of that issue that a private senior counsel from South Africa was appointed to prosecute the appeal.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON TJIHUIKO
HON EKANDJO**

Comrade Speaker, I hope I have provided the necessary information as required by the Honourable Member, I hope he is satisfied. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Those are the kinds of questions that have far-reaching implications and one assumes that the Honourable Member who put those kinds of questions should be in the House when the Ministers go out of their way, as the Minister has done, to provide replies. Otherwise the questions should stand over until the person is back in the House. Question 12 is by Honourable Tjihuiiko. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 12:

HON TJIHUIKO: I put the Question, Honourable Speaker.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker,

Honourable Members, a Notice of Question was raised in this august House by Honourable Tjihuiiko regarding the relocation of the residents of Ehenye Village. I wish to respond as follows:

Question 1: Is it true that the Town Council of Oshakati is forcefully removing residents from Ehenye Village before any amicable agreement is reached between the two parties, including the issue of compensation?

The area north of Oshakati, that is now Ehenye Village, has been planned during the year 1996 for future residential development and 2,000 erven have been created. As normal standard practice before any development is taking place, the affected community and the Council had a consultation meeting in order to make them aware of the Council resolution. Since 1996 the Council has been engaged in discussion and consultations with the community of Ehenye Village on the relocation in attempting to reach an amicable agreement between the Council and the affected community. So far Council has recorded 27 consultation meetings between the Council and the community. The

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON TJIHUIKO
HON EKANDJO**

Council has never forcefully removed any community member of Ehenye Village.

Rather, it is still exhausting all options to reach a solution acceptable to both parties.

In August 2007 an understanding between the community and the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development was reached to the effect that the Ministry's senior officials and officials of Oshakati Town Council visit each individual homestead affected by the relocation of Phase 1 and to discuss individual problems and assess such problems.

Following the above referred to consultations, 23 members of Ehenye Village accepted the compensation offer and some have already relocated to new areas.

Question 2: How much did the Oshakati Town Council pay or are planning to pay per hectare to the land owners?

The Oshakati Town Council is applying Cabinet policy guidelines on compensation which is used by all Local Authorities in Namibia. This is a public document and the Honourable Tjihuike can obtain that from the Cabinet Secretariat.

Question 3: What are the criteria or formula used by Oshakati Town Council to determine the value of Ehenye Village?

The Council only applies Cabinet policy guidelines on compensation.

Question 4: Is it true, Honourable Minister, that apparently your Permanent Secretary informed Ehenye residents that since he is a Government top official, that he was a law unto himself and that he advised the community to better accept what he said?

The answer is no, this accusation is not true. The Permanent Secretary did not utter such remarks and I can confidentially vow for what I am stating, as the sources which provided to me the information on this allegation did so to my great satisfaction. For instance, the police were there at that meeting and also the press, the television covered it all.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON TJIHUIKO
HON EKANDJO**

Question 5: In the event where residents accept the offer, what then happens to the affected parties?

The affected residents have several options to select from which are clearly stated in the compensation policy. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for his reply Honourable Tjihuiko, satisfied?

HON TJIHUIKO: I wish to thank the Honourable Minister for a good answer.

HON SPEAKER: Question 13 is by Honourable Tjihuiko. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 13:

HON TJIHUIKO: I put the question.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to respond to the question raised by Honourable Tjihuiko regarding the sale of land to foreign nationals as follows:

Question 1: Is it true what was reported in the print media in September 2008 about the selling of land to foreigners, mainly Chinese and Indians, for the purpose of development in the towns of Oshakati, Ondangwa and Oshikango for business purposes?

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON TJIHUIKO
HON EKANDJO**

I would want you in future to attach a copy. You might read it in the Cape Town newspaper. You must attach a copy so that one knows which media you are referring to, whether it is a newspaper of this country or a newspaper from abroad, but I will generally respond to what you said.

Let me start with Oshikango. Namibia has adopted a free market system. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has been striving since the Independence of this country to attract healthy investment which will be of benefit to her people. To this effect, legislation and schemes have been created to attract potential investors. The Government has been doing so mindful of the economic peculiarity of the local Namibian business community. No legislation exists which prevent foreign nationals from buying land to establish businesses. In fact, they are welcome to buy land provided that the land bought is not to the detriment of the local communities and they comply with all necessary requirements, such as the registration of companies with the Ministry of Trade and Industry before they are permitted to conduct business on the Namibian soil.

The financial institutions sometimes require ownership of land or a lease agreement before they assist financially on capital development and, therefore, foreign nationals also need to acquire such status.

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is aware of the complaints by members of the public and in particular the Namibian indigenous business community regarding sale of large tracts of land to foreign business enterprises. Local Authority Councils are equipped with legislation which can be applied to mitigate this complaint and I can confidentially state that most of them are doing their best to balance foreign investment with the needs of the local communities. There are, however, instances which present worrying signs of alienating too much land to foreigners at the expense of locals. Where the Ministry considers this to be the case, it exercises its mandate, as provided for by the laws, to address the situation together with the Local Authorities concerned. The town of Helao Nafidi is a case in point.

Oshakati: The report is found not to be accurate when it comes to the town of Oshakati.

For the town of Ondangwa the report was found to be true.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON TJIHUIKO
HON EKANDJO**

Question 2: How many foreign investors bought land in Oshakati, Ondangwa and Oshikango?

In Oshikango up to date only three Chinese nationals have acquired land from Helao Nafidi Town Council, specifically in Oshikango. Most of the Chinese have acquired land from private individual Namibians who were allocated land by the town council and opted to sell it to foreign nationals. In the case of the town of Oshakati, only one foreign national has bought land. As for the town of Ondangwa, two Chinese and one Indian bought land there.

Question 3: Can the Minister give a breakdown of sectors of investment in which these people invested and the amount of money invested in the aforementioned areas?

In Oshikango foreign investors have invested in the building of shop complexes and warehouses, estimated at N\$40 million. In the town of Ondangwa they have invested in building shopping complexes estimated at N\$30 million. I am still awaiting the amount with regard to Oshakati.

Question 4: Through these Government efforts to bring desired development to the Region, how many indigenous Namibians lost land in the process?

To this day no Namibian has lost land due to foreign investors. Land occupied by foreign nationals was due for development within the townships. However, there are some indigenous Namibians who opted to sell their land to foreign nationals and this was done purely on business principles and on the accord of such local business people without even consulting the Town Council in some instances. No indigenous person has lost land in the town of Oshakati. The above is for Oshikango, but in the case of Oshakati, no indigenous person has lost land. The same applies to Ondangwa, no person has lost land. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for his reply.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON MOONGO
HON SMIT**

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Minister for the comradely reply, for the very good campaign answers.

HON SPEAKER: Question 14 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 14:

HON DE WAAL: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I question the wisdom to answer this question while the Honourable Member is not present. The same questions were asked at the end of last year and they were answered and I suspect that the Honourable Member was also not present that time, that is why he is asking the same questions again. Nevertheless, I hope that he will not ask the questions again this year, hopefully next year.

Question 1: Is the Minister aware that Ongwediva NaTIS has constant inhuman and long queues long queues when owners of vehicles are registering and paying for their licences, and what is wrong with the old system?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not true that there are constant long queues at the Ongwediva NaTIS one-stop centre with regard to the services of vehicle registration and licensing. The queues in respect of these services are not constant and are more periodic like at month-end when most people want to renew their vehicle licences. I am, however, aware that there are sometimes queues for vehicle roadworthy testing at the Ongwediva NaTIS one-stop centre which is mainly attributed to limited facilities being available for the big demand for services in the North.

Regarding the “what is wrong with the old system,” I have no clue what Honourable Moongo is talking about. Is it necessary for the Honourable Member to provide this House with more detail in order for the Ministry to investigate the matter?

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON MOONGO
HON SMIT**

The second question: Is it a fact that the old licence system was accurate and faster than the new system which is inconvenient and causing unnecessary suffering of customers at Ongwediva NaTIS while we have a lot of unemployed matriculants in Namibia who are able to register the vehicles?

Honourable Speaker, the current vehicle registration and licensing system, the Namibia Traffic Information System now commonly known by its acronym NaTIS, was introduced in Ongwediva on the 28th of September 1998. Before that vehicle licences were written by hand and were renewed at the beginning of each year leading to the deadline of 7 March that year. Is this the manual system or the old system Honourable Moongo is referring to? I doubt that he would want to take us back to the queues of those years.

Regarding the suggestion that more unemployed matriculants should be employed to assist with vehicle registration and licensing, firstly the services are acceptable and secondly, it is also a cost matter to add more counters and more computers in addition to paying more salaries. In the current financial situation it is not justified to spend such amounts when it is not really crucial and that the customers have to pay at the end of the day.

Question 3: Can the Minister explain as to whether the same systems are used in all Namibian towns and cities?

All the NaTIS related services are conducted in terms of the Road Traffic and Transport Act of 1999 and the regulations issued thereunder. The same law applies throughout the Republic of Namibia. I can also confirm that it is the same Namibia Traffic Information System that is used in a total of 52 towns throughout the country.

Question 4: Why is it selective to the northern Regions. I think I have answered the question, that it is not true, it is the same system throughout the country.

Question 5: Is it true that the roadworthy testing machines at the abovementioned towns is unfair, removing poor people's buses and taxis from the road whenever they renew licences annually and confiscate the licence whenever they detect one mistake on the vehicles. What is wrong with the old system? The traffic is supposed to write what is not operating and not write off the vehicle.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON MOONGO
HON SMIT**

Honourable Speaker, it is certainly not true that the roadworthy equipment is possibly programmed to give different results, depending on whether the motor vehicle submitted for testing is used for public passenger transport or not or whether the person is poor or rich. The examiners at all vehicle testing stations work according to the same approved testing manual. On the question whether the motor vehicle is suspended or whether the owner is referred to fix identified shortcomings on the vehicle roadworthiness, the issue is that when the shortcomings are small, the owner is referred back to fix such small problems. If, however, the car is essentially a wreck or as we say in Namibia, a *Skoroskoro*, then such vehicles must be withdrawn from the public roads with immediate effect. Such vehicles are a hazard to human life and unnecessary loss of life cannot be tolerated.

Honourable Speaker, the sixth question: What is the motive behind Outapi, Ondangwa, Eenhana, Oshikango and Omuthiya was it made deliberately and ignorantly to register at Ondangwa NaTIS? Is it a lack of decentralisation of NaTIS or is it a lack of customer services?

Honourable Speaker, with the introduction of NaTIS in 1998, the registering authority districts of Eenhana, Ondangwa and Outapi were created in addition to the Oshakati district. So, residents of these new districts are certainly not compelled to register their vehicles in Ongwediva, which is the registering authority for the Oshakati magisterial district. For that matter, the Road Traffic and Transport Regulations prescribe that a vehicle owner registers his or her motor vehicle in the district in which he or she normally resides.

Question 7: When is the NaTIS office going to decentralise to the abovementioned towns?

As stated in the response to the previous question, vehicle registration authorities already exist in Eenhana, Ondangwa and Outapi for 10 years now. Regarding Omuthiya and Oshikango, the Ministry, together with the Roads Authority, is monitoring the vehicle population of the various districts in order to recommend when a new district should be proclaimed. I can foresee that in due course we will have to consider opening a registering authority in Omuthiya, especially taking the distance to Tsumeb into consideration.

Question 8: When is the Ministry going to remedy the problem at Ongwediva and NaTIS once and for all?

19 March 2009 **RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**
HON NGHIMTINA

Regarding the earlier mentioned limited vehicle testing facilities being available for the big demand for vehicle testing services at the Ongwediva NaTIS one-stop centre, I can say that testing stations will be constructed at Eenhana and Outapi within the next 2 years, thereby taking away the need for residents of the Ohangwena and Omusati Regions to take their vehicles to Ongwediva for roadworthy tests. The further option to expand the Ongwediva NaTIS one-stop centre will be analysed and implemented if the funds become available in the near future and also for Omuthiya and other areas, if necessary.

Honourable Speaker, with this I hope that I have answered the questions and I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Minister. Question 16 is by Honourable Schimming-Chase. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 16:

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Schimming-Chase is asking when we are going to ratify the Pelindaba Treaty. We are still consulting because this one affects three Ministries, namely the Ministry of Health for radiation treatment and also the Ministry of Mines and Energy for nuclear energy and even the Ministry of Defence whose concerns also have to be taken into consideration. The delay is only because we are consulting and once we have done that, we will come back with the Treaty to be ratified.

What I also want to say is that we already have systems in Tsumeb which are working with the CTBO, checking all the earthquakes as well as the nuclear weapons explosions in the world. When that happens, Namibia can automatically report on these issues immediately. We are together on this and after consultation we will bring the Treaty here for ratification. Thank you very much.

19 March 2009 **RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**
HON NGHIMTINA

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister, but I have asked 5 questions and the Minister has answered only one.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: I summarised everything. It is asked why Namibia has not ratified the Treaty and I said we are consulting. The second, does the Government intend to do so, I said yes and if so, when? I said after consultation. Number 3: "In view of the fact that only three more countries need to ratify the Treaty in order for it to enter into force, what is causing the delay?" Consultations. Number 4: "Is the Government aware of the fact that if we sign as one of the 3, we can join the African Commission on Nuclear Energy with all the benefits resulting from that?" Yes, we are aware. Number 5: "Are we aware that as a country which will be the largest producer of uranium by 2015 we stand a good chance if we apply to have the AFRICA headquarters in Namibia, bringing jobs and prestige to the country?" Yes, we are aware that we are going to be one of the largest uranium producers in the world, but we are consulting and once we have completed the consultations we will bring the Treaty here for ratification. Thank you very much.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I would like to thank the Honourable Minister and if I may assist in the consultations, there is only one more country that needs to sign now. However, I am happy to hear how aware the Ministry is. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Question 18 is by Honourable Viljoen to the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

19 March 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
HON NGHIDINWA / HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

QUESTION 18:

HON VILJOEN: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this question is too personal and too administrative in nature against the Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs and Immigration. Therefore, I would like to advise the Honourable Member to make an appointment with the Office of the Minister, then I will call the said official in, to discuss the issue and solve it amicably. Thank you.

HON VILJOEN: Thank you, Honourable Minister, I think it is a very good suggestion. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Question 19 is by Honourable Mbai. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 19:

HON MBAI: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: The question has two sections: *“Is the Honourable Minister aware that many school-going children remain with their parents at villages, more specifically during winter and rainy season because of lack of boarding and hostel facilities at some primary schools in rural areas?”* Then the question was: *“What is the policy of the Ministry with regard to the provision of hostel and boarding facilities?”* The answer is as follows;

The constitutional obligation of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and of the Ministry of Education is enshrined in Article 20 of the Namibian Constitution, that is to provide schooling to each and everyone in Namibia

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON MBAI
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

between ages 6 to 16 years. This is a core function of the Ministry to provide schools for all learners.

Furthermore, the Ministry supports the notion that the child should attend school from home. That is the ideal situation where parents take responsibility for the education of their children because education is a partnership and a joint responsibility of State, parent and school. Schools are thus built in communities and areas where a big concentration of people live. Hence, provision of boarding and hostel facilities, although considered very important, is not our first priority.

Hostels, as one of our biggest cost drivers are thus only considered in areas where children cannot attend school from home or where there is a long distance between home and school and in sparsely populated areas. Hostels are mainly provided at selected secondary schools to cater for learners that are coming from far remote areas. The radius is 5 kilometres from the nearest school. So, anybody who lives within 5 kilometres from the school must stay with their parents and come from home to the school.

The Ministry recognises and appreciates the efforts of communities and church organisations in providing private hostel accommodation. Such community or private hostel qualifies for a private hostel allowance, provided such facilities meet the basic requirements with regards to health and safety of boarders. I thank the Honourable Member for his question.

HON MBAI: I thank the Deputy Minister for the answer, but the constraints remain. There are also primary schools that are kilometres away from where the parents are living and I believe that in future the Ministry will look specifically into that issue.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, the Deputy Minister took note of that. Question 21 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA
HON DR GEINGOB**

QUESTION 21:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I did put the Question but I redirected it to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I do not know why the correction was not made. I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: We had a private conversation whereby I was telling her that she has misdirected the question and, therefore, she was going to redirect it properly, but I will try my best and she will understand if I do not answer it properly because it does not belong to me.

Comrade Speaker, thank you very much and welcome back, you did an excellent job and congratulations for elections. I used to be the Chairman of the Campaign Committee and I have laid a very good foundation, that is why you were elected.

This question is asking: *“Since the Government of the Republic of Namibia is inviting foreign investors to invest in our country, what protection do the citizens of the country have against investors like G-TV?”*

I will still go – and that is my job – to invite the foreign investors to come to our beautiful country to invest. When we are doing that, we do not first do the forensic audit of those companies. We are talking about goodwill, for people to come and invest in our country, hoping the people there are also honourable people.

However, the protection we have is our Police and our Courts. If a criminal comes here they are subjected to Namibian Courts and Police and that is the protection we have.

“Will the Minister of Trade and Industry follow up this matter or is it out of their jurisdiction?” Indeed, it is out of our jurisdiction but the Police can follow up. When a company is liquidated it is the Courts who are doing it and therefore, it is a matter of the Courts.

“Will the money paid by subscribers on Friday before the company was liquidated or advance payments be refunded?” I am one of the victims, I paid for three months because G-TV was supposed to show all premier league

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA
HON DR GEINGOB**

football games, therefore I subscribed for three months, I am a victim too and I think we sometimes take risks in investment and then you lose.

“Will all outstanding debts of G-TV be followed up and how?” I wonder how, the Police are the only ones who can follow up.

When a company is liquidated, of course they are supposed to look at the people who are owed and after they have sold the assets, they are supposed to pay back those who are owed, but I do not know if these people have assets and it will be very difficult.

“Can the Minister provide the Nation” – that one I do not know. I was hoping that the question would be redirected and I was also hoping we were not going to have time to answer the question today, because I thought it would only be the tabling of the Budget.

“When the broadcasting licence was issued, who was listed as the shareholders and members of the board?” This question is misdirected because we do not issue broadcasting licences, it is a Commission under the Ministry of Information which issues licences. Therefore, the question is misdirected and I am glad you have realised and will redirect it to the Ministry of Information. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Question 22 is by Honourable Dienda to the Minister of Trade and Industry. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 22:

HON DIENDA: I put the Question, Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Dienda is asking the following question: My question therefore is, what protection do the Namibians have against such investors? We invite people to invest. We have agreements with the United Kingdom, United States, Ghana, Portugal,

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA
HON MUHARUKUA**

Spain, not only with China. We enter into agreements with many other countries in the hope that it is honourable people who are coming here.

On the Chinese question alone, I went to China, I took up the matter with the Authorities there about what has happened in the northern part of our country, because I saw the Media against Chinese Comrades. What the Chinese Minister told me is that yes, Honourable Minister, not all Chinese are good people, the same way you will have that not all Namibians may be good citizens. There are bad Chinese and good Chinese. If there are bad Chinese who do not obey your laws, you have your laws to deal with it, but in the future it will be good that we handle this matter of trade and investment through established channels of our Embassy there and your Embassy, so that people who are going there will be known, that they had been cleared, they are good people of good standing. However, there are some who are coming as private sector, they cannot account for them.

Therefore, I am saying, agreements we have with all the countries, we should therefore not only single out the Chinese. We will be racist, we will be discriminating. As I have said earlier, how else could we protect our citizens except our Courts and our Police to follow up and also the citizens themselves to be careful. I was lured by GTV to pay three months in advance and my money is gone too. Therefore, I will join you to collect our money. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Question 24 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 24:

HON DIENDA: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, before I answer the question asked by Honourable Dienda, I want to thank SWAPO Party for adding another doctor to our many doctors in this House. Dr Amutenya, I welcome you.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
HON MUHARUKUA**

Honourable Dienda, I think the newspaper already answered your question, but I stand here to tell the Nation that I am a SWAPO Member and I will die a SWAPO Member in Namibia and I joined this Chamber on the second election held in 1994. I was sworn in on the 21st of March 1995. I have all the records since I joined the Chamber until now.

I know that I am not good in English, but I took that document to my house. It is not the first time that newspaper mentions Muharukua's name. It was in *Informante*, and I want to say viva SWAPO because I am a strong Muharukua. Whether I said something or not, they say Muharukua said it. I want to thank myself.

Comrade Speaker, the answer, when I was asked that by the lady from Oshakati, meanwhile the Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare Muharukua also took issue with the case, saying that she was misquoted. I want to thank the Honourable Dienda. The newspaper misquoted me. I thank you for that. Even that day on the 19th, Honourable Iilonga asked me and I said I have not said that. I informed that lady to call the Ministry of Labour because child labour belongs to the Ministry of Labour. That is why I advised them to call them, but because they like Muharukua, they misquoted me. I am disappointed that my Sister did not speak to me out there and asked me, but she wants to come to Parliament and talk about it. This is not good to me and to the leaders. If I refused you, you must come to the Chamber to talk about it, if I do not refuse you, why do you come and talk about it in the Chamber? Is it because of the elections or what?

Honourable Speaker, I think I have answered this question by my Sister. I thank you.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, as a Member of Parliament I represent people in this House. If people ask me how can the Deputy Minister of Gender respond like that? I can say that it is my duty to come and ask you in the House and not to have private conversations with you outside and then to tell the people outside what you said. Otherwise I will have a private conversation with the Prime Minister and whoever and this is not how things work, but thank you for your answer.

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

HON SPEAKER: Question 28 is by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 28:

HON DIENDA: I put the Question.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Dienda thank you, for your question. The two sections are summarised as follows: How am I supposed to view the examination results and statistics of Regions and schools on the website of the Ministry. Currently it seems as if I first have to provide a code before I can get these statistics. Why do we need to create a website which is not accessible to the public? What will the Minister do to ensure that statistics on examination results are available to the public?

My answers are as follows: The development and maintenance of the website with information on examinations is done by the Directorate: Systems Development and Implementation at the Office of the Prime Minister. The development of this website is a comprehensive exercise and the first phase has been completed about three years ago. It was a priority for the Ministry to put the results of the approximately 80,000 candidates in the national examination on a website and therefore, this work was done in the first phase of the development of the website.

This part of the website is in operation for the past three years and individual candidates can access their examination results if they enter their unique examination number. Therefore, you see it is for a specific group. Candidates can access their examination results if they enter their unique examination number. This is a secure and confidential website and if we have to judge on the number of candidates visiting this website every year, it seems to be a big success and fulfilling a need.

On the question of how Honourable Dienda and members of the public should go about to access the examination statistics of Regions and schools on the website, the following is the answer:

19 March 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

The statistics generated with each national examination consists of national, regional, school and candidate statistics. These statistics at this stage are only available in hard copy format because the Directorate: System Development and Implementation at the Office of the Prime Minister has not yet completed the development of the further phases of this website. As soon as this has been done, all the national, regional and school statistics will be provided to them by the Directorate of National Examination and Assessment for uploading. This may be possible already for the 2009 examinations.

In the meantime and up to now, the Ministry of Education had, after the results of the national examinations were released, provided the media, the NBC and other radio services with the most important national and regional statistics. Shortly after the results of the national examinations were released, more types of examination statistics were provided to the 13 Regional Offices, schools, libraries at UNAM and the Polytechnic of Namibia, etcetera. At this stage institutions and individuals who are in urgent need of statistics which are not already in the public domain, can contact the Directorate: National Examination and Assessment where hard copies will be made available to them at the Treasury approved fee.

As already mentioned, we ask for a little more patience until the end of 2009 when we believe the website will be developed to the extent that it can accommodate the examination statistics. I thank the Honourable Member and the Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for her mature and comprehensive answer.

HON SPEAKER: I want to inform the House that I had consultations with the Whips and I agreed that instead of commencing with the work on Tuesday, we will rather come back on Wednesday. The reasoning is that the documentation is rather voluminous, but that aside, many of you will be going out to different places to join the rest of the Nation to celebrate our Independence the day after tomorrow I thought that it is a good idea that you would want to apply your minds to these documents, including the Budget

19 March 2009

ADJOURNMENT

speech of the Minister and come back Wednesday, 14:30 to continue the Budget Debate. The House stands adjourned until Wednesday, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.03.25 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
25 MARCH 2009
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise on a sad note. Honourable Speaker, on the 13th of October 2008, conjoined twins, named Celestine and Celestiana Hipetekwa were born in Swakopmund District Hospital.

Given their condition and state of health, they were transferred to Windhoek Central Hospital for further medical investigations, observations and consultation with experts from Cape Town, in particular with the paediatricians. Here in Windhoek Central Hospital they were under the care of Dr Johan Baard, a paediatrician.

After thorough consultations with a team of medical experts, both from Cape Town and here in Windhoek, a decision was made that the twins be transferred to the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town. Numerous investigations were carried out.

25 March 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

In January 2009, they were evaluated and the twins were found to be joined together at the level of the chest and abdomen. The liver was found to be joined together in the midline and the hearts were equally found to be joined in the midline. Both twins had a Ventricular Septum Defect, but were not in failure at the time of evaluation.

The experts then thought it would be possible to separate the twins. They were then expected to return to Cape Town in May 2009 and the operation was planned for June 2009.

On the 18th of March 2009 they unfortunately developed signs of respiratory distress and a diagnosis of pneumonia was made. A full blood count was taken, C-Reactive Protein was taken and Urium and Electrolytes were all found normal and the cause of the pneumonia was then presumed to be viral in origin. Despite treatment they developed sudden cardio-respiratory arrest. On the afternoon of the 18th of March 2009 they unfortunately breathed one's last. Efforts to resuscitate them were unsuccessful.

Because of the interest which emanated from the general public, in particular those who met them, I felt I should inform those to whom it may concern. May their souls rest in peace. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister. These things do happen. Let their souls rest in peace. Any further Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
SECOND READING**

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

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 19th of March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable De Waal adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. It is with mixed feelings that I rise today to make my contribution to the Debate. On the one hand I want to say it is a good Budget, but on the other hand, I cannot but be highly frustrated about certain issues that should have been addressed long ago or that should not have been addressed at this stage at all.

It is important that we keep in mind that the global financial crisis only matured during the last quarter of 2008 and that the income we are spending this year was created during 2008 which, for the most part, was still a very good year. Next year we will, however, be dependent on the income created this year and very few people will venture into forecasting how this year will eventually turn out.

Over the last ten to fifteen years we were blessed by two major sources of income, namely the payouts from the SACU pool and the income from our diamond mining activities. Together these two income sources were responsible for about 50% of our total income. We now know of the serious problems with NAMDEB and the future of the SACU pool is, to say the least, very fragile. The ongoing ACP-EU negotiations and the uncertainty within the SADC-EPA Group are further making any forecasted income from the SACU pool very difficult.

Under these circumstances and given the continuing world financial crisis, one would expect a total clampdown on unnecessary and wasteful expenditure. In addition, one would also expect Government to ensure that it collects what is due to it, not only in the form of taxes, but also all other outstanding amounts. I, therefore, have no choice but to quote from page 19 of the speech of the Honourable Minister of Finance where she says the following: *“This MTEF is nothing else but money from the people for the people.”*

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

Let us, therefore, test this statement against the reality of certain items in the Budget and ask ourselves the question: If the people have a say, which items in the Budget would no longer be there?

Already during October, November last year it was clear to all of us that the world economy was in a tailspin and that tough times lay ahead. Yet our Government continued with the purchase of a new Falcon Jet at a price tag of some N\$400 million. Surely, if there are so many companies that are willing to buy the old jet, then there is still a lot of life left in it. The question is not whether we should replace the existing jet, the question is, why must we do it now?

Honourable Speaker, I am certain that the people who are responsible for this decision knew very well that they were busy with non-essential expenditures and let me immediately add that I do not for one moment believe that His Excellency the President has asked for a new Falcon. The reason I am saying this is the way the buying of the aircraft has been handled in the Budget documents. Is there anybody in this House, except the people directly involved, that can tell me where the expenditure for the buying of the new Falcon is shown in the Budget documents? I do not think anybody will find it, except maybe the Minister and the Deputy Minister. Nobody else in this House can tell me now where it is. (Interjection). Have you found it? Where? Give me a page number. Forget it, you will not find it, Sir.

Honourable Speaker, the only reference to the Falcon is on page 664 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document where reference is made under Additional Resources as follows and I quote from that document: *“The additional resources required for Government air transport services included the C-check of the Falcon 900B.”*

However, if we turn to page 322 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure book, we find Main Division 05 – Civil Aviation Infrastructure. The objectives and description of this Main Division is as follows: *“To respond to air traffic requirements and promote economic activities through construction, maintenance and operations at airports across the country.”* Under this Main Division one finds Item 102 – Vehicles. (Intervention)

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am extremely sorry that I have to disrupt the Honourable Member, but I wanted to understand him fully. May I ask a

question for clarity? Mr De Waal, you are a family man and once upon a time, when your pocket could afford it you made a commitment to buy a car, to buy a house, to buy something else, because at that point in time you thought your pocket could afford it, but you have already made the commitment. Perhaps you have even made a down payment. Now it just happens that you are not in control of your income, something happens and you cannot actually afford to buy that. How do you get out of that kind of situation where you have already made a commitment and something happens which you are not in control of? How do you handle that situation?

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Right Honourable Prime Minister. All I can say is that you have only one way and that is to negotiate. You will remember that some years back you bought the old Boeing 747, a plane that was ordered by somebody else and they could not buy it, so we bought it. In this case I think we should have started negotiating with the Falcon people in October last year and told them that *“it is not possible for us to buy this plane, make a plan, we will buy it in four years’ time when the economy looks better.”* That is all I can say as far as that is concerned.

Honourable Speaker, under this Main Division one finds item 102 – Vehicles. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask Honourable De Waal a small question? Honourable De Waal, are you aware of time, value of money, which means that N\$1,000 today will be equal to N\$10 after ten years? Are you aware of that? If yes, why do you prefer that the plane be bought later when inflation will be up? Why not now? I think today is the right time, right now, not next year because of time and value money.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I can also ask the Doctor whether he knows the time and value of debt. It is 50% of the one and 50% of the other.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

When you have money you can worry about things like that, but when you do not have money, just think about what you would do in your own house. If you do not have money to buy a car or a television, you do not buy it. So, why do we buy it with Government money? It is the same thing.

Honourable Speaker, under this Main Division one finds Item 102 – Vehicles. Now, any normal person would see vehicles as vehicles. Vehicles would not normally include aircraft. It is described under terms and conditions on page (v) of the same Budget document as: “*Expenditure allocated to the purchase of vehicles.*” Therefore, that is for the purchase of vehicles. It is under this Item 102 where the money for the purchase of the new Falcon is hidden so that nobody can find it, because even under 102, nowhere is the word “*Falcon*” or “*Aircraft*” used, only vehicles. I had a serious problem finding the money.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, in the DTA Budget proposals we would have stopped the purchase of a new Falcon towards the end of last year already, thereby making the Budget shortfall for this year N\$400 million less.

Some years ago, Government promised the people that it would privatise *NAMPA* and *New Era*. However, instead of privatising them, we are now giving them another N\$44 million over this MTEF period. If we further subtract the allocation for *NamZim*, which should never have been started, of N\$14.28 million, the shortfall in our Budget proposal would be less by another N\$58.28 million. And by the way, Honourable Speaker, we are the only partner of the two partners who is paying towards the *NamZim* newspaper.

As in all the Budget speeches of the Honourable Minister over the last number of years, she once again had the following to say in this year’s speech: “The number of SOEs, however, are still loss-making and are receiving Budget bailouts. This issue is receiving the attention of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council.” Yes, we accept that this issue is receiving attention, the question is however, how serious this attention is if we are budgeting another N\$308 million for the NBC during this MTEF period. Honourable Speaker, in the DTA Budget proposal this amount would not figure at all, leaving the country with a total saving of N\$767 million.

For many years now we as a Government have promised the people that we would sort out the problems of Air Namibia. Consultants were called in, studies were conducted, new managers were appointed and a turn-around

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

strategy was announced. We even reflected our confidence in the turn-around strategy by budgeting only N\$130 million for Air Namibia over this MTEF period, N\$100 million this year, N\$30 million next year and nothing for the last year, 2011/12. So far we agree with this item in the Budget. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question to Honourable De Waal? Honourable De Waal, since you are an expert on the airline industry, which airline is currently making a profit?

HON DE WAAL: There are quite a number who are surviving, but I can tell you there are quite a number of them that will go down in this year and next year. That is besides the point, Honourable Prime Minister, the point here is that for the last 10, 11 years we spent billions on this airline and there are many ways that you can solve this problem. Government announced this turn-around strategy, but we could also look at Botswana. Botswana has a flourishing tourist industry and they do not have an Air Botswana that flies overseas. Therefore, there are many options but it is not for us to do that. Once we are elected into the Government we will sort that out.

Honourable Speaker, so far we agree with this item in the Budget, however there are two problems. Firstly, if we look at page 194 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document, we see that the Honourable Minister quite correctly published the Annual Financial Statements of Air Namibia. The problem, however, is that the last statement that she received and published was the statement for 2005/06.

The Financial Statements for 2007 and 2008 are thus not yet ready for publication although it is already the end of March 2009.

The second problem, Honourable Speaker, is that Air Namibia recently asked the Honourable Minister for N\$180 million instead of the budgeted N\$100 million and although this request was rejected by her, the people and, for that matter, Air Namibia know that Government will eventually have no option but to pay the extra millions or even more or else the planes will stop flying.

The questions we are asking are the following:

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

Why does the State-Owned Enterprise Governance Council allow Air Namibia to get away with breaking the law by not publishing their Annual Financial Statements on time? How does Air Namibia know that it needs N\$180 million if they are 2 years behind with their Financial Statements? How do you manage a company if your Financial Statements are 2 years behind schedule?

Honourable Speaker, a very, very conservative estimate of the additional expenditure on Air Namibia over this MTEF would be at least N\$410 million. We say N\$80 million extra this year, N\$150 million extra next year and at least N\$180 million in the last year of this MTEF, bringing the total to N\$540 million for this MTEF, instead of the budgeted N\$130 million. You are going to pay N\$540 million plus during this MTEF, not N\$130 million.

It is for the above reasons that I am adding the amount of N\$410 million to our savings in the DTA Budget proposal, bringing our total savings for this MTEF period to N\$1.177 billion. The above expenditures simply do not qualify, as the Minister said, *money from the people for the people*. It does not qualify, no Honourable Speaker, the above expenditures are money collected from hard-pressed people for non-essential services. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, is the Honourable Member allowed to select the quote that he wants to quote? Is he allowed to do that? The Budget is not about Air Namibia, the Budget is more than that. He did not quote the amount of N\$25 billion, he only quoted N\$100 million out of the N\$25 billion. How can he make a conclusion on selective figures? Is that allowed?

HON DE WAAL: The above expenditures simply do not qualify as money from the people for the people. No, Honourable Speaker, the above expenditures are money collected from hard-pressed people for non-essential services which are funded year after year because Cabinet does not have the guts to take appropriate action. In the DTA Budget proposal we would use some of the savings of N\$1.1 billion to increase old-age pensions, which the Honourable Minister did not do, and the rest we would use to minimise the Budget deficit.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

Honourable Speaker, I now want to turn my attention to some more general issues in the Budget. For the last 19 years we have been allocating vast sums of money for education and the DTA has always supported these allocations. However, we have now reached the point where we are asking ourselves whether throwing more money at education has any positive results. I do not want to create the impression that I am an expert in education, because I am not, but I do know something about business. When faced with a situation like this in business, you analyse the problem by cutting it open to the bone in order to find the weak link in the chain. If throwing more money at education was the answer, then surely after 19 years we should have seen an improvement in the results of our children. There is an expression, "*where the tyre hits the road*," meaning the point where the action is taking place. If the tyres of a car do not grip the road, then it starts spinning and the car does not move anymore. That is the point.

In education, the point where the tyre hits the road is right in the classroom where the teacher must transfer his knowledge of a specific subject...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Honourable De Waal, will you be coming back to read a document like this on 25 March 2010 or are you not coming back?

HON DE WAAL: I will probably come if the Budget comes a little bit earlier. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Honourable De Waal, tyres can only spin if you have a powerful engine. The Budget is powerful, but because of the serious global economic downturn the tyres cannot spin too fast. That is the only reason, but it is spinning.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

HON DE WAAL: As long as it is spinning, it is standing still, remember that, it is not moving.

In education the point where the tyre hits the road is right in the classroom where the teacher must transfer his or her knowledge of a certain subject to the learners in such a way that his or her knowledge becomes their knowledge. It is also true that the teacher can only transfer knowledge if he or she has the knowledge. He can only transfer knowledge if he has been trained how to transfer knowledge, because many very knowledgeable people cannot transfer knowledge. It is only when you have the knowledge and if you know how to transfer that knowledge and if you are able to test your learners effectively to ensure that your transfer of knowledge has been successful that you can call yourself a successful teacher. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: As you are talking about the area on which I am very informed, may I ask you a question? Is it the policy of DTA to oppose education of our children?

HON DE WAAL: No. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Yes, that is the policy.

HON DE WAAL: No.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: DTA is against education. Is that the policy?

HON DE WAAL: No, Honourable Speaker, DTA's policy is to properly educate our people, to get better results, because every year our results are

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

going down and down and down, every year we spend more and more money and we do not reach a point where this problem is solved. We cannot continue like this, we must make a new plan. Your plan is not working. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. DTA is not teaching people...(Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: We taught you, what are you talking about?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: ...because they were 21 in this Chamber after the first election, after the second they were 15, after the third they were 7, you cannot teach, people do not understand you.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, from my observation of the problems in our education system, this is the point where we are failing our learners. If one looks at the Budget, there are provisions for huge structures in the education system, ranging from administrators, advisors, committees, consultants, etcetera, but the only two really important parts of education, namely the teacher and the learners, receive very little attention in this Budget. The DTA, therefore, believes that as a matter of urgency a lot of more money must be spent on the effective training of teachers. After 19 years of a failed education system, Namibia is fast running out of skilled manpower and without properly skilled, education workforce we have no hope of achieving Vision 2030. (Intervention)

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Honourable De Waal, you are advocating that very little – and the word “*little*” is relative – is being spent on teacher training. Do you really think that if you throw all the money into teacher training you will get results? You must be aware, Honourable Member, that teacher training is also relative. You cannot throw millions into a College. What are they going to do with it? The money that has been allocated to teacher training is relative to the Teacher Training Colleges that are there and, therefore, it cannot be a result of teacher training not being taken care of. I think you must really be careful when you speak of little money for Teacher Training Colleges while there are other issues that need to be taken care of.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I said I am not an expert in education, but I also know a couple of teachers in this country and I speak to these teachers *en ek skrik as ek dink dat daardie onderwyser moet daardie kind skoolgee, want hy kan nie*, he is not educated. How can a person who cannot speak English teach somebody else to speak English? Therefore, do not tell me I should not spend money on teachers’ training, I will spend millions on teachers’ training, I will train each and every teacher in this country so that they can teach our children. This plan of yours is not working, it has to be changed. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Honourable De Waal said a person who cannot speak English has to teach the learners to speak English. Honourable De Waal, do you want to take us back to what you did in the past years or what do you want to say? Honourable Speaker, please tell him to withdraw that word, because unless he withdraws that word, I am going to say words which we are not supposed to mention here.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, if it was not for that lady I would have left this topic now, the Honourable Lady, but I will ask her a question: If

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

you are the owner of a small aeroplane, will you appoint a pilot who has not been trained properly and then get into that plane and tell him to fly? You will not, because that plane will fall and you will die, that is why you will not appoint such a pilot. Why do you appoint untrained teachers to teach our children?

Honourable Speaker, another issue that is hampering the achievement of Vision 2030 is crime...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I am rising on a Point of Information. Comrade Speaker, through you to Honourable De Waal. I am not Afrikaans-speaking, I am Nama-speaking but I was forced by the system to take Afrikaans as my *moedertaal* and if you failed Afrikaans, you failed even if you passed all your other subjects and when the Government of Namibia took over and made English the official language, as you made Afrikaans the official language, the teachers were trained and they were upgraded and there is no way that you can say that no teacher can speak English. In 1976 our children were killed in South Africa because they said down with this minority education and down with the Afrikaans system and now you are trying to fight back. Everybody speaks English and you did the same, I was taught in Afrikaans while I am not Afrikaans-speaking. You forced me into that.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, the people will judge the Honourable Minister, not me.

Honourable Speaker, I said that crime is the next issue I want to address and just to prove my point, if you look at the report which appeared in the *Namibian* this morning, it says....(Intervention)

HON KASINGO: May I ask a question? Minister Mungunda has stated that during the colonial era people were forced to speak Afrikaans and I would like to challenge you, which of the indigenous languages can you speak apart from

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

English and Afrikaans? Can you speak Oshivambo, can you communicate in Damara-Nama? I would like to challenge you. For example, in South Africa the leader of the Democratic Alliance can speak fluent Zulu and Xhosa. Do you speak Oshivambo, do you speak Damara-Nama, do you speak Otjiherero? I am challenging you.

HON DE WAAL: You do not have to challenge me because I do not give myself out as a teacher. If I gave myself out as a teacher, I would have learned those languages, but I am not a teacher, I am a businessman. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, a very substantive question? The substantive question is: To the best of my recollection the DTA, in one form or another, has been part of the colonial Government since 1975, whether as part of the Chiefs Council or something else, it was part of the Government. If you come from 1975 to 1990, a period of 18 years, how many doctors did DTA produce in Namibia here? Can you tell us?

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, I hope the Prime Minister now and then reads the SMSs in the *Namibian*. You see, whenever you push the SWAPO leaders into a corner, they fall back into history because that is all they have, they have no vision.

Honourable Speaker, I said that crime is a very serious issue. No, please, my time is up. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Since you do not want a question, on a Point of Information. How many people with degrees do we have on this side of the House and over there and who were our teachers? We have so many doctors here and outside there, but these were our teachers, the Nahas, the Tjirianges, the Mbumbas. They were our teachers? Therefore, do not insult people, they are trying their best and we only need to help them.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

He is insulting.

HON DE WAAL: Do not bend my words, my speech is in writing, so everybody knows what I am saying. Honourable Speaker, crime is very serious at the moment. According to the Police, unknown suspects climbed onto and cut a roof, removing two computers plus N\$80,000 in cash. No arrests were made. Then there was a break-in in Pioneers Park, then there was a break-in somewhere else where they stole cell phones, video cameras and a computer, no arrests were made. A break-in at a workshop in Lafrenz, N\$14,000 stolen, laptop, computers and cell phones to the value of N\$18,500. This is just one weekend and this is just Windhoek. This is not Khomasdal and Katutura and this is how it has been going on since at least October last year. Businesses are more worried about burglaries than about job creation. Businesses as well as private people are spending enormous amounts of their money in safeguarding their buildings and their houses. Insurance premiums are going up. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you are making a popular speech, but you are using an unpopular word. Just try to find out which one is which in your speech. Secondly, it is serious when you say it is not in Katutura or Khomasdal. Does it mean that these things are normal if they happen in Katutura?

HON DE WAAL: Tommy, you can try as you like, but that one will not work, Brother. I am saying, this report does not include, as far as my knowledge goes, the robberies and burglaries that took place in Khomasdal and Katutura over the weekend. That is what I am saying. Had this report been complete, it would have been a full page, not one-third of a page.

Insurance premiums are going up because insurance companies have to pay out huge amounts of money due to robberies and burglaries. People are being ruthlessly and brutally attacked. (Intervention)

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

On a Point of Information and also advice to Honourable De Waal. Honourable De Waal, your concern is our concern. You are an elderly person and I do not know why you take things out of proportion. We cannot have the Police at every house. During colonial times when we were fighting you, you were covering from Botswana up to Kunene...(Interjection)

HON DE WAAL: You see, you are back into history.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

And our cadres, who were your terrorists, just passed through there. Honourable De Waal, let us not think that when the *botsotsos* steal the property of our people they were sent by the SWAPO Government. We have the Police and the Police do their work, but you think those who steal are Owambos.

HON DE WAAL: You see, Honourable Ilonga, you guys have lost your will to fight. It is a fact. Let me explain to you why. You say thieves will always be there, they have been there even in the colonial times and it is true, but there have been floods in colonial times and history, why are you running to your people, "*do not worry, sit down.*" There has been floods, there will be floods, you lost your will to fight. Well, crime is there, do not worry about crime, sit. No, do something about it!

Honourable Speaker, the most worrying thing about crime in Namibia is that the Police Officers dealing with, for instance, burglaries are becoming despondent. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Order. Honourable De Waal's utterances cannot just go unchallenged. He was making a comparison between floods and crime. (Interjection)

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

HON DE WAAL: Why not? One is drowning, the other one is being killed in his house. What is the difference? The one is a flood, the other one is a burglary.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: It is true that nobody can prevent floods and that is why, when it comes, the Government is going there to help the people. Nobody can read the mind of a thief to know what he or she did, but once something happens, the Police are there to follow them and you should not make that equation.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, maybe I should continue a little bit, then he will understand what I am getting at, because the Police tells me that tonight they catch the culprits, only to see them on the streets tomorrow because by then they are out on bail and our Police Officers are losing the will to fight the escalating crime because of this problem. Crime cannot be solved by the Police alone. The fighting of crime must be a combined effort by the Police and the Ministry of Justice. It does not help that the Police catches the criminals, but then they are immediately let out on bail. The Ministry of Justice must ensure that our laws protect the law-abiding citizens and not the criminals and if there are problems with our laws, they should come to Parliament so that we can correct the situation.

The second problem is the slowness of our Courts due to too many cases. These criminals know that they will get out on bail and once they are out, they will have months before they will appear in court. This situation must change so that justice will be swift and without mercy. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
May I ask Honourable De Waal a question?

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

HON DE WAAL: No. The State has the responsibility to protect its citizens against crime and currently it is failing in its obligation to people.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. Honourable De Waal needs to know that the Police are doing their utmost best...(Intervention)

HON DE WAAL: I know that, I know that more than you do.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
...to arrest the culprits. It is the same Police who give these *botsotsos* bail. If we start attacking those who give bail to the *botsotsos*, Honourable De Waal will stand up and quote the Constitution. There is separation of powers, we cannot interfere. The Police arrest and other arm releases them. Why do you not condemn them? Why do you condemn the Government? (Interjection)

HON DE WAAL: You are in charge. Do you not know that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
Then ask that we amend the Constitution.

HON DE WAAL: This can no longer be tolerated and something must be done. We, therefore, appeal to the two Honourable Ministers to join forces to identify the loopholes and the bottlenecks and to correct them so that thieves are behind bars and law-abiding citizens can freely roam the streets of our beautiful country.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

Honourable Speaker, the DTA agrees that under the present circumstances Government has little option but to increase its spending to, in the words of the Honourable Minister, weather the storm. The DTA therefore supports the Capital Budget, including the spending on education infrastructure. These building projects will ensure work for a lot of our people and will hopefully keep our economy going.

The DTA has on many occasions in the past warned about over- and under-spending and has consistently warned that under-spending is as bad as overspending, although for different reasons. This year the full implementation of the Capital Budget is more important than ever before and we will have to work as a team in order to make this come true. We, therefore, want to appeal to all our Civil Servants to put in that extra kilometre this year. We have all received salary increases, so now is the time to put our shoulders to the wheel and to really work hard so that we can execute the Capital Budget in full this year.

The DTA also wants to appeal to the Honourable Members of Parliament serving in the different Standing Committees to use their oversight functions to visit some of these capital projects and to help where help is necessary.

Honourable Speaker, it is unfortunately true that most of the money that we will be spending this year will be leaving the country to stimulate the economy of some other countries. Under normal circumstances this is not necessarily a bad thing, especially if the money goes to other SADC countries. However, under the current circumstances it would have been much better if more of this money could have stayed in the country to stimulate our own economy. In this regard, it is a pity that after 19 years of Independence our manufacturing sector is still in its infant shoes. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Is it in order for the Honourable Member to defend money going to South Africa and condemn money going to China?

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DE WAAL**

HON DE WAAL: I am not condemning any money, Sir. Honourable Speaker, we tried a cement factory at Otjiwarongo but it died a natural death. We invested quite a large amount of money in a tractor company in Grootfontein but it went bust and we lost our money. We were planning sugar production in the Caprivi but nothing has come of it yet. We talked about rice production but nothing has materialised. We had the Pidico incident but it never got off the ground, as if Pidico is the only business that knows how to produce maize on a commercial scale. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The House will rise for refreshments.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:12 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Speaker, we talked about bush encroachment and its negative effect on beef production, but so far nothing has happened. We can, therefore, safely say that over the last 19 years we were very good at making plans, we conducted numerous workshops and conferences and we had fantastic ideas. However, when it came to execution of the plans, we were not very successful. It is, therefore, our hope that the Cabinet that will take over next year will consist of people who can both plan and execute, people who will decide what is right and then implement that policy with vigour and enthusiasm. Only then will we be able to weather the storms that are still to come. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill. The introduction of this Bill

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

takes place against economic turmoil in the major economic capitals. As a student of history, I would like to first reflect on the times gone by.

When we rewind annual cycles, we would recall that in the 1920s, economic booms occurred, characterised by high industrial outputs, credit availability and record stock performances. In their discourse, *The evolution of global political economy*, Leysens and Thompson wrote that by the year 1929 the US economy outperformed other economies of developed countries, such as Britain, Germany and France by far and 45% of the manufactured products in the world came from the US. It was however in the same year that the Wall Street Stock Market crashed and resulted in the Great Depression of 1929 to 1933.

During the Great Depression, world manufactured goods had dropped by 40%, industries and businesses collapsed, wages were brought down by far as 60%, unemployment shot to 25 from 9%, leaving over 15 million people without jobs. Such consequences had a direct impact on the livelihood of both businesses, corporate and individual persons alike. There was widespread hunger, poverty and unemployment and a worldwide economic crisis.

The current economic crisis started showing signs towards the end of last year as several large United States-based financial firms failed and forced a number of people to be without jobs. This crisis is a major one in the current century, with the underlying causes leading to the crisis having been widely reported. Among them is the fall of the sub-prime mortgage sector of the banking industry.

The sub-prime crisis is an ongoing financial crisis triggered by a dramatic rise in mortgage delinquencies and foreclosures in the US, with major adverse consequences for banks and financial markets around the globe. The crisis has exposed pervasive weaknesses in financial industry regulation and the global financial system.

Many US mortgages issued in recent years were made to sub-prime borrowers, defined as those with lesser ability to repay the loan based on various criteria. When US house prices began to decline during the years 2006/07, mortgage delinquencies soared, and securities backed with sub-prime mortgages lost most of their value. The result has been a large decline in the capital of many banks.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Honourable Speaker, I agree with the Honourable Minister of Finance that no economy will be spared by the current economic crisis. The economic downturn in developed countries has a significant impact on trade and prices. The economic crisis has led to the decline in commodity prices in developing countries. The developing countries whose economy is exports-oriented are, therefore, exposed to external shocks. The fall in export earnings have negative effects on such countries.

Looking at what is happening around us. The result is felt by our small population. The mining sector will lay off some workforce. In some corners of our mining industry this process has already been set in motion. It is further speculated that the tourism industry will be among the hardest hit. People from developed counties are negatively affected by the economic crisis and they will no longer have enough savings to spend on leisure. The laid-off workforce could be redeployed in other sectors of the economy if proper planning and crisis management measures are put in place. We have noted that the Development Budget has made a provision of N\$1.87 billion to economic infrastructures. These funds can meaningfully address the plight of the retrenched workforce.

There could be a significant change in commercial lending as banks under pressure in developed countries may not be able to lend as much as they have done in the past. Investors are increasingly factoring in the risk of some emerging market countries defaulting on their debt. This would limit investment in some countries.

With the economic downturn in developed counties, aid Budgets are under pressure because of debt problems and weak fiscal positions, as recovery plans for the affected developed economies remedy their domestic issues.

Honourable Speaker, the current macro-economic and social challenges posed by the global financial crisis, therefore, require a much better understanding of appropriate policy responses. There need to be a better understanding of what can provide financial stability, how cross-border cooperation can help to provide the public good of international financial rules and systems and what the most appropriate rules are with respect to development.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Aid funds need to be prudently managed and utilised. Developing countries will also need to manage the implications of the current economic slowdown. Development finance institutions need to take lead risks and support development initiatives and investment flows into the economy.

At this juncture, I would like to commend the steps taken by His Excellency the President to establish a Cabinet Committee that specifically addresses the issue of economic crisis under the chairmanship of the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry.

Honourable Speaker, last year I was elected as Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural resources and Public Administration, which has an oversight function over 10 Ministries. My Budget Debate will, therefore, focus on the economic sectors. I should first mention here that the Committee undertook visits to the fishing, mining sectors and study visits on property and land issues. The Reports on these missions will be tabled and discussed before this august House. I will this juncture pre-empt such discussions. I will rather concentrate on the rest of the sectors under my Committee.

I submit to this august House that we need to develop all sectors of our economy to ensure that we effectively fight poverty. With the retrenchment of the workforce in the mining and tourism industry, in addition to the one that we had already experienced in the fishing sector, we need to pay particular attention to the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This sector comprises mainly the previously disadvantaged groups. I support the allocation in the current Budget of N\$12.9 million to the SMEs programme, such as facilitating market linkages, SME clusters

and cottage development and SME business support. I must stress that in the development of SMEs particular attention should be given to the women and the youth. These groups are relatively small in numbers in the well-established industries. They have also not been adequately absorbed in the empowerment ventures.

Namibia, like other countries on the African continent, the Caribbean and the Pacific is seized with Economic Partnership negotiations (EPAs). I support our Government's stance in persistently and persuasively addressing issues of

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

our concern in the EPA negotiations. Last year I informed the regional meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly that:

“We will continue to engage the European Commission head-on at appropriate levels, to ensure that our concerns are addressed in the negotiations towards full EPAs. Throughout our deliberations we should remain mindful of our responsibilities as lawmakers from two partner Regions that are also at different levels of economic development. It is absolutely essential therefore, that the individual members’ interests are respected and protected.”

To date, I stand by that statement and fully support our Government not to compromise on key issues in the negotiations, such as the on-negotiable Most Favoured Nation Treatment provision being demanded by the European Commission; the freezing of export taxes, levies and charges and thus our ability to use them as incentives for value addition in manufacturing; the abolition of quantitative restrictions on imports with impacts of cereals production and thus food security in Namibia; and the insufficient provision made for infant industry protection, among others.

EPAs should not be concluded to the disadvantage of poorer Nations. As a matter of fact, the line pushed by some of our partners is typical of globalisation dynamics. In his discourse, *International economics, unlocking the mysteries of globalization*, Sachs wrote that while proponents of globalisation argue that poorer Nations have been incorporated in the world economy where both rich and poor Nations stand to gain, for globalisation sceptics, there is growing inequality between the rich and poor states. Analysing the EPAs negotiations scenario, there are times when one is forced to call to mind the words of the Namibian politician who said:

“Frankly speaking, globalisation is merely a new name for an old, cruel and unjust system which was willy-nilly imposed upon the peoples of the Third World in the past.” As someone bluntly put it, *“Globalisation is reformation of what we used to call capitalist imperialism.”* That is what he said, I think he has a point.”

Believe you me, Honourable Speaker, these were the words spoken at the 55th General Assembly of the United Nations by the then Namibian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Theo-Ben Gurirab.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Apart from our already existing partners, we should look at the emerging markets in South America and the Middle and Far East, where we can expand the number of our commercial counsellors. In this respect, I commend the allocation in the current Budget of N\$12 million for export promotion and trade facilitation through improved foreign representation and an integrated export promotion programme.

Honourable Speaker, the agricultural sector is important. This year it rained cats and dogs and some areas in the northern part of our country became flooded. Floods result in low harvest and, therefore, famine. Countries all over the world are moving towards self-sufficiency in food production to ensure their food security. I, therefore, commend the allocation of N\$600 million in the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the development and construction of irrigation projects and crop production, marketing and processing, and for the construction of silos and other food reserves. We need these measures in place to mitigate the effects of drought and floods. I further commend the allocation in the current Budget of N\$37 million for the development of Agriculture Development Centres and N\$46 million for the procurement of tractors for ploughing services in the northern part of our country. The rural communities live on agricultural products produced in their Regions and prioritising assistance to them in this respect is just the right thing to do.

When resources permit, we should improve total allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture. The current allocation represents 6% of the total Budget. This is far from achieving the SADC Declaration on 'Agriculture and Food Security. In terms of the Declaration, signatories, which include Namibia, pledge to commit 10% of the national Budget to agriculture in order to ensure food sufficiency in the Region by the year 2010. Smaller countries in our Region, such as Malawi, have reached that target. We should provide resources for agricultural projects and ensure food sufficiency. Government has made strides in this venture with the implementation of Green Scheme projects, such as Shadikongoro and Shitemo.

I was pleased to note that about N\$233 million have been allocated in the current Budget for programmes related to water supply to urban and rural areas. Of the allocated amount, it is stated that N\$142 million will go to the construction of wells, pans, earth-dams and pipelines. This will mostly benefit our rural communities. I need not to emphasise that rural water supply is

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

absolutely necessary. There are citizens in our rural communities who travel long distances to access clean water. Water is a basic necessity that should be availed to all our people.

I have earlier stated that the tourism sector will be affected by the world economic recession. There is, however, light at the end of the tunnel as the World Cup soccer tournament will take place at our doorsteps next year. We should effectively and efficiently organise this sector to yield gains from the World Cup and make up for the loss that we are experiencing this year. Community-based tourism too should be encouraged in our country. I, therefore, fully support the allocation of N\$9 million in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to support this sector in order to benefit from opportunities presented by the World Cup, both during the tournament and thereafter. I further support the allocation of N\$29 million in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the development of community-based tourism in general.

The world is faced by the problem of climate change. Climate change is characterised by global warming, resulting from fossil fuel emissions. In his essay *Environmental Issues*, Vogler states that if the current trend of gas emissions continues unabated, the concentration of carbon dioxide will cause the global temperatures to rise by 2.4 to 6.4% by the year 2099. The consequences will be the rise of sea levels and turbulent weather conditions. We should, thus, continue as a country to promote sustainable environment awareness among our people. I support the allocation of N\$48 million in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the implementation of the Environmental Management Act.

Honourable Speaker, the Development Budget indicates a number of gravel road constructions and upgrading of gravel roads to bitumen standard in Regions like Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa. This is a sign of commitment to develop rural areas. An amount of N\$663 million has been allocated to these constructions, as well as to other construction projects. At the same time, it should be stated that companies who win tenders should perform quality work. Most of the public roads are repeatedly repaired as a result of poor workmanship. Strict penal clauses should be embodied in the contracts with construction companies in order to ensure that a quality standard is upheld in their work. Public money should not only be earned, but should also be seen to be earned.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

I am encouraged by recent developments in the Financial Sector. This sector has produced the Namibian Financial Sector Charter which, as alluded to by the Honourable Minister in her speech, and was presented to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration, chaired by yours truly. The Charter is aimed at ensuring equal opportunity for all our people and strict adherence to corporate governance practice. Government tenders should, as a matter of principle and adherence to the letter and spirit, benefit those who comply religiously with the Charter.

The Ministry of Finance runs an important agency, the Tender Board. It is stated in the MTEF document that the Tender Board Act, Regulations and Code of Procedures are being reviewed to streamline them with best standard practice. It is gratifying to hear that the review exercise is aimed at accommodating, among others, women and youth in the empowerment framework. We should endeavour to create a strong contingent of empowered youth, as they are the backbone of our country's future.

The partnership between Government, private sector and labour unions should be encouraged. Sound labour relations are conducive to economic growth and prosperity. We are all partners in development. Research on labour matters should be conducted to improve the living conditions of our workers and assist employees in fulfilling their obligations under the Labour Act. I applaud the allocation of N\$39 million in the MTEF for the construction of satellite offices and conduct of regular surveys to update the labour market information.

Honourable Speaker, I want to turn to international relations. This year witnessed the ascendance to the highest office in the United States by a new Head of State of Afro-American origin, Barak Obama. His election signifies transformation in the history of mankind. I am, however, mindful of the constraints faced by policy-makers in terms of the agency-structure Debate.

Foreign policy-makers operate in an environment which sets the tone for their behaviours and actions. Christopher Hills confirms this proposition in his book, *The changing politics of foreign policy*. It is, thus, too early for me to start shouting slogans of a delivered victory. I would rather pause in silence to see how the US foreign policy unfolds in the new epoch. I should, however, at this stage state that the world expects a changing context of foreign policies that currently dominate the international stage. Time has come to move from aggressiveness and vengeance to kindness and reassurance. Confrontation and

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

provocation should give way to positive transformation. The world is tired of conflict agitations and look forward to hostility pacifications. The international political system needs to be rescued from suffocation of hegemonic condescension and breathes the fresh air that brings goodwill considerations

In our neighbourhood, Zimbabwe, we have witnessed the establishment of an all-inclusive Government. Prior to that, I have earlier requested those who were in doubt, including some Honourable Members in this House, to allow the SADC Initiative to be rolled out to a successful conclusion. President Mbeki's quiet diplomacy has resulted in a meaningful solution.

The Government and people of Zimbabwe now need our assistance and support in their endeavours of economic reconstruction. The great country of Monomotapa still has the potentiality to regain its status as the bread basket of our Region. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you are talking about the inclusive Government in Zimbabwe. Do you not think that due to the importance of Oppositions in stabilising the economic and political set-up in the Region, it is crucial for the Ruling Party to seriously consider that route in order to stabilise and strengthen our economy?

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, the inclusion of Opposition Parties in Zimbabwe's all-inclusive Government does not stop them from being Opposition Parties.

I am, therefore, disturbed by the fact that despite changes and improvements towards cooperation and nation-building, some entities who wanted to patronise the process to the exclusion of SADC are still parading their sanction-wielding attitude. Such a stance stands to disconcert the endeavours that have hitherto been made to ensure the return of peace, stability and economic reconstruction.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

The situation in the Middle East remains closer to my heart. The long-standing derailment of the peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestine conflict is to be blamed for the current deplorable state in that Region. Countless resolutions at the UN did not solve the problem. The reason is simple, namely that some States played very dangerous games and gambled with the issue to promote their ingenious cause. Those who have been entrusted with power in international relations and were in a position to effect positive changes in the Middle East, sacrificed the opportunity of peace on the altar of hypocrisy and selective morality. I have noted that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), led by you, Comrade Speaker, is seized with the matter. Your recent travel to the troubled Region is a living testimony. Yours is a move in the right direction to pragmatically address what others elsewhere in the world have dilly-dallied about. Your efforts complement Namibia's foreign policy agenda. Our country's persuasive stance in supporting the cause of the people of Palestine is a matter of public record.

I would like to address the issue of women and foreign policy-making in Namibia. The trends since Independence are not encouraging. During the first 5 years of Independence, out of 17 Heads of Missions only 2 were women. The status quo remained in the next ten years, with a slight improvement when in 2004 the number of women serving as Heads of Missions increased to five, out of a total of 21 Heads of Missions. Currently, out of twenty-four Heads of Missions only 5 are women.

Admittedly, the trend of women and foreign policy-making in Namibia is not unique. In his book, *Asian Diplomacy*, Rana reveals that by 2007 the number of women who were Heads of Missions in 5 key Asian counties were as follows: China, 12 out of 146; India, 12 out of 114; Japan, 2 out of 120; Singapore, 4 out of 26; Thailand, 14 out of 80. Namibia should not use the Asian case as an excuse though. South Africa, our neighbour has 109 Missions abroad with 36 women in Heads of Mission positions. This number represents 33%. Namibia has been praised for having reached the SADC target of 30% women in Parliament last year. I submit that similar achievements should be considered in foreign policy-making, which currently illustrates 21% of women Heads of Missions. I criticise this current state of affairs and I repeat, I criticise this current state of affairs. Such a trend is close to the medieval theory of keeping women at bay in the management of crucial matters of public concern, as discussed by Hoffman and Graham in their book, *Introduction to Political Theory*.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the intervention by Honourable De Waal earlier reminded me of one thing, that the best soccer player is the spectator on the pavilion. The general impression that I have about the Budget is that it is pro-poor and pro-growth. The high allocation to the social sectors, namely education and health, is a case in point. Further, the allocation of N\$129 million in the current Budget serves to alleviate the plight of war Veterans and improve their income. Government has shown pro-poor caring by zero-rating some of the basic commodities and medical services. The management of debts at an optimal level is commendable.

The Budget tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance is further considerate of the dynamics of economic crisis and put in place measures that mitigate the effects of the crisis on our people. The Budget addresses the socio-economic needs of our people. This means that despite the economic turbulence, the future of our people is in safe hands. It is a sign of foresightedness on the part of the SWAPO Party Government. It makes much sense to continue to entrust the management of public affairs of our country in such a visionary and steadfast Party. I, therefore, urge our free-born generation to turn up in numbers during the general and presidential elections at the end of this year and deliver a solid youth vote to the SWAPO Party.

HON MOONGO: May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? The Honourable Member mentioned Zimbabwe. Ruling Parties such as the SWAPO Party and ZANU-PF in Zimbabwe are too dictatorial and of course, also the Kenyan Party which is now forming a Government. Is it true that when you mess up things, you need the Opposition to bail you out from disaster?

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, what the Honourable Member is mentioning is not in the context of my speech and I repeat, I ask our free-born generation to turn up in numbers during the general and presidential elections at the end of this year and deliver a solid youth vote to the SWAPO Party. This will continue to ensure that we have prudent fiscal policies and embrace measures that guarantee a stable economy for Namibians now and in the future.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

With these few words, I support the Appropriation Bill 2009 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2008/09 and 2011/12. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Excellent. Honourable !Nawases.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I stand here before this august House with pride and dignity after mingling with the born-free youth and the youth in general during the 19th Independence celebrations of Namibia. There could have been no better moment in mingling with the born-free youth than during this time, as all patriotic Namibians proceeded to celebrate the 19 years of Namibian Independence. I am proud to have arrived at this very historical point in our lifetime which is free from instabilities that are so apparent in some African countries and around the world.

Honourable Speaker, thanks to the leadership of the SWAPO Party we are today living in a free and democratic country, as proclaimed on the 21st of March 1990. More so, I also wish to extend my gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Finance for tabling a very, very important Budget which is pro-poor and youth-friendly in this august House.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as we approach the next decade of our freedom, I take great pleasure today to highlight the numerous challenges confronting the born-frees and the youth in general, comprising of 70% of our population. These are the proud sons and daughters who thronged the Keetmanshoop Stadium on the 21st of March 2009 and provided much-needed vibrancy and energy to the Independence celebrations. These are part of our population, many of whom fall into the category of *born-free* youth. This is the category of the youth whose agenda I wish to share with the rest of the Honourable Members in this august House.

It is no secret that today the majority of the Namibian youth are faced with challenges, such as a chronic and demeaning unemployment, lack of skills and adequate training, high Grade 10 and 12 dropouts, no access to wildlife and tourism concessions...(Intervention)

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable !Nawases, mentioning the issues that are facing the young people, the born-free, unemployment, schools, do you really expect all these young people, after having been on the streets, to still walk with SWAPO so that they can remain unemployed? What is your advice?

Would you advise them not to vote for SWAPO so that their situation could change or would you advise them to vote for SWAPO in order for them to forever remain unemployed?

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I would advise my Colleague to follow my speech, I will get to how we are going to convince them and they are all to vote for SWAPO in the coming elections.

Honourable Speaker, I was highlighting the challenges facing the youth and I proceed with lack of control and ownership of minerals and other economic resources, lack of access to obtain loans from financial institutions as a result of stringent collateral requirements; lack of access to leadership positions and threats of HIV/AIDS and access to information, communication technology.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this is so despite the fact that Government has promulgated policies and programmes aimed at reversing the *status quo* of the born-frees. Education was put as the most sustainable strategy to create a competent youth, capable of engaging and transforming the economic opportunities and skills structures thereof. Institutions, such as the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture and the National Youth Council were also established to address the plight of the youth. These efforts were complemented by the National Youth Service Scheme which was introduced to train the youth in various vocational fields. These Government initiatives have made some inroads in addressing many contemporary concerns of the youth.

While these deliberate and responsive actions were implemented to improve the plight of the youth, they have not remained static, nor have their challenges dissipated, rather they have become intricate, modern, dynamic and mixed body politick. Some have gained access to tertiary education,

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

whereas others have been able to become successful professionals in the job market.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the vast majority, however, have remained at the economic periphery, living on the fringes in rural areas and urban dwellings, struggling under harsh and trying socio-economic circumstances. Social evils, such as drugs and alcohol abuse, have become an avenue to ease emotional and psychological pressures. These desolate conditions had in fact rendered our youth as social outcasts in some instances and as visionless citizens in other instances.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we must realise the rationale that empowering our youth has positive and immediate results for the national economic development and prosperity. Without any eclipse in our drive we must squash the false theory that youth must only become leaders of tomorrow and begin to benefit tomorrow.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in this regard, we must develop key strategies to meet the growth and developmental challenges of the youth, which includes integrated and sustainable youth developmental strategies, in actual fact with a youth-focused desk in all Government Ministries, Agencies and Offices to monitor the appointment of the youth and awarding of tenders.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, while it is commendable to praise the Minister of Finance for the increase in the National Youth Council Vote from the N\$4 million to N\$8 million, it is however pertinent to note that this alone will not ease the struggle of the youth. I, therefore, urge the National Youth Council to be allocated at least extra funds since they will have a Youth Development Fund very soon, as required by the National Youth Council Bill.

I further wish to call on the Directorate of Youth to revisit its mandate and decentralise some of its functions to the National Youth Council. The transferral of the Multi-Purpose Youth Centres to the National Youth Council is a case in point, to strengthen the mandate of this institution. I wish to add my voice to those that constantly call for the establishment of a fully modern equipped national sports, arts, cultural centre. There is no doubt that the youth have promoted Namibia positively in sports, arts and culture. These sectors do not only have entertainment value, but have huge and as of yet unexplored economic empowerment potential.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, therefore, the Government should, through the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture establish this centre as we continue to witness how *born-frees* have captured this important section. In this regard, creation of a N\$500 million sports, arts and culture excellence centre will yield a far more better and wise investment. Professional coaches in the Regions could identify both school-going and unemployed youth in all 13 Regions of our country and bring them to the central centre for professional training and mentoring. Such a centre could also be expanded to train Namibian professionals in different sports and arts disciplines.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I therefore wish to call for the need to improve and expand the Micro Credit Scheme and State procurement to enable the poorest youth to engage in productive economic activities, especially in the rural areas.

Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I want to make a plea to the Emergency Management Unit to erect tents and temporary structures in the flooded areas of northern Namibia so that schools can resume its normal business, especially for Grades 10 and 12. The continued closure of these classes will negatively affect the final examination results of these learners.

With these few words, I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. First and foremost, I would like to thank and congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Saara Nangula Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her Deputy, Honourable Tjekero Tweya.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I know the mind of the Honourable Member, may I ask him a question?

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

HON DR AMWEELO: I have not said anything.

HON VENAANI: May I ask a question, yes or no?

HON DR AMWEELO: No, because I have not said anything. Just wait. As I said, Comrade Speaker, I would also like to thank her Deputy Minister, Comrade Tweya, and the entire staff component as well as the Director General of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Comrade Professor Peter Katjavivi, on a job well done in the preparation of this very good Budget.

Comrade Speaker, President Obama said at his inauguration as President on 20 January 2009: *“Our economy is badly neglected, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the Nation for a new age.”*

Greed and the lack of accountability are blamed for the suffocating personal debt borne by millions of landless Americans and tax financial products that led to the decline of several US banks on the brokerages. The down-sizing of the companies’ to lower production levels in response to the global financial crisis and its effects on the sale of luxury goods, such as diamonds, needs to be adjusted. We need to revise our plans in order to meet the changing demand in the market.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as we are facing the global economic crisis which deepens major companies across the world started cutting jobs, even the ILO reported that up to 51 million jobs worldwide could disappear by the end of this year as a result of the economic slowdown that has turned into a global employment crisis. Therefore, I think there is a great need to address this issue of economic crisis to discover ways on how to improve our economy in Namibia, SADC and Africa as a whole. I would personally like to focus on international science and technology cooperation for African development and ICT, so to say.

The last century opened new dynamics to the development of Africa and that is currently reflected in the new Partnership for African Development as a vision

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

and a strategic framework of the continent renewal. Regional economic committees are the pillars of Africa integration possessing regional development programmes. As an example we may refer to a number of SADC Protocols in various branches of the economy, including the SADC Protocol on Transport of 1998 aiming at establishing the integrated transport infrastructure.

For implementation of the Transport Programme the principle was used that; “*a strong economy is a result of good roads*”, making infrastructure a priority task, instead of; “*bad roads are a result of a weak economy*”. Our national initiatives to construct and rehabilitate public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and public buildings could especially be helpful in our countries with high levels of unemployment. While major capital intensive new infrastructure projects take time to relate into increased employment, labour-based approaches can generate jobs and much-needed infrastructure quite fast.

New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) has drawn up action plans in 2006 in various economic sectors, with priority projects in infrastructure, industry, agriculture, water resources, environment and health, science and technology. Among the projects is infrastructure of transport, energy and communication sectors. In August 2007, at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit in Lusaka further tasks of transport infrastructure have been discussed with the topic; “Infrastructure Development in Support of Regional Integration”. The important role of science and technology in developing industrial economy in Africa is emphasised in Addis Ababa, at the declaration of science and technology and scientific research for development in January 2007.

Comrade Speaker, science and technology application to African development has been underlined at a conference of the UN Economic Commission for Africa held in Addis Ababa in March 2008, “Science with Africa” for accelerating science and technology. What can be done now to stabilise our economy?

Professor David Gushee, at the Mercer University in USA said: “*The USA needs not just an economic recovery plan but also a moral recovery plan. We need a renewal of the moral compass to do the right thing, because it is right obeying not just legal laws, but moral laws relating to how people need to be*

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

treated". In order to strengthen our economic recovery plan and maybe a moral recovery plan, we should not only focus on the infrastructure sectors, but also consider all aspects of international science and technology cooperation and Information Technology (IT). Thus, potential partners of the world community and Africa have from one part accumulated scientific and engineering potential and from the other part, high demand in science and technology cooperation for industrial development of Africa, countries are based on own natural raw material resources and modern achievements of science and technology. It is a good base for the establishment of a fruitful and a full-scale operation for mutual benefit when common interest and approach are found between international and Africa cooperation.

At present we meet a situation that interests international manufacturers, traditional active consumption of African raw materials or semi products from raw materials for further processing of ready-made goods for export. But African partners are more interested in own full-scale manufacturing of value-added products from own raw materials aiming at import substitution for local consumption and increasing export potential.

There were intentions to establish an industrial processing production based on international technology for substituting cost import meet hidden or evident resistance from the part of the major leading international manufacturers. Moreover, note should be taken that some international programmes of cooperation with African countries are oriented for support of cooperation in the fields of mainly raw materials related and finally directed towards support of foreign direct investment to access African raw material resources. When common mutual interest is available between partners, international industrial projects for African development can be implemented by three main types of international cooperation:

1. Direct sale or purchase where there is one responsible decision maker – local buyer;
2. Foreign direct investment where there is one responsible decision, make foreign direct investor;
2. Partnership where responsible decision-makers are local and foreign partners of the project with participation of both parties in the project

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

on equal ground and most efficient with Public-Private Partnership (PPP) participation.

In spite of the high demand and importance of Foreign Direct Investments, note should be taken that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects not always give the most economical effect from the utilisation of own natural resources, limiting possibilities of industrial cooperation by provision of local jobs and future taxation revenue. It is very clear that the main project's economical advantages and the dividends rightfully belong to foreign investors and come back to strengthen the foreign mother company of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) investors and obviously it cannot be used by the African part for serving to further development of the local industry vital for African industrialisation. It is of vitally importance for involving international partners in industrial cooperation to expand the role of public-private partnership. Public-Private Partnership approach advantage in comparison with the Foreign Direct Investment was emphasised at a recent African Business Forum on (London on 8 July 2008) by our Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, as follows:

“Investment promotion initiatives are being frustrated by the fact that Africa only gets a tiny fraction of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which mostly goes into exploiting its resources and that Foreign Direct Investment is mostly in extractive industries, including oil, diamonds, gold, uranium and platinum.”

Dr Hage Geingob stated again:

“Establishment of the Investment Climate Facility (ICF) is a new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) focusing on improving the continent's investment climate”. Participants of the project in SADC countries in the field of metallurgy and renewable solar energy proposed the following advantage in comparison with Foreign Direct Investment projects: 1. Partnership presumes to have Southern African Development Community (SADC) participants parity or controlling interest in the joint production with an international technology partner, based on local natural and human resources; 2. 100% of manufacturing value-added products sale for local consumption to substitute cost import as well as to increase its export potential; 3. African and international partners are participating jointly in all project stages from idea to operation including joint venture framing and establishment, development to bankable level, Turn-Key implementation, training, certification, operation and

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMWEELO**

technology supervision with further expanding and diversification of manufacturing value-added products.

With regard to the investment cooperation, SADC is one of the most economical integration communities among the many international economic associations, aiming at solutions such as free economic area, common customs union, common markets and common currency. Collaboration of African partners with international science and technology enterprises and technology holders as development partners may raise efficiency of implementation of joint projects based on existing development instruments available in the Region like for example in SADC countries: Industrial development zones, export processing zones, Small and Medium Business incentives companies, State development cooperation, State investment promotion organisations, technology parks, financial development bodies, and organised promotion in science and technology cooperation. These practical incentives and actions serve to create and develop a real industrial sector in the Region and in the countries and finally serve the implementation of strategic goals of an African Development following NEPAD action plan.

Experience of action involving international technology equipment and specialists for the benefits of their countries, like Brazil, Mauritius and India, should be examined and used by African countries, including choice and invitation of technology holders and equipment manufacturers for initial consulting in chosen industrial branches. A new approach in framing projects may expand the possibility of involvement in industrial projects in Africa: 1. Local partners from African countries; 2. International partners, technology holders, science and technology enterprises; and 3. Financial loan instrument chosen by the participants.

The present bottleneck of the most current industrial development projects in Africa is not a shortage of financial funds, instruments and investors for projects implementation, but shortage of bankable projects. Due to that, capacity building and human capital are currently essential in African countries for developing projects from the idea stage to a bankable level at a pre-investment. Joint efforts of African partners with international science and technology partners are able to implement industrial projects in Africa more efficiently based on the joint potential of both parties, especially with the support of joint projects by the United Nations Industrial Development

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

Organisation (UNIDO) at initial stage of framing and establishment of industry.

Finally, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, with these few words I would like to support the Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, it was really not my intention to contribute to the Budget, but I was provoked by a number of factors. After listening to the speech of the Opposition DTA and also what featured in some of the press from Monday, I am afraid that I have no choice but to contribute.

Honourable Speaker, I rise to add my voice to the subject matter on the Floor of this august House. Allow me to join my Colleagues in congratulating my Sister, the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Director General of the National Planning Commission, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance and their staff members for a job well done. What makes me happy is the fact that this Budget reflects the aims and objectives of the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. I have always held the view that the prime responsibility of any democratic and accountable Government is the welfare of its citizens. Our SWAPO Party Government has lived up to this principle.

With the world economic recession it has become easier to assess the extent of the impact of the recession on each country. Where Finance Ministers resign or worse, commit suicide, this is a sign of the severity of the recession. In this regard, the job of intelligence and economic espionage has become much easier. We are informed by some economists that some of the factors which contributed to the deep economic recession is the extent to which Governments mismanaged their economies. Namibia is one of those rare examples where one finds a smiling Minister of Finance. Once again, thank you very much, my dear Sister, Comrade and Colleague, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

I am particularly delighted that the Budget before this august House reflects the Manifesto of our Party of 2004. You may recall, dear Comrades, that the Manifesto addressed a number of issues, such as education, health, housing, water, agriculture, electricity and infrastructure development. It also addressed the plight of our senior citizens, orphans and vulnerable children, people with disabilities and a number of other issues, including the plight of women, peasants, workers and indeed, the welfare of our Nation. I am delighted to note that today more than 135,000 senior citizens receive a monthly social grant, more than 102,000 orphans and vulnerable children receive a social grant, more than 40,000 people with disabilities receive a monthly grant and more than 3,000 war Veterans receive a monthly social grant.

Honourable Speaker, we, the leaders of Africa, must accept the fact that most of our people are very poor and hungry. They are sick, they are in search of better education, they are crying out for a better life. When I hear a Budget is pro-poor, pro-economic growth, at least I am consoled by the fact that Namibia is one of those few countries on the African continent that is addressing what is popularly known as the “*African problem.*”

This Budget bears testimony to our resolve to address poverty in our rural areas, addressing poverty and unemployment among the Namibian women, senior citizens, improving our education sector, improving our health sector and to be self-reliant in food production.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, these measures and commitments give me hope that with our SWAPO Party Government, our country is in good hands. The SWAPO Party Government should continue to address poverty, especially in rural areas. Poverty is a threat to our national security, it is common sense that a citizen who is ready to risk his or her life to flee the continent because of poverty and hunger can easily pledge allegiance to a foreign Government. It can be difficult to rely on such a citizen in time of national defence.

After listening to the contributions of my Honourable Colleagues from the Opposition, especially the DTA, I am left with no option but to perpetually hold the view that the SWAPO Party is the only Political Party in this country that is capable of upholding, defending and protecting the interests of our Nation. (Intervention)

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. The Honourable Colleague is saying that after Honourable De Waal's intervention he is now convinced. Therefore, he was wavering on that position. Secondly, I do not want to politicise this issue, but you are praising the Ruling Party as *the* Party because it was elected with a two-thirds majority, but are you aware of the fact that the war Veterans, the children of the struggle, had to *toyi-toyi* in order for their plight to be considered. It was not a natural process, you even had to force the mob from the gardens and after that a new Ministry was created. Therefore, do not project as if all these things were done in good faith, you were forced to do some of them because the people themselves reacted very badly.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, it is a pity...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. Honourable De Waal was just saying that he does not want to hear history, we talk about history too much, but maybe I would like to remind Honourable Venaani, on a Point of Information, that the struggle for the betterment of the lives of those who participated in the liberation struggle started from the word go when this Government came into place. We had programmes, the children you are referring to had a programme called SIPE before the establishment of this Ministry. Our peace programme was before this Ministry. We are just doing things in a more systematic and even more comprehensive way, but the efforts started a long time ago in 1990 already.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker and I would like to thank my Senior Colleague for clarifying.

In fact, I recall it was the Opposition who were opposed to the employment of what they termed the "*returnees*", because they were saying we do not have the capacity, we are not qualified, we do not have experience. They even said the Civil Service is bloated, but we stood our ground, we incorporated our comrades, particularly in the Army and the Police Force. Indeed, the current

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

Head of State was one of those at the forefront who built the Namibian Police Force out of the two belligerent forces. We were not forced. If we were forced, we could have considered those who were in exile, but remember, we included everybody because we care for each and every Namibian – the ex-Koevoet, ex-SWATF were all incorporated because we are for the Namibian people. Our policy is, first to address the welfare of our Nation. That is the SWAPO Party programme and vision.

Comrade Speaker, the Opposition Parties, consistent with their tradition, only oppose the Budget of the SWAPO Party Government but they have failed to tell us what Budget they would table before this august House in the unlikely event that they come to power. I feel very sorry for them. No wonder their number is constantly diminishing and very soon they will become endangered species in the Namibian politics. Indeed, some are already in the political Intensive Care Unit. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. My Honourable Learned Friend and Minister of Presidential Affairs and Acting Attorney-General is talking about Political Parties diminishing. Four months ago the very same leader was telling us that the Zimbabwean Opposition is a puppet organisation, today he is saying “*Right Honourable Prime Minister.*” Time changes very fast, be careful, I have seen times that have changed very fast. Ask the people in Madagascar.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, they have no supporters, that is why they have now resorted to family Parties. Even those new Parties which are coming are family Parties. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. On the point that the Opposition Members are diminishing, if a Party has lost Nyamu, Hamutenya and others, is that Party not also diminishing?

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: The Honourable Vice-President of the DTA must wait for the elections in November.

HON SIOKA: May I ask the Minister a small question? Comrade Minister, are you aware or if you are not aware, can you watch out for the television programme this week where I receive the DTA members in Caprivi who are coming back to vote for SWAPO?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is not only in the Caprivi Region, but across the country. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask a question? The fact that RDP has a Member of the Opposition, the one directly opposite me here, to run to other Parties, that in the event of the election all the Parties should have their own presidential candidates, but when they go for National Assembly elections, each Party should go its own way and all the Opposition Parties refused except the DTA who said they have no problem if they support the candidate. Are you aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I am fully aware of that, that shows the desperation of the Opposition Parties. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. I am aware that Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, being the shrewd politician that he is and yes, I am giving you that credit that you too are a good politician, but being the person that you are, you really want to know what is going on behind the scenes and you want us to pronounce ourselves whether there is a coalition. You are pre-empting whether there is a coalition. DTA is led by a competent President who has

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

defeated me democratically. Yes, we have internal elections annually and Kaura is the DTA presidential candidate for the 2009 elections. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: When was your congress?

HON VENAANI: We had a congress, whether you call it a congress, convention, whatever, there are continuous elections. However, Honourable Speaker, there is a very important Debate in the House, can we concentrate on the Budget and leave politics aside? I do not want you to derail the Budget Debate.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I take note of the remarks made by the Honourable Member, the Secretary-General of DTA. Indeed, I take note that the President of the DTA or presidential candidate only after the collapse of the talks on a coalition...(Intervention)

HON BAYER: May I ask the Senior Member a question? Honourable Minister, I am very confused, when SWAPO had three presidential candidates, they said it is a sign of division in the Party, but when the DTA has internal elections it is good politicks. Can you explain that to me?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Member, in fact, this is part of the confusion. Can you tell me, I am also at a loss, what is the difference in the policies of RDP, CoD, DTA, NUDO, UDF and these others that are mushrooming? Nothing except that they are all desperate politicians. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. I am worried that your National Intelligence is so poor and appalling to tell you that there were talks between

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

the DTA and other Political Parties. You must check the intelligence because one presidential candidate in one African country had to pour whisky on somebody else. He was told that we are going to win elections and when he lost, he had to say, “*you told me that I am going to lose.*” Check your intelligence.

Secondly, there is nothing wrong with internal political democracy, in fact it is important. When SWAPO had three presidential candidates and my Honourable Colleague has failed like myself, it was a good thing, but you must have a democratic Party, unlike Honourable Ilonga who instructs a Mayor of a town to be fired unprocedurally.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the people out there would like to know whether the moneys allocated are in fact appropriate.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for that wisdom. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Order. I heed the Speaker’s advice, but I cannot leave something to be entered into the Hansard that I instructed people to fire a Mayor. I never did that, therefore the Honourable Member must withdraw that, so that when the kids read they would say, “*Honourable Venaani said this and Honourable Ilonga said no, and Honourable Venaani withdrew.*” Please withdraw.

HON SPEAKER: If it is unfounded, withdraw. Unless you have proof.

HON VENAANI: I will oblige to you and withdraw the truth.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, since some of the remarks are on record, let me say this:

Coalition or no coalition, even if tomorrow all the Opposition Parties join hands, we will defeat them democratically with an even larger majority because the people of this Nation...(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please? Honourable Minister, I listen to what is supposed to be your Budget contribution, can you tell me or explain to the people out there, as you are rightly saying that the SWAPO Party is going to win the elections, the people out there and some of us who are saying that SWAPO is winning because you are manipulating the system. One of the ways you are manipulating the system is because of the transportation of ballot papers. Tell me, why are you refusing or delaying the tabling of the Amendment to the Electoral Act, so that we can close that loophole and see whether you are going to be able to get 51% majority? Put it on the Table and close the loophole.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I am very, very surprised by that remark. You may recall, Honourable Speaker, that the Electoral Commission initially resorted under the Office of the Prime Minister and it was the Opposition Parties who demanded that they must be accountable to nobody, except maybe to heaven and that was done by the Government. It was only last week when the Electoral Commission was still consulting the civic organisations. How can they consult when the Bill is already here? It does not make sense. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Minister, they are talking about three candidates, but are you aware that the DTA do not have a congress, they are using seminars? Are you aware of that?

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

Secondly, is the Minister aware that the DTA depends on the Kaoko people to bring them to the Chamber. The Kaoko people are joining the Party and I think we are going to celebrate their coming in this coming April. Are you aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: My dear Sister, I am aware of that, but as I said, I want to put on record that we have nothing to fear, the Ruling Party is looking forward to that electoral Amendment to be introduced in this House so that we can beat you democratically.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Comrade Kawana, are you aware that the Honourable Moongo was a member of SWAPO, but despite the fact that he left SWAPO, we still won? Are you aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, as I said, we look forward to that Amendment coming here. In the first instance, we want democratic, fair, transparent elections so that we beat you. Secondly, we prove our point that some of your Parties are family-based because the counting of the votes would be done at the polling stations and then we will prove our point. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: After I resigned from SWAPO the people went to register with the SWAPO Party and that is normal. Everybody is free to choose whom he or she wants. I cannot say because I have left, nobody must go to SWAPO. No, that is undemocratic and I believe in a democratic system. I think that is out of order. Mugabe was saying worse things and where is he now?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I was saying...(Intervention)

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Minister a small question? I want to be clear, because I do not want to misunderstand the Honourable Minister. The Honourable Minister was saying that “*we are going to beat you.*” This beating that you are talking about, is it like the one at Havana or what type of beating? I just want you to explain because there is confusion and I am getting worried. Are you going to start beating us from here or outside there?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, the SWAPO Party is going to defeat the Opposition democratically. Secondly, the SWAPO Party is going to prove that some of these Parties, in fact most Parties from the Opposition, are tribe-based. Some of them are family-based, because when we count the ballots at polling stations, we are going to prove that. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Honourable Kawana, do you know a Party called *Ponganda*?

HON MINISTER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. I think some things should not be left hanging like this because they will go into the Hansard. Honourable Arnold Tjihuiko said that we are manipulating the printing of ballot papers and all these kinds of things. To the best of my knowledge these ballot papers are printed with the participation of all Political Parties. Their transport is done in the presence of all the representatives of all Political Parties. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: By a SWAPO company.

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

HON MINISTER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS: SWAPO company or no SWAPO company, but they are being verified by the representatives of all the Political Parties. All the representatives of all Political Parties are escorting these ballot papers and there are channels where they can report if something has gone wrong. For a Member who was represented in this process to say these kinds of things is unfair.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I was saying that some of the Opposition Political Parties...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, following the issue raised by Honourable Tjihuko on the ballot papers, because this is a very serious issue and we know we have the protection of Parliament and I hope this protection is given to us because we are honourable people who are responsible and it will not be acceptable to make statements which are not responsible in the Honourable House and because that statement was made earlier and the Minister of Justice has informed this House that she is going to take it up very seriously because we know we are running credible elections and we cannot use the Floor of this House to discredit our elections which are credible. Are you aware Comrade Minister that the Minister of Justice is taking up that issue very seriously?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, maybe let me just finish my speech. I was saying, Honourable Speaker, some of the Political Parties are in political Intensive Care Unit. They are just putting on a brave face and that is why they can afford to smile. If an Official Opposition cannot manage a monthly amount of N\$30,000 contribution to Political Parties, how will they manage a Budget of N\$25.5 billion? Would responsible voters entrust such money in the hands of a careless Political Party such as the Opposition?

Honourable Speaker, I am aware that some Political Parties are calling for more funding. (Intervention)

25 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

HON VENAANI: The Honourable Colleague is making a very serious statement. Which Political Party are you referring to which is not able to manage its finances? You cannot just say all Opposition Parties. Talk about a specific Party. Do not make insinuations which tells the public that the DTA cannot manage its money. The DTA manages its money better than the Ruling Party.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: You are fighting over a cheque. Honourable Speaker, the same Political Parties are calling for more funding for Political Parties. (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, as the newly elected Treasury-General of the CoD, Congress of Democrats, I can confirm that I can give you the financial reports of the CoD now if you want them. You are receiving N\$30 million. Where are the financial reports on that money?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I was saying, what guarantee is there that they will not kill each other over the money? This Budget has put to shame those Political Parties who allege that the SWAPO Party has lost vision. Contrary to such allegations, we are one of the best performing Political Parties not only in SADC, but also on the African continent.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I compare the Opposition Parties to a careless hunter who went to hunt with a gun and a dog.

HON SPEAKER: On that note the House shall rise under automatic adjournment to 14:30 tomorrow afternoon.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.02.26 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
26 MARCH 2009
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have strangers in the Chamber in the guest quarters, visitors from the Chinese Embassy who are here to observe the deliberations of the House. Welcome.

Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Right Honourable Prime Minister.

NOTICE OF MOTION

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the august House, I give Notice that tomorrow, Friday, the 27th of March, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Namibian Constitution so as to extend the waiting period required for acquiring Namibian citizenship by marriage from a period of not less than 2 years to a period of not less than 10 years of ordinarily residing in Namibia as spouse subsequent to such marriage; to extend the waiting period required for non-Namibian citizens who may apply for Namibian citizenship by naturalisation from a period of not less than 5 years to a period of not less than 10 years of continuous residence in Namibia; to decrease the limit of tenure of Members of the National Council from 6 years to 5 years; to limit Regional Council elections to intervals not exceeding 5 years; to subject the appointment of non-Namibian citizens as judges to a fixed term contract of employment; to delete the word “*corruption*” from the functions of the Ombudsman; to insert an Article on Anti-Corruption Measures; to substitute the word “*powers*” for the words “*executive powers*”

26 March 2009

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON NGATJIZEKO**

vested with Management Committees of Regional Councils; to substitute the term “*correctional service*” and “*Commissioner of Correctional Service*” for the terms “*prison service*” and “*Commissioner of Prisons*”; and to provide for incidental matters.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Prime Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

The First Notice of Motion is the one by the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Objections? Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

**APPOINTMENT: MEMBERS OF FOURTH
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION**

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. It is almost 10 years since the then Minister of Labour, Comrade Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo, announced, through the Government Gazette that the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, Act 29 of 1998 would come into operation in August 1999.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as we are all aware, the main objective of the Affirmative Action legislation is to achieve equity and equality in the workplace. This is to be achieved through the elimination employment barriers against the previously disadvantaged persons so that, ultimately, no person shall be denied promotion or employment opportunities for reasons unrelated to their ability.

Furthermore, the Affirmative Action Law seeks to achieve a more representative workforce that is reflective of the demographics of Namibia at all levels of employment.

26 March 2009

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON NGATJIZEKO**

Almost 10 years down the road, the level of progress towards a diverse, equitable and representative workforce remains unsatisfactory. Although the Employment Equity Commission reported in its latest Annual Report, reported that the previously racially disadvantaged persons improved their share of representation and now account for 61% of all positions in the Executive Directors and Managers' occupational categories, the racial composition at these important decision-making levels remains proportionally skewed in favour of white employees.

However, these figures represent a significant and encouraging progress when compared to the Affirmative Action Impact Assessment Study conducted in 2004, which revealed that white employees occupied 60% of all managers' positions then.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a Motion on Affirmative Action was tabled in this august House on the 22nd of February 2006. The purpose of the Motion was to examine the lack of progress in the implementation of Affirmative Action at the workplace.

During the Debate on the Second reading, the Motion was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development for further consideration and report back.

The Standing Committee consulted important stakeholders and role players and compiled a Report with important recommendations. The Standing Committee recommended, amongst other things, that the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, (Act 29 of 1998) be amended in order to close all identified loopholes in the Act to strengthen the provisions and to ensure effective and efficient administration and enforcement.

The Amendments would also strengthen the Commission's authority to ensure that relevant employers do not only adhere to the letter and spirit of the Affirmative Action law, but are also called to order in case of failure to fulfil their obligations under the law.

Comrade Speaker, I am happy to inform this august House that the said Amendments as per the Standing Committee's recommendations were tabled in this House at the end of 2007, and were passed and gazetted on the 27th of

26 March 2009

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON NGATJIZEKO**

December 2007. All other recommendations of the Standing Committee were also acted upon.

Although it takes a while before the impacts of any legislation become visible and it holds equally true for these Amendments, I am encouraged by the measures which the Employment Equity Commission has taken to enforce compliance with the Affirmative Action law. It is, therefore, crucial that this momentum is maintained.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the term of office of both the Employment Equity Commissioner, Mr Vilbard Usiku, and that of the third Employment Equity Commission has come to an end. Mr Usiku has served the Employment Equity Commission with commitment and dedication for the past 10 years and has, as Chairman of the Commission, provided professional stewardship and guidance to the Commission, staff and other stakeholders in furtherance of the Affirmative Action objectives.

It is in light of that, that I am seeking your support, Honourable Members, for the reappointment of Mr Vilbard Usiku as Employment Equity Commissioner for another 5 years in terms of Section 6 and 7(1) and (2) respectively, of the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, 29 of 1998.

In the same breath, I am also seeking your support for the appointment of the following persons in terms of Sections 6 and 7(2) of the Affirmative Action Employment Act to constitute the fourth Employment Equity Commission:

1. Mr Morimunu Kavijtjene
2. Ms Elizabeth Gideon
3. Ms Herta Pomuti
4. Mr Albius Mwiya
5. Mr Moses Shiikwa
6. Mr Ujama Kaahangoro
7. Mr Mike Hill
8. Ms Liezl Davies
9. Ms Mildred Jantjies
10. Ms Hiltraut Mariane Hubsch-Karigus
11. Ms Rosalia Ndakola
12. Ms Jatova Erenfriede Ueitele
13. Mr Gerson Mutendere

26 March 2009

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON VENAANI**

14. Mr Henry Olman

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I must re-emphasise that the current Term of Office of the Commissioners expired at the end of November last year and I subsequently extended their Term of Office from the 1st of December 2008 in order to allow Parliament to deliberate on the matter. In the same vein, the Term of Office of the Employment Equity Commissioner, that is of Mr Vilbard Usiku, expires on the 31st of March 2009. To this effect, I therefore urge this august House to view this matter as very urgent and approve these appointments as soon as possible.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for your attention and thank you in anticipation for the approval of this Motion possibly today.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Any further discussion?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this is a very important Motion before the Assembly. It is important because sometimes people in this country have a misconception, whether deliberate or not, of understanding the purpose and the premises of Affirmative Action in the country and a lot of companies that have not complied are seeing this process as a punishment. I want to be on record, actually stating, that Affirmative Action is not a punishment to any institution in this country, it is in fact a deliberate intended policy to address the imbalances of the past. Obviously the reality is that the imbalances of the past have been there for over a 100 years and the speed at which we want to address this issue, of course, cannot be addressed in a very short time, but companies should, however, not be found wanting by not applying this important policy in the interest of the country, because we can only maintain peace in this country if we allow all the disadvantaged Namibians to be part and parcel of this whole process.

I want to reflect a bit on the banks in this country and I want to congratulate the banks for having appointed many capable Affirmative Action Chief Executive Officers and Directors in their companies. (Interjections). It is important that you listen to what I say before you criticise me. They have done

26 March 2009

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON VENAANI**

So. We must be bold, Right Honourable Prime Minister. You must recognise an improvement. At least the window-dressing that you are talking about is there. It is something positive. However, when it comes to that, authority needs to be addressed. It is one thing to appoint someone as an Affirmative Action candidate, but it is another thing for that person to have authority and on that score the banks are found wanting. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, distinguished Member, Secretary-General of a Party with a non-African name, can you tell me what happened to Theo Mberirua?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I shall not venture into a personal scenario, but we should recognise that Theo Mberirua was appointed as the Managing Director of a Bank. The reasons why he resigned are not known to me, but I have read them in the press. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Venaani, do you not think that the time has come for this country and the Parliament to ponder on whether we should not criminalise window-dressing and fronting? Fronting is like an abuse. You set up a company and you put a black somewhere. This is what I am driving at. Is it not time that we start thinking of criminalising this practice?

HON VENAANI: You know that I wholeheartedly share some of your sentiments, but being a legal person, you know the technicalities of proving beyond reasonable doubt that someone is fronting. It is very difficult but it is true. This is the issue that I wanted to address before I was disturbed by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. It is the question of fronting. You give power to somebody as if he has power, but yet when he has to approve a loan of the Right Honourable Prime Minister he must go to South Africa to get approval and that issue of fronting should be addressed.

26 March 2009

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON VENAANI**

However, our focus as leaders of this country should be to educate, because some companies feel that they are being pressurised with this Affirmative Action. As we adopted the Policy of National Reconciliation, we must continue to educate them that Affirmative Action is the right thing to do. We have no choice, it is the right thing to do if we want to address high gini-coefficient in this country and the imbalances that exist. (Interjection). De Waal speaks the same language, it is important that we have Affirmative Action.

Coming to the request of the Motion at hand to extend the term of Mr Usiku. I have no problem extending the Terms of Offices and I do not want to use this particular person as an example, but I just want to request the other side, which is the Governing Party of this country, to extend contracts coupled to performance. People come to you, hoping for an extension of office, but if you look at productivity, you would be found wanting. I do not say this is the case with the Employment Equity Commission. A new entity is making headway. At least they are giving correct reports and I support the Colleagues' Term of Office to be extended, but I do not want Parliament to be used only as a conduit for extending people's contracts without performance. It is important that when we extend someone's Term of Office, that we know what was supposed to be done was done, what was delivered or why was it not delivered.

However, in this instance I would ask my good Colleague and Comrade in this matter of the Equity Commission to continue doing what he is doing. With reference to the other Colleagues representing the different institutions, I do not know why there is a need for SWAPO to be represented. I know the other Political Parties can be represented, but SWAPO is the Government and all these people are representing Government. (Interjection). Yes, it is better to have DTA. All these people representing Ministries are representing the Government that SWAPO is leading. (Interjection)

HON DE WAAL: It is better to have the DTA than the RDP. So, rather put the DTA in, otherwise the RDP is coming in.

26 March 2009

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON VENAANI**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. This is the fourth Commission, firstly and secondly the DTA was the Official Opposition and they never paid when they were represented and you were together with SWAPO. Now that you are not there, you say it is not necessary for SWAPO to be represented. Those are the criteria; just honour those criteria, Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: I am aware that DTA was represented and I am on record, please check the HANSARD. The last time when we appointed a new Equity Commission I asked why there is a need for the Ruling Party to be represented. The other Political Parties yes, but you being the Governing Party? It is my view, it is a very sincere view and you can have many SWAPO people on this Commission, it does not matter, but I agree that we should continue to give these people a clean bill so that they can continue.

In conclusion, we have a serious fundamental problem with architectural companies and legal practitioners. It is probably one or two major formerly advantaged law firms that have taken an approach of bringing in Affirmative Action candidates as co-partners, but many companies are still in the same hands. These entities should take the lead because they deal with technicalities of law and they should lead by example and bring people on board. I am a believer of Affirmative Action and there are Colleagues and politicians who tell people that, "*they wanted Independence, now they want your properties.*" Let us teach each other what kind of Namibia we want to see and what kind of leaders we are, when we tell our communities, "*we have given them Independence, we have given them national reconciliation, now they want our property.*" Black people do not want your, it is to share in the wealth of our country and all of us must share.

A few days ago one farmer was parading people, saying that he is going to give shares to his people. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. We saw the workers laughing, standing near a cheetah. Would you agree with me that that farm is

26 March 2009

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON RIRUAKO

on ancestral land of some people in Namibia? Would you agree with me on that one? (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Well, even your farm is on ancestral land and mine too. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Who are supposed to take care of that land? Who are they? That is the question-mark.

HON SPEAKER: Let us stick to the Motion, we have a lot of work to do.

HON VENAANI: Yes, it is a Motion on Affirmative Action and Colleagues, really, I am flabbergasted when I hear politicians saying these things, “*we have given them this, now they want this.*” We are telling the people the wrong story and if we want our children after 100 years to live in harmony, this is the only route that can assist this country.

I thank you and I support the Motion.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I listened very carefully, we did not do our job properly. Let us do it the way we ought to do it. I have to put my questions to my beloved MPs. Who are they? Who was fighting that particular time at Hamakari? Who were cremated alive? That is a query.

Mr Speaker, if we talk about this Motion of Affirmative Action, you know the people have lost their country, their property and everything. We do not recognise it because these are blacks or what. I do not know. That is another question. You could have recognised that, first thing in the morning. Now I have to query you. Where do you belong? Mr Speaker, that is the point.

26 March 2009

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON RIRUAKO

We have to know who was what. You know the history and you know what I am talking about, how the cattle were taken away from several people. I do not want to talk to you about that.

HON SPEAKER: Can I remind the Honourable Members, the Line Minister wants this House to approve the names he read out to serve on the fourth Employment Equity Commission. The subject matter of that Commission is a different matter. You can introduce a Motion and discuss that. The Minister wants this Honourable House to approve or otherwise reject the names that he has proposed. Can you stick to that? If you want to discuss the subject matter of this Commission, bring another Motion and then you discuss that. It is a legitimate subject. Are we together?

HON RIRUAKO: Yes, I did not want to go into that. Let us face the reality, I am saying even politicians must read your notes on Affirmative Action and come to the point, but we do not want to ridicule the House. Please correct yourself, the way you are talking.

HON SPEAKER: Chief, I have to ...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: No, I am talking about work and we said Affirmative Action ...(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: We are not discussing that, we are discussing approval of the names that the Minister read out.

26 March 2009

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON RIRUAKO: That name belongs to a problem which is there. How are you going to address that problem without saying what was wrong? Those names belong to a certain area which we are supposed to discuss and correct in a very good way, not the way it was put. Ironically I have to say that.

HON MEMBER: Conclude now.

HON RIRUAKO: I am not here to be asked by you to conclude.
(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Chief a question? My question is, we want to hear what is wrong with the way the Minister put it here, because you said the Minister went the wrong way. Tell us the right way if the Minister went the wrong way.

HON RIRUAKO: Choose the people according to their calibre, choose the people according to their credentials. Do not choose the people according to your desire and kith and kin.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the appointments. Before I do that, I believe that in the future, for one to be given a list of names to approve without having the background of the individuals ...(Interjections). If it has not been given to me, I would not know. If the information has been provided, I did not see it.

26 March 2009

**EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON P MUSHELENGA: On a Point of Order. I think we need to be serious. It is normal practice here that if Ministers table Motions or Reports, documents are provided on our tables. It is the duty of the Honourable Member or his Colleagues to have collected these documents and taken them to his office or it is his duty when he comes here to page through all the documents on his table. That shows that NUDO are not doing their work, they are not reading the documents, so they want to delay us here.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I appreciate the good political statement made. What I was saying is that I support the appointment of the members. It is very important for us, since we have much work to do to approve the Budget in good time. I would have recommended that unless there is something specific that one needs to highlight, that I have a problem with this or a problem with that, I would like to ask the Honourable House that we approve this and move on to the next point. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I support the Motion that the people be reappointed as requested by the Minister. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I honestly want to extend my appreciation to all the Members that have contributed to this discussion and I appreciate the fact that they support the whole idea of what is contained in Affirmative Action. I heard you, thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. I now put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any objections? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

26 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
COMMITTEE STAGE**

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT
BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage – *Local Authorities Amendment Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will 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 *Local Authorities Amendment Bill*.

Clauses and Title put and agreed to.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Bill reported without Amendments.

26 March 2009

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL
HON EKANDJO**

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT
BILL: THIRD READING**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development Move that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I so Move

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, I would like to thank all Honourable Members for their support.

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

SECRETARY: *Local Authorities Amendment Bill.*

26 March 2009

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

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
SECOND READING**

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

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be now read a Second Time. Dr Kawana has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, before I conclude, let me appeal to my Honourable Colleagues to give me space to conclude. I had only eight paragraphs, but because of interjections I could not proceed.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, as I said yesterday, I compare the Opposition Parties to a careless hunter who went to hunt with his dog and a gun. After some hours he fell asleep under a tree holding his gun.
(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, we are not careless hunters. If it is said today, tomorrow you will be a careless hunter you too. In politics, you do not have a permanent friend, it comes and goes. You must also watch your words.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: As he was sleeping, Comrade Speaker, he was accidentally shot by his dog. In the same vein, the Namibian electorate will politically shoot the Opposition. It is for this reason that the Namibian voters, just like the hunter who was judged by his dog, will

26 March 2009

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

be judged harshly in the coming election. I support the Appropriation Bill and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Health.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to welcome and support the tabling of the 2009/2010 Appropriation Bill. At the onset, I wish to commend the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for a thoughtful and well-balanced Budget which she appropriately termed, “*a Budget aimed at bread and butter issues.*”

It is heartening to note that this time around the world at large and Namibia in particular are battling the impacts of natural calamities and a global economic downturn. However, it is equally gratifying to note that this is the time the Honourable Minister and her able team of technocrats were able to put together a better than expected Budget without significantly increasing the deficit. This is indeed commendable.

Similarly, the fair allocation of the resources in terms of the recurrent Budget to the priority areas is equally commendable. In the same vein, I applaud the raising of the tax threshold to provide relief to lower income groups, while at the same time increasing tax rates on alcohol and tobacco. I am particularly grateful for this move, given the fact that I will soon be tabling the Tobacco Bill.

Furthermore, I note with satisfaction the expansionary nature of the Budget with a view to stimulate growth in the economy through an increase in public infrastructure spending. This approach, coupled with the strategies being developed by the Cabinet Committee headed by the Vice-President of SWAPO Party and Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Hage Geingob, set up to devise strategies to mitigate the impacts of the global economic downturn in Namibia, we should expect accelerated implementation of capital projects this year and beyond.

26 March 2009

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

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, having said the above, I note with concern that the allocation in terms of the Development Budget did not adequately address our efforts on priority areas. I am sure you will all agree with me that Education and Health remains key focus areas with overwhelming need to revamp most infrastructures in these two sectors. Yet in terms of the allocation, Health is allocated only 43,3% of what we originally requested, whilst Education is to receive only 78,7%, whereas most other sectors received 80 to 100% of what they requested.

The Education and the Health sectors are both faced with serious infrastructural challenges, especially in the most densely populated Regions, that of Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto and Oshana, where some schools and clinics date back to the days of the Finnish missionaries and are constructed with mud and sticks. Some of the health facilities are in a bad state of repair and have passed their useful shelf life, so to speak. Over the past few years, we have been fortunate in mobilising resources from our development partners, the private and civil society, but there remains a huge deficit to meet expectations.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to cite specific examples in order to illustrate the magnitude of the challenges. For example, in Omusati Region, the most densely populated Region, there are clinics such as Olupandu, Epoko, Omutundungu, Iipandayamiti, Eunda, Onaanda, Olutshiidhi which are operating but were all built in the sixties with mud and sticks. Similar set-ups are to be found at Eluwa and Ekamba in the Oshana Region and Oshalongo and Otundawile in Oshikoto, while Ohangwena has similar set-ups at Okambembe, Onamukolo, Epinga and Onamunhama.

Whilst appreciating the efforts and proactive approach of these remote rural communities in meeting Government halfway, they do in terms of the policy on the establishment of health facilities meet the qualifying criteria. For example, the Onamunhama community with a population of 8,030 people have to walk 25 kilometres to the nearest health facility. Clearly, these types of cases call for urgent intervention by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, for which I need resources.

Honourable Speaker, as if the challenges of inadequate health infrastructure were not enough, the situation is now compounded by the current floods affecting the north and north-eastern Regions of our country. Because of the

26 March 2009

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

floods, 40 clinics are surrounded by water. For now, accessibility to these clinics is by air with courtesy of the Namibian Defence Force Air Force Wing. We acknowledge the support by the Namibian Defence Force with thanks.

Honourable Speaker, towards the end of 2007, we were approached by the SWAPO Party Youth League that they were willing to assist us with the non-nursing tasks in our district hospitals. We accepted the offer. In early 2008, we implemented the task shifting through the assistance received from the SWAPO Party Youth League and supported by the Line Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture. I wish to inform the Honourable Members that there is now a sigh of relief by the over-stretched health workers and the youth are gaining a wealth of experiences.

I am reliably informed that the 433 youth volunteers deployed to different Regions countrywide, constituted an asset to the services, as they have alleviated the pressure from nurses, especially with regard to non-nursing tasks. These young people are reported to be very disciplined and duty conscious and some of them would go an extra mile and work even long after knocking-off time. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the SWAPO Party Youth League leadership for this gesture of goodwill with thanks.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this Appropriation Bill is tabled at a time when Namibia is experiencing unprecedented challenges arising from the global economic downturn and the floods. It goes without saying, therefore, that the Debate on the Bill must be swift, focused and to the point. We should not approach the Debate along the business-as-usual route, but rather as business-unusual. We need to support it and send it to the House of Review with unprecedented speed and comradeship.

To those charged with the implementation of the capital projects, there is a need to address the issue of lack of capacity, which too frequently hampers timely execution of projects. At the same time, we need to ensure that the infrastructure we build are durable and are of good quality that last for a reasonable period. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. It is a good speech but what is lacking is the understanding. We know where we are supposed to stand at this

26 March 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI

Juncture. We know where we are supposed to save money at this juncture, and we know where the money is needed. I thank you for what you are saying, but there is lack of understanding.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, at the same time we need to ensure that the infrastructure we build are durable and are of good quality that last for a reasonable period. We must move away from the desire to drive for quantity at the expense of quality.

With these remarks, I support the Appropriation Bill 2009/2010. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Kavari.

HON KAVARI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, allow me to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance and her team for allocating the highest percentage of the Budget to the social sectors, in particular the Health and Education Ministries. This has been the trend for many years since our Independence and unfortunately, for reasons beyond her control, both these Ministries are in shambles. Our hospitals have become slaughterhouses, while our school system is contributing immensely to the large unemployment in our country.

It is reported that only 10% of the Grade 1 cohorts reach Grade 12, meaning 90%...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask my Honourable Sister a question? Can you explain to this august House what you mean by slaughterhouse hospitals, abattoirs? Can you explain to us what you mean by that?

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI**

HON KAVARI: Honourable Speaker, if the Honourable Member allows me to continue he will understand why I am saying that. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Order. I know it is the Budget and anyone in this august House has the right to say whatever he or she wants to say, but to say our hospital had become slaughterhouses is uncalled for. If I heard it well, I am asking the Honourable Member to withdraw just that. They are hospitals and they are simply not slaughterhouses.

HON SPEAKER: I agree with you as the Presiding Officer. That speech is on Record, so I would like the Honourable Member to rise and provide the relevant information to the public. The Honourable Member would stand by what she said. But you as the Line Minister knows better, in my view. Either you or somebody else should rise and correct the Honourable Member and that information will be on Record. Asking people to withdraw is not necessarily a good parliamentary practice. Let it stand on Record, that is what she said, she would stand by that. If she is wrong she will be proven wrong by the provision of correct information. The House shall rise.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kavari, you have entered a minefield and you have put an albatross around your neck. You are on your own.

HON KAVARI: For the sake of peace, let me change what I have said. Some of our hospitals have become slaughterhouses while our school system is

26 March 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI

contributing immensely to the large unemployment in our country.
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, with due respect, I want to repeat myself. You know, around 80% of the people of this country go to State health facilities when they are not well and not private health facilities, whether they are hospitals, health centres or clinics. Similarly, for immunisation we are at 80%. Now today, in this Parliament we want to classify some hospitals as slaughterhouses. Honourable Speaker, the message which is going out there is dangerous, very dangerous. They will not go to the slaughterhouses, that are the hospitals, where the majority go and from our experience we are seeing the majority again leaving. Whether you talk of those who went there on stretchers, they leave walking and join their families. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Some.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: There is nothing like "*some*". Let us be serious, the message we are sending out there is bad. That is all I am saying, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member will stand and fall by what she is saying. What you are saying, Honourable Minister, is quite correct. Withdrawing means to delete what she is saying from the records. This thing should stand on record and I hope that the other Members who are going to contribute will point that out. She will stand by what she is saying, it is not what we are saying, that is what she is saying.

26 March 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. My understanding of a “slaughterhouse” is something called an abattoir where we take animals to be slaughtered and to compare a hospital to an abattoir is a kind of sick mentality. Yes, it is a sick mentality. I can assure you that all of us here will one day become sick or be hurt in a car accident and you will have to be taken to the Katutura State Hospital for emergency. Then there are doctors who are listening and we have to be very careful. So, withdraw that word.

HON SPEAKER: If she wants to withdraw that is fine with me, but I am not going to direct her to withdraw.

HON KAVARI: That is the case because learners are allowed to proceed throughout their school career without mastering the reading and writing skills because of automatic promotion. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: Who trained you?

HON MEMBER: Bantu Education.

HON KAVARI: I am not a product of Bantu Education.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Comrade Speaker, I want it on Record. It is one thing to criticise a school, it is another thing to criticise an education system. It is a different thing to call a hospital a slaughterhouse. We are creating a situation like northern Nigeria where people were prevented from immunisation and the people died. Is this Lady, Honourable Member, ready to allow people to be scared to go to hospital and die at home? She has

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI**

to withdraw. We cannot have this in Parliament. Next time somebody is going to say this Parliament is what-what and are we going to agree to that?

HON SPEAKER: Those are very strong statements.

HON KAVARI: Honourable Members, for the sake of peace I withdraw the statement.

HON SPEAKER: I do not know if your speech is prepared along those lines. Then you withdraw that, but you will continue on that trend of thinking. Is that what you want to do?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. I am reading the “bible” for Namibia. Article 6: *“The right to life shall be respected and protected. No Law may prescribe death as a competent sentence and no Court or Tribunal shall have the power to impose a sentence of death upon any person. No execution shall take place in Namibia.”* The Honourable Member is saying that the State hospitals are violating this provision of the Constitution. It is a very, very serious statement and I am happy that she has withdrawn it. Thank you.

HON KAVARI: Honourable Members, this is simply the case because learners are allowed to proceed throughout their school career without mastering the basic reading and writing skills because of automatic promotion. Some learners have never passed a grade in their entire life, but are allowed to proceed to the next level until they are sifted in Grade 10.

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI**

Since last year, Government has made money available for the kids to repeat Grade 10, but how many of the repeaters have passed? In areas where the Human Resources and Community Development Committee has visited, it was reported that not even 10% of the repeaters had managed to pass. A person who has never passed in her entire life would never be able to pass even if she is given 10 times to repeat. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, this is the time to discuss a matter which is not really acceptable. How many have failed? We have been complaining here that they must be given a chance and even be promoted in order to catch up with the momentum. Now, how are you going to save those who failed their classes? You have to go ahead and explain to us why you are saying this and what is it that you want to achieve with this.

HON KAVARI: If we allow the kids to repeat the grade until they master a level before they proceed to the next level, then there will not be any need for them to repeat Grade 10, ten times.

HON VILJOEN: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, do I understand you correctly, do you say that a learner can fail Grade 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 until Grade 10 and he will be promoted every time? Is that what you are telling this House?

HON KAVARI: Yes, I do.

HON VILJOEN: If this is what you are telling the House it is not true. You can fail once in every phase, but not in every Grade.

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI**

HON KAVARI: I do not think that the Honourable Member has kids in that level. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Kavari a question? Honourable Kavari, do you confirm or deny that on that side it is only Chief Garoëb and Honourable Paramount Chief Riruako who were able to pass their Grade 12? No-one else among you did so. Is that true or not?

HON KAVARI: Since I have never seen the CVs of the Members here, I will not be able to confirm or deny. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I passed mine in Albany and if you want to go to Albany in the United States you must ask whether Chief passed his Grade 12. The fact is that if the teachers are not trained to create a common ground with their students, then there will be something wishy-washy. You have to master your early childhood psychology before you let the kids pass the way you want. Do you have that?

HON KAVARI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, education is the most important tool to provide opportunities for all and equitable growth. It can influence people's productivity in all types of work, increase their health and increase their ability to participate in society, including understanding their rights. It is true that education does not guarantee employment, but even in the absence of high growth in employment, education improves the person's well-being and reduces poverty.

Honourable Members, in this economic downturn we cannot weather the storms without addressing the issue of food security. Yet in the peaceful Namibia one fails to understand why we allocate 6% of the Budget to food security and only 10% to Defence and Security. In the current economic downturn, we should aim at producing our own food. (Intervention)

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI**

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Only two weeks ago we were talking about the Opposition always opposing the Defence Budget. Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase said it is not fair to say the Opposition are opposed to the Budgets, because they are the ones who were part of the Committee which made recommendations to increase the Budget. Now we are getting two messages from one CoD.

HON RIRUAKO: That Budget of Security and Defence is our package, we recommended that. They did not do it on their own. We cannot tell why we did that, it is a highly confidential matter.

HON KAVARI: Honourable Members, like elsewhere, Government should be assisting commercial farmers to optimise their production levels by strengthening its extension services, thereby ensuring that they practise correct farming methods. This sector is critical to the overall objective of increasing the output of the economy as well as poverty alleviation.

Honourable Members, it is critical to remember that before Independence farmers enjoyed subsidies from the colonial Government in the form of fencing material, immunisation of animals against diseases, regular visits by experts to give advice, free diesel, subsidised fodder during drought seasons. Unfortunately all these have been done away with and our farmers are left to fend for themselves to make ends meet, irrespective of the economic conditions. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Can the Honourable Member provide statistics as to how many farmers benefited from the subsidies she just alluded to?

26 March 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI

HON KAVARI: I know that by that time you were not a farmer, so you will not be able to know, but I was a farmer and I benefited from it, because communal farmers were also benefiting from it. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: According to the Rules you can easily produce a receipt for everything you bought and attach it to your tax return and if you do not do what you are supposed to do, whose fault is that? You can claim even now. I am talking about the subsidy you mentioned now.

HON KAVARI: We are talking about two different things. Allow me to repeat what I said the other day when I was motivating my Motion, that the white farmers were successful and they are still successful.

HON RIRUAKO: I want to put a question. Who received that money? Him?

HON MEMBER: Tjihuiko is getting it, Chief.

HON RIRUAKO: Tjihuiko is not in the rural area. Let us face the reality, sometimes we have to speak the truth.

HON KAVARI: I think I should answer the Honourable Chief that...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. According to African tradition, you must listen to the elders, especially the Chief because

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI**

that is a source of wisdom. Therefore, you should listen to the Chief, he is a source of wisdom. (Interjection)

HON KAVARI: Honourable Speaker, we are talking of two different issues.

HON BOOYS: I am terribly sorry to interrupt the proceedings, but I am asking Honourable Dienda, if I heard her correctly, to withdraw. I think she knows what she said, I heard her. I do not want to mention the word.

HON SPEAKER: I did not hear it.

HON BOOYS: I heard her.

HON SPEAKER: Then I cannot ask her.

HON BOOYS: I heard, she knows what she said. If she can just withdraw because the HANSARD might pick it up and put it as an interjection. She knows and she must withdraw.

HON SPEAKER: On that advice, do you want to withdraw what you said?

HON DIENDA: I did not have the Floor, I withdraw the truth.

26 March 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI

HON KAVARI: Honourable Chief, there is a difference when you make purchases of what you can afford and that is applicable to people who are working. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Kavari a question? Honourable Kavari, you said that during the colonial time you were happy that you were given an injection or whatever. Do you want to tell the public out there that you want to go back to the colonial time? On the issue of immunisation of animals, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, under the SWAPO Party, is still continuing with the immunisation of cattle especially for foot-and-mouth disease. They only wait for the rain to stop before they start doing that. I do not know why you want to go back.

HON KAVARI: There is always a difference between the person with experience and the person who has theory. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker, what the CoD is saying is on Record and it is not fair to the SWAPO Party Government. For information, the Government provides free vaccination for foot-and-mouth disease, for Anthrax, for lung sickness and in addition to that, we have breeding stock to improve the breeding stock in the communal areas. We also have a programme to distribute fertiliser, we have a programme to distribute seeds on subsidy. We have a programme for ploughing services and even weeding.

HON KAVARI: The question is, where? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, it was not really my intention to rise at this

26 March 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI

stage of the Debate because I will have my opportunity to motivate the Vote, but for now I can only refer the Honourable Member to page 554 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Everything she is alleging that the Government is not doing is clearly articulated there.

HON KAVARI: Namibia is a diverse country and if the service is provided north of the red line, it does not mean that it is affecting the whole of Namibia. I am talking about farming in the entire commercial farming area south of the red line. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable Member apparently has a problem when services are provided north of the red line. That is what she implies. Are you a national leader?

HON KAVARI: I said I am talking about commercial farmers and commercial farmers are south of the red line. Allow me to repeat what I said. The white farmers were successful during the colonial era because the Government pumped money into this sector. Thus I cannot understand why our Government is doing the contrary. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Information. Yes, that is why we went abroad, because of the good things for the white community. That is why we fought for Namibia. I said the Honourable Member talks about the colonial era, but during the colonial era, the white community did better than the black farmers because of these subsidies. Now I want to inform the House on the other side. Please do not say these things because of the 2009 elections. That is campaigning and we cannot talk of things which are not even happening in Namibia.

HON KAVARI: I fail to understand why our Government believe the contrary, that farmers can go on their own without assistance. Giving a loan is not assisting the poor, because it is only the rich who have collateral. The AgriBank is for the rich because the communal farmers cannot get a loan without collateral.

Honourable Members, the goal of the Green Scheme was to increase contribution of agriculture to the country's GDP by developing irrigation-based agricultural production. This would be a useful vehicle to build capacity, alternate income and provide the population access to the country's economic base. The project will not only bring hope to the poor farmers, but will bring relief to the economic downturn we are experiencing. However, Government should realise that some of these programmes are not in their core activities, but should be completely outsourced to the private sector while being fully financed by Government until the intended purposes are realised.

Privatisation of services by Government or some service-deliveries have a negative impact on the poor. In many cases the prices and services increases dramatically once a State-Owned-Enterprise is commercialised or privatised. We have seen how Telecom increased its call rates by 80%, making home phones a luxury for the majority of Namibians. NamWater and NamPower have equally increased their rates, making it unaffordable to the poor.

Honourable Members, Government should urgently review the current remuneration packages at State-Owned-Enterprises which are out of proportion and unsustainable. Packages need to be reduced while management structures need to be streamlined. Remuneration needs to be performance based and in line with the economic realities of the country. Transparency and accountability should be the basic principle according to which they should operate. Before bailing out a Parastatal, an investigation must be carried out to find out why the institution cannot sustain itself, especially when others in the same market are making huge profits and are self-sustaining. An example is the *New Era* which has become a daily newspaper like any other in the market. While others are making profit and are self-sustaining, Government is subsidising it. An investigation must be carried out to find out, since its prices are market-related.

Implementation of capital projects is very crucial if we want to broaden our tax base. We also need to grow our economy because of the eminent reduction in

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI**

the SACU pool because of Economic Partnership agreements and the Free Trade Agreement within SADC and others like India, Brazil etcetera.

It is by investing in infrastructure and productive sectors that we can ensure growth in revenue. Therefore, Government spending on capital projects is a much-needed infusion into an economy facing serious activities and are expected to create employment, especially in rural areas, where Government intends to provide work to communities through construction. It is crucial that money allocated to these projects would be utilised and not returned to the State coffers to be reallocated in the following Fiscal Year.

Honourable Members, our tendering process is deemed to be where the slowing down of the process is taking place and, therefore, there is a need to accelerate the tendering process if we want these projects to have an impact on the economy. It would be a futile exercise with no impact on the economy if we fail to implement the allocated spending or at least a high percentage thereof.

It seems that Government is making progress in the research and feasibility study stage of the programmes because we mostly, if not always, outsource this to private companies or individuals and our projects fail to take off even after looking good and profitable on paper. For years now we have heard about the Kudu Gas. Since before Independence up to now, almost 30 years, we are not yet reaping the full benefits of this natural endowment.

Projects like the Green Scheme, power diesel from the Jatropha had become campaign programmes only. The Black Economic Empowerment Policy is still non-existent 19 years after Independence. In its 2004 Election Manifesto, the Congress of Democrats propagated the Basic

Income Grant to each Namibian. The idea captured the attention of the civil society and the Basic Income Coalition was established in 2006. A pilot programme was implemented with positive results in Omitara resettlement. Unfortunately, that successful project will end in December. The project was successful for community mobilisation and empowerment. It has in fact returned the spirit of Otjuana to the people of Omitara. It reduced malnutrition from 45% to 17%, the majority of the people have become able to increase their work for both pay, profit or family gain as well as self-

26 March 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI

employment and that is contrary to the critics who claim that the grant would lead to laziness and dependency.

Since the introduction of **BIG**, there is evidence that more people are now able to engage in more productive activities which foster economic growth and development. More parents have paid school development fees and bought school uniforms than before. More children are attending school and dropout rates decreased from between 30 and 40% to a mere 5%. The **BIG** support strengthened Government's efforts to provide ARV-treatment to people suffering from HIV/AIDS by enabling them to afford nutrition. Residents are paying N\$4.00 for visiting the clinic and no longer use unemployment as an excuse for not paying the fee and thus visit the clinic.

In the beginning *BIG* was criticised that it will contribute to alcoholism, but to the contrary, it has enthused the community to set up a Committee that is trying to curb alcoholism. Economic poverty-related crime has dropped by 20%. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Kavari, just a small question for clarity. You are saying that the **BIG** has helped to solve all those problems you have enumerated. We understand that it is N\$100 per month. For ten months it is N\$1,000. What is the price of one school uniform? Clinic, food and nutrition, my calculation of all those costs is that they are beyond N\$1 000. Can you claim that it is really **BIG** that is responsible for that?

HON KAVARI: For the information of the Honourable Member, every person that was alive and present in Omitara on the day of registration is receiving the funds, meaning that a family is benefiting because the baby is receiving the N\$100 up to the person who was 59 years at the time. Thus, as we know our African families, each family is getting more than N\$100 and because of the accumulated income, they can afford that.

Given these positive results, I am surprised and disappointed that Government is still not showing any interest in this initiative. Honourable Members, there is a need to inject money directly into the communities to stimulate economic

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI**

growth and alleviate poverty. I believe that Government must assist our communities to stand up for themselves, particularly in times when they are victims of combined calamities. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. Honourable Kavari, I do not know why you want to look down upon yourself. Those who decided on N\$100 and you yourself forget that all those results came about because of the monthly contributions by the Government to our elderly people, N\$450 currently, including our disabled people, orphans, and vulnerable children. Those people who did that research must tell me whether those people are not receiving Government grants, because even you cannot live on N\$100. Let us be honest, you cannot live on N\$100.

HON KAVARI: Honourable Speaker, what I have said is that the other income was not removed when **BIG** was introduced.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask my Sister a question?

HON KAVARI: No. I believe that Government must assist our communities to stand up for themselves. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information to Honourable Kavari why are you talking about the research from Omitara?. What happened in the rest of Namibia? Why is it only Omitara, what about the other Regions?

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAVARI**

HON KAVARI: Honourable Speaker, I think it was a point of ignorance instead of a Point of Information. Omitara is the only area that is receiving BIG. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, in the first instance, I have to thank the Lady who spoke before me. The last part was so humble that it is not something that we are supposed to reject. Honourable Kavari, that last part was good and, you have to say thank you for that.

Mr Speaker, it is my time and I have to request this House to allow me to express my views on the National Budget which I regard as an essential Debate. Due to our membership in the Common Monetary Area, the Namibian Government has been left with fiscal policy as the only tool to affect the allocation of the scarce resources in the economy of this country.

What I am trying to say is that, we have Air Namibia. Everyone who stood up to speak mentioned Air Namibia and last time I repeated it several times but nobody listened to this.

Mr Speaker, let me start with commending the Honourable Minister of Finance for having made some positive progress on zero-rating VAT on some basic goods, managed debt at optimal levels and the achievement of the roll-out of RAVS. Having said that, Honourable Members of this House, I would like to draw your attention to the theme of the Budget speech, namely, pro-poor, pro-growth. As I see it, the word to be put there is "*pro-growth*" because the rich got richer, the poor got poorer.

With the current high level of value-added tax, which in Botswana is 10% and in South Africa 14%, I think the objective of reducing poverty would not be easily achieved. This is mainly due to the poor people who spend more than 80% of their income on consumable goods. However, it is worth to note that there is an increase in the tax threshold from N\$36,000 to N\$40,000. Now, that is not for the poor to get rich, it is for the poor to get poorer.

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON RIRUAKO**

Mr Speaker, in the same vein, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Finance to the fact that corporate tax in Namibia remains very high compared to Botswana's 25% and South Africa's 28%, with whom we are competing for foreign investments. What happens is that we as Parliamentarians are taxed twice. You are taxable when you are in service, you are taxed when you retire and that is a disaster and this is not fair. Your term is only 5 years and you are at the mercy of the Civil Servants who have 3 times more benefit compared to an ordinary Member of Parliament – free house, free car, free gasoline and when we get a small increase, you hear the row in the House and outside. There are those Civil Servants who got a free house, a free car, and we are here for 5 years, if you are fortunate, 15 years, but the Civil Servant remains for 27 years and they benefit for 27 years. It is unfair, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, we are competing for foreign investors. In the first instance, we have zero tolerance during election time and if you are not, do not say that we are incapable to have good governance.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask my Venerable Paramount Chief a question? On the foreign investment, how much is Ohorongo Investment worth? Secondly, how much is the Trekkopje Uranium Project worth? How much are only those two projects worth?

HON RIRUAKO: I cannot talk about non-existent entities. You have Air Namibia, they do not report to you as a Government and you have all the municipalities, they do not report to you as a Government. You have all the self-appointed Governments because they do not report to any Government. Who are they? Those Parastatals you have who are not being questioned.

Furthermore, the Honourable Minister of Finance should also be commended for using the excess revenue in such a way that the debt stock has been reduced to a lower level by HIPC standard.

It is worth mentioning that the Honourable Minister of Finance has not taken some of my concerns seriously which I raised in my commentary during last

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON RIRUAKO**

year's Budget. In 2007/2008 Financial Year, we had the same element we have now. Air Namibia. Air Namibia, which is suffering from financial losses every year, is not economically viable. It is high time for all of us to find a lasting solution to the Air Namibia situation. One possible solution available to the Government is to sell some shares of Air Namibia to a well-established airline that serves the same purpose. We have a many friends all around the world and we gained some ideas from their side. Let us share with what they have, let us promote our Air Namibia to the world. It is a very clean investment. It is a very clean report to the Government and we can also advertise it and sell it abroad.

Mr Speaker, it is high time for the Government not to have some projects for national pride but to consider the economic viability of each project. We have paid for pride several times and now enough is enough. We have to take action and change direction to benefit the Namibians, not the individuals who are in the employ of a particular company.

Mr Speaker, I am concerned about the slowness of the acquisition of land in this country. If I look at the target which was set by the Ministry of Lands for the 2007/2008 Financial Year, only 42% was acquired. This is not good at all and I hope that funds will be channelled to this Ministry as the citizens of this country are hungry for land. I am not saying you must give the land to the Hereros, give it to the Namibians among which are Hereros and Namas who have been destroyed by war. That we witness every day. *Ons het die boere ook gehelp, ons het ons plase vir hulle gegee sodat hulle nie iets hoef te betaal nie.*

In the same light, it is high time that the goals of the **Transformational Economic and Social Empowerment Framework (TESEF)** should become reality. We cannot make decisions without actions. There must be actions after every decision otherwise we nullify that. Government must make sure the poor and the youth enjoy a stake in the ownership of national resources and the wealth of Namibia. Let them be proud of what they have, it is their country, it is their land and they have to enjoy it. However, at the same time, let them share their ideas with the Government and with the people who are sitting here, not to take decisions on their own without the consent of the MPs. That is not the way it should be done.

As we know, this year, for the first time, the “*born-frees*”, the generation of children born before and shortly after Independence, will be allowed to vote. One cannot help but feel compelled to remind this fortunate generation of how far Namibia has come. They ought to know how this Namibia was built and not to tell their parents and their MPs what to do all the time. They read history but from the book, you cannot do anything, from physical development you can see how you suffered and how you achieved what you have today. Therefore, there must be a limit to everything.

This generation should further be reminded that there is no room for complacency in an independent Namibia and if you complain about what happens, you have to know why you complain. Generations before theirs have fought to liberate Namibia so that we can all live harmoniously.

Anton Lembede once said to the youth of South Africa: “*We are not called to peace, comfort and enjoyment, but to hard work, struggle and sweat.*” You have to sweat in order to achieve what you want, but you must not sweat all the time, at one point you have to reach where you wanted to go. He said: “*We need young men and women of high moral stamina and integrity; of courage and vision. In short, we need warriors. This means that we have to develop a new type of youth, a new generation after the war.*” (Interjection). I have been a youth in NUDO and the example of that could be seen. I failed but not every day, like other people who failed but they do not know where they failed, like SWAPO. I am sorry to say that. “*A youth of stoical discipline, trained to endure suffering and difficulties.*” They must go through that and be entitled to everything of the rich. “*It is only this type of youth that will achieve the national liberation of the African people.*” The African people as a whole, not of an individual group. We need a Nation, not a particular group, a Nation formed by a variety and not an entity.

Mr Speaker, therefore, the youth are encouraged to vote for a Political Party of their choice, they must not be compelled. Choose what you want, I do not care a damn if you choose me or you choose the other Party. That depends on how you feel, what is the desire in your mind that talks to you to vote for that Party. If they choose not to use this privilege and opportunity at hand, they should not complain about Government failing to meet its obligations. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask a question? I am really impressed and I thank my Father for that strategy of reading his statement. My question is, when you say the youth must cast their votes, why do you want the youth to go to the ballot box in two minds? If the youth is NUDO, why do you say he must think whether to vote for NUDO or whatever. I tell my youth, "if you are SWAPO, go there with one mind, vote SWAPO.

HON RIRUAKO: I will tell you why. You do not know who I am? He knows who I am. Do you know what SWAPO is? Wait, I have to tell you, you know who I am. You joined SWAPO and you mentioned SWAPO, but you do not know where SWAPO comes from and how it was established.

Now let me say this, do not force the people to do things of your choice, educate them and put them in a position to decide what is good and if they vote for SWAPO it is good, if they vote for NUDO it is good. Give them that liberty. I am not going to force anybody, because it happened somewhere. If they choose not to use this opportunity, they should not complain about the Government failing. If they vote for a Government of their choice and that Government succeeds, they must know how this Government was formed, what the achievement is, what the objective is.

You do not have to vote for a Government without an achievement. They have to meet their obligations as adults, obligations as members of Political Parties of their own choice and sometimes their choice is a combined choice.

Mr Speaker, the youth need to commit to the realisation of Vision 2030 for its objectives to be reached, not just a dialogue to talk about it, but a decision which was achieved. Its implementing vehicles, namely the National Development Plans have to be achieved in order to reach where we want to go. The onus is indeed on every Namibian to involve them in the implementation of NDP3 to ensure the realisation of the goals spelled out in Vision 2030. In view of our collective desire to see our country reach the level of development envisioned in Vision 2030, it is imperative that the youth critically study the Vision 2030 document, familiarise themselves with its content and own its successful implementation. (Interjection). I am not a little boy, I am the man who created what you have today.

26 March 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON RIRUAKO

I have also noted that some substantial amount of resources have been allocated to the health and education sectors, as has been the case in the past. I am a bit disappointed by the performance of these two sectors in terms of service delivery to the Nation. In the health sector, as I cited in my commentary last year, lack of medicine, adequate personnel in the rural areas and ambulances continue to impede the provision of health services and this must be done not by a Party, there must be everything that is required to take people to hospital wherever they want to go.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I would like to understand the Honourable Chief. May I ask him a small question? Honourable Speaker, I carefully listened to the Honourable Chief and he is doing well, but in the last part of his statement he said there is a lack of medicines in the health facilities out there. May he be precise so that we may learn out of that and precisely know the lack of which types of medicines in the health facilities?

HON RIRUAKO: The medicines to take care of the patients are not there and you know this as a doctor and as the Minister. Let us make an appointment and talk to each another.

For instance, in most rural areas there is only one nurse at the clinic and if this nurse visits somewhere, that clinic is empty. This is part of the complaint that I have. If the nurse falls sick or is not working during the weekend, the needy citizens have no medical staff who can attend to their problems or emergencies.

Mr Speaker, I also want to cite at this point that due to low remuneration for medical personnel, the work ethics of these people have gone down. Even the nurse at the clinic does not have any respect for patients. She does what she likes. There must be discipline in everything. Take care of that portion again. Thus, allocations of resources within the health sector should address these critical problems. However, let us arrange this meeting to take place as soon as possible.

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON NUJOMA**

Lastly, but not least, we have also learned that revenue will be declining due to the reduction in taxes on international trade that result from various free trade negotiations, including SADC. My main concern is that the Honourable Minister did not inform us what happens instead. How is the Government going to cope with these challenges. They must be prepared to face the challenges and the needs of the day. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Chief for his contribution. Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her team for tabling the 2008/2009 Budget before this august House. Her Budget Statement delivered on the 19th of arch is another milestone under the current global economic crisis and we commend her for keeping to her promise of prudent fiscal management of our limited resources to meet Government's fiscal targets.

The people-centred pro-poor, pro-growth Budget stimulus package which stands at a projected spending of N\$25.5 billion is aimed at boosting consumption and infrastructure development against the backdrop of decreasing mineral prices and particularly diamonds, which is one of the main contributors to the Government revenue. Notwithstanding this depressing situation of global recession which has a serious bearing on our exports and the tourism sector, the Minister must be congratulated for once more allocating the biggest slice of the Budget to education, which stands at N\$5.3 billion for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. This again demonstrates the total commitment of the SWAPO Party Government towards education.

The N\$1.4 billion for the Financial Year 2009/2010 allocated to the Ministry of Works will certainly stimulate the economy and boost public spending. This is indeed a welcome move. The N\$130 million set aside for procurement and N\$600 million for operational expenditure and above all, the N\$350

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON NUJOMA**

million for construction will keep the economic engine in motion, that is the 12 cylinder engine.

The Ministry of Finance is to receive N\$3.9 billion. Of this, N\$100 million is allocated to Air Namibia to keep its wings flying and bring tourists and much needed commodities, such as medicines and goods. However, I would like to propose that non-performing State-Owned-Enterprises should not receive bonuses at all because of this serious global economic downturn. Sweden and many other countries have now put an end to these bonuses and I feel we have to follow suit. I am not referring to Air Namibia only, but to all the State-Owned-Enterprises.

The Development Bank of Namibia will receive N\$150 million to accelerate the creation of jobs through SMEs and boost economic output. A welcome move is the N\$50 million allocated to NamPower to weather the storms of electricity shortages in the country. Another welcome development is that people earning less than N\$40,000 will no longer pay income taxes. This will increase the necessary take-home part of any salary earner.

Honourable Speaker, the N\$1.3 billion allocated to the Ministry of Labour will go a long way in improving labour-related matters. The tax threshold increase from N\$100,000 to N\$200,000 is a huge relief for retrenched workers who may wish to establish new businesses and venture into SMEs. Further tax concessions and VAT zero-rating of some basic foods, such as maize-meal, beans, cooking oil, baking flour, milk and sugar is a great move to fight extreme poverty. The Minister proposed an increase of the tax threshold to N\$40,000, tax rate decrease to 27% for earners in the N\$40,000 to N\$50,000 annual income bracket; a decrease to 32% for those earning between N\$80,000 and N\$200,000. A new income bracket from N\$200,000 to N\$750,000 taxed at 34% and the introduction of a super bracket of N\$750,000 to be taxed at 37% is a welcome move to decrease the huge disparities in wages in order to finance the pro-poor programmes and increase the social safety net.

We welcome the usual SWAPO Party Government's total commitment towards education. The largest share of the Budget goes to Education which is going to receive N\$5.37 billion during 2009/2010. This represents an increase of 12.3% in the education Budget of N\$4.7 billion. This increase in spending will ensure that the Grade 10 students are able to repeat, as this has caused many young people to end up on the streets.

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON NUJOMA**

With regard to Gender and Child Welfare, the total allocation of N\$298,251,000 will go a long way in addressing the OVCs, gender equality and domestic violence, which we are seriously trying to reduce in this country. The N\$256,510,000 allocated to the child welfare programmes, will go a long way in addressing the OVCs and vulnerable children.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with regard to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, the total amount of N\$273,310,000 allocated to this Ministry will address the issues of Veterans of the liberation struggle who have lived for too long under unacceptable living conditions and deprivation. The increase in Veteran pensions and the proposed tax Amendments regarding pension increases is a welcome move and with that the buying power of especially those in the lowest income bracket will be considerably improved.

With regard to Justice, the total amount N\$290,588,000 allocated to this Ministry for 2009/2010 is welcomed. The Ministry will now be in a position to operationalise the Community Courts and be able to construct more courts in all the Magisterial districts. As you are aware, the presence of one court in some districts has always been problematic because of operational difficulties. When the Regional Court sits, all operations of the Magistrate's Court have to be postponed and this has added to the increase of the backlog. The allocation of N\$11.9 million will go a long way in improving the conditions of service of magistrates as well as the N\$1.5 million for the aspirant Magistrates who have just completed their training. Therefore, we are seriously focusing on addressing this backlog of cases.

With regard to Health, the fourth largest share of the Budget of N\$2.4 billion goes for health spending, improvement of infrastructure and the provision of anti-retroviral drugs to step up the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic. It is regrettable that Namibia did not qualify for the Global Fund, a move that places Namibia in a very difficult position to fight against the pandemic.

One would also question the reason for the suspension of this programme which has assisted so many Namibians and now the Government has been left alone to keep our people going, because I understand that the suspension or termination of the usage of these drugs will result in building resistance, which is very dangerous and counterproductive.

26 March 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: SECOND READING
HON NUJOMA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I appreciate the allocation to Agriculture and Rural Development. The Ministry will for the 2009/2010 Financial Year receive an increase from N\$234,493,000 to N\$948,631,000. This huge budgetary support is to expand and improve productivity in commercial and subsistence sectors through increased allocation to labour intensive green scheme irrigation projects and the extension of agricultural extension services, given the fact that the majority of our people live in rural areas. This Budget support will go a long way to fight poverty and food self-sufficiency and create the necessary jobs. More money is allocated to this sector to improve agricultural output through the provision of information. Government will also increase its fleet of tractors to assist communal farmers with ploughing and fight animal diseases by increasing access to vaccines and medicines to fight animal diseases in order to improve the general conditions of herds and small livestock.

I am also happy that the lower transfer duties under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme will make the buying of properties, such as farms, cheaper and stimulate the economy by boosting trade in farmland and related properties.

With regard to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, in keeping with the Millennium Development Goals, a total amount of N\$796,976,000 for the 2009/2010 is allocated to housing and the improvement of sanitation. The total elimination of the bucket system inherited from apartheid colonialism will increase the overall sanitation and health situation in the country. Therefore, the allocation for housing and infrastructure development programme of N\$343,564,000 and the allocation of N\$19,566,000 will increase our chances of meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

In conclusion, the allocation of N\$1,427,542,000 to the Police under the criminal justice programme will assist the Police to fight crime relentlessly and secure the security of all the citizens of the Republic of Namibia and make sure that our women and children live in a secure and peaceful environment, including those ones of Mr De Waal.

Finally, I would once again like to congratulate the Honourable Minister and her Deputy and the entire team of the Ministry of Finance for a job well done. I thank you.

26 March 2009

ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for his contribution. I ask the Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that the House adjourns until tomorrow, 27 March 2009, at 09:00.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.03.27 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
27 MARCH 2009
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements?

The Notice of the Motion is the one by the Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Prime Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND AMENDMENT
BILL: INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move, Sir.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Agreed to. Will the Prime Minister please table the Bill? The Secretary will read the Bill a First Time.

SECRETARY: *Namibian Constitution Second Amendment Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Prime Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
RT HON N ANGULA**

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND AMENDMENT
BILL: SECOND READING**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I so Move, Sir.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Objections? Agreed to. The Right Honourable Prime Minister has the Floor.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. A Constitution of a country is both a living and a sacrosanct document. The Constitution is a living document because it must respond to all the needs of a country over time. It is sacrosanct because as a living document it should not be subjected to changes and Amendments which may detract from, or water down its letter and spirit.

Today, on behalf of the Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia, I have the honour to move some technical Amendments to our Constitution. These technical Amendments have been under discussion since 2004. They have been subjected to numerous scrutiny and deliberations. Equally, Opposition Parties represented in this House had been consulted. Therefore, there has been no secrecy around the proposed Amendments. The Amendments are aimed at synchronising the existing laws with the provisions of the Constitution and at enabling the smooth Administration of Justice in our country.

The Amendments are aimed at the acquiring of Namibian citizenship by marriage or naturalisation, the tenure of the Members of the National Council, intervals at which Regional Council elections should be held, appointment of non-Namibian citizens as Judges, establishment of the Anti-Corruption

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DE WAAL**

Commission in the Constitution and the renaming of the Prison Services to Correctional Services.

Acquiring of Namibian citizenship either through marriage or naturalisation shall now only be possible after a period of continuous residence in Namibia of no less than 10 years. The tenure of Members of the Regional Councils shall be reduced from 6 years to 5 years. The effect of this reduction shall lead to the harmonisation of Regional and Local Council elections. All elected officials in Namibia shall henceforth also be obliged to receive a common 5 year mandate from the electorate.

The functions of the investigation of suspected corrupt activities shall now entirely fall on the Anti-Corruption Commission. The Ombudsman shall be freed from this onerous function.

In order to streamline the powers of the Regional Councils and their Management Commission, an Amendment is effected on Article 109 of the Constitution. Equally the Anti-Corruption Commission shall be established by the Namibian Constitution by amending Article 94(a). Similarly the Correctional Services are established in the Constitution by amending Articles 121, 122 and 123.

As indicated earlier, Honourable Members, these Amendments are technical in nature and are aimed at promoting good and efficient administration of justice in our country. I have the honour, therefore, to recommend them to you, Honourable Members, for your urgent consideration. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Prime Minister for his motivation. Any further discussion?

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I want to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for calling in the Opposition

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DE WAAL**

Parties some time at the end of last year or beginning of this year to discuss these issues with us and after we have deliberated on them we support them.

However, Honourable Speaker, I just want to touch on one or two issues concerning the first two Amendments, the waiting period in the case of marriages and the waiting period of 10 years before you can apply for Namibian citizenship through naturalisation.

Honourable Speaker, we currently have a very serious problem with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. People are applying for work permits to stay in the country for a while and I do not have a problem if the Ministry receives a request and answer you. The key words are “*answer the people.*” If you receive a request, look at the request and tell the people, “*yes, you can come*” or “*no, you cannot come*”, but what is happening at the moment – and this is very, very serious – business people are applying, they are looking for somebody with specific knowledge whom they cannot find in Namibia. You advertise and advertise, you do not get somebody and eventually you realise that such a person is simply not available in Namibia. When you try to get somebody from England or Germany and apply for a temporary work permit for this person, then you do not even receive an answer.

The board in your Ministry which is supposed to look at these applications last year had one session as far as I could find out. They were supposed to sit in the beginning of December 2008, the Permanent Secretary went overseas and they could not sit. Applications which were handed in June, July last year have until now not been answered. I am talking about things that I know of, I can give you many examples. We agree with all this, but for the sake of economic development especially this year and next year, where businesses are going through tough times – and make no mistake, they are going through tough times – let us help them, let us respond to their letters.

One of the architect firms the other day told me that the senior manager asked his people to draw up a report of all the applications that they have made and if you read through that report, it says, “*applied for temporary work permit for Mr So and So on the 15th of June 2008, up until today, no response.*” It goes on, “*no response, no response, no response.*” We cannot run a country like that.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

Please, Honourable Minister, I beg you, speak to your Permanent Secretary and let them go through all those requests lying in your offices within a month's time and let them report to you and tell you that they have answered those people, either yes or no, but then people know. That is my humble request. We support the Amendments. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Any further discussions? Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the Amendments and to commend the Right Honourable Prime Minister for bringing these Amendments before the Honourable House. I also appreciate that the SWAPO Party Government, before these Amendments were tabled, consulted widely with the stakeholders in the spirit of transparency and democracy. This is the spirit that we need in Namibia and I am proud to note that the Opposition Parties have no problems with the Amendments. In our democratic system, especially when it comes to the Supreme Law of our land, the Namibian Constitution, we have to continue in this spirit.

Honourable Speaker, I am also happy about the Amendment regarding citizenship by marriage as it will answer to the outcry by especially our womenfolk because for so long they have been victims of international criminal syndicates. What has been happening in the past is that a person would come here, get involved in criminal activities and when that person is to be arrested, he rushes to the nearest Namibian female with a smile and get married the same day. When arrested and taken to Court for deportation, he will wave the marriage certificate and say, "*I am married to a Namibian citizen and therefore, I cannot be deported.*"

What happens sometimes is that they get married, wait for 2 years and then get divorced because by that time he has acquired Namibian citizenship, dump the Namibian woman, go back to the country of origin and bring the family here. This has been a problem and also with regard to the maintenance of children and so forth. Therefore I am very happy and I support the Amendment.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON P MUSHELENGA / HON NANDI-NDAITWA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Mushelenga.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I also rise to make my humble contribution to the Namibian Constitution Second Amendment Bill and I agree with Honourable Dr Kawana and I applaud the extension of the period from 2 years to 10 years for people who marry Namibians before they acquire citizenship.

I would even have gone further than that, because now you acquire citizenship by marriage and after ten years you divorce. Ideally that citizenship is supposed to be revoked because you only acquired that citizenship by virtue of marriage. If you are now divorced, why should you continue to be a citizen? However, that is a different matter.

My concern is on this period of naturalisation which is extended to 10 years. In countries like the United States you have to live there as a permanent resident for fifty years before you acquire citizenship through naturalisation. I do not know why we have 10 years, I would have preferred at least 20 years.

Honourable Speaker, with these two concerns, I support the Amendments.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, I would also like to thank the Honourable Prime Minister and his team who have prepared these Amendments. When Comrade Kawana started with his second point, I said to my neighbour, "*why is he taking the point that I wanted to raise.*"

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON VILJOEN**

I am happy that the Anti-Corruption Commission is now part of the Constitution and I think this will give more teeth to the Anti-Corruption Commission to do its work, because as a Nation we all agree that corruption is unacceptable and we must adopt a zero-tolerance on corruption. Therefore, to make it part of our Constitution is a good sign and I am sure that those given the responsibility to perform this task will be able to do so to the best of their ability in order to fight that disease.

On the Amendment to extend the years in terms of marriage from two to ten, I also want to underline the point that this is a welcome move. Last time we debated in this Chamber the issue of violence marriages of convenience came as one fact that is also perpetuating domestic violence in our country, it is also psychological abuse when you are using a person just to get citizenship, only to say goodbye thereafter. In fact, by implication some men do applying for citizenship for 2 people, because once they get divorced, that person will bring someone else in the country who; being the wife will also automatically become a Namibian by marriage. We need to be very clear that the issue of continuous residence should also come in here, because if someone is just coming and then goes and say he has been in Namibia, that could also be an abuse. I want my colleagues, the women, to understand this Amendment as a measure to protect us as a Nation against whoever wants to come and abuse us economically and socially and we should really give it our full support. We should also not allow ourselves to be used and put the Namibian citizenship into the market as if it was a commodity. I support all the Amendments, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Viljoen.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, in the first place, I also wish to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for consulting our humble Opposition Parties and I am convinced that initially there will be a lot of suspicion, but as Honourable Minister Kawana explained, if people know what is the rationale behind this Amendment, they will support the effort. I wish to support the Amendments.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON MOONGO / HON SIMUNJA / HON DR TJIRIANGE**

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, first of all, I thank the Prime Minister for the tabling of the Amendments although I have a concern since we now have many foreigners who are still residing here without documents. As the Minister said, domestic violence is increasing and it is difficult to control, but now the period was extended from 2 to 10 years. Not only that, now that the period has been extended to 10 years, more children will be born from this marriage, the population will increase and we have a problem with maintenance. I do not know whether we are correct to increase it to 10 years as it can cause more trouble to the Government and domestic violence. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Simunja.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker, I also rise to support the Amendments to the Constitution. We have just received the Amendments and I was looking at especially Article 94(a) which deals with anti-corruption measures. In Article 94(a)(iii) it says: *“No person or organ of the State may interfere with the function of the Commission.”* I feel this is giving too much power to the Commission, because there must at least be oversight of every entity of the State. I must admit that I am not a legal person, but the way it stands here, it seems that that even the Courts may not interfere if the Commission has acted in a manner unacceptable to our society. Therefore, I have a problem with this one, Comrade Prime Minister. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Dr Tjiriange has dealt with this issue on a permanent basis. You have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, but this time I will just chip in on only one point. We have since the

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

time Dr Hage Geingob was the Prime Minister tried to bring these Amendments and at last it is here. This is the second time that the Constitution is being amended and I hope there will be a third time with other Amendments, because I can foresee that there are certain things that we need to bring in. For example, on the issue of land I think at one point or another we must make sure that the land belongs to this country through the Constitution, so that the ownership of that land vests in the people of this country through the State. Therefore, in time we will have to bring a third Amendment to look at critical issues. These are good, but they are not controversial and we should not run away from controversial issues, we have to bring a third Amendment to actually deal with the bread-and-butter issues. Therefore, this is not an end in itself.

The first Amendment was not so big, this is a little bit more, but I expect in our lifetime another Amendment that will address those issues, such as the land that I have talked about. I hope after elections we shall do something about it. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Tjiriange, I am very keen to listen to what you are saying. Can you expand on the land that you are talking about? What kind of Amendments would you bring?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I do not want to amend the Constitution through this discussion, I am just throwing the idea. What you are asking me will be the subject of discussion, but the fact is that if you look at different laws of different countries, in many countries it is not as easy to buy land as if you are buying biscuits in the market. The land is the basis of everything and it vests in the State. You can use it, even 99 years, but at the end of the day it vests with the people. How we are going to do it, the method and whatever, that will have to be discussed, but I am talking about the principle.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON NGHIDINWA**

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to support the Amendments and thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister who brought these Amendments under the attention of the august House. Before I talk about the Amendments, I would like to respond to Honourable De Waal who spoke about the Immigration Selection Board and all the problems facing the applicants for work permits and temporary work permits.

As we are speaking now, Honourable De Waal, we have a new Immigration Selection Board which started this year and they are busy strategising on how they are going to reduce and overcome all those problems. I think by next week most of the problems will be solved, because we are ready to find solutions for the long waiting period.

Secondly, the Amendment on citizenship by marriage is a relief for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and the Nation at large, because for all these years, as Honourable Members mentioned, there were marriages of convenience in the country which involved especially young women. Some foreigners just married these young women, either from the street, and pay them N\$5,000 and they are not staying together in one house, just to get citizenship and then they invite their women from their countries of origin to come and stay. Most of the women were psychologically affected. When they approached the Minister of Home Affairs' office one could see that this was a problem of their own and their children.

When the gentleman passes away, even the wife who is not in the country knows that the husband had this poor woman in Namibia. Within hours they arrive and lock the houses and say, "*all this belongs to my husband*" and then the poor woman is left with nothing. Apart from her inheritance, the children were also left without any assistance.

Some of them are doing this if they want to work in Namibia and some companies are also supporting this idea through agencies. Some communities reported that they were told, "*if you want to have a job in Namibia, marry a young Namibian woman, then you will get all the documents to work in Namibia.*" Therefore, I would like to warn those who are doing this, because even if we extend the period from 2 to 10 years, it will still happen.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON NAMBAHU**

Honourable Moongo, the extension to ten years is not to make the foreigners to stay in the country just for marriage issues. I think he was out of order, Honourable Speaker.

With these few words, Comrade Speaker, I am really happy to support the Amendment to the citizenship by marriage and the other Amendments and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: I also rise to add my humble contribution and support the Amendments. I agree with the motivation by the Honourable Prime Minister when he said that the Constitution is a living document, that it has to be in tandem with societal development, that it does not have to remain behind and that it has to play a facilitative role for society to make progress and become a better society. I am also recognising the words by Comrade Tjiriange when he said we should not be shying away from the more fundamental, cardinal issues rather than limiting ourselves to issues that are more neutral and really go to the cause of the problems that our society is facing and amend if Amendments are what is needed.

Obviously, I will limit my comments mainly to the issue of Correctional Services. Although I am not very much familiar with what necessitated this Amendment, I must admit that the area of correctional services needs much more attention. I am happy to see the substitution of the word "*prison*" by "*correction*" and maybe we have to start an awareness campaign regarding what goes on in Correctional Services for the public to know what is happening.

At times I do not know whether correction is meant to end in the Correctional Services or in the prison or whether it has to be carried out after the person has been released from prison. These are questions that we have to ask ourselves, as to whether these things are effective or not and to address policy issues, because there are people in the prisons who are not supposed to be there and

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON IILONGA**

there are people who are released into society who are supposed to be in prison. Those are the weaknesses and the pros and cons within our system that we as a society have to look into seriously.

It does not end there, it also boils down to those who are actually involved in administering these systems. You apprehend a person, take him to Court, there are disparities in knowledge, that for example there is a prosecutor that is just entering the system and a law that have been defending these people for 30 or 40 years. I am just picturing a possible scenario where you end up sending someone back into society who is not supposed to go there or nail down somebody who is not supposed to be nailed down and to be sent to prison. What happens in prison causes that person to come out hard-core and people in society are even scared of that person that has been rehabilitated and corrected.

What happens to the person who apprehended that culprit, the Police Officer? Will he be encouraged to continue arresting these people who do not end up serving their time after they have wronged the society. These are the questions that we have to ask ourselves and that many of us be invited to Correctional Services to see what is going on inside, so that we are able to make informed recommendations and suggestions.

In summary, all what I am trying to say is that this should be the beginning to start looking into and questioning this system and what is happening so that we could come up with something better. All in all, it cannot be deemed as something exhaustive and it is for us to open our eyes and start looking into these issues with inquisitive minds. With these few words, I support the Amendment.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I rise to thank the Prime Minister who tabled these long overdue Amendments.

I want to look at the Amendment on the part of the Anti-Corruption Commission, which reads as follows:

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON IILONGA**

“The Anti-Corruption Commission shall be an independent and impartial body and no person or organ of the State may interfere with the functions of the Commission.”

I am not a lawyer, therefore I seek help. If we say the Commission should be above every organ of the State, what would the relationship be with the Constitution and the Supreme Court which has the final say?

I also just wanted to add to what Honourable Ndaitwah said. We have a case here in Namibia where a married Namibian woman went outside Namibia for help, met somebody there and they entered into a relationship and that person came back to Namibia. This can even destroy the fabric of the family. In order for the two to stay together, the Namibian woman got the daughter of her sister to marry this person and what happened from there? The daughter is there but the aunty is the real one who is married. I was really happy that the Government of the Republic of Namibia acted swiftly and deported this person. These marriages of convenience cannot be allowed.

What Comrade Tjiriange said is true, that in future we have to look into some of these issues. We have to study all the articles and see whether they are in harmony. Some articles are only helping the rich while the Constitution says it is for all, but you cannot touch it because the Constitution says this.

Lastly I just want to make a comment as the Deputy Minister of Labour. We have a problem with these applications for temporary work permits or work permits. The Act is clear that any person who wants employment in Namibia has to apply while in his or her mother country. However, the contrary happens in Namibia, a person comes as a tourist, goes to a lodge and tomorrow he or she is already a manager and then they start applying for a work permit. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: On a Point of Information. Honourable Iilonga raised a very cardinal point with regard to Subsection (3) of the Bill. *“The Anti-Corruption Commission shall be an independent and impartial body and no person or organ of the State may interfere with the function of the Commission.”* I agree with Honourable Iilonga, because if we leave this

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON IILONGA**

Clause the way it is, it may lead to collision between the Commission and the Courts, because when you look at Article 80 of the Constitution, subsection (2), it says: *“The High Court shall have original jurisdiction to hear and adjudicate upon all civil disputes and criminal prosecutions, including cases which involve the interpretation, implementation and upholding of this Constitution and the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed thereunder.”*

Therefore, you have a case whereby someone is indicted by this Commission and they try to go to Court and the Commission will say they are independent. That is why in most cases you have *“unless otherwise provided elsewhere in this Constitution, then the Anti-Corruption Commission shall be an independent and impartial body.”*

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

The Act makes it categorically clear that ...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND

CULTURE: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Information. The point raised on Article 94(3) on the Anti-Corruption Commission is in order because as far as I know the Courts are independent and by definition they are not part of the organs of State. (Interjections). Judiciary? The Judiciary is a branch of the Government, but the Courts are independent. Anyone who has a problem has recourse to the Court. On the question of interference, the Court cannot be deterred by this insertion here, because anyone with any complaint has recourse to the Court. It is that Court that has to look into the constitutionality of that conduct, because the Court is there to oversee other organs of State and to adjudicate. There is no way that the Courts can stay away from a finding on any matter which has to do with the conduct of any organ of State, including the Anti-Corruption Commission. Therefore, there is no problem with this at all, because if you go to Court, the Court cannot say that it cannot adjudicate on that one. The Court will decide on the constitutionality of that conduct because the Court is there to protect the Constitution. I do not see any problem

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR KAMWI**

there, because if you allow too much interference, it would definitely have far-reaching consequences in the work of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. That is why I said I am not a lawyer, I am a bush lawyer and that is why I asked this question for clarity for the people outside there, so that we know what we did will not cause problems in interpretation.

The companies in this country do not adhere to the laws of this country as far as work permits are concerned. They do not even advertise. The Minister of Home Affairs can bear me out that they say a person has certain skills, but when that person comes to Namibia, you find that person is just a *cooker (Chef)*. Do you want to tell me we do not have them in Namibia?

Comrade Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister because these Amendments on Local Authorities definitely came at the right time in the light of the Amendments we approved yesterday. When it comes to 2010, we will have no problem to amend first the national Constitution to allow the Regional and Local Authorities to run concurrently and not more than five years. I support the Amendments.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise in support of the Namibian Constitution's Second Amendment and to make only three observations.

Firstly, I commend the Right Honourable Prime Minister for tabling these very important Amendments which, for some of us, are long overdue, particularly the Amendment of Article 4 of the Namibian Constitution. The Ministry of

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR KAMWI**

Health and Social Services recruits expertise, especially in the field of medicine, and they are usually recruited on a two-year contract. Not all of them live up to their professions and we had on many occasions where, after completion of their 2 years, we felt not much was done and therefore not to renew the contracts. I know many of them who are today Namibians through these dubious means of getting married to a Namibian national and that is the end of it. As Honourable Dr Kawana stated, if they are being pursued by Home Affairs, that would immediately be the end and he becomes a Namibian.

The other one is Section 3 on Page 4, which was raised earlier by Honourable Simunja and Honourable Ilonga and my interest is in the second line which states that, “*no person or organ of the State may interfere with the functions of the Commission.*” Some of us have a problem with this one and I can cite some examples:

Ministers or executives are entitled to use official vehicles and their drivers have on many occasions been pursued by the officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission and warned and even threatened to be taken to Court when found with these vehicles, whereas we do know that they are authorised to use official vehicles.

I also have a problem with the word “*organ*” because we know for certain that when there is an allegation against a person, the Anti-Corruption Commission would end up taking you to Court. Suppose the Judge finds you not guilty, would that not be deemed to be interference? I suggest that this matter be deferred for the experts to panel-beat it.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, while appreciating this Second Amendment of the Constitution, I wish to observe that: one day, even if some of us will no longer be in this Parliament there will be a need to amend this Constitution, such as Article 100 on land. This Constitution was written by Namibians and I am one of those, who fought during the war for liberation. Today my hands shake as a result of electric shocks. My contribution was that my children and grandchildren should find a space in this land, but to date, after 19 years, I am still struggling to find land. Eastern Caprivi, where I live has flood planes. I have been struggling to find land, I cannot find a place for settlement and yet the land that I fought for is there, but because of Article 100 it cannot be challenged. I thank you.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON MUTORWA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, that is another Debate. Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I would also like to join the Colleagues who spoke before me and thanked the Right Honourable Prime Minister for tabling the Amendments on our behalf here in the National Assembly. I would like to make a contribution with particular reference to Article 94(a)(iii) on Page 4 of the proposed Amendment Bill.

I do not have any principle objection to the fact that the Anti-Corruption Commission must be an independent and impartial body. I do not think there is any Debate as far as that principle is concerned, but I think it is important that the details, more so when the details are stipulated in the Supreme Law, should also be clear and be clearly understood, interpreted and applied. Comrade Prime Minister, it is important to me that we make it clear, in terms of definitions, what is it that we understand in this particular context with the word "*interfere*". I am going to use a practical example and I think many of us, at one point or another, may have experienced this.

There is a very high degree of abusing public property, in particular Government vehicles, by many of us, Civil Servants in particular. I recall incidents where particularly ministerial drivers were authorised to deliver some letters to certain Government offices or to collect somebody from an institution, including school children, which is perfectly authorised and there is a permit in the car. These drivers were confronted by the Anti-Corruption Commission right at the point where the particular driver has to deliver something. Then upon enquiry this driver explains that here is my authorisation and if you want more particulars, please contact my supervisor, this is the telephone number. Then you are contacted as the supervisor and by the time we are now explaining, that person has been taken to the offices of the Anti-Corruption Commission and is being interrogated already.

Now, when you are contacted, Comrade Speaker, you explain that yes, it is true, the permit is authorised, it is signed, nothing is wrong. If you convince the chief, then they apologise and he can go. The question that I am asking,

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON MUTORWA**

would that qualify to be interference in such instances? That is why I am saying that it is very important that we have a clear, common understanding of what is “interfere”, because it may happen that somebody is confronted and when you go to ask that it may be interpreted as interference. Otherwise, as I said, in terms of the principle there is absolutely no problem. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I rise on a Point of Information and I am very thankful that the Honourable Colleague is trying to interrogate this very important issue. That is why I say that a constitutional Amendment is not an “*einfach*” thing, every word must be checked. On the point being discussed by Honourable Mutorwa, namely Article 94(3), “*interference*” in this instance means that the Anti-Corruption Commission cannot prosecute, the Courts do. Their duty is to prove a case beyond reasonable doubt for prosecution by the Courts. In the technical process of the Anti-Corruption Commission seeking to prove a case beyond reasonable doubt, no person shall have the right to interfere with the Anti-Corruption Commission’s quest to prove a case beyond reasonable doubt. That is the interference that is referred to here.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Do not lecture me, just ask your question. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: No, I am not asking a question now. I am not lecturing you, but the Colleagues were talking about this issue. If you go to Article 78(3), it states: “*No member of the Cabinet or the Legislature or any other person shall interfere with Judges or Judicial Officers in the exercise of their judicial functions and all organs of the State shall accord such assistance as the Courts may require to protect their Independence, dignity and effectiveness, subject to the terms of this Constitution or any other law.*”

The Anti-Corruption Commission can only prove a case. When it goes to the prosecution side, the Courts shall have the supreme authority to adjudicate on that matter. Those are the differences that are being debated upon.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON MUTORWA**

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 10:20

HOUSE RESUMES AT 10:52 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Comrade Speaker, before we adjourned for tea, my Colleague, Honourable Venaani, posed a question for clarification. Honourable Colleague, the points that you raised are understood in the same manner that you raised them by us sitting there and I have no problem with that. However, we must also go deeper, that the functions and duties of the Parliament are to make laws, amongst others. When we are making laws – and more so when we are dealing with the Supreme Law – the intention of the lawmaker should be as clear as possible so that there is no room for manipulation or misinterpretation, because we are not responsible for enforcing the laws, but there are other agencies to interpret and enforce those laws. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: I have a very small question to the Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister, through the Speaker, I want to find out, if the Anti-Corruption Commission is handling a case against an individual and in the process the individual feels there is unfairness in the way the Anti-Corruption Commission is handling the case and approach the Courts for that issue to become a legal issue and then the Court pronounces itself, would that constitute interference by the Court is that within the law?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I think that is a very important question which some of the best minds here could answer. However, the example that I used of this driver, between the time the actual work of the Anti-Corruption Commission starts and the time the particular matter reaches the Courts for adjudication, the person who is deemed to be innocent until proven guilty has already been found guilty in the community, because there is no patience in allowing due process to take its course before somebody is already found guilty. The newspapers will run

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON MUTORWA**

stories before due process. That is why I am arguing that there is absolutely nobody who will argue against the doctrine of the independence and impartiality of institutions like the Anti-Corruption Commission or the Ombudsman and the Courts, but we as lawmakers must be clear in our vocabulary so that it is clearly understood. That is all I am saying, Comrade Prime Minister, in as far as the interference is concerned. Otherwise, principle-wise, no objection.

Then on the same page clause 4: *“The Anti-Corruption Commission shall consist of a director, a deputy director and other staff members of the Commission.”* Again there is no problem, but I am looking at the practical reality that we in the administration are confronted with and even the lawmakers here. Is it really so urgent and so necessary that we specify in the Constitution the composition of the Anti-Corruption Commission? What if practical circumstances tomorrow dictate that we maybe consider enlarging the composition of the Anti-Corruption Commission or that the person who should head the Anti-Corruption Commission should not be at director level but at another level? I have no problem if these details are stipulated in the Act. It is not that I have a fundamental objection, but I am simply saying that in order to prevent Amendments to the Constitution, whether it would not be prudent...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Honourable Mutorwa, you are raising a very important point. The Amendment of the Namibian Constitution to make provision for the Anti-Corruption Commission was necessitated by Article 89 which deals with the establishment of the Ombudsman, which was the one dealing with corruption. As we now have an Act of Parliament which established the Anti-Corruption Commission, we decided to remove the function on corruption from the Ombudsman. I think it is supposed to be the same as in the Constitution, because the Constitution does not mention the composition of the Ombudsman.

When it comes to interference, the Constitution stipulates that *“no member of Cabinet or the Legislature or any other person shall interfere with the Ombudsman in exercising his or her functions”* and then the Constitution is not preventing the organs of State to interfere, but it says, *“...and all organs of*

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON MUTORWA**

the State shall accord such assistance as may be needed for the protection of the Independence and dignity and effectiveness of the Ombudsman.” Why can we not have the same that the organs of State have to protect and assist the Anti-Corruption Commission? Maybe we cannot only concentrate here on the Cabinet members and the Legislature because they are also dealing with the private sector. Maybe we can specify “*private*” rather than “*other person*.”

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you for the information, I am sure other Honourable Members may wish to expand on the issues that you have raised here.

Suffice to say, again as a matter of repetition, I have no principle objection to sub-Clause (3) except for the fact that this House should be very clear in terms of what constitutes interference, so that it is clear to us, clear to those who interpret the law and those who are affected by the law. That is all that I am arguing.

Lastly Article 21(2)(i) – Establishment of the Correctional Services. Here I have a straightforward question, Comrade Prime Minister. We are now substituting the word “Prison” for “Correctional Service” to be in line with the name of the institution, but when I look at the reality on the ground, the institutions to which offenders are sent are still called “*prisons*” and I am sure in many of the statutes and laws we still talk about prisons, “*you will be sent to prison*.” The question is, do we have a word or a name in mind that will replace the term “*prison*” so that it is in line and if so, what would be the implication and effect of that change on other laws that make reference to “prisons” including the documents at the Courts.

Comrade Speaker, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Honourable Deputy Minister of Education.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I rise to add my contribution to the Amendment and to actually thank the Prime Minister for tabling it.

The first thing I want to talk about is because I am a case study of a marriage to a foreigner and I know that there are Honourable Members here who are also married to foreigners. I am married to a Nigerian and I have been married for 25 years. We married in England, we lived in Nigeria, I did not adopt Nigerian citizenship, I remained a Namibian. We have been living here for more than 12 years, he has not even applied for Namibian citizenship because he is not interested in the citizenship of Namibia, he is interested in me. Therefore, I just want to say that there are exceptional cases, because the agreement was he is my husband, he does not have to become a Namibian and I do not have to become a Nigerian to be married to him. What I want to say is that not every marriage to a foreigner has to do with citizenship of Namibia and I think there are many more examples of that. The Speaker is married to a foreigner, Honourable Ncube is. Those are known cases.

Therefore, we are not presenting this Amendment just because there are Namibians who are married to foreigners and every time those foreigners have an ulterior motive to marry Namibians, there are some genuine marriages, just as there are actually Namibian men who marry Namibian ladies for the same reasons. You do not have to meet a foreigner for a marriage of convenience.

To come back to the Amendment, I really welcome the Amendment because it is going to validate my marriage of 25 years, so that the people who are taking advantage of Namibian girls will not do it anymore. I remember a case of somebody who was just about to be arrested the day before and the next day they went to the court and they had a document and when the Police came the next morning they could not arrest this 'Namibian' as a foreigner and all they could have said could have been to blame "*these Namibian girls who are married to foreigners.*" This is a validation and I really welcome this as this will stop this type of abuse.

The second thing I want to add my to contribution is the Amendment on Article 94(a). I think everybody talked on Subsection (iii) but I want to talk on subsection (i). It reads: "*The State shall put in place administrative and legislative measures necessary to prevent and combat corruption.*" I know

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

this is the Supreme Law, you are going to have an Act, but when it comes to the Act, I want us to be very specific on what constitutes corruption. What degree of a case is a corruption case versus a Police case? The drivers' story was told, the kids were stopped with the driver and the trauma that the children would have been experiencing when the driver is being arrested and the mother is somewhere doing a Government job is very disturbing. (Interjection). Or the father, but they normally miss the mothers more than the Dads. It is basically the embarrassment that that would have caused. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Speaker, I really need to be clear in my mind. The vehicles that are being given to Ministers and Deputy Ministers, are these vehicles being given to them for the use by the family or are the vehicles for specific assignments? The reason why I am asking that is that, if vehicles have been given to Ministers, then obviously if they are being used to transport the spouses of the Ministers, then they are doing some different jobs.

The second question is, are the drivers allowed to drive the Ministers' or Deputy Ministers' cars without the Honourable Ministers or Deputy Ministers being in the car? Can they take the car and just drive it? We have to be clear on that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: These cars are given to us and we pay taxes on them to use them. If you are not a very hardworking Minister, you can be driving around, collecting your post and your children from school and leave the Government's job unattended to. If you are a very hardworking Minister, you want to stay in the office 24 hours a day. Under normal circumstances you will be in your Parliament office and when it is time to collect your children, you leave your desk and go and collect your children. However, if I work over lunch-break, I would rather send my driver to collect my children at school and then I will accomplish more for Education, so that when you people talk from that side, you will not criticise us so much. Therefore, it is possible that a driver can drive a car without the Minister being

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

there and the Minister would have given authorisation, because the Minister is occupied, doing a very important job. I think that answers your question. It is a question you should have asked Honourable Mutorwa who used that example.

The example I want to use for the Anti-Corruption Commission is that in the past when the Anti-Corruption Commission was set up, it was in a contextualised setting up of a Commission and a Commission is actually commissioned to be set up and that is why the Prime Minister's Office was given the authority to set up the Anti-Corruption Commission because they were looking for...(Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask my Colleague a question? Deputy Minister, you will agree with me that currently the Anti-Corruption Commission is focusing more on public institutions, but if they were really doing their job they would also focus on private institutions where most of the corruption is being practised. I mean pure private, not even parastatals.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I am coming to that through this contextualisation. There was a context of N\$100 million missing, there was a context of N\$30 million missing, there was a context of N\$3 million missing and when people heard that the Anti-Corruption Commission was coming to investigate these issues, everybody had great expectations and we were expecting that the Anti-Corruption Commission was the right Commission to look at this issue. I know that those cases had been *sub judice* and we could not talk about them on this Floor, but the public out there will be so excited if the Anti-Corruption Commission could indicate what efforts they are making to get to the root of the problem by which they were established, rather than going to a secondary school or primary school and arrest the secretaries. Now I am just wondering what is the distinction between a Police case that should have been done through the primary school principal and the Police to arrest the secretary who has stolen N\$1,000, while someone who has taken N\$100 million of Namibian taxpayers' money we have not seen yet.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

Therefore, a distinction must be made between a corruption case and police case. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Maybe I can provide information on the examples given by my Learned Honourable Colleague. In terms of the Anti-Corruption Act, the mandate of the Commission is only to those cases which occurred after the establishment of the Commission, not those cases which occurred prior to the establishment of the Commission. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Why?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: It is the Act that we passed here, Honourable Chief. In addition to that, those other cases are indeed receiving attention by equally appropriate authorities and I am sure it will not be a long time from now when some of those cases will be reported in the press. That I can assure you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you for that information, but the case was just to make a distinction between a Police case versus a corruption case in the future whenever it is going to be possible in the regulatory framework, rather than in the Constitution. I know that kind of detail will not be included in the Amendment in the Constitution, but maybe in the Act. This is a prelude to the Act and maybe you have to be very specific in the Act as to what degree the Anti-Corruption Commission is expected to come in and at what degree it would be considered as a Police case, so that they do not duplicate their efforts and there will be no conflict between the Police investigation versus the Police who are working for the Anti-Corruption Commission, because it has been in the papers to that effect.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON RIRUAKO**

Finally, I just want to say that landlessness to the majority equals poverty to the majority and I think what Honourable Tjiriange and Kamwi have alluded to is the fact that we need a third Amendment Bill that would particularly tackle Article 100 in the future and I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity and for the Prime Minister for tabling this Amendment Bill. Thank you. I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I heard, I listened and I observed. The Prime Minister's Amendment is well done but the Anti-Corruption Commission must be independent from any institution, including this one. If you combine the two together, today it is somebody else, tomorrow it would be you. The Zuma case showed us how strong this kind of body is if enshrined in Government institutions or law. Eventually it is going to create a kind of commotion – political commotions, legal commotions. Mr Speaker, this is the chaotic situation we are going to face. I am saying this now, but eventually we are going to taste it, because the remedy you created is not functioning at its full capacity as it should and you must also have the right to challenge the Anti-Corruption Commission if you are caught by surprise by a kind of political myopic.

Now you give a periphery to a law without an individual who is supposed to be crucified by the law, because what you have done, you just have the fruits of legality from both sides. One side is in order. The Government must have the right because the Constitution's attachment created a kind of commotion. Mr Speaker, this is the problem we are facing.

To come back to the drivers of the Ministers, what happens is that we have Ambassadors who do not have their own private cars. If they live in Kuwait, what kind of car do they ought to use? That is another query. Here we are, he is a Minister, he is nearly appointed as a Minister, what kind of private car does he possess? Therefore, he could use the official car for his private affairs. That is the point.

27 March 2009

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL
HON DIERGAARDT**

That is how things must be executed, I criticise where I am supposed to criticise, where the law is very shaky, I cannot even open my mouth.

Now to come to the point of how to regard the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman was not given the kind of power that is given to this so-called Anti-Corruption Commission, but you coined that name for the Anti-Corruption Commission and now it remains with that name. You must go back and coin the word that is supposed to be used. The usage is not correct at all. It limits its kinds of rights it possesses. Therefore, you mix these without mentioning the right name of anti-corruption. It must possess a name. Mr Speaker, that is the problem we are facing, the aim and objective of the Amendment was good, but the way it was put is crooked.

Mr Speaker, I think so far, so good, they got the message. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Chief. Honourable Diergaardt.

HON DIERGAARDT: Honourable Speaker, let me from the onset register my support for the Namibian Constitution Second Amendment Bill. My contribution will be very brief, I just have a general remark or suggestion.

In view of the fact that we are already speaking of a third Amendment Bill, Honourable Speaker, I wish to suggest that this Parliament considers the possibility of the establishment of a permanent constitutional review commission, represented by all Parties in this august House and other stakeholders as may be deemed fit. I am not suggesting that we should review the Constitution weekly, but they can assess the Constitution on an annual basis, get input from the public and in the process enhance participatory democracy. I think there is a need for a forum like that, because as was aptly stated by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Constitution should be a living document and in the process we will also internalise the Constitution, because I am afraid, after 19 years of Independence a lot of our people are still not much aware of the Constitution and what it entails.

27 March 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL

Therefore, my suggestion is merely that we look at a permanent way of assessing the Constitution in future. With those few words, I support the Amendment Bill. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion?

HON VENAANI: I move that the Debate be adjourned until next week, Wednesday.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate is adjourned until Wednesday, next week. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
SECOND READING**

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

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday 26 March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The House adjourned in terms of Rule 90. Any further discussion? Honourable Viljoen.

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I think in the light of the discussions we must put all marriages on ice until this Amendment takes place. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask my neighbour a question? Why should the marriages be put on ice? We are supposed to function as usual. That Amendment has to take its course and the law cannot be stopped to function until this Amendment comes into effect. That is not the way to do it.

HON VILJOEN: Yes, Mr Speaker, I think people will start marrying today and over time until this Amendment has gone through.

Honourable Speaker, I am convinced that my contribution will blow some new life into Parliament. It is not controversial but I will speak from my heart.

The 2009/2010 Budget introduced in this Honourable House last week like anybody in any country of the world has weak and strong points. It is true that the coming election and the nervousness of the Ruling Party are being reflected in the Budget. On the other hand, Honourable Minister, to produce a Budget like you and your team did is commendable. To draw up a Budget in the face of a world economy which suffers from flu or AIDS is not easy.

Internally Namibia has its own problems because of the low prices of minerals and the closing of mines. Namibia is in its biggest socio-economic crisis since Independence in 1990. Unfortunately, money is also being spent lavishly on Namibia's naughty children, like Air Namibia, NAMCOR, Ministries which have poorly managed Agencies like the NBC and many other prestigious projects which are unnecessary.

Just to elaborate a little, Air Namibia in practice is a bird with broken wings, poorly managed, flights are being cancelled on short notice or no notice. In some cases the flight is arranged, but not the pilot. The cost of maintenance will escalate...(Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, do you know that the real problem is not the planes that

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

are not functioning, but the real problem with Air Namibia is the travel agents which are owned and controlled by people who have a cartel who deliberately wants to kill the business of Air Namibia and to promote other airlines?

HON VILJOEN: Thank you, Honourable Member, I will not answer the question because it is not my speciality. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, I am not here to ask questions. We are faced with irregularities and methods of operations and we prefer to mix it up with the so-called owners of the travel agencies in order to stop them to do anything or to harm Air Namibia.

HON VILJOEN: Mr Speaker, in future we will need more money for maintenance of Government buildings, including hostels and schools and the damage caused by heavy rains and floods to our roads, especially in the North, and then the HIV/AIDS matters takes up money which could have been channelled to other projects. In future, efforts to deal with HIV/AIDS matters in Namibia will need more money because there is much work to be done. I think that money which we budgeted for these necessities is also a part of our sin-tax. Apart from the fact that the disease is annually killing thousands of people in Namibia, it is hurtful for a Nation to know that it is being rated amongst the top 10 of the world as far as the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is concerned. It is harmful to the self-esteem of the Nation.

A large portion of the Budget was allocated to Education and I fully support it. I have some questions about the spending of it, though. I am convinced that 80% of the money goes for salaries. I got the impression that the ETSIP idea has lost its glamour and it will not improve the results in the classroom with a single percentage.

I want to use the opportunity to explain my question of yesterday about automatic promotion. You cannot fail a learner in Grade 1 up to Grade 10, some learners never pass a grade. It means that you have to fail the learner 10 times and if he repeats it will take 20 years to reach Grade 10. Therefore, the policy is that a learner can fail once in junior primary, once in senior primary, once in junior secondary and once in senior secondary. This is not automatic

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

promotion. If you should hold the learner back every time he or she fails, we will not have any place available for upcoming learners. Learners cannot fail Grade 11 because Grade 11 and 12 is one course. I agree with Honourable Dewaal that the old method...(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Viljoen a question, please? Honourable Viljoen, having been an inspector for so many years, why did you not use the same system before Independence? What is the difference between the kids that were allowed to repeat classes during that time and now?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Tjihuiko, I think you know the answer. I think there are more school-going kids now than before Independence. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. The ETSIP is a new method of learning and the old method was quite clear and it was so understandable to the kids. Now they have to learn about the culprit and who brought that kind of teaching here? One must be really punished for that. The Prime Minister who brought this kind of education must be responsible for this. Bring something new. You ought to tell the truth.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I agree with Honourable De Waal that the outcome of a large Budget for education should be reflected in the classroom, but I do not agree fully with the suggestion that the money should be used to train the teachers. If we look at the statistics, we will see that there were 1,641 schools in the country in 2006. There were only 1,211 teachers without teacher training, which gives us less than one per school.

Since Independence, teachers were trained and retrained. Some embarked on their own studies. 19 years is a lifetime and everybody could have obtained a Doctor's degree by this time. If there is a problem with the education system, meaning the broad curriculum of what should be taught in the classroom, why

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

are the results of private schools, following the Namibian curriculum, all so good? Furthermore, why are the results of private schools with other curricula, like those of the Independent Exam Board, also good?

I can tell you that in these schools they do not tolerate teachers who are not fully committed to their subjects and academic results. There are continuous evaluation systems for the performance of the teachers. The principal of the school is furthermore held accountable...(Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Jurie Viljoen the Great a question? Viljoen the Great, you are saying you do not support teachers' training. One inherent reality that you are saying is true, that we have more children going to school than before Independence and that is entirely related to schools and more schools are being built, but what is the current learner-teacher ratio in the country and is the current learner-teacher ratio in the country at acceptable standards to you as an educationist and if not, do you not think to improve the learner-teacher ratio is to have more teachers in the classrooms?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, yes, I agree with that. The number of learners in a private school depends on the number of teachers available, so they can have less learners in every classroom. However, as I said earlier, the teachers prefer to have bigger classes and to have more free periods. (Interjection). I have the information. If you are familiar with a time-table and how you prepare the time-table, then you will agree that it is possible to do it.

The principals of the schools are held accountable for all academic and social failures of the school. If I have to choose between a teacher with a Doctor's degree who is not committed and a teacher with a ordinary Teacher's qualification who is committed, I will choose the latter.

The conclusion is that it is not the system that is at fault, it is the implementers of the system. (Intervention)

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, we are learning from Honourable Viljoen. May I ask a question? Honourable Viljoen, I want to take you back to the automatic promotion. Are you saying that if learners fails Grade 1, then they will not fail again up to Grade 5, then fail Grade 6, then automatically promoted to Grade 8 where they are now being expected to write exams. Is it correct for me to say that these kids from Grade 1 to Grade 7 have never passed any grade until Grade 10? Is that really possible?

HON VILJOEN: It is possible because Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 is junior primary and they can fail only once in every phase. There are four phases, they can fail four times. The alternative is to fail learners, keep them in the classroom and you cannot accommodate the learners from pre-school.

It is a fact that right through the Civil Service you find only a few people who are committed to their task and pull their weight. Unfortunately, the majority of Civil Servants are unable or unwilling to exert themselves in order to achieve the goals or the expectations of their superiors. Most Namibians do not work when they become tired. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. We have failed to investigate the system we have now, because everything is crooked as I see it. Not me, the whole Nation is so crooked, we do not know where we are now. I hope we will come together and decide what we want.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I have two recommendations to find a solution. Principals, teachers, accounting officers and ordinary staff should be held accountable for the outcome of their tasks by dedicated supervisors. A lack of accountability and supervision is one of the reasons why our Ministries are not doing well. Nobody is concerned about the outstanding subsistence and travel allowances of millions or Namibia Dollars in the various Ministries, nor the **Pay As You Earn** tax which was subtracted from the salaries of employees and not paid over to the Receiver of Revenue. No one is concerned about the 38 municipalities whose financial statements are still outstanding and

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

some of them for the past 6 years. These are only a few examples but there are many more.

The second recommendation is that we embark on a system of performance appraisal right through the Civil Service, and especially Education, which is the mother of all professions. Pay the teacher with good results a double salary and reduce the salary of the teacher with poor results. There is one condition, it should be done by an independent group of people. This is not a new idea Napoleon Bonaparte did it centuries ago. It was one of the secrets of his success and why he is still remembered. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Viljoen, may I ask a last question? I agree with you that the teachers who are not performing should not earn the same salaries as the ones who are performing. What about Members of Parliament who have been sitting here for the last 5 years not saying a single word? Would you recommend that they should not be paid the same salary as the actives ones like Honourable Ilonga?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, that is a good suggestion. Honourable Speaker, there was an insinuation in Parliament that Jurie Viljoen of MAG only discusses matters for the sake of his own Party or group. It is not true because I am also a true son of this Nation and take its well-being to heart. I introduced several Motions in Parliament which are in national interest. I introduced the one on Biblical Studies at school, which was rejected and which Members of Parliament will account for one day.

Secondly, I introduced a Motion on the increase in violence in the country and I introduced a Motion on the accountability of principals and teachers, which unfortunately lapsed. Responsibility of people towards Government buildings, which also lapsed. Natural disasters and the flood situation in Namibia which was introduced twice and is presently under discussion. I also introduced a Motion on Affirmative Action, the only Motion which can probably be classified as one for marginalised groups, but having the well-being of the whole country in mind.

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

However, I have the perception that if most Members, even the Opposition, discuss issues on the Floor, the reaction of the House is not vehement, but when others Colleagues and I with the same complexion take the Floor, the hunting season is open. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Be specific, which complexion is this?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Minister, I promise you I will come to that. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: On a Point of Information because Honourable Viljoen's allegations cannot go unchallenged. Most of your Motions have not been adopted. This is when Honourable Members are their own enemies. Honourable Members, like Honourable Viljoen, will go in a Committee and when they agree in the Committee and make findings, Honourable Viljoen will jump the gun before the Report is brought here. It is not a question of complexion, it is when you become your own enemy.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, that allegation is not true. Honourable Speaker, Monitor Action Group does not conduct rallies or meetings because we have no empty promises to make. We do not have any obscure methods of communication. What I want to say for or against Parliament I will say in this Honourable House for Members to hear and to respond.

One of the reasons for stability is the fact that the people of Namibia so far were prepared to tolerate each other without major conflict between different groups. I wish to briefly elaborate on relations between different groups, not only in Parliament, but in the country as a whole and I wish to start with a short story.

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

One evening an old Cherokee of one of the tribes in America, told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said: “*My Son, the battle is between two wolves inside all of us, one is evil, it is anger, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride and so on. The other is good, it is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith and so on.*” (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Will you agree with me that the latter best describe SWAPO Party?

HON VILJOEN: Yes, and then his grandson thought about it for a minute and asked his grandfather: “*Which wolf wins?*” The old Cherokee simply replied: “*The one you feed*”. (Intervention)

We are discussing a Motion which was introduced by Honourable Kavari on urban and commercial land prices. In fact, there is nothing wrong with the Motion but on the Floor it became an unguided missile. This is a very unfortunate Motion and it was apparently tabled to score political points, but the consequences of this Motion were that it became, as usual, a black and white issue as many Motions before it.

The purpose of my contribution is to explain to Parliament why the people of European descent become upset when some Members use every opportunity to attack us verbally as a way of taking revenge because of the alleged sins of the past. This is my perception. Our creed in this Land of the Brave is *One Namibia, One Nation*. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member said “*alleged sins of the past.*” May I ask the Honourable Member a question? You are a good Christian of the Reformed Church, do you believe that apartheid was a sin or not?

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I used the word “*alleged*” because it is the safest way to stay out of Court. I do not defend apartheid, I said it was wrong, it was a sin. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Viljoen, I am very sorry to disturb you, but since you are talking about the policy direction of Monitor Action Group, MAG, your leader in a recent article in the *Observer* wrote that he has nothing to apologise for apartheid. He said Monitor Action Group and himself have nothing to apologise for. Is that the view of Monitor Action Group?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I am not aware of that statement and if I apologise, I do not apologise for somebody else, I apologise for myself.

Our creed in the Land of the Brave is, *One Namibia, One Nation*. How can we ever reach the point of being one Nation if we do not practise what we preach?

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? When we say *One Namibia, One Nation*, do we also extend that to the economic sphere?

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I do, but I what I want to say is, how on earth can we strive towards one Nation when Honourable Members of Parliament speak of “*our people*”, meaning the black people and refer to the white people as “*your people?*” How can we be one Nation?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, mine is a Point of Information. Comrade Speaker, during the apartheid system there was a census at school every year where we were

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

asked, all the Ovambos stand up in the class, all the Namas, Damaras, Otjiherero, etcetera and some of us, especially at secondary school were resisting this and we remained sitting. Then at the end of the count we were asked, "*but who are you*" and I said, "*I am a Namibian.*" Then they said, no, you are not, you are "*onder andere*" and we were registered under "*onder andere*", because our mothers were abused because of the system and got children from Europeans and some of us are descendants and we were called "*andere*" and we were suffering because of that. It was an insult to us to be called "*andere*". I did not choose this colour and I do not agree with this complexion thing you are mentioning there.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, perceptions are not necessarily realities, but my perception was formed over a period of four years in Parliament. That is the Honourable Minister's perception, whether true or not. My perception is that there is amongst some Members, maybe outside Parliament, a sectoral dislike for white Namibians, which they cannot deny. It all originated from the war against South African forces, which is understandable, but the enemy has withdrawn 18 years ago and it leaves a vacuum. Now we are looking for somebody to hate. This is my perception.

Secondly, apartheid with all its evils is sometimes used as a medium of capturing the minds of people. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. Honourable Viljoen is raising very interesting ideas, but we are not living somewhere on the moon, we are living here in Namibia. We have been accused of talking too much about history, but it is history that makes us to suffer the way that we are suffering today. Honourable Kavari's Motion was about land. Most of the productive land is in the hands of our white compatriots. When we try to bring about a change in that relationship, that is ownership of land, the same compatriots have schemes to undermine what we want to achieve. Why should we not talk about it? They are planning to undermine the change that we are bringing, that will be undermining reconciliation. When we want to go this way, it is sabotaged by the same

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

people. As long as they do not come down and realise that reconciliation is a two-way traffic, we shall still talk about these things.

Secondly, we have national days where the President of the country is addressing the people and you may find only one white compatriot there, a foreigner for that matter. What are we talking about? Let us put our act together if we do not want to talk about the past, because it is the past that makes us to suffer today.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I would want to emphasise only two issues and I will come to that one. The first is the perception that whites are rich and blacks are poor. There are 250,000 taxpayers in Namibia, there are in total an estimated 80,000 white compatriots, men, women and children. An estimated 25,000 of those 80,000 pay tax and my question is, who are the other 225,000 taxpayers? Do they not pay tax because their income is high? (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. It is this denial of reality that makes people attack what you are saying. The United Nations Human Development Report of 2006 has stated and I want you to listen to this quotation, that German Namibians, nationals living in Namibia are better off than Germans living in Germany. Therefore, one cannot deny the inherent reality that there are imbalances between whites and blacks. There is also the reality that nobody can deny that there are poor whites in Namibia. There are struggling white families in Namibia, but if you have to take an aggregate of the whole white community and compare it to an aggregate of the black community, that imbalance still exists.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, that is also an unproven perception. I said 250,000 taxpayers, 25,000 of those are from the mentioned minority group, who are the other 225,000 taxpayers?

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

Then I want to come to the land issue. The perception is that white people have farms and they are not honest and inflate the prices of land. Why do you not tell the voters that 500 Namibian farms are owned by non-Namibians, 1.5 million hectares. It was recommended many times that the Government should buy these farms.

HON KAVARI: May I ask a question to Honourable Viljoen? Honourable Viljoen, you reported in this House that your forefathers came from Angola to Namibia and they were given land. How many other white Namibians were given land in that way and still have the land? How many black Namibians were given land for free like you were given land for free?

HON VILJOEN: That was before the Honourable Member came to Parliament. I made a full study and I supported it with documents here in Parliament that nobody got land for free, they bought every piece of land and you can ...(Interjections).

HON NAMBAHU: On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member made an assertion at the beginning of his speech that as soon as the likes of him takes the Floor in this House, the hunting season is open, as if we are out there looking for someone of different pigmentation for the sake of it. That statement is not accurate and the fact of the matter is the insensitivity. The assertions the Honourable Member is making make people feel irritated and respond the way they do. It is really not about white or anything, but it is the denial of that reality. The Honourable Member is defending the indefensible and that is what irritates us and make us behave the way we do, because we are coming from a past that you are not sensitive to. You must really withdraw that kind of perception that we have our knives out for you simply because you are white. That is not true.

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I think the Honourable Member will be satisfied if I admit that we got the farms for free, that is what he said. Why do we not tell the Namibians that 500 farms are in the hands of non-Namibians? Why do we not start with the land of foreigners? Foreigners buy land in Namibia because the laws of the country, which were fathered and mothered by Members of this House, allow them to do so. This is the reason why land prices are going up. The white farmer with only one farm is the soft target as he is forced to farm with a sword hanging over his head.

It was said that the Germans did nothing for the country. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Honourable Viljoen is not quite correct that the citizens of European origin who own farms are the target, that is not quite true. When we spoke here, we spoke about a farm the size of 70,000 hectares. If we were going to divide that farm into 7,000 hectare, then that farmer owns ten farms. If we are going to divide in into 5,000 hectares, he owns twelve farms. Those are the people we are talking about, somebody owning ten farms or 70,000 hectares and there are Namibians out there who do not even a piece of land to build a house on. Some of them are the labour tenants, people who are squatting on the farms but they have no right to be there. They do not even have a place they can call their own. When the farm is bought by somebody else, they are at the mercy of anybody. Then you have another person who have 10 farms of 7,000 hectares each. Is that fair? Just tell us whether that is fair.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I agree with the Prime Minister, I fully agree with the Prime Minister. A document was drawn up that recommended that. What I am saying is that no leader in this country has ever told the farmers outside that if you own a farm of reasonable size, please carry on, we will help you and support you or something like that, but every farmer in this country feels threatened by the fact that nobody says anything.

It was said that the German people only brought the Simmenthaler bull to the country. This is long, long ago, it is history. (Intervention)

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, it was not my intention to interrupt Honourable Viljoen but what he is saying is that only one German man came to Namibia. As I understood him as if he is saying only one German man came from Namibia. What was he trying to imply?

HON VILJOEN: Those people imported karakul sheep to this country which formed the pillar of the economy in the early days and this is one of the reasons why Namibia is today better off than many other African countries. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. Some of these things cannot be left unchallenged and sometimes when you listen to them they are irritating. Honourable Viljoen has repeated several times in different speeches that he made there, the question of the people who came from Angola, who are generally known as the Angolan Boers and when they came here they bought the land. He always repeats that, but what he forgets is that when those people came here, there were black people who had been removed physically to make room for them and that land was never bought from those people who were removed. Even if they have bought it, they have bought it from the wrong person because those were removed forcibly and put into concentration camps which we today call reserve and then they gave the money to the relatives and not to the ones who have been removed. There was no buying there.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I referred to the period when my ancestors came to Namibia. They came to a place where there was nothing. (Interjections). Apart from the remains of mud and sticks of an early civilisation, it was as God had created it. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Comrade Speaker, it is not my habit and I also did not intend to

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

do this, but if the Honourable Member on the other side of the House really seriously continues the way he is relating things, then he is in the process of insulting the Namibian Nation. If he is saying that when his ancestors came into Namibia there was nothing, then this is really uncalled for. May I, with all due respect, appeal to Honourable Mr Viljoen on the other side of the House to choose words that we can really, as he was pleading beforehand, continue as *One Namibia, One Nation*, and talk to each other and about each other in a dignified way. However, if he continues as he is doing now, then it comes back to the notion saying that some people came here with a rifle and a Bible, gave us the Bible and whilst we were praying, they took our land. We do not want to resort to those notions again, we want to go forward.

HON VILJOEN: I am sure the Honourable Minister misunderstood me. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I say again, some of these things are irritating. Comrade Speaker, I went to AgriBank and borrowed money there and became indebted. I bought a portion of a farm which belonged to the family of one of the Angolan Boers who was given over 8,000 hectares. I bought 4,000 hectares, he remained with 4,000 and he gave me the part where there was no house. That farm has a Herero name, *Otjovazandu* and there are graves of Hereros in that area. Now why do you think that we were not there? All those farms that are there have Herero names and some of them were changed. That one, *Otjovazandu*, you change to “*Dis Al*”. Do not say that there were no people here. You removed them and the names remained there.

HON VILJOEN: Let me go back to Honourable Minister Konjore. I referred to a specific spot, I referred to the Nossob River. (Intervention)

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. The statement that Honourable Viljoen made that they went to a place where there were no people, you have a big house with four bedrooms and one of the bedrooms is not being utilised, does that mean if I come in your house, I can claim that nobody sleeps here, I can sleep here, I can make this one mine? What I am referring to is that a country can have a space that is not being utilised at that moment, but it does not mean that it is now owned by those people living in that country. Even where you came from there are such land, why did you not take it? Now you are claiming that the land that you took is yours because there was nobody. I think, Honourable Viljoen, you must come back to your senses, that is an insult.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Katali, please give me one minute to explain what I mean. In that area there were remains of San people who lived there some or another time. My parents had to go to Gibeon...(Intervention)

HON MEMBER: They are Namibians!

HON VILJOEN: My parents had to go to Gibeon to find people to work on the farm.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. I was trying to follow the presentation of my Neighbour and I have seen that some people were getting irritated by the statement that there were no people at that specific place. It reminds me of the days when the white colleagues could go to a place and say, "*waar is die mense?*" I am starting to think, after the good example that Honourable Katali has used, that we are not talking about Okahandja or Rehoboth, we are talking about the land called Namibia and if one says that when he went there, there were no people, my understanding is that the Honourable Member is saying that when we came here, there were

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

animals and blacks, there were no people. The route we have taken is not the right one and we do not want to jump on you, but please, can you just try to do it differently? The way you are doing it now, saying that there were no people here, there were animals and blacks, because we were here. If you regard us as being part of the animals, then it is different.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a serious Point of Information. Honourable Viljoen is saying that his grandparents went to the Nossob River, there was nobody but bones of people and they had to go to Gibeon to look for living people. Are you aware that the 1896 battle of King Kahimemua was fought on the Nossob River? Are you aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. I am really disappointed by the statement of the Honourable Member. Honourable Speaker, you are a seasoned diplomat who spent so many years representing the SWAPO Party in our struggle. Classical international law says people could go, that is now the white stock, could go to those areas which were occupied by “*savages*”, who were not people of Christian origin. They could go there to acquire those lands. In terms of international law those lands were “*terra nullius*”, meaning they were unoccupied and that is the thrust which we are hearing in the 21st century in this House. I am really disappointed.

Secondly, even historically, after the Second World War the white people who fought against Nazi Germany were given free farms here in Namibia. The Ya Toivos were in that war, they were given nothing and today in the 21st century in this independent Parliament we are told that was legitimate. That is shameful.

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I think it was not my intention ...

27 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VILJOEN**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Order. In all sincerity, I am very disappointed and worried as to what is happening in this country, especially when Mr Viljoen started he gave the impression that he is speaking on behalf of a certain group in this country. If that is the thinking of a certain group in Namibia and not the view of an individual we are really in a situation of sitting on a time-bomb, because we do not now know, if that attitude is held by many Namibians, where it is going to lead us. Can we really be very clear and we must be very conscious. I know the history is very important, it is what sustains us, but history must be used to strengthen us but not to destroy us. We know what it is, but we must try to see what we can do in this current situation. If we however continue to give legitimacy to what happened, that bad part of our history, it is very dangerous. Are you giving your own views or are you speaking on behalf of a certain groups of Namibia, because that is very serious. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON VILJOEN: I wish to give the Minister the assurance that it was not my intention. I said I am also part of Namibia, I want to live here, but it is not nice to every day in Parliament hear that your father stole the land or you are the rich persons, we are poor. That is what I want to put straight and I thank you for listening to me and I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall adjourn under automatic adjournment until Tuesday, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 12:30 UNTIL 2009.03.31 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
31 MARCH 2009
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as a writer has said, “*all the paths lead but to the grave*”, I have sad news to announce, that one of the great friends of Namibia, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations and President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, a very close personal friend of many of us present here, Ambassador Gwendoline Connie, passed on. We pray that God receives her as His child and that her soul will rest in peace. I ask the House to join a minute of silence.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Mbai.

**TABLING: REPORT OF STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

HON MBAI: Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table for note-taking, a Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), the SADC Parliamentary Forum, a meeting on Sustainable Development and Aid Effectiveness, held in Nairobi, Kenya from the 25th to the 28th of August 2008.

31 March 2009

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any further Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 35:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 9th of April 2009, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

1. Can the Minister agree or deny that the Municipality of Kandjengedhi, Oshakati ordered a female Police Officer to demolish her house, Erf 2988, resettlement, so that the Royal Circle be constructed at her premises without considering compensation for the house.
2. Does the Minister allow the municipality to misbehave and cause unnecessary, unconstitutional vacation of properties?
3. Is it true that the municipality is misusing the power of autonomy whereby it infringes on the rights of others, which is prohibited in the law?
4. Will the Minister intervene and restore the mother of four children to her equal right to own property? Is this not domestic violence of disregard or disrespect for a woman?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements?

31 March 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON REV KONJORE**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND

CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, I would like, with your kind indulgence to share the following with the august House and the public:

The implementation of the Cabinet Decision on the children of the liberation struggle, as so defined, has been and still is a challenge for the Joint Ministerial Committee and the implementing Ministry, in particular. Challenges in this regard refer to the needed resources to accompany the implementation process as well as the dynamics amongst the children of the liberation struggle pertaining to their demands in relation to their individual profiles.

Despite these challenges, the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture made significant progress with regard to the registration, sorting, needs, categorisation and data capturing. The total number of the children registered to date is 10,126 during the two registration processes that took place last year and early this year. However, there are still others remaining and the same procedure will apply.

Comrade Speaker, the next step is the verification process to be conducted by the National Verification Team, consisting of members from the Offices, Ministries and Agencies as represented in the Joint Ministerial Committee. This process will provide additional key information with regard to who the legitimate child of the liberation struggle is and what his or her exact current status is.

While some members of the public and the concerned children out there might wish to see shortcuts to address their problems, it is essential to draw their attention to the following facts and realities:

1. The demand expressed by these children is not a unique problem only confined to the children of the liberation struggle, but it is a national challenge across political, gender, age and other socio-economic conditions affecting the Nation as a whole.

31 March 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON REV KONJORE**

2. The educational status of the majority of them is a concern for us and, therefore the Joint Ministerial Committee and implementing Ministry, in particular, do not want to contradict Namibia's quest towards a knowledgeable and skilled society.
3. As much as these children demand jobs now, it is essential to emphasise that the readiness of these children for the job market, through education and training, is a prerequisite for them to become employable and, hence, productive citizens in order to play a role in the main economic stream of our country.

While the Government is extending a supportive hand to the plight of these children, their patience, willingness, their cooperation, discipline and commitment are of critical importance.

Having identified and defined these children in this context, it is essential to emphasise and ensure that the implementation of the Cabinet Decision on the children of the liberation struggle takes an integrated approach than otherwise.

Comrade Speaker, the key issue in this whole exercise is, first and foremost, the creation of an understanding of the situation and the implications thereof by both the public and the concerned children. Finally, it is important to underscore that this is a process and there can be no shortcuts if durable solutions are to be assured, as urgent as the issue is and has to be treated as such. There is thus an urgent and very important need for the understanding, patience and cooperation of all stakeholders, including the children themselves. Comrade Speaker, I thank the Honourable Members and yourself for your kind attention. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his statement. Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

31 March 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHIDINWA**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am humbly rising to make this Ministerial Statement with great satisfaction on the achievement in service delivery by the SWAPO Party Government and, in particular, that of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. My intervention at this occasion was necessitated by various questions asked by some Members of this august House with reference to passports and immigration matters, in particular.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I will try to confine my statement to the matters around the issuance of passports and travel documents. The processes between the passport, birth registration, identity documents and immigration control are, however, so interlinked that it may not be entirely possible to completely divorce the above process.

Honourable Members will certainly recall that after His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, in his wisdom, created the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration separate from Police matters, we have since that inception singularly focused all our attention on accelerated service delivery. The results within a year were the reduction of waiting periods for passports from 100 days to 10 working days and identity documents from almost two years to 28 working days. Our production capacity has increased with the influx of applications for identity documents from the recent mobile registration project. As a result, we now have a backlog of three months behind the normal 24 days. We have tried hard to maintain those standards ever since without compromising the integrity of the documents and to be a step or two ahead of impostors and fraudsters. Namibian passports are extremely sought after by fraudsters due to the international prestige our country enjoys.

This accelerated service delivery presented a number of challenges such as, old perceptions, die-hards and the great majority of our people still continue to apply for passports to use as identity documents or a status symbol. The number of passports being submitted for renewal which do not bear entry or exit stamps clearly indicate that in 5 years they have never been used. In some instances, some citizens apply for both identity documents and passport at the same time and while the other is in process, whichever obtain first serves the

31 March 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHIDINWA**

purpose of identification. This is one of the factors leading to thousands of uncollected identity documents and passports.

During the last Financial Year we had approximately 5,000 uncollected passports at the head office alone. The notion that a passport is a substitute for the identity document has to be discouraged. We have, therefore, introduced another measure that every applicant for a passport who is over 16 years of age, must submit their identity document or in case of emergency, at least prove that he or she has applied for an identity document.

The birth certificates and the Namibian passports, mainly manually written passports, were detected in wrong hands and in many instances with the collusion of Namibian owners of these documents. The Ministry has, therefore, taken various steps to safeguard the integrity of national documents. The manually written passport had the provision for extension for another 5 years. We had to, however, discontinue this provision as from the 1st of April 2006 due numerous forgery attempts.

Currently Namibia has introduced machine readable passports as per International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards.

It is against this background that I am requesting Namibians who are still in possession of handwritten valid passports to surrender them and apply for the machine readable ones as a matter of priority in order to avoid travel inconveniencies. We have informed the public about this through the media since July 2008. The Ministry will continue to issue passports for 5 years as advised by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). We are aware of some countries that issue passports valid for more than 5 years, but those countries will reduce the validity of their passports to 5 years by November this year as part of security measures, as we are all advised by this international organisation.

Only Namibians are entitled to apply for Namibian passports that should come in person with original documents, not through third parties. This requirement will be stringent with the new passport system we have introduced to keep abreast with the latest technological advances.

Reference has been made to the latest measures that the Ministry have taken to temporarily curb the demand for passports while we are finalising and

31 March 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHIDINWA**

migrating to advanced systems. We would certainly want to be sure that all those applying for the passports are going to travel within the next 2 or 3 months and therefore require proof to that effect. The stock levels of virgin or blank passports have been going down faster than the anticipated arrival of the next order and we can certainly not afford a situation where our travellers to Europe and elsewhere outside the Region are unable to travel. It is with this consideration in mind that we are requesting mainly one-time travellers to SADC Region to make use of emergency travel documents only as an interim measure.

Despite all the measures that we have taken, the demands for passports have outstripped all our projections. Just to give the Honourable Members some sense of the situation, in 2004 before the reduction in the waiting period, the demand for passports stood at 24,000 per month. From 2005 to 2007, this figure has risen to 40,000 per month. In 2008, however, we have seen the demand rising unexpectedly to 60,000 per month despite the demand-curbing measures we have taken. Without these measures we would certainly run into 100,000 of which 20,000 would not be collected.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration's service delivery plans yielded better results that all Namibians may be proud of. It is in recognition of this effort and programmes that Namibia has passed the United Kingdom visa entry test and as such, Namibian citizens will continue travelling to the UK without the need to apply for visa for the purpose of an ordinary visit.

We are, therefore, kindly requesting the Honourable Members of this august House and the ordinary citizens for a little bit of patience and cooperation in this regard. We have proven in the past that we live by our word and deserve trust. With these few words, I thank you for your kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for the important information. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

31 March 2009

**RECONSIDERATION: SECTIONAL TITLE BILL
HON !NARUSEB**

RECONSIDERATION: SECTIONAL TITLES BILL

SECRETARY: Reconsideration – *Sectional Titles Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement now Move that the Assembly now reconsiders the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: It is Moved that the Assembly now goes into Committee and that I leave the Chair. Who seconds? Objections? Agreed to.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Sectional Title Bill* [B.7-2008] as passed by the National Council with the proposed Amendments.

Clause 2 put.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, in Clause 2 –

Substitute the following Subparagraph for Subparagraph (ii) of Paragraph (a):

“Where a scheme comprises more than one building, any such building may, subject to Section 7(4) be divided into a single section and common property in accordance with this Act.”

31 March 2009

**RECONSIDERATION: SECTIONAL TITLE BILL
HON !NARUSEB**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussions? Any objection to the Amendment? Agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 41 put.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Deputy Speaker, in the Bill, substitute the following Clause for Clause 41:

“Functions and powers of bodies corporate to be performed or exercised by trustees.

- (i) The functions and powers of a body corporate must, subject to this Act, the rules and any restriction imposed or direction given at a general meeting of the owners of sections, be performed and exercised by the trustees of the body corporate holding office in terms of the rules, subject thereto that -
 - (a) the majority of trustees must be owners of sections;
 - (b) a trustee or an alternate trustee is elected annually at the annual general meeting in terms of the rules but is not required to be the owner of a section or the nominee of an owner which is the juristic person;
 - (c) owners of sections may be represented by their spouses on the body corporate; and
 - (d) the managing agent or any of his or her employees or any employee of the body corporate does not qualify for appointment of trustee.
- (ii) For the purposes of an agreement in respect of the beacons and boundaries of the common property required in terms of the Land Survey Act, the trustees of the body corporate are deemed to be the owner of the land in question.”

31 March 2009

**RECONSIDERATION: SECTIONAL TITLE BILL
HON !NARUSEB**

I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment. Any further discussions? Any objections to the Amendments? Agreed to.

Clause 41, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 55 put.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, in Clause 55 –

Substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (9):

“Subject to Subsection 11, a member of the Regulation Board appointed by the Minister in terms of Subsection (2)(c) or 8, holds office for a period of three years.”

I so Move.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions? Any objection to the Amendment? Agreed to.

Clause 55, as amended, agreed to.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Bill reported with Amendments.

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

HON SPEAKER: Having considered the Amendments, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill and, therefore, concluded the business on this item. I shall now, in terms of Article 75(2), refer this Bill to the President of the Republic of Namibia to deal with under Article 56 and 64 of the Constitution.

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
SECOND READING**

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

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Friday 27 March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any further discussion? Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this particular Budget Debate should, in my opinion, be more than a good or a bad Budget political argument on both sides of the divide. It is in fact an economic barometer that measures our human progress and challenges that we face as a country. This Budget comes at a time when the world economy is facing a recession and our own economy is facing a downturn.

Honourable Speaker, let me from the onset quote an ancient great politician of his time, Marcus Cisero, who once remarked: *“All pain is either severe or slight. If slight, it is easily endured; if severe, it will without doubt be brief.”*

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

Honourable Speaker, I take the Floor cognisant of the fact that an important international gathering is taking place where the world's powerful leaders under the G20 are meeting in London and allow me to stress the following to have on their menu in the interest of humanity:

That the meeting of the G20 should resolve, without delaying the conclusion of the Doha Free Trade in all earnest and to further reform the IMF to reflect the balance of economic powers' strength in 2009 instead of 1945.

It is my belief that concrete steps on free trade, all for the developing world and international financial reform remain within the world's reach and the opportunity should not be lost in London now that the world is facing difficult economic times.

Honourable Speaker, the positive side of the Budget is the corporate tax for non-mining companies cut from 35% to 34%. This appears to be well received by many business people. It is a welcome relief in the current economic climate and may improve the competitiveness of Namibian companies in relation to their international competitors.

The tax exemptions on retrenchment packages that are increased from N\$100,000 to N\$300,000 is a positive move. This is a good intervention in that it provides a direct relief to those households affected by redundancies. The tax-free amount on pension payouts that can be taken as a lump sum increased from N\$20,000 to N\$50,000 are all positive signs of the Budget.

The zero-rating of VAT on milk and sugar added to the list of food items is welcomed as a positive gesture in our National Budget. However, what remains to be seen in reality, in my opinion, is whether retailers will not keep the difference as part of their profit margins. Measures should be employed to address this would-be undue benefit from the retailers' side.

Honourable Speaker, I have been consistently pestering the Ministry of Finance to remain within the realm of the targets and I am perturbed by the fact that the fiscal targets appear to have been quietly changed in order to accommodate the fiscal stance in the Budget. In the Budget documents of the past two years the targets were a constant feature, when the remarkable consolidation of public finances meant that both deficit and debt targets would be easily met. In this year's documents, on the other hand, one has to turn to

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

Page 153 of the MTEF to find out that the target of the average MTEF Budget deficit has been raised from 3% to 5% of the GDP and that the public debt target has been raised from 25% to 30% of the GDP. The expenditure target of 20% of the GDP seems to have been dropped altogether. It is important that we do not do wrong Budget planning that somehow cheats ourselves from intended projection or prudent management of our resources.

Honourable Speaker, tools that we put to measure performance must be workable and adherence thereto remains cardinal. I think the greatest failure of the current Budget is three-fold and this must be addressed in earnest and I list them in no priority order.

The Performance and Effective Management Programme (PEMP) is a good idea in principle, but in its current form it serves no purpose. Government should review the framework, either reduce the targets and indicators, make them relevant and ensure that the Votes are providing accurate figures. As it stands, one is forced to revert to looking at the Vote spending on the overall targets in the accountability report when judging performance. Many PEMP indicators are thus indirectly related to Vote performance. Most do not stipulate numeric targets with deadlines and many are filled with confusing, obsolete numbers and percentages, leaving blanks or having numbers that are quite obvious that they could have just been put in there without due cognisance.

Honourable Speaker, the important issue in this Budget that needs to be addressed, and I think other Colleagues have addressed it, is the administrative capacity that is not sufficient to ensure smooth and timely implementation of capital projects. Obviously, when we debate this Budget longer, delays would have a negative impact to stimulate our economy and to safeguard jobs. I recommend that there is a need for us to enable the fast-tracking of tender procedures, while at the same time ensuring that funds are spent efficiently.

If one looks at the Education that is the greatest recipient of the national cake and tender terms of reference under ETSIP, you would find that most of these terms of reference are so rigid and it takes longer for companies to ensure that these projects are implemented in the required period. The reform of the Tender Board, in my view, through an Amendment Bill is long overdue to speed up the implementation capacity of capital projects. Greater emphasis on

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

these capital projects should also be made to the use of local inputs, both in terms of labour and material.

Thirdly, Honourable Speaker, is the economic argument advanced by the Minister of Defence and his colleagues, saying that the reason why we are appropriating large chunks of funds to the area of Defence is that it is also addressing unemployment. It is also addressing infrastructure development. The argument is not economically sound. If the Government intends to create jobs, let us create jobs in this country, but I want to be on record – and Honourable Kawana can quote me on this one consistently – that the amount we are spending in proportion to our Defence Budget is reaching an appalling stage. We are spending too much on Defence. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: We are going to rescue you in the NDF helicopter.

HON VENAANI: If you want a rescue helicopter, that should be done by the Emergency Unit. Do not buy an NDF helicopter. That argument is not economically sound. The country cannot have a Defence Budget of N\$2,6 billion, it is not sustainable.

Honourable Speaker, let me turn to a matter that is very profound to our Party's political position and that is that the Minister of Finance has missed her slogan of "*pro-poor*" by not allocating more resources to the social pension grants. The paltry amount of N\$450 per month, which only just went up last year, is not being adjusted. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, you are proposing that there must be a helicopter specifically for emergencies. These flood emergencies occur maybe every two or five years. What would you use this helicopter for if there is no emergency? Is it not good that the helicopters which are already there could be utilised in case of emergency?

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: The counter-argument is that you can buy as many helicopters that you want and if you do not have any calamity for six, seven years, you have not created jobs, people are suffering and you have birds waiting for a calamity one day. It is important for us to have proper barracks, a well-trained force. Those arguments are sound, we must have them, but not at the expense of the country's development. That is my argument and I have been very consistent on this matter.

The N\$450 pension amount per month has not been adjusted. There is no way to stimulate the economy than allocating more to our pensioners that have been receiving them in terms of inflation. I call on the Government to reconsider this great omission by appropriating more for the social pensions and I propose the earnest consideration of at least N\$680 under these difficult conditions. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, floods have taken place three consecutive years in Caprivi and the North and in the South too. How can you rescue these people if you are not prepared? You have to prepare ahead for times of floods. Most of the time wars break out because of the economists. They create commotions and that gentleman cannot be allowed forever. I am challenging him. I am against him. I do not want to create war because of struggles of economists, they cannot afford to be anything they want to be. We have been watching this for all these years and sometimes we have to put our foot down.

HON VENAANI: I have been saying consistently that our Defence Budget is rising at proportional rates. If you compare the proportions of our Budget to the USA Budget, it is nearly the same figures. The amounts may not be the same but the proportions are the same. It is important for us to slow down on our Defence. The justification that we need barracks, that we need well-trained soldiers are sound and we agree with that but it is not going to be sustainable and that is my argument. (Intervention)

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is well-known for making unsubstantiated allegations. I would, therefore, like him to tell us how he arrived at the figure that our Budget is more or less the same as that of the United States of America.

HON VENAANI: I do not know what has been in the blue between the two of us, but the United States is spending close to 11% of their National Budget on Defence. We are spending 10%, which is very close.

Honourable Speaker, I want this House to consider N\$680 for the pensioners. The expansion of the funeral benefit is welcomed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? You are saying that the proportion of the Namibian Budget to the United States is almost equal. Equal to what? You have to substantiate, because the US Defence Budget is trillions of dollars. You do not know what you are talking about. That is what the Pentagon spends on Defence, trillions! Yet here in Namibia it is not even close to a million US Dollars. What are you talking about? These unsubstantiated allegations should stop. The other day you were lying here in broad daylight. You were lying here in front of this House!

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, it is my intention while I am in public office to respect others and I intend to respect you as an elder Brother and I will just request you to do the same. Nevertheless, the proportion of percentage can be compared. I am surprised by the argument that the US Budget is in trillions. It is just the same as saying that you cannot compare Windhoek with Cairo because the people in Cairo are millions, you cannot compare Alexander Bay with Otjiwarongo. I am talking about the proportions of the percentage. (Interjection)

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

HON MEMBER: Give us the figures.

HON VENAANI: I am not representing the US Government. Check the figures.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. We are not saying we compare the ratio of the United States with that of ours. In percentage it could be equal, but the needs are not the same. That is the point.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, the expansion of the funeral benefits for the elderly is welcomed, but my argument is that it is better to honour and assist one in life than to better the condition in death. I believe there is a need for us to reconsider the pensions.

Honourable Members, the bail-out of Air Namibia is not entirely a surprise to me since it was projected in the MTEF. The Minister of Finance must in no uncertain terms tell this House as to whether there is any partnership agreements with international airlines to partner the ailing airline, as she proposed in her last Budget Debate. I quote what you said in 2007: “*Air Namibia needs to enter into a strategic alliance to benefit from economy of scale.*” What is stopping our airline to enter into these strategic alliances? To rescue Air Namibia we need to do something. The Government has agreed that something must be done, but the question is, what stops us from entering into strategic alliances?

Honourable Speaker, the under-performance of many parastatals has become a matter of great concern. Of late State-Owned Enterprises have been caught up in a glamour of mismanagement. We hear every now and then either of the establishment of a commission of enquiry, or the suspension of a senior executive, while our people are prejudiced of their hard-earned cash. These inquiries or suspension of senior executives bear testimony to the disgraceful state of these entities and can lead to the collapse of corporate governance. (Intervention)

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Member aware – maybe he is too young, he was not around that time – that Air Namibia was negotiating with South African Airways on a partnership agreement and South African Airways came up with the idea that Namibian Airways must cease to exist basically, not to operate in international routes and create a regional airline and only run that? Are you aware of that?

HON VENAANI: I have heard about it, but South African Airlines is not the only strategic alliance in the world and if the South African Airways have said we should take off our flag, that was unpatriotic as African brothers. But what did the others say? The same? If they said the same, say so. I am just asking you to explain why Air Namibia has not entered into a strategic alliance. You have the responsibility to explain as the elected Government of the people. Do not attack me if you do not have an issue.

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

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I was trying to talk about the issue of corporate governance in this country, that most of the time many of our Chief Executive Officers are not running businesses in which they have a direct interest and this is really a serious issue that this country needs to talk about.

Other major economies can talk about their problems because of the poor performance of those companies and the bankruptcy they are facing, but the issue of our corporate leaders in this country must be addressed and I want to agree with what Honourable Nujoma has suggested the other day, that the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council should ensure that non-performing parastatals are not going to give bonuses to these people. Those people who are not performing should not get bonuses because we do not regulate the salaries of the Chief Executive Officers. In certain instances the boards of directors of this country are signing remuneration packages that our

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

own country cannot even afford and it is a serious matter which needs to be addressed.

Honourable Speaker, the affordability of parastatals is a matter of great concern and their dividends need to improve. The Minister presented the total dividends received over the past three Financial Years as amounting to N\$950 million, but she failed to mention that more than two-thirds of the N\$648 million were proceeds from the sale of MTC shares in 2006. Surely, the selling of State assets, in my opinion, does not qualify as dividends, or does it, Honourable Minister?

Honourable Speaker, the Budget has failed in my opinion to boost and to equip our tourism sector in preparation for the two soccer bonanzas in Angola and South Africa. Now the reasons can be many because of the downturn that we are facing, but I think we have missed a great opportunity by not appropriating enough resources to make sure that we are going to reap benefits from these two soccer bonanzas in Angola and the World Cup in South Africa next year. One issue that I have been very consistent on is our country's lack of a proper branding and advertising strategy to market itself as a destination for tourism. Such an effort costs us dearly; we need a proper coordinated strategy to market our country.

Currently South Africa is marketing itself as a destination for the World Cup, but one would have loved to see a situation that we say South Africa is a neighbour of Namibia, Namibia is a gateway to the World Cup. We are not doing that and we are missing an opportunity. The Government has improved on the conservancies in our communal areas, the number of game, the vegetation, the beauty of our people, but we are not doing enough to promote this country as an international destination and we need to do more.

When one goes to international airports, and I want to take Botswana as an example, after the Kenya mayhem of elections, Botswana knew that Kenya was really one of the greatest African tourist destinations, but they capitalised on what happened in Kenya. If you go to a Canadian or Swiss airport, you would find that Botswana is asking people to visit. We should do more for Namibia to be that destination.

As we are all aware of the hard-pressing times that lie ahead, we welcome the support Government is extending to our citizens hit by the flood, although it is

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

not sufficient because of many other reasons. Honourable Speaker, a very quiet, silent calamity waits for many of our farmers in the rural communities owing large amounts to NamWater and our silence on this issue is undesirable. Therefore, we should reflect on writing off the debts of those rural communities owed to NamWater.

We appropriate over N\$33.7 million to the Founding President's Office, N\$26.8 million is to be spent on construction and renovation of the offices. We are the only country that allocate so much for the constructing an office for somebody who has retired. (Interjections) Let me just have my opinion and my say. Under the conditions that this country is facing, to build an office for someone who has retired – and I respect and honour the man – to me is not pro-poor. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question to Honourable Venaani? Honourable Venaani, are you aware that President Nujoma is the man who brought Namibia to where we are today? Nujoma is a decent person and when you are talking about Nujoma, he is the Founding President.

HON VENAANI: *Okunene Okuhepa.* Rightly so and that was my argument that we must pay this price, because he is the Founding President. No person in this country and especially of my age and older do not recognise the role that President Nujoma has played in this country, even to free people that opposed him like myself, that he has done. As a citizen of the country...(Intervention)

HON CHRISTIAN: May I ask a question to Honourable Venaani? Honourable Member, do you know that the Honourable Founding Father has retired, but do you know that he has not retired in his mind and he is a resource for this country?

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: He is a resource for this country but he is a retired State President. I am not in favour of the country spending these millions. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: May I ask the Colleague a question, please? Honourable Venaani, do you not think it is hypocritical that a Member of Parliament who has passed the Budget as a law to appropriate that amount of money, say it is not good to have that money? Do you not think it is hypocritical?

Secondly, do you not think it is hypocritical that a Member of Parliament – I am not talking about you – to say things like that, knowing we have passed a law for the Founding President to give exactly what you are countering? Do you not think it is hypocritical?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Colleague, I have passed a Bill to give all the benefits and all the respect accorded to our retired Head of State, but I did not pass any Bill to build buildings for him. Maybe you did, I did not. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Venaani, I just want to give you some information with regard to what you are saying. Maybe you are not aware of what happened and I would like to bring you to the point so that you can understand clearly. Those years you have been saying that State House belongs to the Founding Father, but we were saying that State House belongs to the Namibian people. It means that when you become president one day, then you will stay there. The same applies to the office of the Founding Father. This construction does not belong to the Founding Father, it belongs to Namibians. All the presidents who retire will go there, it does not belong to one person. Therefore, there is no need for you to say that this one belongs to the Founding Father.

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: Colleague, human nature is like this: When your partner or spouse goes to a shop and buys a dress on the 15th of the month for a thousand dollars, you complain about the timing of the dress, but when you go to a wedding and see this lady of yours looking good, you tell her she looks good. However, that does not denote the fact that when she bought the dress it was the wrong time. The State House is the most beautiful State House that I have entered in my life, but you have built it at the wrong economic time and that point remains.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order once again. I will keep reminding my Son that he should refrain from making unsubstantiated statements. When he made that statement that State House was built at the wrong time in history, can he just quantify what he is saying?

HON VENAANI: Madam Secretary-General, I am sure you are riding on the little wave of last night, however, the quantification is the following: As we are talking today, this country has an unemployment rate of over 40%. Had you spent this money on job creation, the unemployment rate would not have been 40% today.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: On a Point of Information. I always paid attention when my younger Brother was talking seeing that he is a scholar, but after what I saw on television I have to be careful. Honourable Venaani, you mentioned the house of the former President, do you know how many Botswana has? They have built two so far, one for President Masire and another one just now for President Mogae and there was even a complaint that it was too expensive, 5 times more than President Masire's house. Are you aware of that? You said we are the only country and that is not true, Botswana has done that.

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: Botswana has built residences for retiring Presidents and South Africa has done the same for President Mbeki. (Interjection). If you are saying “*combined*”, you are constructing this one, this is the residence of the President. Why do you not make it the residence? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Venaani is talking about the timing and he has been talking about the timing since I have joined this Parliament, meaning that had we followed his timing, we would not have had a railway, it was bad timing. We would not have had the State House, it was bad timing. We would not have increased the salaries of the workers, it is bad timing, the Heroes Acre. Every good thing to Honourable Venaani is bad timing, therefore we should not take him seriously when he is talking about bad timing. Honourable Venaani, the stomach will never be satisfied, that is why feeding the stomach and do other things must always go concurrently.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Katali, Honourable Venaani’s timing would have created jobs for this country. Honourable Venaani’s timing would not have thrown 250,000 Namibians on the street by failing Grade 10.

Honourable Speaker, I want to draw the attention of this House to a more substantive issue that is very close to my heart and I have been saying that all the time. We must be very bold, if you listened to yesterday’s remark, Venaani has never mentioned a name. Honourable Speaker, the Department of Transport is granted one of the largest increases to N\$1,4 billion, a 36% increase from 2008/09. Most of the spending is consumed by road construction and upgrading as well as air transport infrastructure, which is a positive thing, but Honourable Speaker, one matter that I think I need to bring to this House is the fact that some projects are getting greater emphasis, but when one looks at the road that was proposed a few years back to link the Trans-Kalahari to the Trans-Caprivi, the Gobabis-Otjinene-Grootfontein road, it is still today in its infancy. It is only a stretch of about 46 kilometres that was tarred. (Interjection). I am talking about that road, the reason why you are not listening to me is because of elections. Usually you do, now listen.

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

I have a problem with the way that we appropriate and do not spend and it is not because these are capital projects that are difficult to be implemented. This road has been lying idle for the last 4 years and I do not know why that road is not being built. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. I want to invite Honourable Venaani on the 9th of May to Ovinange so that he can see the election he is talking about.

HON VENAANI: I also want my Cousin to be the Regional Councillor there but he is not yet elected. Let us leave it at that. (Interjection). I am talking about the husband who is running for the election there, he must become Councillor.

If you look at the implementation phases of the Green Scheme, we should have been very far and we really need to do something. We cannot be a country which theorises about big projects and then we do not implement them. The impression is created that if a project is not supported by Hon Saara Kuugongelwa it is not getting any funding. I am just using that as an example. It seems to me that certain people control projects in this country and that ought not be the case.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I want to turn my attention to the *“Geingob Economic Downturn Commission.”* (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Can he withdraw that, there is no Geingob Economic Downturn Commission. I know he is used to telling untruths.

HON VENAANI: There is a Commission headed by the Minister of Trade and Industry and that happens to be Honourable Hage Geingob, with all due respect, an elder statesman of this country. A Commission is always named

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

after the leader and I will not withdraw, because you are the leader of that Commission, the Geingob Commission.

That, in my opinion, is a cardinal commission to address the current economic hardships in which we find ourselves, a body which I believe would recommend measures that would need additional appropriations if it wants to challenge the downturn head-on. I want to state up front that I espouse the policy of creating and establishing a stimulus plan to boost our economy...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? Comrade Speaker, when I was appointed to chair that Committee, in the spirit of transparency and inclusivity I invited all the Parties, leaders, all of them. To my surprise, only the Republican Party and NUDO accepted. Why did the DTA not show up, since they are so interested, to participate? They were not there. Why?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, the invitation has not reached the office. You know me, if you invite me to something, I always pitch up. Correspondence must reach the office of the Secretary General of the Party, I have not received your letter. Maybe it is lying somewhere in your bureaucracy. You have not invited us, because I have not received the letter. Honourable Geingob, there is no way that you would invite our Party to this eminent respected body and we would not attend. We did not receive it. However, that is besides the point. The point is that many of our economists in this country are arguing and disagreeing that we do not need a stimulus package in this country and I beg to differ with them. I believe that to create jobs and to boost infrastructure development, we need to do more than the Budget has proposed. A massive programme on low-cost housing will boost employment and improve the lives of our people and I believe an additional N\$2,3 billion or more is needed to create over 36,000 jobs in construction of housing, especially for poorer communities.

I, therefore, believe that a possibility of looking at measures of funding a stimulus must be employed without delay and the coordination between the

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

Trade and Finance Ministries is of paramount importance if any serious results are to be expected.

Once more, the result of the last African Summit of the IMF that was held in Dar-Es-Salaam recently must be shared with this country's leadership so that we are aware of the deliberations.

Generally, many African Nations should grab the opportunity offered by the IMF and other global institutions to stimulate their economies at this point in time even if they are not directly hit by the recession, because if you look at many countries in South America and Central America, they are asking the IMF funding to boost their economies and we are seeing a lot of African countries which are lagging behind in trying to stimulate growth. European countries and richer countries have borrowed to the maximum, but our economies have not done so.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Venaani a small question? Honourable Venaani, why are we always trying to be hypocritical? You started by criticising the Budget, saying that the deficit is growing, yet you want us to borrow more money from the IMF. Is that not a contradiction in itself, in order to have a stimulus package, so that we have more than 35% of the GDP as debt? Is that what you want? Whatever we need, we have to be prudent and cautious so that we do not increase the deficit, so that we do not put the burden on the generations-to-come to pay these debts. You have started by criticising and now you are saying we must get the money from the IMF.

HON VENAANI: I take great exception to this argument you are making, you must learn to listen. I was talking about the targets, not the deficit. The targets must remain as is, so that we know when the red lights are flickering. I did not say that the deficit is getting higher.

My argument is that if you look at the stronger economies, many of them have borrowed to their maximum capacity, but if you look at the weaker economies, we have not borrowed to that capacity and if there is finance available in the

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

world to stimulate our economies, we should do so. That is how those countries got to where they are, because they borrowed a little bit more. That is my argument.

Honourable Speaker, the mining companies which are currently most affected by the downturn do not benefit from the changes in the tax-cuts and it is such a Commission's job to create incentive packages for industries. I can only hope, as in the words of Cicero who said, "*all pain is either severe or slight, if slight it is easily endured, if severe it will without doubt be brief*", that the economy pained before it is severe but that it would pass briefly. That is my fervent wish. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Dr Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Despite the continuing tough economic times, we have formulated a sensible Budget, a pro-poor and pro-growth Budget and an inclusive Budget. We have presented a Budget that provides real opportunities for all Namibians, the workers and the businesses. We have been presented with a Budget that protects the most vulnerable. The Budget has a vision to change our lives – to change the life of a child and the life of an elderly in need. This Budget, therefore, is an investment in the future.

At this point in our country's economic road map no one needs to be reminded that we cannot afford political posturing. I thus invite our Colleagues, particularly from the Opposition, to keep their interventions realistic, fiscally responsible, specific and solution-driven. Yes, it is an election year and of course, my sympathy on that occasion to you. We should not believe in pure eloquence, superficial and trivial rhetoric and unsubstantiated utterances. We want results to shape the destiny of Namibia. Namibia is all gates open, all doors open, all windows open and with infinite opportunities.

The SWAPO Party Government should be commended for having recorded significant progress in many socio-economic areas. When we say this we are

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

not boasting, but stating the reality. We are what we repeatedly do and do it so well and that is delivery. Delivering on our promises is not an act for SWAPO, but a habit and our character as a Party.

Investment growth has increased from an average of 6,4% during the NDP1 period to 11,6% during 2001/06. Further, economic growth also increased from 3,6% to 4,7% during the same period. Inequality has also declined, as demonstrated by the gini-coefficient. Poverty levels have also come down significantly and proportion of poor households declined by 26% and that of severely poor, by 56% between 1994 and 2004. HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in pregnant mothers declined by 20% in 2002 to 17,8% in 2008 and contribution by SMEs to the GDP doubled from 5% in 2000 to 10% in 2004.

Honourable Speaker, although challenges still remain, the SWAPO Party Government is prepared to aggressively address these challenges. It is amazing that some Colleagues, including those in the House, condemn us for starting specific programmes and for funding specific programmes.

We cannot wait until everything is right, it will never be perfect. There will always be challenges, obstacles and less than perfect conditions. Therefore, we should get started and for those who condemn us for having built the State House there is never a good or perfect time.

One of the basic causes of all the trouble in the world today is that people talk too much and think too little and provide little solutions. SWAPO Party is different, we act. This has again been demonstrated by the Budget we are discussing which is pro-economic growth and a caring Budget for all. The Budget shows that we are an excellent country heading towards greater heights. Honourable Speaker, the Budget is pro-economic growth and I would like to propose to the Honourable Colleagues from the Opposition to learn to accept good things.

First and foremost, expenditures across the board have been significantly increased. It will soften the impact of global economic crisis on Namibia and perhaps even prevent the economy from contracting in the near term. Moreover, the Capital Expenditure Budget and expenditure in the economic sectors, in particular, have been significantly increased, which will support longer term economic growth.

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period an amount of N\$12,8 billion has been set aside for investment in productive infrastructure and support services and that means job creation. This will, in turn, support economic growth and therefore, employment creation. Therefore, let us learn to appreciate and accept good things.

The Budget is pro-poor as the bulk of the budgetary allocations went to the protection and expansion of social capital, with the combined allocation to Education and Health sectors standing at N\$24,3 billion over the next Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. This evidently represents investment in the reduction of poverty.

Furthermore, the zero-rating of additional food items, additional spending on social grants, for example war Veterans, and the tax schedule provisions which imply extra money for low-income earners are measures of a caring Government meant to reduce the burden on the low-income group and I again say, we have to learn to accept the good things.

Our history determines our future. Namibia has a history of prudent fiscal policies which now hold us in good stead as it allows room for Expansionary Budget and taxation reforms which are aimed at stimulating economic growth and protecting the poor. Therefore, let us accept that we have a prudent fiscal policy.

Honourable Speaker, we do not want to be judged by the goodness of our gross national product, but we want to be judged by how we care for the weakest and the most helpless of our citizens. We do not need to be judged by the size of the deficit, but by the economic prosperity that the Budget creates. We will be judged if we do nothing. The SWAPO Government has acted by putting in place enduring and living policies that talk to the needs of the people.

Honourable Speaker, I listened and I know that both Honourable De Waal and Honourable Henk Mudge seem to be frustrated and at times excited about Air Namibia, which is good, maybe for some dubious reasons. I want to say that Air Namibia deserves our support. It contributes to the economy, Honourable Venaani. It is estimated that between April 2008 and March 2009, Air Namibia has transported over 400,000 passengers. The airline has generated N\$1,3 billion in revenue in 2008/09, of which N\$560 million were spent here in Namibia and therefore the airline deserves our support.

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR A IYAMBO**

I want to address one area of great concern to me, and that is that this country has been good at building economic infrastructure. We are economically healthy, we are on the right track, but I think we should build our social infrastructure. Rape of the elderly and children, the dumping of babies are signs of a broken and dirty social infrastructure and we have to improve as a country.

May I say a few words about the global economic crisis. 2008 can be described as a year of volatility, but development started in 2006 with rising interest rates. Inflation statistics became worse and worse as oil steadily climbed to high levels. Consumers faced the onslaught of food inflation and escalating personal debt. The property market declined, banks faced bankruptcy. The largest economies of the world slowly started to admit that their economies were in recession.

The crisis does not care for the poor, for the sick, the hungry and humiliated and that is the most unfortunate. I do not believe that the crisis will last that long. Humanity knows the cause of the crisis. There are no indications that the same will be repeated. The global crisis has not taught us anything new that we did not know, it however reminded us about the urgency with which we need to introspect and transform as well as diversify our economy. We will fail to effect transformation if we ourselves do not change. The real introspection needs to come from every individual citizen. We will never balance the Budget and we will never capture the problem of the deficit if we do not tackle the moral deficit that is destroying our society. The balancing act is not for Government alone, it is for all of us.

The crisis has reminded us that in the face of macro-economic imbalances, markets are unable to correct themselves in the absence of decisive and bold intervention from Government. We are focused on the immediate response, but our eagle eye remains fixed on the long-term goals.

Finally, Namibians are wonderful people, we have achieved success in life. We have stood strong when adversity has hit us. We have made the setting of a clear vision our bosom friend encompass. Our unity as a Nation has become the fuel to propel us to greater heights. How we do things in Namibia makes me feel happy about the human race. Namibians assist those in need. This gesture is the price and fruits of success in Namibia. We should take time to share, it is too short a life to be selfish. We share the bitter and divide the

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IILONGA**

grief. The Budget, therefore, is caring and is people-centred and I support the Budget. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Deputy Minister Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
Comrade Speaker, I rise to make my contribution to the National Budget. It is once again an opportunity for Parliamentarians to debate and speak our minds.

Comrade Speaker, let me congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy, Comrade Tweya, and the Director General, Professor Peter Katjivivi and the entire staff of both offices. I thank them and I am proud of them for the simplified 19th National Budget which was drawn up in a difficult situation of economic downturn, but they managed to come up with a pro-poor, pro-growth Budget.

I know the Opposition always asks what is pro-poor and pro-growth and I have deliberately made this copy for people who do not know what is pro-poor and pro-growth. I listed all 13 Regions of our country and what will be allocated to them under the Development Budget and I call upon the Regional Councils, the private sector, the parastatals and the Government to make sure that this money goes towards the creation of jobs for our people.

Even though the world economy is not good, the SWAPO Party Government, under the leadership of Comrade Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, raised the tax threshold from N\$36,000 to N\$40,000 per year. Therefore, our workforce in that category will be relieved from paying tax and this will boost their purchasing power, which will also stimulate the economy.

Another indication of pro-poor, and pro-growth is the cut of 1% for our income group. That 1% will leave us with something to enable us to buy more groceries than we used to buy when we were paying that to the Ministry of Finance.

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IILONGA**

Comrade Speaker, I call upon Regional Councils and those who will benefit from this N\$4,6 billion to create jobs and employ our young people. Here I want to ask the Chief of the Region where I have been staying for seven years now, Chief Garoëb, to call upon the Councillors under his rule to also include young people who are not members of UDF, because honestly speaking, one could see the selective morality of these people from the list sent to Defence. Even DTA members are excluded in the Kunene Region and, therefore, I call upon my Chief to advise his Councillors to include all the people in that Region, because we are going to be elected next year. (Interjection). Comrade Speaker, that is why I say they should use the example of the SWAPO Party Government. Sometimes people say we do not care, but we care for all Namibians, even those not belonging to our Party, because when we employ people, we do not ask them. However, Chief, there was a complaint and a petition was made and this will be your last chance to have that power and if you do not accommodate the people before the next Regional Councils elections in 2010. You might have a problem because the people will say they were left out. That is my humble advice because at the moment they are the ones implementing the programmes.

I also want to call upon our parastatals and our vocational institutions to introduce the pre-primary school training of our young children at their primary schools, so that when these kids reach the tertiary stage, they are ready and willing to go into those fields. I recall that in 1971 when the first ever technicon school...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Comrade Iilonga a question? Do you know that when we were growing up as children we had to go to vocational institutions to start laying bricks and so on, but when we were growing up, when it rained you used to put your foot in the sand and then built a house over your foot and then pulled the foot out? Do you know that is vocational training?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Uutoni, that is exactly what I am saying, that our young people can

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IILONGA**

only become good builders and constructors of their country when they acquire those skills. In 1971 when the first technical

school was introduced in Ongwediva, which that time was called *ambag*, some of us decided to go there. What happened is that we were laughed at, but today I do not need a plumber to do anything in my house, I can do it myself because I have acquired those skills and I also train my children at home to do this.

Therefore, I call upon the Deputy Minister of Education that we take that as a challenge, that during the holidays we train the children in those fields because that will help us in future. I always say that we have to take the examples of other countries. Malaysia and Singapore were like us, but when you meet them today, they are boasting that, “*yes, we were there where you are now.*” People who can manufacture or design something must be trained from that early stage.

I must repeat what I always say, that many Governments intervene in the economies of their countries. Today we are facing a problem with the economic downturn, mines and companies are closing down and where are we going to get tax money? Therefore, we need to have our own farmland where we can employ our people and become self-reliant so that we do not even need to import food. We have enough fish and we can have a factory to can our freshwater fish. Right now we dry the fish. There are a lot of mopani shrimps in Honourable Tjombe’s area. In Zimbabwe they are canning it and we even need to can the mopani shrimps. Only when we start doing things differently the situation will change.

Comrade Speaker, I always say that we need to embark on skills development. If a country has doctors, they can operate on you, but even that knife used by the doctors was not manufactured by us. When you have a crisis, you have the doctors but they do not have the tools. Therefore, we need to come up with a programme for us to overcome this problem. We need to train our own scientists, designers, engineers and mechanics, a person who can even mould an engine block or manufacture parts, so that we ensure that Namibia by 2030 is on its way to reach that goal.

Comrade Speaker, I know that expatriates and foreign investors will never stay in our country for ever and when they leave, you have problems. That is why I want our Government, through the Ministry of Education, to design a pilot

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IILONGA**

programme of 15 years in which we select students to be trained in different fields and honestly speaking, within those 15 years we will get somewhere. I am happy that the Government is building a Faculty of Engineering in the North and our learners need to be trained during the holidays. The students must practise their skills with the children and from there we will find Namibia manufacturing its own everything by itself.

I also want to ask the Government to change the method of issuing bursaries, not to say this is Venaani's kid, he is a Member of Parliament, we cannot give him or her a bursary. If the parents have to pay for their training, these people will never be loyal towards their Government. Malaysia did it, they go to schools and select 10 or 15 children for one field and ten for another field and then you pay scientists to come and train them.

Comrade Speaker, as this is an important year for our born-frees, I want to quote Comrade President Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia and of SWAPO Party, when he reminded us during his address to the Nation on the occasion of the celebration of the 19th Independence Anniversary at Keetmanshoop: "*The people who do not know where they come from will not know where they are and they will not know where they are going. They are doomed to perish.*" As Namibians we must take this serious call that we must know where we are, where we come from and we must know where we want to take Namibia. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask a question? Is the Deputy Minister aware that the youth and a group of Ngurare are plotting against you to have you removed from this House?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, further Comrade President Hifikepunye Pohamba called on us to move away from alcohol and drug abuse and he further reminded the born-frees that as a national day, this day is also an important day for the *born-frees*, those fortunate Namibians who were born post-Independence and asked them, those who have attained the voting age, to register in order to vote for their first time, unlike you and me who came to vote when we were already

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MBAI**

old. Here I want to support Comrade President and join him in reminding the born-frees that it became possible for them to be born free because of the sacrifices, bravery and the gallantry of the sons and daughters of our soil who stood firm to fight against colonialism and the apartheid regime and oppression which some of you supported and are still supporting. You even want apartheid to come back. It will never come back, we buried it and it will never come back to Namibia.

Comrade Speaker, constant vigilance is the price of honesty, efficiency, accountability and responsibility. Therefore you find that the SWAPO Party members are always vigilant and if you sneak into SWAPO, we will see you. With those few remarks, I support the Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister. Honourable Mbai.

HON MBAI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, now that the current Financial Year has come to a close, please allow me to comment briefly on the Budget for the 2009/10 Financial Years as well as the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

I believe one of the Government's economic objectives is to build a strong economy and a fair society where there is opportunity and security for its entire people. Therefore, much of the Budget for 2009/10 must be seen as a tool to continue creating stability and opportunity, building a sustainable future.

I want to make use of this opportunity to thank the Honourable Minister for her reports that our Government policies are delivering its short and long-term goals. These include the improvement of the social safety net to relieve poverty particularly in rural areas; fostering of human resources development through better health and education; investment competitiveness enhancement and growth promotion; the improvement in revenue streams; efforts by Government to continue enhancing investment in pro-poor, pro-growth activities and also Government continues meeting its strict fiscal rules for

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MBAI**

public finance. These are some positive observations and they deserve to be encouraged in order to secure stability and opportunity for all.

Honourable Minister, it is however equally very important to ensure that our macro-economic sustainability must be translated into programmes and activities which result into tangible benefits for all our people in all Regions, Constituencies, our towns, our villages in our beautiful country.

Finance capital knows no boundaries and globalised trade currently reaches every corner of the world, Namibia included. Disruptions that have travelled across the global landscape rapidly continue to negatively affect our people on a daily basis. If higher oil prices at some stage lower growth in central Europe and Japan, what about our small economy, even if our objective is to build a strong economy?

Global expansion and growth in some emerging economies, like in Asia, India and China and Central and Eastern Europe, have impacted on the prices of all major commodities. Higher prices of commodities eventually benefit mineral rich economies. However, it bears wider ramifications with regard to our small economies.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, rising food and fluctuation of food prices is currently causing anxiety and hardships in our country. It is, therefore, indispensable to revisit our strategies and programmes more, especially if we envisage embarking upon improving the social safety net to relieve poverty particularly in the rural areas. We took these decisions early when times were good, but the global disruptions and challenges are so severe and raising the inflation outlook everywhere.

Honourable Minister, I support your endeavours to improve the welfare of the vulnerable groups by putting aside resources to cater for the welfare of the OVCs, the pensioners and the war Veterans.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, whilst we lack a proper baseline to determine and register OVCs in every town and village because of lack of social workers, I am not confident that we do enough to cater for these cadres, even if we intend to put aside resources. Let us start by employing enough social workers, if not a social worker for every town, why not for every

Constituency to register all OVCs in order to implement effective programmes that will bring about change in the quality of their lives?

Natural disasters: Although I support provision made in this Budget for hardships caused by natural disasters, relief for those affected by droughts are not always reaching the affected communities while under severe need of this assistance because of deficiency in proper registration, distribution and early warning mechanisms.

Health: The provision of adequate ambulances as well as outreach services to facilitate access to health facilities for remote sick is a positive move and needs continuous support over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. However, additional attention should be considered for those hospitals operating under church auspices and subsidised by Government.

Education: Government allocation of resources to give students who failed Grade 10 the opportunity to repeat is a welcomed move. Therefore, more classes and facilities are needed to accommodate more expected Grade 11 learners. It is, however, regrettable to note that although the Ministry provided for the repeaters to have another opportunity, the output and results in some areas are not encouraging.

Road development: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is evident that there are skills, experiences and resources required to ensure that Regional and Local Councils are fully capacitated to function effectively and efficiently. A Regional Council is the highest decision-making body at the regional level. The body is supposed to be entrusted to spearhead all development activities in the Region, but some Line Ministries continue to cause confusion and disparities, irrespective of the policy of decentralisation. This state of affairs requires immediate interventions.

Although the allocation made to expand rural electrification and distribution of rural water supply is very much welcome, I again propose to the Government to revisit and examine the issue around the historical water debts. The poorest of the poor in rural areas need to be assisted to meet the cost of water and electricity.

Honourable Minister, this Budget must take further steps to meet the long-term challenge of delivering decent and affordable housing. It is really unfair to see

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-CUBE**

our people living in cartons and corrugated iron shacks everywhere you go in this country. Communities are prepared to participate in the Build-Together Projects, provided that these projects are well-managed and properly funded.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is expected from us in this House this time around to announce packages of access to finance measures, including enhancing the small-scale entrepreneurs to start up and grow their small businesses.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, our high rate of unemployment remains our greatest economic challenge. Over the past decade and more we have done much to reshape our economy and there has been little progress in employment creation. We are challenged to re-examine our investment policies. Our future economic and social development depends largely on the productive sector to produce jobs and revenue needed, but if the sector, irrespective of attractions and lucrative measures, remains dormant, then we will have to go back to the drawing board and address this challenge. However, Honourable Minister, the additional allocation you made to the productive sector this time around, including funds for SME support, support to aquaculture, agriculture production, tourism development and management of the environment is commendable and a step in the right direction.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let us put aside unnecessary politicking in this House and rather compel us to mull the divisions of the past and establish a society based on our democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights and also to improve on the quality of life of all citizens and up the potential of every person. Last but not least, let us build a united democratic Namibia, able to take its rightful place as a sovereign State in the family of Nations. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, before I congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance and also contribute to

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-CUBE**

the Debate on the 2009/10 Budget, allow me to express my disagreement about something.

It is quite obvious and common knowledge to us all that whenever Budgets are tabled during election years, the Members of the Opposition hopelessly attempt to score some cheap political points. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, did I get you right, did you say that the very progressive and effective Opposition are always doing what?

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Member, you must listen carefully to what I am saying. I said, it is quite obvious and common knowledge to us all that whenever Budgets are tabled during election years, the Members of the Opposition hopelessly attempt to score some cheap political points by referring to the Budget as an election Budget or campaigning for elections through the Budget.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would however make it categorically clear that the SWAPO Party Government ever since Independence on 21 March...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Honourable Ncube, I respect your tone. You are a harmonious, respected Honourable Member of this House. Those words coming from your statement is extraneous and I am not shocked, I know that is not your tradition. Even while reading that kind of speech, you are laughing because it is not your tone. You are a respected Honourable person whom I have known since this Government was established.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chief. With due respect, I am a politician, I am not different from all the other politicians.

31 March 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-CUBE**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would, however, like to make it categorically clear that the SWAPO Party Government, ever since Independence on 21 March of 1990 has presented Budgets that have considerably levelled the playing field in true social service delivery and upliftment of general conditions of the Namibian people, especially the previously disadvantaged masses and the rural poor. It is an undeniable fact that Namibian people in a free and Independent Namibia under the leadership of the SWAPO Party, which has in fact liberated it from the yoke of apartheid colonialism...(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The House shall adjourn under automatic adjournment until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.04.01 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
01 APRIL 2009
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, given the likelihood of forgetting and being responsible for that, I want to first begin by expressing my deep appreciation for the congratulations, the best wishes and support that I have always enjoyed as Speaker, but more so as duly elected President of IPU. In the latter capacity I will be travelling tomorrow morning to Addis Ababa, to preside over the 120th Session at the IPU Plenary Assembly. I know I will take along your best wishes to that Assembly from this House, but that having been said, the State of Nation Address will be delivered by our Head of State on the 15th of April. We know what that occasion represents, which means that we will stick to the calendar of the business as indicated on the daily Order Papers and dispense with everything that we need to attend to prior to the 15th of April. Thereafter the House will sit in the Committee Stage and deal with the individual Votes of the Ministries, Parliament, Offices and Agencies. I shall continue to rely on your praise and goodwill. The able Deputy Speaker will need your usual support and wise counsel so that we stick to the calendar as we have agreed.

Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions?

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 36:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 9th of April 2009, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy the following:

1 April 2009

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON VILJOEN**

1. Can the Minister agree or deny that nepotism is the order of the day when issuing petrol licences and giving permission for filling stations?
2. What is the good intention that during December every year there is no petrol at Omusati in Tsandi, Okahao, Onesi, Outapi, Katima and Ohangwena Region for the festive season?
3. Can the Minister explain as to whether this is intentional or is due to the ignorance of the Ministry?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Question? Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Viljoen.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 2nd of June 2009, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Discusses and considers the extensive problem of alcohol and drug abuse in Namibia and the problems which the Ministry of Health and law enforcement officials encounter in dealing with these problems.

I also Move that this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Resources.

I so Move.

1 April 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Minister of Veterans Affairs.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON
BENEFITS FOR VETERANS**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, there is a serious trend developing in our country whereby people are instigating Veterans of the liberation struggle not to accept programmes which the Government and the Ministry are putting in place to help them and that they should only demand payment of a lump sum money.

I want to emphasise here that the Government, through the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, is determined to design and put in place various schemes and programmes which would benefit the Veterans of the liberation struggle. Giving some money to Veterans in the form of lump sum payment may be considered as one of the various interventions and programmes, but not as the only way in which the State is to help the Veterans. Above all, the payment of a lump sum of money to Veterans would be dictated by and depends on the objective reality of the economic performances and the availability of the resources of the country.

The Ministry is intending to table a Bill in this august House very soon which will address some of the programmes and initiatives that will be put in place for the benefit of our Veterans. This will include, but not limited to the following:

1. Payment of reasonable amount of money to the Veterans of the liberation struggle as a token of appreciation.
2. A package of benefits, such as -
 - (a) exemption of Veterans from payment for treatment at Government health facilities;

1 April 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

- (b) free travel on some public transport owned by the State and its parastatals;
- (c) free education for Veterans and their dependents;
- (d) payment of reduced tariffs for some public services, such as those provided by the municipalities and Town Councils;
- (e) given free access to artificial limbs, wheelchairs and orthopaedic shoes for those Veterans who are in need of such devices;
- (f) free holidays in some resorts, etcetera, etcetera.

The details of each of these benefits have to be worked out, depending on which benefits we are providing.

3. Help for Veterans who want to engage themselves in business ventures to enable them to establish such ventures.
4. Building decent houses for qualifying Veterans.
5. Resettlement of Veterans on the land purchased by the State for agricultural purposes and giving them the necessary capacity to farm successfully.
6. Empowering Veterans who live in communal areas to be able to involve themselves in activities which will generate income for such Veterans.
7. To provide funeral assistance.
8. Adding more Veterans to the list of those who are already receiving the N\$2,000 subvention.

These are just a few issues that we are contemplating bringing here so that it becomes effective in law. In a nutshell, there are many, many ways to help the Veterans so that they can live a better and reasonable life. Therefore, it is not acceptable and it is irresponsible for those who are going around instigating Veterans to only demand for a lump sum payment of money and reject all the other equally important benefits. I do not want to reveal the identity of these

1 April 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

persons or let me say, these agents who are instigating the Veterans, but we may be forced to bring them to order if they persist with this unpatriotic and counter-productive activities.

The Government is very serious about promoting the interest of the Veterans of the liberation struggle and will continue to find ways and means to better the conditions of life of our Veterans. Therefore, there is absolutely no need for anyone to push or pressurise the Government.

To the Veterans I just say, they must have faith and confidence in the Government. The Government is addressing their plight and does not need any middleman and middle-woman in this process. I request the media to convey this message in detail to the masses of the people out there.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the fact that not all the veteran Members of this House are registered or have registered themselves. I would like to assure you that the registration of Veterans is an ongoing exercise and will be carried out as long as this Ministry is in existence. Those who did not register on Monday, should not worry unnecessarily. Dates will be arranged and they will be informed accordingly so that they can be register. We shall register and register until the last Veteran is registered. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his important statement and I particularly want to thank the Minister on behalf of the endangered Tanganyika Group.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for his statement, but I think it is important for a Minister to actually reveal the cost of all the programmes to the country.

HON SPEAKER: That is a substantive issue. Maybe you could bring a Motion on that. Minister of Lands.

1 April 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON !NARUSEB**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members. I have followed with keen interest the Debate generated by the Motion on Land Prices moved by Honourable Kavari on the 10th of March 2009 in this august House and in which the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Nahas Angula, Honourable Iivula-Ithana, Honourable Albert Kawana, Honourable Dr Tjiriange, Honourable Utoni Nujoma, Honourable Gurirab, Honourable Tjihuike, Honourable De Waal, Honourable Riruako, Honourable Katali and many others contributed constructively. However, I do not want to repeat what was already said...(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Minister, this issue is still on the Order Paper.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: It is a Ministerial Statement.

HON SPEAKER: It is a Motion still on the Floor and if you want to contribute to that Motion, then you can take the Floor when we get to that Motion. Thank you very much. Any further Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: NAMIBIA NATIONAL DISASTER
RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Consideration of Namibia National Disaster Risk Management Policy, March 2009.

1 April 2009

**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

HON SPEAKER: When the Assembly adjourned on Wednesday, 18 March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Policy on National Disaster Risk Management. Honourable Schimming-Chase adjourned the Debate and she now has the Floor.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise to commend the Right Honourable Prime Minister for having been instrumental that we now have a Disaster Risk Management Policy. I would not call it timeous, but I am welcoming it because it has become clear that because of climate change, disaster is going to be with us for a long time and without such a Policy, we will always start acting when it is too late.

I am very happy to read the Policy which seeks to minimise the loss of human lives, to advocate a new approach to this risk management, to advocate for shared awareness and responsibility to reduce the disaster risk, especially the involvement of NGOs and communities and especially the fact that we want to facilitate partnerships in this regard between organs of the State and the private sector. I am especially happy about the last policy, which is to provide the framework for the development of a Disaster Risk Management Act of Parliament. I am saying this, Honourable Speaker, because Parliamentarians worldwide have actually gone much further, because it is now scientifically known that disaster risk reduction can be used as a tool to manage climate change and to ensure that we adapt to what would come upon us in terms of climate change.

In view of that, Honourable Speaker, I would just like to share with this House what the Parliamentarians of the world have committed themselves to in the Philippines in October last year:

That Parliamentarians will commit themselves to promoting close cooperation between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and to cooperate with experts and institutions with a view to increasing efficiency and effectiveness in reducing people's vulnerability to climate related disasters; to promote an enabling political environment to establish cooperatives and mutually beneficial relationships between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and there is a call to all Parliamentarians around the world,

1 April 2009

**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

especially in countries vulnerable to disasters – and that certainly includes Namibia – to take a proactive role in advancing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in order to protect lives and livelihoods.

Honourable Speaker, we are daily losing lives, people drowning in the northern part of our country and we are forced to ensure that this does not repeat itself every year. I, therefore, hope that now that we have a Policy and we are now preparing to introduce an Act, that we will also seek cooperation with all the other countries that have already committed themselves to disaster management as a tool for managing climate change and I thank the Prime Minister and I support the Policy. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion? Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Yes, it is a very good move and it needs the support of all of us. I would ask to go a little bit further than this, to start thinking about measures that will prevent disasters. Of course, one does not make an appointment with a disaster for when it is coming, but there are certain measures that one could take to minimise or prevent disasters, rather than just to help the victims of disaster after the fact. For example, we have areas that are flood prone, Mariental in the South and the North and North-East. These things can always come when rains come in the way they did. Because of what Honourable Schimming-Chase said on climate change, these things will come now and then.

What are the measures that we may take? We can think of measures to prevent some of these disasters. There are those which are more difficult, but there are others that could be easily implemented. For example, we cannot compare the situation in Mariental with that in Caprivi. One can definitely do something about the issue in Mariental and prevent very serious consequences, but the same cannot be applied in other Regions which have the same problem, because of the nature of the disaster.

1 April 2009

**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY
HON DR AMATHILA**

Therefore, in addition to this, I think we must start thinking in the direction of preventing those things that we can prevent from happening. I would have liked the Prime Minister to address this and it is unfair of me to say the Deputy Prime Minister has to do it, but if she can, fine. If not, the Prime Minister is still around and he can do it at another stage. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Any further discussion? Deputy Prime Minister.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, I am in a position to respond because I was very involved in this Policy and Disaster Management is my responsibility.

I, therefore, would like to thank *Honourable Chase* who has welcomed the Policy. I would not say the Policy is long overdue, but these things are not very easy. We even travelled to Mali when we were discussing this Disaster Prevention and Management, so I am happy that at least the Policy is quite clear for everybody to read and understand what is happening. I am also happy that the Parliamentarians as well as SADC is involved in disaster management in the southern African Region.

I would also like to come to *Honourable Tjiriange's* question. It is very difficult to prevent disasters, although we try. In Mariental we know we are dealing with a river and we know exactly where to take action, but in places like the North you have the *efundja* and the people who live there know that this year the *efundja* will come in Omusati Region and next year it goes to Oshakati, it does not have a specific pathway. Then it is very difficult to see where the *efundja* is coming from and even if the Angolan Government tells you that the *efundja* is on its way to Namibia, it is very difficult to prevent it within two, three days because people already live there.

However, other disasters such as veld fires can be managed because we can tell the people to cut the grass so that the paths are clean and the fire does not spread from place to place. Other disasters can be prevented, but with floods it is very, very difficult. The level of floods is also another issue.

1 April 2009

**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY
HON DR AMATHILA**

In 2008, our floods were rapid and they disappeared rapidly, but in 2009 the floods came slowly, we had torrential rains and the *efundja* came and the water level was very high. Right now we still have floods in Caprivi going inland. How do you prevent crocodiles going to the villages if you do not know where the flood is? Hippos have also come out and I understand some lives have been lost.

With a tsunami the sea disappears for twenty minutes and then it comes back with very high waves. Even if you know, it is very difficult to prevent. I think I have answered Honourable Tjiriange's question.

Colleagues, I am very happy that the Policy will be passed so that we can come with an Act of Parliament in order to have a very good document to refer to. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Deputy Prime Minister. I now put the Question, that the Policy be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Second Order.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
SECOND READING**

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

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 31 March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Ncube had the Floor when the House adjourned under automatic adjournment. You may continue, Honourable Member.

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, before I continue with my contribution, I would like to express my dismay on the turn of events yesterday. I was very severely and brutally attacked from behind my back by an Honourable Member of the Official Opposition. Honourable Speaker, I never in my life thought that some people can become so vulnerably emotional and choose to go beyond reasonably acceptable terms of expression and become completely unruly and personal. I am of the opinion that this august House is a place where mature politicians deliberate on issues of important national concern so as to devise workable solutions for the problems our people are facing. However, it is sad and unfortunate that we become so deliberately personal and express worthless notions, such as back-dated political membership, being a politician by accident, not being elected by people, etcetera. I would like the Honourable Member to appreciate that there is no single formula for producing politicians and there is no one who receives applications and decide as to who becomes a politician or not. Each politician is formed by experience. It is pointless to question one's political affiliation. Whether the Member likes it or not, they will never reverse the process that brought me into politics.

Honourable Speaker, I regard this as political bankruptcy because one does not know what to say, how to say it or to whom to say it, because one becomes directionless and dangerous like a stray bullet. I know that it was unfortunately expected of me to be a lenient, a smiling, sweet, nice and submissive woman and a disabled woman for that matter and never ruffle any feathers, not talk real politics, act like a token, a window-dresser and make everybody comfortable. That patronising I will never accept. However, I am an equal Member like anyone else and have equal rights to express my wishes and contribute to Debates in this House in the manner that I deem fit.

The question as to say when and how, as I heard some Honourable Members from the Opposition ask yesterday during my introductory statement, will never influence my integrity as a person, loyalty and credibility to my Party and passion to serve the Namibian Nation to the best of my ability regardless of my physical challenges. Be it as it may, Honourable Speaker, allow me to continue with my contribution and I will start where I have ended.

Honourable Speaker, I would, however, like to make it categorically clear that the SWAPO Party Government, ever since Independence on 21 March 1990, has presented Budgets that have considerably levelled the playing field,

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

improved social services delivery and uplifted the general living conditions of the Namibian people, especially the previously disadvantaged masses and the rural poor. It is an undeniable fact that Namibian people in a free and independent Namibia under the leadership of the SWAPO Party which in fact liberated it from the yoke of apartheid colonialism are now better off socially and economically compared to the suffering, oppression and exploitation during the colonial era which some of the Honourable Members in this august House were part of.

Therefore, the SWAPO Party, as the people-centred Party, of the people, by the people, for the people has been and will continue aiming at the improvement of the lives of all Namibians, be it election year or not.

Having made that crystal clear to the Honourable Members, I believe and I thank and I congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Madam Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for a short, powerful and straight to the point Budget Speech on the 2009/10 National Budget. I wholeheartedly support the Budget and the allocations to various Votes.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no doubt that, given the persistent global financial crisis or the global credit crunch and subsequent economic downward spiral, the overall outlook of the Budget as presented by the Honourable Minister remains indeed pro-poor and pro-growth. As the Honourable Minister rightfully mentioned in her statement, I, for the past four years that I have been a Member of Parliament and actively participated in its deliberations, especially budgetary deliberations, experienced that there has been a consistent increase in State revenue which, in turn enabled the Government to pursue an expansionary fiscal policy in order to address our socio-economic development challenges while maintaining a sustainable fiscal policy. That is indeed commendable and I thank the Honourable Minister for the excellent way she is handling our scarce financial resources.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe that the Debate on the National Budget in this august House is the most opportune moment to give credit where credit is due. Therefore, before I touch on some aspects of the Budget which I regard as being exceptionally outstanding, I would like to do just that, to give credit where it is due.

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

Many positive developments transpired countrywide under the excellent governance of the SWAPO Party. I would have loved to mention all of them but that will keep us here for the rest of the year. Let me therefore now rather focus on development that benefits the poor and vulnerable members of the society, especially OVCs, the elderly as well as the people with disabilities.

The gradual increment of old-age pension, disability allowances and other social grants and also the considerably large number of the persons being covered reasonably ease the social plight of the beneficiaries of such a grant. I have no doubt that these positive developments will continue. However we also need to find ways and means to empower some of these people socio-economically in order for them to be self-sustaining and not become permanent welfare cases. I do not think that our initial objective is to become a welfare State.

The increment of the monthly grants to our liberation war Veterans and ex-combatants as well as the establishment of the Ministry dealing with their specific concerns is a welcome development. I trust the Ministry of Veterans Affairs has proper programmes and interventions in place that will address the needs of those ex-combatants who are currently not benefiting.

Honourable Speaker, the issue of accessibility of physical infrastructure, especially buildings, both public and private, for persons with disabilities have reasonably improved. I am particularly grateful to you, Honourable Speaker, for the concrete steps you took to make Parliament accessible for persons with disability and user-friendly in general. I believe that some buildings and other infrastructure that are not yet accessible will emulate the example of the Legislative House instead of waiting for legislation to deal with them. However, I have observed the inner structure after the adjustments have been done and have come across some areas that need further adjustments, for example fitting of stair-lifts that will make access to the Pink Room, Room C.1 and the way down to the restaurant easier. As a matter of fact, a balanced physical environment must be established to make the entire Parliament user-friendly.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia, a dry and arid country with frequent devastating droughts, as we used to know, has come of age since we are now experiencing constant flooding especially in the central north and north-eastern parts of our country. This, of course, can only be attributed to

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

the global climate change or is it the global climate crunch? The question is, is this now the price we have to pay for globalisation? Anyhow, the actual point I want to make is to congratulate the SWAPO Party Government for the prompt and timely actions taken by the Emergency Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister to mitigate the situation and help the people affected by the flooding. I also thank the private companies, foreign Missions, NGOs and even individual members of our society that are taking the Government's hand to lend the necessary assistance to the people whose lives have been disrupted by the flooding.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to touch on some aspects in the Budget which I regard as exceptionally outstanding and these are the VAT zero-rating. The VAT zero-rating on some basic commodities, such as sugar, milk, maize-meal and cooking oil is a welcome gesture for our poor communities, especially the rural women and other vulnerable members of our society such as the elderly, orphans and vulnerable children and others in need. However, it is disturbing that there are some shops that shamelessly exploit the kind gesture of the Government to the people by not adjusting their pricing accordingly. Such people that are enriching themselves at the expense of the poor should be named, blamed and shamed.

Since 2005 we have been experiencing continuous surpluses, especially in the external sector which recorded a surplus of N\$4,1 billion in 2007, compared to N\$1,1 billion in 2006. The surplus is also a direct result of Government's improved revenue collection process. It is overwhelming that the surplus increased from N\$2,3 billion in 2006/07 to N\$3,3 billion in the 2007/08 Financial Year with a prediction that for the 2008/09 Financial Year a surplus of about N\$138 million is expected. Honourable Speaker, I am not an economist, but I think one does not need to be a rocket scientist to conclude that our finances are in capable hands of the SWAPO Party Government.

Capital controls and financial supervision: The positive developments that are reflected in our overall financial sector is a result of the consistent and prudent supervision in capital controls of the Government. We must also acknowledge the role that the Bank of Namibia and the Namibian Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA) played in this regard. I congratulate these two institutions for a job well-done.

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

In the same breath, Honourable Speaker, it is common knowledge that some banks and financial institutions are charging dubious fees for their services, not to mention that such institutions are by and large still no-go places for the vast majority of our people to obtain loans. I urge the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Namibia and NAMFISA to implement measures in order to remedy the negative trends and tendencies of those financial institutions.

Revenue outturn: Honourable Speaker, the public revenue outturn, as reflected in the budgetary statement of the Honourable Minister, is a very positive trend. The total revenue collection and grants amounted to N\$20,7 billion in 2007/08, which is N\$2,3 billion more than the estimated collection and N\$4,5 billion greater than revenue collection for 2006/07 Financial Year. Indications are that due to improved fiscal policy and revenue collection of Government, by January this year, 2009 N\$18,8 billion was collected, representing 97% of tax revenue of the year. I am happy about the improvement in the revenue collection, because only through the availability of financial resources can the Government be able to implement its programmes aimed at socio-economic development of the Namibian people.

As reflected in the Budget Statement, Government expenditure is, in my view, quite satisfactory. Of the N\$17,8 billion budgeted for 2007/08 Financial Year, N\$17,3 billion have been spent, which is 3% lower than the initial allocated Budget. What is highly commendable is also the fact that the under-spending – overspending ratio on various Votes has reduced from seven to four votes overspending. Honourable Speaker, I think that under-spending does not necessarily have to be seen as poor project or programme planning and implementation, but definitely as proper Budget control and frugal application of the scarce financial resources.

The reduction in overspending, thanks to the Honourable Minister, is a result of improved Budget control by various Votes through the implementation of the Integrated Financial Management by the Ministry of Finance. This indeed is worth applauding.

Honourable Speaker, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, since first introduced for the period 2005/08 and now for 2009/12, with programme budgeting for the Ministries, Offices and Agencies has proved to be a workable budgeting method.

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:10 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Speaker, I mentioned during my contribution to the 2005/06 Budget Debate that I am confident that shifting from line item budgeting to programme-based budgeting, as provided for within the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, is a viable solution and that Ministries will continue to base their programmes and activities on medium-term plans.

Health and Education Sector: I am grateful for the considerable increment to the budget allocation of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Education. These intertwined Ministries are dealing with issues most crucial to development of the country and the improvement of the living standards of the people, since only healthy people can be educated and only educated people can develop the country.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and thanks to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services for finally establishing the National Council on Disability as per the provision of the National Council on Disability Act (Act 26 of 2004) which provides for a Council to be established that will deal with the implementation of the National Policy on Disability. I believe that the Honourable Minister will make an allocation in his Budget for the National Council on Disability in order for the Council to become fully operational. In general, the improvement in the provision of health services, the establishment of a cardiac unit, the roll-out of the ARVs to the regional health centres and clinics and the procurement of necessary health and medical equipment is indeed a welcome achievement.

As for Education, I am grateful for the increase in the Budget allocation for the Ministry of Education. The arrangement that was made to allow Grade 10 learners that could not make it, to repeat indeed yielded positive results, as many of those who were allowed, passed. However, the issue of inclusive

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

education is there in theory as provided for by the Policy on Inclusive Education, but in practice there is still a lot that needs to be done with regard to the physical environment that does not cater for persons with disabilities. The lack of technical equipment that can enable the hearing and visually impaired to attend mainstream educational institutions is also a major burden. I will also suggest that Braille and sign language courses must be part of the curricula of teacher training in order to remedy the situation. Nevertheless, there are two schools that I know of in Windhoek where sign language interpretation and Braille are used. These schools are Kosmos High School and Windhoek Technical High School. I commend the Ministry of Education and the said schools for this milestone.

Transport: With regard to transportation, I thank the Ministry of Works and Transport that for the efforts that have been made to adhere to the regulations in place to make buildings accessible. However, access to public transportation for the elderly and persons with disabilities is a matter of great concern. Public transportation, such as the municipal buses, trains, local and long distance taxis are virtually beyond the use for these persons. In this regard, I can only make an urgent plea to the Ministry of Works and Transport to take drastic action to redress the situation. Legislation must be put in place that would oblige architects to design buildings and other physical infrastructure that are user-friendly, because the absence of such legislation is being taken for granted by architects and contractors.

The condition of pavements, especially at some street corners makes crossing, very difficult for persons, especially those who use wheelchairs for mobility. Notwithstanding this, I compliment the Ministry as well as the City of Windhoek for inserting some signals in traffic lights that alert persons with visual impairment to cross streets.

The provision for closed caption sign language interpretation on NBC-TV for News and Talk of the Nation Show is indeed a welcome development, although the incorporation of sign language interpretation to interpret the Parliamentary Report to the hearing impaired must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

In terms of the various sectors that I have mentioned as well as the others that I have not mentioned with regard to accessibility, I would like to quote from the introduction of Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights and Dignity of

1 April 2009

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

Persons with Disabilities that Namibia as a country ratified and is a signatory of and I quote:

“To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, State Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access on an equal basis with others to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communication, including ICT and systems and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public both in urban and in rural areas. These measures will include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility.”

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have no doubt that the SWAPO Party-led Government is well on track with regard to the management of our financial resources. At the backdrop of the prevailing global economic crisis, I believe that we will collectively face up to all odds against us and safeguard the Namibian economic boat from sinking to the bottom of the ocean. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for her contribution. Honourable Ankama.

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I also appreciate the opportunity accorded to me to mention a few points on the Budget being tabled. Any judicious-minded person should be able to see the linkage between Minister Kuugongelwa-Amadhila’s past Budgets and the current one. Yes, the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with others behind the scenes, deserve a thunderous round of applause from both this House and the Nation at large for keeping up Namibia’s financial status and balance.

The significance of our national economy, clearly stipulated by the Minister of Finance, amongst others can be viewed and interpreted positively in the following summary:

1 April 2009

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

1. Our GDP growth for 2008 records 2,4% despite the global economic crisis.
2. Our external earnings recorded a surplus of N\$4,1 billion in 2007, as compared to N\$1,1 billion in 2006.
3. Lowering of the deficit on the capital and financial account from N\$7 billion in 2006 to N\$4,9 billion in 2007.
4. Our insurance industry showed a surplus asset of N\$1,8 billion by end of 2008, showing a sense of capacity in this sector.

In addition to the above successes, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, our National Budget during 2007/08 was able to take care of the senior citizens by increasing their grant by 21,6%, provided for OVCs' livelihood, boosting of the school feeding programme, provision for the Veterans, Emergency Management Unit, repetition of Grade 10 learners, etcetera, etcetera. These are just but a few of many things the SWAPO Government can be proud of having achieved amidst competing and scarce financial resources coupled with challenges of the global financial crisis.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as a lawmaking body and the Nation at large, we have and are witnessing a number of financial policy changes in many countries of the world, small and big alike. Bailouts is the buzzword and the situation is tense and serious. Namibia is part of the global world, we are equally affected by the world's financial turmoil, yet our financial institutions have so far remained on course. We should, therefore, congratulate ourselves as a Nation because together as Government and private sector we are in control of our economy.

Having said that, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, all the successes should not be misinterpreted as having reached a milestone in transforming our economy to cater for all our citizens. We have a significant number of unemployed people, especially the youth entering the streets annually. The quantity of the unemployed appears to swell yearly and we need to be very worried about this. The fact that we have some projects aimed at swallowing up the unemployed is not enough, we should have a national source of a quantifiable databank that can inform us how many unemployed we have, their level of education, type of training they have done or skills needed and the type

1 April 2009

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

of job opportunities available per year. We need to know about any recruitment made, by which company, where and so forth. In essence, we need to have a fully funded body that oversees jobs in the country, regulates careers and advises both Government and private sector to spearhead our growing economy, so to say.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, both the floods and the drought will remain part of us. What we do not know perhaps is when any of these two natural calamities will strike again. Yes, a lot has been done but we need to do more. In my Budget interventions and speeches the past years I repeatedly requested for the construction of earth dams to harvest water in flood-stricken areas. It appears dams are now underway. We will have no more reasons to ration water in towns and cities even during dry seasons. Let me first quote my statement during the 2007/08 Budget Debate on water harvesting and earth dams:

“I have continually listened to Colleagues, probably with expertise in the field of water harvesting, cautioning that harvesting of water is impractical as water becomes salty, especially in the northern Regions where it floods and water dries up within less than six months’ time. Nevertheless, I am not yet convinced by this argument. If water gets salty when harvested in earth dams, then why do we not look for alternatives, such as constructing dams in the style of those at various mission stations around the northern Regions? Solar water pumps can be installed to pump out water for animals to drink. Do animals really need purified water for their drinking? Even for those who want to do irrigation for their crops, they will be able to use untreated water. If huge water harvesting projects are planned, designed and constructed along natural water flows and catchment areas such as Etunda and many more, we will have no problems. I have seen man-made lakes in some countries which provide a lot of economic sense and opportunities for socialisation. We can start small in terms of project funding and achieve big for our people in the long-term.

In the same vein, we must find a way amidst such scarce resources of constructing bridges at crossing points in flood endemic areas in order to allow people free crossing during rainy seasons. This year’s flood (that was last year) should teach us an unforgettable lesson even if such a flood comes once in a hundred years’ time.”

1 April 2009

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

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, this was my statement on the water harvesting and earth dams during the Budget Debate of 2007/08. What I want to underline here is that natural calamities are unpredictable. They come and they cause havoc, but their prevalence at times can be used to our advantage.

Deepening of natural lakes or create mega dams to hold more water for more years may make business sense to the communities who live close, such as fishing, water sporting and beach camping, including lodges, as birds and wild animals may frequent such places. We may consider in the next Budgets inclusion of long-term projects, maybe 5 or 10 years or so, construction of even up to 4 mega earth dams. Eventually they will bring fortune to Namibia as a whole.

In my conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to urge that anybody, Ministry or entity who receives money from this House should do their level best to implement programmes in accordance to the Budget they have requested the money for. The money we appropriate in this House is public money and should be used immediately as required in the interest of the Nation. I am the Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee called the Public Accounts Committee. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. I just want to advise the Honourable Member that the point that he is making is very important, that the money has been budgeted for and should be spent for the purpose. It is crucially important, Honourable Member, because I understand that one of the crucial Ministries in Government is running out of paper because of bad planning. It is important for you to advise those Ministries, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that they are running out of paper at this crucial time of the year.

HON DR ANKAMA: I do not have any comment on that. As I have said, I am Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee called Public Accounts Committee and our Committee is aware of unused money that goes back to Treasury by the end of the Financial Year by some institutions, including Ministries. This, in my opinion, is improper and tantamount to sabotage of Government programmes and projects. Those who do that, who

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON LUCAS**

want to label the Government that it has not done enough to improve the socio-economic value of our country, they must seize doing that. It is my appeal that Budgets be used in the norm and spirit that it has been appropriated for.

In total I support this pro-poor, pro-growth 2009/10 National Budget. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of SWAPO Party, its rank and file, allow me to register our solidarity and support to Honourable Ncube on the incident that she has just shared with this Honourable House. It is our wish and prayer to the Almighty God that peace be with her today and forever more.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am honoured to be accorded this opportunity to contribute to the Debate on the 2009 Appropriation Bill. At the onset, I would like to commend Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance, her Deputy and the entire staff of the Ministry of Finance for presenting a Budget which is well-balanced despite the global economic difficulties.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, over the last week or so this august House has been seized with a very important Debate on the Appropriation Bill, aimed at improving the welfare of our people. I regard the Debate on the prospects for improving the welfare of our people as indeed very important. It is ultimately the basis on which voters judge as to who is able to create a better society. We are a caring Nation, hence the provision of welfare in our Constitution, Article 95. The sentiments expressed in Article 95 and Article 98(1) of the Constitution are embodied in the Constitution and political programme of SWAPO Party, respectively. Commitments to the welfare of people of Namibia have also been central in all SWAPO Party Election Manifestos. It is our desire, vision and mission to improve the standard of

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON LUCAS**

living of all the people of Namibia. We are clear on how to improve the standard of living of our people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in his Budget Statement yesterday, one Honourable Member from the Opposition benches was trying to indirectly reintroduce a popular Motion of his Party, that of increasing the old-age pension from the current N\$450 to N\$680. The welfare of the people is an effect of the economic growth and development. Nowhere in his statement was reference made to any practical strategy that his Party could deploy to generate additional revenue and thus making the proposal credible and sustainable. The absence of reference to economic growth leads one to conclude that the proposal was not well thought through before it was presented to this House. Therefore, one cannot commit Government to expenditures of the magnitude proposed without a strategy for economic growth and development. I must remind all those who are thinking along the same lines that the current rate of growth cannot sustain old-age pensions at the level proposed.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Defence is one area which is close to my heart. I wish to commend the Budget allocation to this very important sector. While commending the Budget allocation to Defence, Honourable Speaker, we as Honourable Members of this House must show solidarity and support to our women and men in uniform and make them believe that we are behind them all the time. I wish to remind the Honourable Members of this august House that a strong and capable Namibian Defence Force is fundamental to Namibia's security. Therefore, the SWAPO Party Government needs to develop a vigorous and detailed set of priorities for the development of the Force, training, operations and equipment acquisition which shall serve the direction of defence planning well into the 21st century.

I further wish to remind the Honourable Members that the world is full of conflicts and threats and it is just appropriate that as a Nation we should be prepared to respond to current and emerging events relating to conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Witwatersrand University of the Republic of South Africa is offering a course on Defence Management and I recommend that the invitation may also be extended to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security to attend this

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON LUCAS**

course. This will help Honourable Members to have a broader and positive understanding on issues of defence and security and the role played by defence and security forces in the society, both in times of war and peace.

Honourable Speaker, I am addressing this august House exactly 10 days after Namibia has commemorated her Independence Anniversary from the yoke of colonialism and foreign occupation. 19 Years have gone by since that eventful day of the 21st of March 1990 when our country was born proudly, taking its rightful place among members of the community of Nations as a full independent and sovereign State. We shall never forget that we shared the sacrifices of freedom and Independence with our brothers and sisters in the neighbouring and peace-loving countries worldwide who offered us trenches, dugouts and bases for our struggle. Above all, our struggle has taught us that sacrifice is an integral part and signifies elements of patriotism, bravery and courage.

As an icon of our struggle and former Member of this House, Comrade Herman Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo once said: *“The struggle will be long and bitter.”* That confirms that such struggle has always demanded sacrifices, therefore our achievements during the years of Independence should not be taken for granted. Let our children be taught this rich history of their freedom, namely that it was achieved through *“their blood waters our freedom”* and through collaboration with the international community.

With these few remarks, Comrade Speaker, I support the Appropriation Bill.
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I did not want to interrupt you, but I would like to ask her a question. In the beginning you addressed the issue about what has been done to our Sister there. It was very touching. She was, among others, accused of just joining SWAPO recently and so on. When I am looking that side, I realised that except for Viljoen who belongs there, they used to call it the *verkrampste* group, but I want to take everybody who is sitting there, I am counting former SWAPO, former SWAPO. Then you have NUDO, they were DTA, and now they are accusing somebody that she just joined SWAPO while they all moved. Kaura was SWANU, so they all moved. Are you aware of that?

1 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON LUCAS

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Hage Geingob, Vice-President of SWAPO Party and Minister of Trade and Industry, I am very aware of what you have just said and I must state once again that the SWAPO Party is a people's Party which is open to each and every Namibian who accepts the aims and objectives of that people's Party and to join and Honourable Ncube is not an exception.

Honourable Speaker, I support the Appropriation Bill. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask a small question to the Honourable Member? Comrade Speaker, the Honourable Member mentioned very interesting things with regard to the UNICEF university offering training to Parliamentarians. Comrade Speaker, in 2007 the Namibian Parliament visited the South African Parliament to familiarise ourselves and we were told that the Members of Parliament in South Africa enrol in the university. They said they believe that even though they are leaving the Parliament they are still going to serve their Nation, therefore the universities in South Africa enrol the Members, they are studying for Diploma degrees and Ph.Ds. The Parliament has to find money somewhere for those Members who are willing to study. Honourable Member, do you not think that instead of this applying to only one Parliamentary Committee, that this should apply to all the Members of Parliament, so that they could be enrolled in the university to study for degrees, because after that they are still going to serve the Namibian Nation?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much for the question, Honourable Amweelo. I just want to correct the name of the university, it is not UNICEF university, it is Witwatersrand in South Africa.

Comrade Speaker, what made me to recommend that the specific Parliamentary Committee dealing with Defence and Security matters should be accorded such an opportunity to go and take up that refreshment course in defence management matters, is for them to have a clear understanding of what defence management entails. It was in that light that I made such a proposal, but in the light of the request by the Honourable Amweelo that

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

Parliamentarians should be accorded an opportunity to go and study at universities to acquire different degrees, I feel that should be left entirely to the individual Honourable Members to make efforts to study, because whether you are in Parliament or have retired from Parliament, you can take that initiative to upgrade your levels at your own leisure.

With these few remarks, Honourable Speaker, I thank you very much and I support the Appropriation Bill.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. First of all, I hope the Colleagues will listen to my true gospel without interference.

Honourable Speaker, the Parliamentarians become involved in the Budget process at a very late stage. If at all we are representing the people, what is the use if we become involved at such a late stage? We should be involved in the budget process during the time of drafting. I propose that the Parliament should have a Budget Committee consisting of all Parties so that they may bring the interests of the community before the Budget is completed.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to congratulate the Honourable Minister and her staff for a good Budget which addresses some of the pressing problems. N\$900 million was allocated to boost the salaries of Civil Servants. The 24% increment for Government workers is a step forward although the 5,8 deficit is bad news.

I would like to know why the Budget did not address the plight of our senior citizens. This means that this Government has turned a blind eye to the skyrocketing inflation and high prices of essential goods and services or do we think that this does not affect our senior citizens? We have increased salaries for politicians and Civil Servants, why not the pensions of senior citizens, orphans and vulnerable children and ex-Parliamentarians? What about Traditional Leaders and Headmen, to mention only a few? The politicians and the Civil Servants are smiling while their parents are demoralised and in tears.

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to remind the House that the blood of Namibians was shed in the bitter struggle and the blood will water our freedom. It was not easy to have a spirit of unity and to be One Namibia, One Nation. It was difficult for Namibian Political Parties to sit under one roof or at one table. It is a fact that the DTA of Namibia was the first Political Party that successfully brought the divided groups together in 1988. I hereby congratulate the Namibian Political Parties that, organised by late Chief Clemens Kapuuo, came together at the National Convention in Rehoboth during the seventies, which I also attended. This was the second occasion we used one platform to discuss Namibian Independence.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the third attempt was the All-Party Conference which was also successful. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you said in the seventies you came to join those quislings. You were a freedom fighter and then you became a quisling. Are you aware of that?

HON MOONGO: The All-Party Conference was also successful and gave birth to the Transitional Government of National Unity which paved the way to Resolution 435 and national Independence in 1990. I want to inform the House of the internal achievements. The aim and objective was a true democratic Government in Namibia.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, in response to that strange history, you are one of those experienced diplomats groomed by the SWAPO Party and you may recall that in Geneva those internal Parties were led by the so-called Administrator General and they were instructed by the Administrator-General what to say in Geneva. This so-called history of freedom and Independence is deceptive.

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

HON MOONGO: Colleague, the coming together of internal Political Parties was initiated by Chief Clemens Kapuuo, a respected Honourable late Chief. He brought all the people together at the Convention in Rehoboth and not South African agents.

The aim and objective was a true democratic Government in Namibia and not a one-party dictatorship which was proposed by SWAPO in exile.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for those good aims and objectives we lost trustful leaders. (Intervention)

HON BAYER: Comrade Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? I remember that meeting in Rehoboth. The people from outside Rehoboth were barred by the whites, they had to have permits to go in and after the Government of South Africa realised that the people are intending to come together, they then started with the DTA to bring people together. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Were you present?

HON BAYER: Yes, I was.

HON MOONGO: That is good additional information. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for those good aims and objective we lost our trustful leaders, such as Philemon Elifas, Chief Kapuuo, Reverend Ndjomba, to mention only a few. Their blood waters our freedom.

We achieved Independence with a shaky unity and a lack of equal development in the 13 Regions.

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I ask the Honourable Member a tiny question? The Honourable Member mentioned some names of people whose blood waters our freedom. Were those people fighting for Independence or against Independence? If they were fighting against Independence, how can their blood water our freedom?

HON MOONGO: That is why I say you have to listen, because I clearly stipulated before what was the aim and objective. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. I do not know whether the Honourable Member was here in 1978 when Chief Kapuuo was killed and then the war was introduced by his bosses and then the people killed each other because of them. Many people were shot in the single quarters and because of that divide we could not even use Herero taxis because of his bosses. They said these are the people who killed Kapuuo, they cannot work together. Can you recall that?

HON MOONGO: In 1978 I was still in a Tanzanian prison. So I was not there...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Moongo, you informed this Honourable House that you were at the meeting which was organised in Rehoboth to bring everybody together, but now you are saying in 1978 you were in Tanzania. Now, where were you?

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, there is a serious lack of political tolerance. SWAPO and the RDP are fighting each other, they grabbed each other by the

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

neck and they are about to shed Namibian blood. I call upon the voters not to vote for them, vote for DTA, a peaceful Political Party.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. Is it in order, Honourable Speaker, for a representative of a Party which was out to eliminate us physically should they win the elections, who has terrorised our parents simply because their children belonged to SWAPO, like my mother, and you are now telling us about terrorising? What terrorising are you talking about while you said, "*if we win you will swallow your flags.*" You said, "*buy Vaseline so that it can help you swallow the flags.*" It was just yesterday in 1990.

HON MOONGO: I said, vote for the DTA, a peaceful Political Party and not a violent Political Party. We do not want a violent Government in Namibia. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Moongo is an Honourable Member, how can the DTA be a peaceful Party if we still have a kid of five years who was shot in the eye with an arrow by the DTA? (Interjections). Honourable Moongo, you left us in the bush as a deserter and now you are talking as if yours is a peaceful, democratic Party. He must just know as an Honourable Member that the history of this country will judge him, that he abandoned his Comrades. You used to say you were a commander, you abandoned your soldiers and you ran away and sided with the people you were fighting against.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the old page has not been closed after a period of eighteen years, internal unity is about to collapse in the SWAPO Government. Rival Political Parties are now revived, they get a good example from SWAPO's internal fighting, division and everyone knows that SWAPO is divided into cliques and tribal and ethnic divisions. The bad page has started, tribal Parties were formed in all the

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

corners of Namibia and their aim is group and tribal interest and not Namibian interest. The loophole of any bad intention or tribal division must be closed and amended before it is too late. SWAPO Party, stop in-fighting, it leads Namibia to tension. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. Honourable Moongo must remember that there are so many people who left SWAPO, including himself, but SWAPO never collapsed.

HON MOONGO: I was saying that tribal tension will lead to civil war.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, we do not want to be indoctrinated by a Party that received N\$300 million from the colonial authority who dumped our people into the Atlantic Ocean, who roasted our people alive, who colonised this country for more than a century. They are the people who were financed to the tune of N\$300 million by the oppressive apartheid South African regime. That is why they bought what is called the Democratic Media Holdings, which they lost. That is propaganda.

HON MOONGO: My words must not fall on deaf ears, Namibia needs peace and healthy relations between Party members. Stop blackmailing, it causes tension and tension can cause hatred and bitterness between Party members. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order. I am seeking guidance, Honourable Speaker. The Honourable Member has only two minutes to go and he has not yet mentioned the Budget. Can he be guided to talk about the Budget?

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

HON MOONGO: We need true reconciliation and not sing a tyrannical song against Shipanga and Kandove after 18 years of Independence. We do not want that anymore. Those songs insulting the people must be ceased, create new songs which can unite people and do not destroy and divide the people. Stop singing those old songs about Shipanga and others.

Mr Speaker, we need better education, better health services, an anti-violence future, anti-blackmail, a peaceful and true Government in Namibia.

Mr Speaker, serious problems are left out by the current Budget, such as floods in Caprivi, Kavango, Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati and Oshikoto Regions. I propose that a big amount be allocated to cater for the floods. The small amount of N\$109 million is not enough in an emergency. The flood situation is serious and cannot be solved by this amount of money.

Mr Speaker, they are supposed to meet with the Angolan Government and their SADC counterparts to find amicable solutions with the help of the international community. Namibia cannot solve this problem alone because this is a serious disaster. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? I do not know which tribe the Honourable Member presented at the time he joined the DTA.

HON MEMBER: How about OPO?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: But before that the DTA was a coalition of all tribal constituencies of Namibia. The question is, how many tribal representatives are still in DTA?

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

HON MOONGO: DTA played a big role because the people were divided by South Africa, tribes would not talk to each other and therefore, DTA brought all tribes and all groups together. We even succeeded to bring the whites together and we tried to unite the Namibian people and now SWAPO Government is dividing them again. This is embarrassing. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. The Honourable Member said that the DTA united the people. I do not know if the Honourable Member knows chess, but you were pawns which were used to defend the king and the queen. Therefore, you were a reactionary and you remain a reactionary.

HON MOONGO: I am busy addressing the Nation on serious problems.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: On a Point of Information on the N\$300 million that were given to the DTA. The then Damara Council built an administrative block in Khorixas and this magnificent building is now used by the Local Authority Council. The Baster Regering built a magnificent administrative block in Rehoboth with the money they were given, which is now used by the Regional Council of Hardap Region. The Tswana Regering built a magnificent building in Omaheke which is now being used by the Regional Council in Omaheke. What did the DTA spend the money on?

HON MOONGO: I am busy with a marshal plan to help the Government to find an amicable solution to the floods. I want to propose a flood marshal plan: That all bridges from Ruacana to Oshikoto on the main road and all other roads must be reconstructed to be big enough to carry the water through, so that the water is not blocked by the small bridges and makes its way into the highlands and destroy the mahangu fields. The rivers from Ruacana to Oshikoto must be deepened. Earth dams must be constructed along the

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MOONGO**

Cuvelai and the storm water to be used by the communities. The flood water goes to Ponono Ampempe and that big lake must be deepened and enlarged to catch more water and a big canal to the ocean must be constructed from Ponono and Ampempe so that the flood water can go to the ocean.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Committee on Floods must consult with the affected small business and community members who cannot afford to contribute some money in order to have a bulldozer to deepen the rivers. The best thing is to develop the highland in Katima and Kavango and construct roads, clinics, schools, etcetera. Then the affected people will agree to be relocated to the well-organised highland. The Prime Minister must initiate a Commission to quell disputes between those tribes who do not want the others to come to the highland. The Prime Minister must solve this problem amicably.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Government failed dismally...(Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: May I ask the Honourable Member just a very small question?

HON MOONGO: I say no because of the time. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Budget failed dismally to address the prolonged problems of SWATF-Koevoet money. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member mentioned that he prepared a marshal plan, but I did not hear anything about the cost. Each and every project has costs. Can he tell us the cost for all the bridges, all the culverts, all the roads?

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON CHILINDA**

HON MOONGO: The Government made a law that discriminated against the SWATF-Koevoet instead of being of general application. Refund the amount of N\$24 million to the rightful owners, the SWATF-Koevoet, while you have a special law for the Veterans. You shared the money which belonged to the SWATF-Koevoet. With this I support the Budget.

HON SPEAKER: I want the Honourable Members to calm down, the next Honourable Member is going to deliver his maiden address and tradition has it that we give him the due consideration he deserves. After that, of course, you will be open for fireworks, but for now the Chair will protect you. Honourable Chilinda, you have the Floor.

HON CHILINDA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House. Since it is my first time to speak in this Honourable House, I wish to congratulate all Political Parties that participated in the last Local Authority by-elections of Omuthiya and Eenhana during the last quarter of the year 2008, particularly the SWAPO Party for its victory in these elections.

It is my earnest hope and profound desire, that as Namibia gets engulfed in the 2009 election fever, all Political Parties will not only adhere to the principles that govern credible behaviour of conducting elections and the voting results thereof, but that we shall equally educate all our members to embrace the provision of our Constitution which provides for multi-Party democracy system in this country.

It is an indisputable fact that the increasing economic growth that Namibia enjoys today is the fruit of the political stability and peaceful co-existence that its citizens have enjoyed ever since colonialism was forever buried. We, therefore, need to embrace and accept political differences as the cornerstone of our democracy, not the sword of creating instability or waging war against each other.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to further congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for tabling the Appropriation Bill meant to govern the economic management of our beloved country. Indeed, the

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON CHILINDA**

Appropriation Bill is one of the most awaited and the only Bill that is tabled annually to highlight Government's approach to administering revenue and expenditures as they relate to identified national priorities.

As we debate this Budget, we should not lose focus of the fact that our economy is highly affected by the global financial crisis that has resulted in the closure of many of our mining operations. The fiscal policy framework should, therefore, be guided by the Millennium Development Goals that prioritises poverty reduction and the enhancement of economic development, for the most vulnerable of our mostly rural communities this is exacerbated by the natural disasters of annual heavy floods and droughts, which have continually affected and destroyed the produce expected from the subsistence farming in the rural areas.

I am particularly pleased to note that the Budget expenditure allocation assumptions accord the agriculture and other economic sectors the second highest priority, whilst public administration encompassing Regional and Local Government services are accorded third priority. This is indeed commendable from the side of Government.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I, however, note with concern that the Government's accountability report for the 2007/08 Financial Year, reveals that the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development responsible for rural development, spent only N\$10,6 million out of the N\$17 million that was budgeted for such an essential service to our rural areas. Unless there could be understandable but possibly self-defeating reasons, one is tempted to conclude that our people who were meant to benefit from this budgetary provision did not receive the required services as envisaged.

The accountability report further indicates that the Ministry of Agriculture was allocated budgetary provision for agriculture advisory services to assist the rural communities with agriculture extension advisory services to improve the quality of our agriculture production. For this the Government needs to be congratulated, as there cannot be poverty reduction without improvement in food security at the household level.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe that all Political Parties represented in this august House and equally, all citizens of this country will

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON CHILINDA**

agree with me that the most fertile agricultural land for both crop and livestock production is in Caprivi, Kavango and other northern Regions. The central Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Kunene and the southern Regions are by far the backbone of livestock production in this country.

However, our people in the rural areas, particularly those in the Caprivi, Kavango and Ohangwena Regions are living in abject poverty that requires Government interventions. The NEPRU quarterly reports in the last 10 years reveal that these Regions are the poorest in a country whose *per capita* income is above US1,000. Something should be done to alleviate the identified abject poverty trends that are prevailing in these Regions.

The situation is indicative of the need to accord rural development and agriculture advisory services the priority they deserve. We need to accept that if communities in these Regions, which highly depend on subsistence farming, are not economically stable, Government expenditure through emergency management support system will forever be on the increase.

We need to learn from our neighbour, Botswana's agricultural extension services which assist communal farmers in ploughing services, guidance in weeding, livestock rearing and even acquisition of agricultural equipment at subsidised prices. The extension officers in Botswana are capable of producing accurate statistics for all agricultural related activities.

It is my considered view that the current Budget for 2009/10 should, therefore, aggressively address rural development in such a way that its impact should be felt at grassroots level. This will not only secure economic growth for the poor rural communities but equally ensure the absorption of the active rural-based youth in the mainstream of our economy. I have no doubt that rural development involving the youth, who are made up of orphans and vulnerable children, whose economic survival currently is very precarious, will go a long way in achieving our development goals.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is further my considered view that for the Budget to be pro-poor, it must ensure that our agricultural professionals are not only trained in theory, but practical agricultural techniques that will help the subsistence farmers to improve their farming skills. We need to see a situation where our Agriculture Extension Officers are

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON CHILINDA**

able to inform us about the total number of expected and ploughed hectares per district or area so as to have an appropriate estimate of expected annual harvest or lost harvest in case of a natural disaster.

Resettlement programmes must be used as means of empowerment to address rural poverty. It is my appeal that these emerging farmers will not turn these once productive farms into idle pieces of land, thereby defeating the sole purpose of the resettlement programme. It is my appeal to the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement that people should not be resettled for the sake of land occupation, but be trained in land management with basic agriculture management or farming skills that will enable them to improve and achieve the better use of the land they occupy.

Equally, the existing Regional Farmers Unions as stakeholders should be guided and supported by Government in their endeavours of organising the communal farmers in managing both their crop and livestock farming. These unions should organise communal farmers in such a way that the farmers and the prevailing environment are well-prepared when a natural disaster, such as locusts, fire outbreak, etcetera, strike. This will enhance the effectiveness of the technical or professional agricultural officers in their training efforts of imparting skills to these communal farmers.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, rural infrastructure development, such as road construction, housing for the vulnerable members of our communities, our senior citizens, and electrification will indeed be the yardstick against which our rural development efforts will be judged. Improved road infrastructure development has a good chance of increasing the attraction of tourists to our community-based Conservancies, hence the improved income for the rural communities that must benefit from such Conservancies. It is without doubt that tourism is one of the major contributors to our national revenue.

With Namibia's desire not only to introduce, but improve the school children's performance in science subjects, rural electrification that must benefit rural schools becomes a high necessity that, I believe, this august House must seriously address when dealing with the Budget Debate.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I wish to state that when these issues are addressed, the Budget may achieve its intended goal of

1 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON CHILINDA**

being pro-poor and pro-growth.

With these few observations, it is my wish that the expenditures budgeted for will strengthen our economy and the welfare of our people. I support the Bill and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for his thoughtful and topical maiden address. Honourable Member, from now on you are on your own. Honourable Kasingo.

HON KASINGO: Honourable Speaker, I move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: The Debate on the Budget will continue tomorrow afternoon. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**RATIFICATION: SADC PROTOCOL ON
FORESTRY**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Ratification of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Forestry.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on 12 March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry that the Protocol be ratified. The Debate was concluded. Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

1 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I would like to request the indulgence of this House to postpone my response until tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON FOOD SECURITY FOR PEOPLE
ON ARV TREATMENT**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 4 March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Dienda. The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services adjourned the Debate and I now give him the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, due to the lateness of the hour, I beg the indulgence of the House that I do it tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on unemployed Namibians.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 on Tuesday, 17 March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Dr Ankama. Dr Kawana adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

1 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR KAWANA

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, as I said last time, unemployment in most cases, particularly in Namibia, is caused by capitalism, because our Government facilitates what the private sector terms, “*a conducive environment.*” We have peace and stability, we have proper policies and yet the private sector is not delivering. Let me give an example, Honourable Speaker.

The people of Africa and the people of developing countries, called poor countries, have been undergoing severe economic strains principally because of so-called structural adjustment programmes by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, but today those who are affected are developed countries. What do we see? We see a reverse. To me that is racism, because those who were suffering at that particular point in time were people of colour. Now that those people in Europe and North America are suffering, what does the IMF do? Stimulus. What does stimulus do? More employment, encouragement of employment, subsidies even to the private sector, which was really taboo when it came to the developing countries, especially Africa.

We, the people of Africa and the people of developing countries suffered. The IMF, through their structural adjustment, said we must shed labour, even put our people on the streets, we must not increase any salaries. They even came to take over the policies of those Governments, which in fact means the Cabinets of those countries were shifted to the headquarters of the IMF and the World Bank. As a result there was starvation in those countries, agricultural output suffered, there was widespread malnutrition and hunger and as a result, political instability. I really think these institutions, especially the IMF and the World Bank...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: May I ask a question? Comrade Minister, are you aware that when a country is in the situation that you are describing, the IMF even decides which international events it should attend, who should attend and how many days the person should be there. Are you aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I am aware of that, senior Minister, not only who must attend but what you are going to say there is also written, so that it is in compliance with their principles and policies.

1 April 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR KAWANA**

I am saying the International Monetary Fund must apologise to Africa, must apologise to developing countries for the suffering of the millions of the masses. The World Bank must apologise because we do not see those conditions when it comes to granting loans to Europe and North America, because those conditions were based, first and foremost, on racism, as far as I am concerned.

Honourable Speaker, in Namibia we are happy that, because of the SWAPO Party policies, we refused to get those criminal loans from those criminal international organisations and we will continue to refuse as long as those conditions are meant to make our poor people more poor. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Comrade Speaker, may I ask a question? It was just yesterday in this Honourable House that the Opposition proposed that the SWAPO Party Government borrow money from the IMF. Are you aware that they want us to be in bondage to IMF?

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. Honourable Colleagues, yesterday when I was addressing the Budget Debate, my first remark was to reform the IMF and there is nothing wrong. I was calling for the G20 to reform the rules of the IMF from 1949 to be in compliance with 2009. There is nothing wrong to borrow money from the World Bank or any other multilateral institution, provided that the conditions are correct. I think we did it already with ETSIP, so do not think that we are not doing these things, let us do it the correct way.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, I am waiting for an apology from the IMF and the World Bank. With these few remarks, I support the Motion.

1 April 2009

ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: On that note, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.04.02 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
2 APRIL 2009
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? As Thursday is the day initiated by the Opposition, we will start with Questions. Question 1 is by Honourable De Waal to the Minister of Safety and Security. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:

HON DE WAAL: I Put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the answer to question 1 on the statistics on crime during the period of 1 November 2008 to the 31st of January 2009 in the whole of Namibia:

Crime in the whole country in:

Month	Reported Case
November 2008	8516
December 2008	8842
January 2009	8334
Total Reported Cases	25692

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DE WAAL
HON DR N IYAMBO**

The Honourable Member also wants the number of crime reported from November 2008 until January 2009 in certain towns:

Katima Mulilo: November 2008 – 133; December 180; January 178; Total 491 reported cases.

Keetmanshoop: November 262, December 317; January 263; Total 842 cases.

Mariental: November 198, December 181; January 169; Total 548 reported cases.

Ondangwa: November 213; December 257; January 239; Total 798 reported cases.

Otjiwarongo: November 195; December 181; January 194; Total 570 reported cases.

Rundu: November 177; December 164; January 144; Total 485 reported cases.

Swakopmund: November 219; December 342; January 219; Total 776 reported cases.

Windhoek: November 1 483; December 1 329; January 1 943; Total 4 755 reported cases.

The Honourable Member also wants to know the number of robberies and housebreaking cases in the same towns:

Katima Mulilo: Housebreaking: November 9; December 6; January 3; Total 9 cases of arrested people. It is those reported and arrested. Robbery: November 2, December 3, January 2, total 7 robberies.

Keetmanshoop: Housebreaking: November 4; December 3; January 4, total 11 arrested cases. Robbery: November 5; December 2; January zero, total 7 arrested cases of robbery.

Mariental: Housebreaking: November 0, December 1; January 1; total 2

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DE WAAL
HON DR N IYAMBO**

arrested cases. Robbery: November 3; December 1, January 0, total 4 arrested cases.

Ondangwa: Housebreaking: November 8; December 5; January 3, total 16 arrested cases. Robbery: November 1; December 1, January 0, total 2 arrested robbery cases.

Otjiwarongo: Housebreaking: November 8; December 3, January 4, total 15 arrested cases. Robbery: November 0; December 0, January 0, total 0.

Rundu: Housebreaking: November 6; December 4; January 3; total 13 arrested. Robbery: November 0, December 0, January 0, total 0.

Swakopmund: Housebreaking: November 1; December 6; January 4; total 11 arrested cases. Robbery: November 1; December 7; January 6; total 14 cases arrested.

Windhoek: Housebreaking: November 5; December 2; January 8; total 15 arrested cases. Robbery: November 10; December 8, January 11; total 29 cases arrested.

In his third question he wants to know how many of the apprehended culprits have appeared in Court.

Answer: A total of 2,281 cases were taken to Court at the stated time during the period November 2008 to December 2008. A total of 2,450 adults and 20 juveniles were arrested during the period under review.

Question 4: How many of these culprits are currently out on bail?

Answer: The Namibian Police does not capture data on the culprits that paid bail as that falls under the Ministry of Justice.

Question 5: What is the total estimated value of goods stolen in the above robbery and housebreaking cases?

Answer: The Namibian Police does not capture data pertaining to the value of goods stolen although the information is only available manually. The

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DE WAAL
HON DR N IYAMBO**

information is available, but for the period that we had to make this research we could not compile it.

Question 6: Article 13 of the Namibian Constitution states as follows: “*No person shall be subjected to interference with the privacy of their homes, correspondence or communications, save as in accordance with the law and as is necessary in a democratic society in the interest of national security, public safety*” etcetera. Article 14(3) of the Namibia Constitution stipulates as follows: “*The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.*” In the light of these two fundamental articles in our Constitution, will the Honourable Minister agree with me that the safety and privacy of the fundamental group unit of society, namely the family, is currently being threatened on a daily basis?

Answer: Namibia, like any other country in the world, is faced with different types of crime. These include crimes against property, such as housebreaking and robbery. Crimes against property or persons can cause extensive physical, emotional and economic harm. Generally, the root cause of crimes against property is being attributed, so it is said, to unemployment, poverty, abuse of alcohol and drugs as well as the availability of markets for stolen goods. Members of the public who buy stolen property encourage people to commit crimes like stealing and breaking into people’s houses. I may also add here, Honourable Members, that crime is not only in Namibia and if somebody here thinks we are to the extreme as far as crime is concerned, you are definitely wrong.

If there is a country in Africa today, apart from the Muslim countries, that is better to live in as far as crime is concerned, it is Namibia. You can do research on that one. In other countries, even surrounding us, people are even now enlisting their armies on a daily basis to patrol the streets in the country because crimes are too rampant. That is not yet the case in Namibia. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: This morning, Comrades, there was war.

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON TJOMBE
HON H ANGULA**

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: This morning around lunchtime, six robbers went into a business in Independence Avenue and held everybody at gunpoint, collected all the money and wanted to get away with a taxi which they have parked nearby purposely. As they were getting out, unfortunately the Police got hold of them. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Fortunately.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Unfortunately for them because they are dead. I do not want any lives to be lost, that is why I say “*unfortunately.*” Two were killed on the spot, two critically injured and the information is that they will most probably not survive. Two also injured, arrested and the taxi man and his taxi also impounded. That is the work of the Police. Take note that the Police cannot be in each and every corner of the street, at each and every house. It is not possible, but whoever attempts to violate the peace in our country, even robbery, housebreaking, etcetera and you will be unfortunate to catch the eyes of the Police, trouble will start.

Question 7: Will the Honourable Minister further agree with me that the State is currently failing dismally to protect Namibian families against robbers, housebreaking and thugs in general and will the Honourable Minister further explain to this Honourable House what the Government is planning to do to stop this unholy acts against peace of the Namibian people?

I think I have explained what happened, let the message be out. If they try, there will be no mercy and we will not let up. Let that message be clear. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 15 is by Honourable Garoëb to the Minister of Works and Transport Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 15:

HON TJOMBE: I Put the Question on behalf of the Honourable Member.

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON VILJOEN
HON NGHIDINWA**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Garoëb wants to know whether it is true that the use of the click sounds of Damara-Nama language are prohibited on the personalised car number plates.

Yes, it is true that personalised licence numbers do not allow characters other than the alphabetical or numerical or alpha-numeric characters. This mandate is in terms of the Road Traffic and Transport Regulations of 2001. The Regulation is derived from the provisions of the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic of 1968 to which Namibia is a signatory. Furthermore, Namibia is also signatory to the SADC Protocol on Transport which, among others, requires that the registration plates of vehicles be harmonised. It should also be noted that the characters that are not allowed are not affecting only the Damara-Nama languages, it also applies to other Namibian languages, including especially Rukavango, the San, the Germans. Therefore, an impression should not be made that there is discriminatory legislation against the Damara-Nama language.

Namibia, if it so wishes, can raise this with the Geneva Treaty and I do not know whether there are other languages that are also affected and whether on that score Namibia can receive sympathy. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 17 is by Mr Viljoen, to the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 17:

HON VILJOEN: I Put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to respond to

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
HON NGHIDINWA**

the question posed by Honourable Viljoen on the utilisation of the green passport as a requirement for voter registration.

I would like to inform the Honourable Member that the green passport is not an identification document, but rather a travel document. In case there are those foreigners who qualified and were issued with the Namibian citizenship certificates, it is high time for them to apply for their identification documents, such as birth certificates and Namibian identity cards. They can now register as voters with this document.

Since the Ministry has a programme to withdraw handwritten passports, they may not be recognised when they are used as an identification document. That is why we have mobile outreach programmes throughout the country.

Any person who may apply for the green or ordinary Namibian passport can only acquire them upon presentation of the aforementioned document. This process also applies to the applicants for official and diplomatic passports.

Question 2: Will the Minister explain in full how the new system works?

Yes, Honourable Viljoen, the new system is currently not fully installed. I am talking about the electronic passport system. The system will be introduced in due course. Upon its full implementation, this system will be more strict than the previous one. This system will require that the applicant will appear in person, supported by the identification documents, such as birth certificates, identity card and present him or herself to the passport officer. The whole process of filling in applications and taking of photographs will be done electronically by staff of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and then you will sign.

We need to re-emphasise that passports are not identification documents but travel documents. It is upon the Electoral Commission to stipulate what documents they regard as requirement during the electoral process.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Ministry is full aware that there are those Opposition Parties who are fraudulently, secretly issuing the handwritten passports in order to increase the number of their voters during the forthcoming elections. We wish to inform them that they are wasting their

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON MOONGO
HON H ANGULA**

time, because at the time of the elections, handwritten passports will be regarded withdrawn and I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON VILJOEN: I thank the Honourable Minister and it is a pity that she turned a good question into a poor answer. The follow-up question: Is it true that there are presently no paper to produce passports?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I hope the Honourable Member listened to me when I made a Ministerial Statement two days ago. I explained why we are short of passports. It is because we are now producing passports faster than before, but we will try our level best to get it in order.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 20 is by Honourable Moongo to the Minister of Works and Transport. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 20:

HON MOONGO: I Put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. The Honourable Member made a statement to the fact that millions of dollars have been stolen from TransNamib and wants to know whether the culprit has been apprehended. He also further wants to know why TransNamib workers did not get an increment since 2002.

The Ministry of Works and Transport is not aware of millions of dollars that are being claimed to be lost. It will be appreciated to get the relevant information pertaining to this matter, but I also want to alert the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security that there is someone who knows of millions

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON MOONGO
HON H ANGULA**

that have been stolen and that the same person has not reported the matter to the Police and it is hereby advised that the Police goes into this matter, interview the Honourable Member so that he can give facts and figures about the money stolen from TransNamib.

Regarding the salary increment, it was only for 2002 that salary increments were not made. As from 2003 to 2008, the annual inflationary increment was implemented.

The Honourable Member further wants me to confirm whether it is true that TransNamib workers are exploited and regarded as temporary workers although they have served for more than 7 years. He further wants to know the maximum duration for temporary workers in TransNamib.

No, it is not true that people are exploited to work on a temporary basis. It is not allowed under the Labour Act to exploit people. However, at this stage TransNamib is looking into the matter to see if there is anything factual that the Honourable Member is claiming. There is no requirement for temporary workers on minimum or maximum. Due to the nature of the business of TransNamib, temporary workers are sometimes recruited as the need arises in order to meet the objectives of the company at a given time and space. The terms and conditions set out for temporary workers are made known before they are actually assigned to the job. Depending on the skills of the temporary worker, they will be considered for permanent employment when vacancies become available. The process to transfer temporary workers to permanent positions has been always assessed and implemented gradually as need arise.

Is the Minister aware that the management of TransNamib is the one to blame for the prolonged strike during 2008? It is unfair to deduct money from those who were involved in the strike and let the Board compensate the loss.

It is unfortunate that TransNamib experienced such an incident which resulted in financial losses, as we all know now. To put the blame on the management is unfair because the management have not really instructed anyone to embark on an illegal strike.

The Honourable Member is aware the strike started because the Board suspended the Chief Executive Officer for investigation regarding certain

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA
HON MUNGUNDA**

allegations. This is a matter between the Board and the Chief Executive Officer and has little to do with the management.

With regard to the pay, the principle of “*no work, no pay*” applies equally everywhere and is part of our legislation. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON MOONGO: I thank the Honourable Minister for a proper answer.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 23 is by Honourable Dienda to the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. Does the Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 23:

HON DIENDA: I Put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:
Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. In question 1 the Honourable Member wants to know the names of projects which the Ministry sponsors annually and that are income-generating projects.

We have compiled a database and we also have fliers available which give more detailed information on the different names of the different projects and we divide the money between the different Regions. There is a Committee in the Ministry which receives all the applications from the different Regions which are submitted to the Regional Gender Offices and then forwarded to the Department for Community Development. After they have short-listed the viable projects, they assign money and they make sure that all the Regions are covered according to the needs and the number of projects which applied. The money is then decentralised to the Offices of the Governors and then the

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA
HON MUNGUNDA**

Governors hand over. The monitoring and evaluation takes place by our Ministry and the stakeholders who are working together with us to make sure that those projects are growing.

What we have sponsored from 2005 to date, we have sponsored 578 projects in all 13 Regions and as I said, the Honourable Member can come to my Ministry and get the data or I can avail it to you later after the break.

These 578 projects are in all the 13 Regions. The amount given for those 578 projects is to the tune of N\$5,104,768.29. The beneficiaries are mostly the rural women, but we also supported the previously disadvantaged men in rural areas and our stakeholders are divided into two categories. The first category is those who strengthen the information and the networking and this includes different line ministries, like the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development through the Rural Development Programme and all the Regional Councils through the Regional Development Fund, UNFPA, faith based organisations and NGOs.

The second category is those who also provide additional funding to facilitate training workshops on basic business entrepreneurial skills to community members and these are development partners such as the European Commission through the Rural Poverty Reduction Programme. These are our partners and stakeholders.

Then the Honourable Member wanted to know what type of projects have we sponsored. I will only mention a few. We mostly sponsored during this term tailoring and design projects, gardening, hair salons, leather processing, weaving, soap-making, food catering, brick-making, upholstery, welding, handcraft, and pottery. These are the broad scope of projects which we are supporting and all the details are in the database.

The Honourable Member asked how other women can benefit. This is a very open initiative which started with the Women's Desk to empower women economically. We have a timeslot at the Ministry where the different departments, especially the Community Development Department, is informing the people in different languages with fliers. These projects are advertised and the closing date is the 31st of March every year and then they are short-listed and the money for the short-listed projects is then channelled to

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON DIENDA
HON MUNGUNDA**

the Regional Councils to hand over to the member who was successful that year.

We have outreach programmes. The Ministry embarked upon encouraging women to become involved in small businesses and fully make use of this opportunity in order to benefit from this programme, thus more women entrepreneurs are expected to benefit on an annual basis although the money is little. Consultations are being made with other Ministries, such as the agricultural sector and the mining sector, so that women can benefit more because this is just a departure point. Small grants are given to the women to start up something and to encourage them. However, we want the women to have bigger companies and also to own bigger land, so that they can have factories to manufacture instead of one sewing machine in the house to make a few school uniforms, so that they can have big factories for food production and making jewellery.

Annually we take the successful women entrepreneurs in the rural areas, we sponsor them to attend different regional trade fairs and global trade fairs and this is a joint venture with the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Therefore, it is open for all the women to benefit.

Can the Honourable Minister report on the progress? Yes, there are great success stories. We have a DVD which is compiled of income-generating projects, Volume 1. We have included from different Regions, the excellent outstanding approaches so that we could showcase them and also encourage them to do their best. We also train the previously disadvantaged rural people in all 13 Regions in skills and knowledge and business and financial management and also how to write business plans. As I have said, we have stakeholders who are sponsoring this.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, this is in brief, but I will avail more information and data to Honourable Dienda because it is transparent, the names of the projects, the owners of the projects and how much was given to that person. I thank you.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I really want to thank the Honourable Minister for that answer. Thank you, it was good.

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON KAVARI
HON MUNGUNDA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 25 is by Honourable Kavari to the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. Does the Honourable Member Put the Question?

QUESTION 25:

HON KAVARI: I Put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Kavari wants to know about the Global Summit Forum. In her first question she wants to know who, apart from the Minister, has been delegated and she referred to the last Global Summit which took place in Vietnam from the 1st to the 7th of June 2008.

Just to give a little background, different global forums came into place after the Beijing Platform and the Global Summit is mostly concentrating on empowering women globally. This is a private sector initiative. The Global Summit groups in the different countries are stakeholders through the public-private partnership initiative with their respective Governments, but we never had an annual Namibian Women Summit since 2007. This invitation does not come directly to the Ministry. This is on the Internet and it is an open invitation. First our Ministry did not participate in that since 2007 when Ms Anne Gebhard, one of the business women who was invited and went there, came and informed our Ministry that this is really important that our Ministry also participates, so that with the strength from the Government she can then come back and with our assistance put up the Namibian group, because it is very costly. Because it is an open invitation and you have to go on your own and it is very difficult, but if we have a local Summit and we have a network with the Government, then through the Government Forum for Trade Fairs we can assist some of our upcoming business women. This is how for the first time I as the Minister participated in 2007 in Egypt. That is the first time when we as a Government participated because it is on the Internet, it is a Global Forum.

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON KAVARI
HON MUNGUNDA**

Then last year in 2008, when we came back Mrs Anne Gebbard, through the private sector, established the Namibian Women Summit which I launched.

Last year the Global Summit was in Vietnam and it was attended by 900 delegates from different sectors and different spheres of life. For the first time there was a Ministerial Round Table where different Ministers participated. The purpose of the Summit was to focus on opportunities and challenges facing women entrepreneurs and how to strengthen the network of women globally.

Last year the Ministry sponsored 6 women entrepreneurs from 3 Regions, Khomas, Hardap and Kavango and these groups were selected based on their excellent work. A total of eight people attended because there were two women from the Women Summit, the President, Ms Anne Gebhard and one of the executive members.

The Ministry is not in a position to cover all expenses for women to participate at the Summit but welcomed similar efforts as was done by the Namibian Women Summit of the private sector who really network with the Government.

When a Minister is invited, we first ask permission from the Office of the President and it is only when the President sees that this will benefit the Namibian Nation, that the President gives permission and when the Ministers return they have to report. We give a report to the Cabinet and these reports are shared through Ministerial Statements with the Chamber. We have to report on any international programme because you are not going for yourself, you are going there to represent your people and you must bring back the information.

The Namibian Summit was launched by me and as I said, it is a public-private partnership programme and the president of the Namibian Women Summit is Ms Anne Gebhard, an outstanding business woman in Namibia. The Ministry supports all initiatives to empower and strengthen the capacity of women and which are opening up opportunities for networking for better participation by women in the different sectors of business.

Has a cross-section of women from all walks of society been invited? Yes, because it is an open invitation on the Internet and we are now working

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON KAVARI
HON DR AMATHILA**

together with the private sector. Even this year there is another invitation to Chile, but this time it is on youth empowerment. I referred that invitation to the Ministry of Youth and Sport so that the National Youth Council and the young entrepreneurs will participate, because participation depends on the topic. Every year they have a certain topic and this year young women entrepreneurs from the National Youth Council and from the Department of Youth Development will participate. This is what it is all about.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question 26 is by Honourable Kavari to the Deputy Prime Minister. Does the Member Put the question?

QUESTION 26:

HON KAVARI: I Put the Question.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Kavari for a very pertinent question and thank her for congratulating me for a job well done. I want to give a very brief background before I answer specific questions.

In 2007, by Cabinet directives the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was asked to settle the abovementioned communities in Kunene Region. The crucial areas which were identified were housing, health, education, food security and provision of water.

Project activities: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister resettled over 300 Ovatua and Ovatjimba communities in Kunene Region between October 2007 and June 2008. These communities were resettled at three villages – Otjomuruu, Otjikoho and Ohaua in Epupa Constituency of Kunene Region. Corrugated zinc houses were constructed for each village, 60 houses at Otjomuruu, 25 houses at Otjikoho, 36 houses at Ohaua, including houses for gardeners, water caretakers, teachers and nurses.

2 April 2009

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS HON KAVARI
HON DR AMATHILA**

During the resettlement process livestock consisted of the following: 156 cattle, 416 goats which were given to these communities. Boreholes were drilled at the abovementioned villages and water solar pump systems were installed at all three villages to ensure clean water for human and animal consumption. In addition, because of the remoteness of the area, bad state of roads, lack of reliable transport in those areas, small schools and clinics were established in all three villages. The various Line Ministries were involved and were urged to take over some of those projects, particularly the clinics and the schools.

I now come to the specific questions. The provision of food to these communities will continue as long as needed until the gardens provide food and the animals have started reproducing. They have started producing and eating their food and I have actually been invited to go there and help them milk the cows.

The second answer: The long-term solution is self-efficiency, as stated above. The garden project has produced maize, beans, watermelons and pumpkins. This produce has sustained them during the month of December when the Government drought relief food was not distributed by those Councillors.

Question 3: It is explained in the background information what was done for them. These are hardworking people, learning fast and willing to sustain themselves. These are not "*outeres, Ndjipao, Horomente*".

Question 4: Now that they have settled down, we will start looking into projects that they undertake themselves in order to assist them. This also means exploring the small grants programme you mentioned. The above response shows that they already fish for themselves. We have shown them how to fish and now they have taken over. Thank you very much.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:13 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

2 April 2009

**RATIFICATION: SADC PROTOCOL ON FORESTRY
HON MUTORWA**

RATIFICATION: SADC PROTOCOL ON FORESTRY

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Ratification of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Forestry.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, 12 March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, that the Protocol be ratified. Does the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I would also like to thank you for your kindness to dispose of this particular item. I would like to thank the Honourable Members of the National Assembly for the support, that Namibia, through this Honourable House, ratifies the SADC Protocol on Forestry. At least 6 Honourable Members participated in the Debate and made constructive and positive contributions.

First, the *Right Honourable Prime Minister, Comrade Nahas Angula* highlighted the important role of research to achieve in practical terms the noble objectives and guiding principles of the Protocol, as outlined in Articles 3 and 4. In this regard, Article 20 of the Protocol is crystal clear and unambiguous in articulating the obligations of State Parties as far as the matter of research is concerned. I agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and all its partners must put in place a research strategy that should go beyond the seemingly Windhoek-based confined Botanical Garden. I am sure both our Directorates of Forestry and Research as well as the institutions responsible for research, institutions of higher learning in our country are listening and are urged to act accordingly.

2 April 2009

**RATIFICATION: SADC PROTOCOL ON FORESTRY
HON MUTORWA**

I would like to thank *Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase* most sincerely for her support. You, *inter alia*, made reference to issues related to climate change, you made reference to your participation in a conference or meeting in Nairobi and the Nairobi Declaration that followed your deliberations there. You did emphasise the importance of protecting our forests and you also made a specific plea that Parliament needs to be kept updated on how the Protocol would be practically implemented. I can only agree with you and, indeed, Parliament in executing its oversight functions is and shall remain duty-bound, in my view, in checking how the Executive Branch of our State executes and implements the laws, inclusive of Protocols that are passed and ratified in this Honourable Chamber.

I would like to thank *Honourable Venaani* for supporting the ratification of this Protocol, but I do not know whether he was serious or maybe he made a joke, as usual, when he asked the question as to who signed the Protocol on behalf of Namibia. Well, for the record, the answer is: The Protocol was signed by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba, Namibia's democratically elected Head of State and Government, on behalf of the Land of the Brave, Namibia. Indeed, Article 21(3)(e) of the Namibian Constitution empowers the President to negotiate and sign international agreements and to delegate such power. His signature as it appears on the document is true and authentic.

However, I would like to fully agree with you, Honourable Venaani, that at the end of the day we must ensure that the Protocol benefits the community in terms of prudent and economic utilisation of the forests that are located in their particular localities. I fully agree with you there and in this particular regard, Article 20 of the Protocol is very pertinent in particular. May I also add here, Honourable Members, that the Forest Act of 2001 (Act 12 of 2001) is very clear on the issue of community participation in and benefits from forestry programmes and forestry resources.

Honourable Dr Kawana, thank you very much for your support. You also highlighted very important issues about aforestation, the issue of tree-cutting, deforestation and its dangers and absolute need to plant trees where we cut trees. I cannot agree more with you on this score and I think all of us in this Chamber agree with you. Indeed, what you are highlighting, Honourable Dr Kawana, is what both the Forest Act and this Protocol demand from the Ministry through its Forestry Directorate to do, the issue of planting trees, the

2 April 2009

**RATIFICATION: SADC PROTOCOL ON FORESTRY
HON MUTORWA**

issue of preventing unnecessary cutting of trees and so on and Article 11 of the Protocol is applicable here in Namibia. In response to Article 11, there has already been enacted a Forest Act way back in 2001.

Honourable Nambahu, you made reference to the importance of research and in this particular context I would like to repeat the response that I have given to the Right Honourable Prime Minister. I would like to thank you for your support.

Finally, *Honourable Dr Moses Amweelo* also emphasised issues about research and training as well as measures to control veld fires. The Protocol specifically deals with matters concerning forest protection in Article 15. In addition thereto, the Forest Act 2001 in Part 6, Clauses 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 exclusively addresses matters concerning control and management of fire. I would like to commend and thank Dr Amweelo for having raised this issue and would like to request all of us in this Chamber to continuously highlight the dangers of uncontrolled veld fires to the ecosystems and to the flora and fauna, so that when we interact with our constituencies, these are some of the issues that we also need to highlight.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, once again I would like to thank you and the Honourable Members of this House for agreeing to the ratification of the SADC Protocol on Forestry. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now Put the Question, that the Protocol be ratified. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION
OF SECOND READING**

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

2 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KASINGO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, 1 April 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Kasingo adjourned the Debate and she now has the Floor.

HON KASINGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor. Honourable Deputy Speaker, in making my short intervention in the current Budget and its Medium Term Expenditure Framework, allow me, first of all, to recognise and commend the peaceful political environment we have enjoyed for the past 19 years and we will continue to enjoy. Peace and stability, as I have been saying for the past years, is a condition *sine qua non* for socio-economic stability. Thanks to the SWAPO Party-led Government we have for the past 19 years succeeded to maintain peace, we proceeded to protect and uphold our Constitution which gives us our constitutional democracy. Based on that, we talk, we enjoy and we practise multi-Party democracy. To me and the majority of the members of the SWAPO multi-Party democracy means that we have to compete for political space. (Interjection). With political space I mean, whether you are my friend here, there is no way I will give you my votes, we have to compete for political space.

Behind this peaceful political environment there are Namibian people, the majority of whom are SWAPO Party members, who have demonstrated a very high level of tolerance, patience, respect and reconciliation when taking into consideration the mental, physical and psychological injury and harm they have endured during the colonial war of liberation .

Honourable Deputy Speaker, this peaceful political environment enables us to receive a liberal Budget and to debate on it without fear, which is a mirror through which we show the citizens how the SWAPO Party-led Government carries its socio-economic responsibility. That is why even in this current Budget we continue as a SWAPO-led Government to ensure that our elderly are getting their grants, the orphans and vulnerable children are getting their grants.

In addition to this social responsibility, the Government has also...(Intervention)

2 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KASINGO**

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON KASINGO: I decline. If the Colleague could bear with me because I have another arrangement at 17:00.

I was saying, in addition to the aforesaid group, our elderly, the children in need, the SWAPO Government has also...(Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. It is not my intention to disturb the Honourable Colleague, but she has raised an important issue, claiming sole responsibility for peace and stability. Honourable Colleague, peace and stability is equally maintained by those that are governing and those that are opposing. Had it been maintained by the Governing Party, we would not have had what is happening in Madagascar today. There was a peaceful Government in Madagascar and there was a popular coup on the streets of Madagascar and elsewhere in the world. To argue politically in this Chamber, to tell Namibians that the peace that we have is only ensured by you, is telling half the story to the people of Namibia. All the Political Parties, especially our Party which has been the Official Opposition for many years, have worked towards this process of maintaining peace in this country. Therefore, do not try to own peace solely, it is a collective job.

HON KASINGO: As I have stated earlier, I am on record, I said the majority of those who have suffered are the people behind peace and stability.

As a point of reminder, a report elsewhere ranked Namibia second in SADC Region as a child-friendly country. The first one is Mauritius. What does it tell you? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I just want to remind my young Brother,

2 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KASINGO**

Honourable Venaani, peace and stability has been brought here by the SWAPO Party. In that process leading to Independence we were all here in Windhoek and I can recall DTA cars with soldiers shouting slogans of the DTA, even threatening that they will shoot us and tomorrow you will swallow all your flags. Honourable Venaani, have you forgotten your Koevoet and Moongo's Koevoet who were threatening us. I was told the other day that I was insulting people by saying they are telling lies in this Chamber, but now I am referring to an untruth, unsubstantiated allegations. Even the other day this very same Venaani and Moongo and Katuutire Kaura were continuously saying SWAPO was rigging elections here and they were implicating the former Director Kanime. Kanime said it is nonsense and you must not play with the peace and stability we have here. We have brought it and we want to maintain it, do not disturb it.

HON KASINGO: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Minister, it is actually what I meant. I was saying that noble task on the part of the Government needs to be supported by all of us to ensure that the social grant for our elders and OVCs...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I went between the Government and the DTA and I lost my position in the DTA because I did that. I met the presidents in Katutura, he was my witness, and I did stop what you are telling the people here. I did, nobody else, it was me. I did this openly in broad daylight. What happened is this, the person told me that peace and law and order here is not good. I offered my good office and then I was crucified from both sides, from SWAPO and from the DTA. Now I do not want these kind of things you are talking about here. Law and order was my game and I ordered my people not to do it. I stopped that and I have taken all the Headmen from Ovamboland to Okakarara and told the Hereros, "*until here.*" The Independence of this country was organised that way, whether you want it or not.

2 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KASINGO**

HON KASINGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was saying that the reason why Namibia was ranked second in SADC is because of the positive law which we made to benefit the children and also these grants.

I was saying that we must now really ensure that the social grants our elders and children are receiving should benefit the target group. Reports elsewhere indicated that some of these funds are being misused and that is why I would like to propose that the institutions in charge of these grants devise control mechanisms to ensure that this money is really benefiting the children. For example, I have in mind that the Ministry could probably use the Councillors in their constituencies and/or social welfare and visit house-to-house where these children in need live to ensure that this money is really benefiting the children.

Depending on that exercise, I would say that if the *inspection-in-loco* proves that there are some people misusing the money, the Government can think in terms of putting these orphans and vulnerable children in a hostel during the week, during the weekend they go to their grandmothers and some portion of that money could be channelled to those hostels. These hostels can be managed by retired teachers and nurses with reasonable allowances. Through that we will ensure that the money is used effectively and at the same time we will ensure that the education of those children has improved. Those are my suggestions concerning the grant.

On job creation, I take note, Honourable Deputy Speaker, that the critics elsewhere state, *inter alia*, that the current Budget with its Medium Term Expenditure Framework does not have a component for job creation. These cannot be reasonably true, because on page 12 of the Minister's speech is mentioned that millions, if not billions, are allocated to infrastructure in the rural areas, infrastructure in the Ministry of Education, to build hostels, schools, the Ministry of Health and Social Services to build clinics. This means it is job creation. The only question is the tenders, who is going to win the tenders. Control mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that these companies getting the tenders give employment to the people in the areas where they are and employ everybody across the board, the youth and everybody who is able to work.

I join the other people who are calling for the Amendment of the tender procedures. We can also put conditions and say that if a certain company

2 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KASINGO**

wins a tender, apart from creating jobs, a certain portion must go to the Development Fund. Those are my proposals.

Those are only a few of the successes of the SWAPO-led Government. Having in mind the successes, we also have to take into consideration the God-given challenge, the floods. My own thinking is that God has given us this challenge so that God can evoke upon our thinking. This flood is calling upon the institutions of higher education to ensure that the engineers in this field must come up with new thinking and education, so that whatever education institutions are doing, it would meet these challenges.

Against this background, I would like to mention a very positive incident. One day I visited one of the Colleagues here at home and I was introduced to the two sons. One is studying in Egypt, the other is studying in China. The one studying in Egypt is studying in the field of Agricultural Engineering. When I heard that one, I asked, *“how are you going to conduct your studies?”* He said, *“I would like to target one of the Regions, to ensure that at the end of 2030 Namibia has enough food.”* I was impressed by that Honourable Members’ kids. What I am saying is that we must think globally, but we must act locally and that is the challenge I am going to put to the institutions of higher education, to produce people with skills.

I would also like to comment on the State-Owned Enterprises. I take note of the dividends given to the Government by those who can and in addition to that, I would like some of these State-Owned Enterprises to target certain Regions and build schools and clinics there, rather than just giving a bursary here and there to students.

The successes are many on the part of the SWAPO-led Government and so are also the challenges. The challenges are to all of us. This brings me to the international issues.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Namibia is not an island, she is part of the global village, hence we should be mindful of the issues taking place in this big global village. While we observe peace and stability in some countries, if not most of the African countries, it is worrisome to note that some unending conflicts, loss of human lives, of which the most are women and children. I can just quote some of the African countries experiencing conflict, for example, Somalia, Sudan, Chad, Gaza, the Central Africa Republic, Mauritania and indeed, the

2 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KASINGO**

recent one, Madagascar. We should condemn some of these unconstitutional changes of Government, like this one of Madagascar. I am happy that the African Union and the SADC Organ have condemned the unconstitutional change of Government in Madagascar.

We should also ensure that the world and continental institutions we have put in place to promote peace are not working in opposing directions. Here I have in mind the subjective selectivity of the International Criminal Court. Where is justice and fairness in this scenario? For example, while the UN is supporting peace initiatives in Sudan, the International Criminal Court has ordered the arrest of the Sudanese President, Her Excellency Al Basier. What happens to those who have committed crimes which might be construed to fall within the jurisdiction of International Criminal Court in Iraq, in Afghanistan, Gaza? One has to keep in mind the saying, "*when politics enter the courtroom, justice will slip away.*" I have in mind this global court.

I understand the preparations are on course to revisit the Roman Statute to ensure, for examples, that aggression be part of crime within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. I hope Namibia will also prepare for that, to close the loopholes of the International Criminal Court. There are now two different views on the International Criminal Court, whether we like it or not. Some people call it the latter Court, the other people call it targeting the former Head of State who was at the helm of the various liberation struggles. Those are the issues, it is not to say I am talking out of the blue.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, allow me to thank, through you, the Honourable Speaker, Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, in his capacity as the Speaker of the National Assembly as well the IPU President, that he ensured that Namibia, small as it is, is on the world map by particularly taking part in the peace initiative in Gaza.

At our national level I would also like to thank him for supporting and facilitating the new UNAM programme designed to benefit Parliamentarians, more specifically those belonging to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs of which I am the Chairperson. The course has already started, thanks to his support, thanks to UNAM, thanks to those people like Konrad Adenauer Stiftung who support it. The course is really very relevant. The course, among others, gives the interpretation of statutes and the drafting. These two courses, among others, are a call to MPs and I believe that should

2 April 2009

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

we have known all these things and not just depended on the services of lawyers, we could also have prevented the scenario of Section 128 of the Labour Act.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, allow me to thank the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa, for once more tabling this Budget. I would like to quote from her concluding remarks:

“This confirms the SWAPO Party consistency and steadfastness in pursuing actions that not only satisfy the needs of our citizens, but also safeguard macro-economic stability.”

Honourable Minister of Finance, your Budget is doing just that. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Kasingo. Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I assure you that my contribution is less than the time allocated to CoD. I will only go over the time if somebody else tries to usurp my time.

I rise today, Honourable Deputy Speaker, to contribute to the Debate on the Appropriation Bill before us. I must admit, however, that for the first time in the 9 years that I have been in this House, I found it difficult to decide whether I should contribute to the Debate or not. I am sure that many of my Comrades on this side of the House must at one point or another have felt the same reluctance. Mine was based on the very simple question that I asked myself: *“What purpose would it serve that I talk? What will I gain if I talk? What difference will it make if I talk? I get my salary even if I do not attend, like many of you. After all, the Executive will still dominate the House, they will still outvote us. Nothing that we recommend will find its way into the Budget.”*

For many years now we have been pleading that the Legislature must be involved in the Budget process from the beginning, not just to rubberstamp it

2 April 2009

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

in this House. Even the public out there has been demanding to be involved, but to no avail. I am not Out of Order, Chief. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order, Honourable Member. Your query is acceptable, but it must not deter you, you are one of the entities here. We have to be together before we fight one another here. That is the right way to avoid conflict and a chaotic situation here in the House. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: Why did you break away?

HON RIRUAKO: I do not want to talk to you if you do not catch up with the momentum of the day. You must be one of us, do not split yourself away from the rest of the House.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Chief, with all due respect, please do not try to read my mind, because Honourable Chief, if the interjections you have been making are put together, it has taken more time than the time allocated to CoD to participate in this Debate. Kindly just allow us to speak, please.

As I said, we have been pleading that the Legislature must be involved in the Budget process from the beginning, not just to rubberstamp it in this House. Even the public out there has been demanding to be involved, but to no avail. That is why I ask myself, what is the point? After all, elections are but a few months away and my time would be more productively spent meeting with the electorate. But then I told myself that it is my duty, not because ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I would like to ask Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase a question, but since she is refusing, on a Point of Information.

2 April 2009

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

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I did not refuse.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I just want to remind you and ask you whether you are aware whether the main organs of the State, according to Article 1(3) of our Constitution, shall be the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary, which means that the budgetary process is the prerogative of the Executive. Honourable Nora, you should know that. You as the Legislature can make an input, but it is the prerogative of the Executive. Therefore, you should come here and make your contribution.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Actually I am more aware than the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Executive cannot approve the Budget, it has to be approved here, but there is absolutely nothing undemocratic, untoward or wrong ...(Interjections). I did not say it should budget, I said it should be involved in the initial budgetary process. Should I speak a different language? I am still busy answering the question. Should I not finish answering? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, whenever the Budget comes the Honourable Members want to be part of the drafting from the onset. How many of the CoD members decide on their own Budget? Every structure has its own rules and we have to honour that. For your information, Article 40(c) reads as follows: *“To formulate, explain and assess for the National Assembly the Budget of the State and its economic development plans and to report to the National Assembly thereon.”* Why do you want to reinvent the wheel?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: But then I told myself that it is my duty, not because of, but in spite of these problems, in spite of the numbers of each Party in this House, each one of us was elected with more than 8,000 votes. No Party had to receive more than that number of votes per seat and except for the overall votes which benefited some Parties...(Intervention)

2 April 2009

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

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Schimming-Chase, maybe there is something that we are missing and you can help us. In the parliamentary system that Namibia adheres to, could you advise us in which country the Opposition Parties sit down with the Governing Party to draft a National Budget? On a further Point of Information, I think it is common knowledge that even in the Executive the duty of drafting the National Budget falls squarely on the Minister responsible for Finance. By the way, who is your Shadow Minister of Finance?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I do not have one, maybe my Party has, but to answer the question, you do not have to look far, the Republic of South Africa Portfolio Committee meets even in open sessions with the public to participate in order to contribute to the Budget. (Interjection). No, you asked which other country, you did not say “*countries.*” The Portfolio Committee is a Committee of Parliament, in fact more of them being chaired by Opposition Party members than in this country.

As I was saying, voters, by voting for Parties on this side of the House, gave a clear indication that they wanted a multi-Party National Assembly, in keeping with our Supreme Law, the Constitution, but more than that, I realised that we have to be here to ensure that our beloved Namibia will be democratic and it is to protect and preserve that democracy that we year after year contribute to this and other Debates, a democracy in which the majority will always have their way – and they do so – but where the minority should have their say and I do not believe that we have our say and that proves my point.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: On a Point of Information. It must be put on record that at no any other time did this Party prevent any Opposition Party saying what they want to say. That is guaranteed by the Constitution and by the policy of the Government of SWAPO. I want to advise the Opposition, if they want to be party to

certain policies, they are welcome to win 50% of the electorate. As long as they are a Minority, they belong to the Minority and the Majority must rule.

2 April 2009

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

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Members, I am sure we will get more than the 50% if we vote on one day, count at the same time and announce the results. Nevertheless, I said the Minority is not allowed to have their say. (Interjections) What is happening over there is more proof of what I am saying. I know in the Caucus it must have been said, “*deal with Venaani and Nora, because when they talk*” ... (Interjections). If it is not the case, why do you not let me make my point? One only has to look at the HANSARD or observe the quality of Debate in this House to realise that whenever the Opposition Members want to have their say, they are abused, interrupted, insulted and denigrated. Members are called liars, puppets, deserters, to mention just a few of the titles that we are given.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order. The Opposition Parties, elected as they are, should also learn how to present their issues to be accepted by all of us. If for whatever reasons they want to talk to the gallery and therefore, say all kinds of things, this House is governed by this book. The Speaker does not allow any Honourable Member to address another in an insulting manner, it is not allowed. (Interjection). If somebody does that, it is the responsibility of the Presiding Officer to call that person to Order and the person withdraw whatever insult. However, that cuts across, I have seen too many MPs on the other side being asked to withdraw wrong statements in this House. Therefore, the Honourable Member is not being truthful.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rule 108 – General Restrictions. You cannot say “*lie*”, it is prohibited in this book. Those are insults.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I heard the Honourable Schimming-Chase saying that the Presiding Officer has been applying the order selectively. I think we cannot allow that the Presiding Officer is attacked in such unfair manner. I heard her saying so. May she withdraw that allegation?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I did not say that the Presiding Officer does,

2 April 2009

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

but for the sake of allowing me to make my speech, I will withdraw.

All of us who are politicians and we stood for elections for our respective Parties, whenever we speak...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I am extremely sorry, but I want to understand the Honourable Member. Would she allow me to ask a question? I understand that the Honourable Member says all the Parties must be involved in the process of formulating the Budget from the word go.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I did not say it.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: From the beginning up to this stage. Fine. Now I have a problem. The things that make us to be this side and the others to be that side is because we have different priorities. The Opposition is in opposition because the priorities that the Ruling Party thinks are priorities to them are not priorities and we budget according to what we think is a priority, which is being opposed by the Opposition. How do we work together in a situation like that?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Minister, let me try to explain once again. I did not say the Opposition Parties must be involved in the drafting of the Budget, I said that it must be in terms of consultation and I am not asking for a miracle or something unknown or reinventing the wheel, it is common practice, it is a discussion in all Parliaments today. All Parliaments are discussing the input of Parliamentarians, even in our Standing Rules and Orders the issues are discussed. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask Honourable

2 April 2009

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

Schimming-Chase a question? Honourable Schimming-Chase, you have been spending nine of your good years in this House, when did you ever have a situation during an Appropriation Bill Debate that we had any addition, subtraction of the National Budget in this House? (Interjections)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Not for long as I served. But you see, Honourable Venaani, the logical conclusion of what is being said is that basically my concern at the beginning is correct. We do not have to add, we do not have to participate, so why on earth do we even discuss it here? That was the question I raised from the beginning. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, even before somebody takes the Floor there are interjections from that side. It is a sign of resistance, that the Opposition must be silent. Due to our constitutional right we are trying to pressurise them to understand. They understand, they do it deliberately. They are undemocratic and they will remain undemocratic in the future! So it is totalitarian regime!

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Moongo, I appreciate... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, you see, what you giving is exactly what you are getting. It is better that we give a chance to the Honourable Member to proceed. You are also interjecting.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Actually my Colleagues on the other side are much kinder to me today. I remember one Budget speech where I was interrupted 49 times in 45 minutes.

2 April 2009

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

Therefore, I am used to it and I know what the instructions from Caucus are.

What I am saying is that whenever we speak, all of us want to score political points, that is why we are politicians and I challenge...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: A Point of Order. A Point of Order is allowed, Honourable Members, it is here. What you should do, Honourable Members, is to get clarity on what she is saying and the Honourable Members should also stick to what the Budget is saying. If you go astray you are inviting problems.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am terribly sorry to interrupt my Mother, but may I ask her a very small question? I appreciate your willingness to take my question. I was always wondering, we talk about the Opposition not having insight into the preparation of the Budget, which probably is a very valid observation, but I really want to be informed, are we aware of the separation of powers, which I presume we are. In terms of that, is there any law enacted that we are in contravention of and in terms of the constitutional provisions, the basis on which our Nation is founded, are we breaking any law in terms of the process that the Government hitherto has been following?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Minister, I think I have adequately answered that question to Honourable Tjiriange. I at no stage stated that a law is being broken. If it is the position of the Ruling Party to say, "*we want to do it and we want to do it alone throughout and you come and rubberstamp it here*", so be it, let the public accept that. It is not my point of view and as a Minority I have my say.

I say that we all try to score political points, all of us, not by what we say, but the mere fact that we say it. I challenge any politician worth his or her salt to get up and tell the public that they do not endeavour to carry the wish of the voters by what they say in this House. (Intervention)

2 April 2009

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

On a Point of Order. I just want to know whether my ears serve me properly. The Honourable Member said that the points of order by the Honourable Members to seek clarity from her, were organised by the Caucus. Can the Honourable Member tell us who gave that instruction?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Member, it is as true as the statement that says Opposition Parties are filling out passports in order to get votes. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I have not even spoken.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, Rule 114, Points of Order are allowed.

HON RIRUAKO: Sometimes one wants to listen, sometimes one wants to react. How many times have Motions from this side gone through? That is part one. Part two: Is there any conflict in the issue? I am not here to play games, we are playing games and those who want to challenge this have to come up with something tangible in order to take the House in the right direction. It must be said that way, some of the Motions passed through and therefore, we have to correct our own mistakes and put it in the right direction. I do not want to keep on arguing.

2 April 2009

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

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not know where the Motion issue comes from, I have not mentioned it. I have not mentioned it and anybody who thinks I have, has not listened.

I said, after all, we speak on behalf of the people who vote for us, often raising issues that members of the public or our own Members request to bring and that is our role. There are Members on the other side of this House who cannot complete a sentence without referring to the “*SWAPO Party Government*” as if it constitutes a subliminal message which must find prominent residence in the minds of the electorate and I do not even have to mention names!
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. When we go out there to the public, each Party has its own Election Manifesto. The SWAPO Party has its own Election Manifesto. Currently the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto is a contract with the people. In that Manifesto we have programmes where we promised the people that if you vote for us, this is what we are going to do and that programme is a reflection of this Budget. We cannot go back to the people during the review on the 18th of April to say we did not increase the Budget for Defence because the DTA is opposed to that. We will never do that. That Manifesto is a contract with the people and we will make sure that the letter and spirit of that Manifesto is implemented through the Budget.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Minister, I am coming to that contract. Just take a ‘*chill-pill*’, I am coming there.

It is in fact those Members who repeat “*SWAPO Party Government, SWAPO Party Government*” who are the ones who accuse us of making political points and yet we manage most of the time to make our contributions without referring to ourselves, we for example, every time I get up to say, “*CoD the Official Opposition, CoD the Official Opposition*”, *ad nauseum, ad infinitum*. (Interjections). It is the same Minister who does not want to be interrupted when she speaks! That is democracy! She refuses to reply. Jack-in-the-Box.
(Intervention)

2 April 2009

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

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: As we are here representing our respective Parties, some of the Colleagues are representing nobody. They are either from this other faction that is now reintegrated. Where do they draw the pride from to talk about the CoD? There is no pride in the CoD, because they do not belong there after all, they have been expelled.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is the Minister of Justice who stands in this House and does not respect a Judgment of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Namibia which reinstated me, enough said on that score. Let me say that it is clear that there is an attempt at all times, as I said before, not to allow the minority to have their say.

Because of this, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to use this opportunity today to thank and commend the Members of the Opposition Parties for carrying on despite interruptions, insults, personal attacks in order to preserve democracy. I want to commend them to ensure Namibia's international recognition is not tarnished. I want to thank them for it. Always bear in mind that without the Opposition there would be no democracy in this country and I want to say that that democracy has never been as crucial as it is in this election year when the signs are there that it is important.

The Honourable Minister of Justice is talking about people expelled and not expelled. How many people in SWAPO have been expelled for RADOPA? Let us not throw stones when we live in glasshouses. We are told now members of other Parties are being physically attacked, we are told that there are areas in this country where we are not allowed to hold meetings. We have even sunk to the point of fighting over flags and trees, but even more serious, even foreign Missions and their Ambassadors are being accused of organising clandestine meetings between members of the Ruling Party and other Parties with the purpose of undermining the Government. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Maybe they are doing so.

2 April 2009

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

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I was an Ambassador, I hosted dinners for members of different Political Parties in the countries where I was posted. I was trained in the diplomatic course to do that. Only last week members of our Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security visited Germany. Our Ambassador hosted a dinner, there were members of the Social Democratic Party, the Christian Democratic Union and the Greens and it is an integral part of the work of an Ambassador and for those who do not know, when an Ambassador is accredited, in the letter of credence it is clearly stated, "*you shall represent the Head of State.*" Therefore, when you start accusing the Ambassador of a country here of undermining your Government, you are accusing the Head of State of that Government. At least make sure you have proof. I was at that dinner. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Honourable Member is using the wrong platform to address a wrong audience. Nobody in this House, unless she says so, has uttered what she is referring to. If she wants to address that issue, I think she should take it somewhere else and address the right audience. She is now referring to SWAPO.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I can understand that the Honourable Minister is getting nervous, I am getting too close to home. I attended that dinner with the German Ambassador on the occasion of the Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. We did not know that, the RDP is not a member of this House, sometimes there is recognition to meet them somewhere else. This is unacceptable but it is taking place according to her.

2 April 2009

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

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Chief, I am sorry, I was not the host, I was invited. I attended that dinner, it was a dinner in honour of the Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. The Constitution guarantees freedom of expression and that is for every Namibian. Opinions expressed by Namibians exercising their democratic right should not be attributed to the Honourable Members in this House. Those were opinions expressed outside this House and they are entitled to express their opinions. We are always being accused here from that side there, but we are not saying it is CoD. Even SWAPO Members have that right and you must recognise that right to express themselves. If they think this thing was wrong, they have the freedom to do so.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I know in the General Debate you can touch on any rumour you have heard, but when your speech will be read by our children, what would they think? The interjections are too much. People should capture the things which you want to say.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am on page 2 and I have 5 minutes. This part would have taken 2 minutes if it were not for the interjections, but let us go ahead.

I was there, several members of the private sector, so were respected Members like Honourable Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo. (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Who else? (Laughter)

2 April 2009

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

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Minister, now I understand why people say they used to listen to you. I see you are speaking for them. Let me go on.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase, are you aware that the Secretary-General of the Ruling Party was saying *that those people have to make just a little mistake*. She was saying in the press, *just a little mistake then you are out*. Now she wants to ascertain who made that little mistake.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Venaani, I wore many jackets in my life, but that of informer I have not yet done. However, let me say to the Honourable Minister, I am not referring to the individual SWAPO Members speaking their mind, I am speaking of an official organ of SWAPO, the SWAPO Youth League, that was even given time on radio and television to castigate us. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Who else was there?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I can tell you who did not come of those who were invited. You seem, more than shocked than anything else, I was most shocked by the fact that the SWAPO leadership did not call their youth to order. I, for one, and I want to go on Record, had absolutely no interest in reporting to the SWAPO Youth League, not politically, not intellectually, not culturally or any other way.

Let me sound a word of warning, we are no longer benefiting from the Global Fund, soon we will not be considered for the Millennium Challenge Account. Somebody was saying there, why do I count myself amongst the Tanganyika Group? Those of us in the Tanganyika Group were all very hot under the collar when we were young, we were young Turks, but we used our youthful

2 April 2009

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

excitement to work for the benefit and Independence of our country, not to destroy that we have achieved just because we want to get into Parliament one day. Stand up and organise and be elected, leave those who are elected on both sides, do not call for the withdrawal of Ministers or Honourable Members because you want to come in. Show that you can. (Intervention)

HON BOOYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am very sorry, I have never interrupted the Honourable Member since I joined the Parliament, but today I will interrupt. May I ask a small question? I was following with keen interest the name-calling of those who were present and the names stopped with Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo and we were asking her to continue naming those who were present.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Booy's. Sometimes it is good to allow a little bit of humour so that the tempers can cool down. You have cooled mine down, thank you.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me come back to the Budget. I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for tabling a well-prepared Budget. I must say that when I was listening to her, I felt very encouraged that perhaps the economic crisis of the world and the recession seems to have passed us by. Unfortunately, of course, it is not the case and she spoke about that, but let us leave it at that, I would like to give credit where it is due.

The tax relief for lower income groups as well as the zero-rating... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: What was the use of having RDP at the German Embassy? What happened? Tell us why they were there?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chief is Out of Order.

2 April 2009

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

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: The Honourable Chief brought the Germans here so often that SWAPO got tired and recognised you as a Chief. Now I am bringing it, maybe I will be recognised as a Chief. Who knows? Maybe next year I will stand for chieftainship.

I said that I thank the Minister for the tax relief that she has granted to lower income groups as well as the zero-rating of some foodstuffs. It will help the poor and I think the Minister has to be thanked for that during a very difficult time when we were all anticipating big cuts, big problems because of the world situation. It was good to listen to her, one felt safe and I thank the Honourable Minister for that.

However, Honourable Minister, we are once again told that this is a pro-poor, pro-development Budget. It is quite possible and I grant this, that when we define these two terms by giving practical examples, it will become evident that we differ widely in our understanding of pro-poor and pro-development and there is nothing wrong with that. There can be different interpretations to issues and in fact, the more intelligent and academic the Debate, the greater the misunderstandings would be or the differences would be. Therefore, I do not blame the Colleagues on the other side when saying it is pro-poor, it is pro-development, a job well-done. Kindly do not blame me when I raise practical examples where I feel it is not pro-poor and not pro-development. Let me please do so.

To me pro-poor means that those who are poor will, even if they do not get richer, will at least be left poor as a result of this Budget. To me, the elderly in our country represent the poorest of the poor in our society. I would have said a pro-poor Budget would have been raising their monthly income. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order. It is not true that the elderly in our society are the poorest. That statement is not true.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Minister, let us agree to disagree as good democrats. I think they are. You may feel they are not,

2 April 2009

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

you are democratically entitled to your view, I am democratically entitled to mine. I do not see an improvement in their pensions to enable them to lead a better life. I do see that they will get N\$600 more if they die, but this does not improve their standard of living. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I would like to be advised on a Point of Order. The agreement here is that on the Second Reading CoD has 30 minutes and now we are over 45 minutes. It is SWAPO's time.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The interventions are just too much.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Because we are just listening to propaganda here.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The interventions are just too much, so I have to allow the Member to complete her speech. Honourable Members, if you intervene I cannot stop her until she has completed her speech, because you are consuming the time of that person.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, I do not think the extra N\$600 per annum would make them less poor. Some will be able to buy more expensive coffins. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: On a Point of Order. Comrade Deputy Speaker, the statement of the Honourable Member is incorrect. Even if the elderly's pension is increased by N\$1,000, it will never

2 April 2009

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

make them rich and just to show how shallow this argument is, most of the people who own properties in this country are the elderly. If she was saying the young people are the poorest in the country I would agree. They own nothing, they get nothing, not even a pension of N\$2. That argument is hollow.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: As I said, Honourable Minister, you are entitled to your view. I did not say “*get richer*”, I said “*less poor*.” I will stick to what I said, I will listen to what you want to say when you say it. This N\$600 that they get more might enable them to buy a more expensive coffin or more food for their funeral, but those who have spoken to me said they would have preferred the N\$50 per month more which would have added to N\$600. They are asking us, I am asking, “*are they more valuable when they die than when they are alive?*”

Let us look at **housing**. I do not see anything in the Budget to assist those poor people who are losing their houses because they are in arrears with their municipal bills. Surely, adequate and decent housing is a basic human right. Surely a pro-poor Budget would find some way to allow these people who have worked most of their lives to have a roof over their heads not to end up homeless. Surely a pro-poor Budget would have found some ways to subsidise the poor in order to have them pay these debts.

Let us look at **education**. This year the *born-frees* are going to vote for the first time, but they are not the only ones. All the young people who reached the age of 18 since the last election will vote for the first time. I ask, how many of them who form part of the tens of thousands of Grade 10s who dropped out during the last 5 years will agree that their lot is an indication of the concerns for the poor, of a job well-done to alleviate poverty, not to speak of the Grade 12s. Yes, they can go to NAMCOL, but how many parents can afford to pay for the failing kids to go to NAMCOL?

Job creation is part of development. How many of them can find jobs today? Honourable Kawana, I read the Manifesto of SWAPO Party for the last election, it made a commitment to create 50,000 jobs in these five years. The five years are over, how many of those 50,000 jobs were made available to kids who have dropped out and NAMDEB is already putting off 600, Ramatex

2 April 2009

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

has put off so many. Let us see, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, I will withdraw my words when those 50,000 have benefited the poor, not the relatives of the rich, the poor. Not those who own ten companies, those who own none. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you are talking about unemployment and the jobs created. You referred to NAMDEB laying off people. Do you really in all sincerity think that is a result of the Government not being able to control what is happening internationally or why do you have to bring it in as being calculated as jobs not created? Jobs were created until that point and we all know what happened in the capitalist world and we are not in a village, we are part of the world economy.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Member, the problems that NAMDEB is experiencing is because of the recession and the world economic crisis. It is not part of the 50,000, it will not be part of the 50,000, I will not count it in the 50,000 when the Minister will provide the 50,000 that did get the jobs. Believe me, I will not. Once SWAPO reports on its election contract with the people of Namibia that these are the 50,000 jobs we created that is another thing, not NAMDEB.

Honourable Speaker, I believe that a pro-poor Budget would have made it possible for the children poor people who fail Grade 12 to pay for them to go to NAMCOL. That is what pro-poor would be.

Honourable Minister, let me come to **health** and I am talking about health because I looked at the statistics of the World Health Organisation which indicates that more than 30% of newborn babies and infants in Namibia suffer from stunted growth. Do you know what that means, suffers from stunted growth? Do you know? You are definitely not stunted. (Intervention)

2 April 2009

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

HON RIRUAKO: You can say anything you want to say, a Point of Order is my right as you have the right to say what you want to say. We are here to tackle the global crisis, not to form another crisis. Now we are just talking and talking without content, without direction, without proposals.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Chief, you have been recognised, you even got a 4X4, surely your contract with SWAPO is finish, you are not of the Ruling Party, you are of the Opposition. Stop attacking the Opposition. You are a Chief now, take your car and drive. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: My recognition is not helping the world. If you want to be recognised as part of SWAPO, go there. And if you want to be independent on your own, say something that will also convince the other people to join your Party.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I am concluding. Thank you, Honourable Chief, wise words from a wise leader, the NUDO members are very fortunate.

But I would like to come back to health. The latest statistics from the World Health Organisation indicate that more than 30% of newborn babies and infants in Namibia suffer from stunted growth because of poverty, because the poor pregnant mothers do not eat properly. These poor children are born with a disadvantage that will follow them for the rest of their lives. Why? Because they are poor. None of us or those of us who can still give birth will give birth to stunted children, but they do. A pro-poor Budget would make provision for some scheme that would help pregnant mothers to eat properly and have the required nutrients to give birth to healthy babies.

I know, Honourable Deputy Speaker, that Malaysia invested in people and not in buildings and that is why Malaysia is where it is today. If we only take the money that we give to NBC or Air Namibia, the number of school children with scholarships would have been so many. (Intervention)

2 April 2009

ADJOURNMENT

HON MEMBER: Look in the camera.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I am not even looking in the camera, I know I was a star long before. Namibia is Africa's last colony, some of you have seen my contribution to the liberation struggle.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the time has gone, I have been critical but I believe my criticism has been constructive. It is my duty as a Member with oversight functions and I sit down. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of Rule 90, the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 7 April 2009.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.04.07 AT 14:30