

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>(Information & Communication Technology)</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 Ilonga	<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 *(Deputy Whip)*
Ms N Schimming-Chase *(Chief Whip)*

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr J De Waal *(Chief Whip)*
Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*
Mr P Moongo
Mr M Venaani *(Deputy Whip)*

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

Mr J Viljoen *(Chief Whip)*

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

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

REPUBLICAN PARTY

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

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Dr L Amathila (Ms) *(Deputy Prime Minister)*
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)
Dr K Amutenya (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 Booyis *(Deputy Chairperson of the Whole
House Committee)*
Ms H Christian
Mr Dinyando *(Deputy Minister)*

Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)	<i>(Speaker)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms E Ipinge	
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr 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	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Smit	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
07 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?

TABLING: REPORT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I lay upon the Table, Report of the Auditor General on the Accounts of the Government of Namibia for the Financial Year ended March 31st, 2007.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND AMENDMENT
BILL: RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Namibia Constitution Second Amendment Bill*.

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON DR N IYAMBO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Friday, 27th March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Prime Minister that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Venaani adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON MOONGO: I appeal to the House that somebody else takes the Floor, because he is on his way.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Minister of Safety and Security.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I rise to support the Amendments to the Constitution. I took note that when the Right Honourable Prime Minister motivated the Amendments, he made it categorically clear that most, if not all, are technical Amendments that were necessitated by the times and circumstances and that everybody has been consulted, particularly Members of the Parties represented in this House and I also know that we have consulted each other during the course of the Amendments in the forums which normally discuss those issues.

I remember that there was one issue that was agreed upon, but for some technical reasons it was not included in the Amendments on the Table and I took it up with the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the people responsible for making those technical Amendments and everything was then agreed upon. This is with reference to the Commissioner of Prisons.

In the security forces, particularly in terms of the Police and the Prisons, we have the Commissioner of Prison Service as the Head of the Prison Service. Then in the Police we have the Inspector-General and the Deputy Inspector-General and the Commissioners are the third rank in that order.

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KAAPANDA**

Normally when you are in meetings and make reference to the Commissioner of Prison

Service, it seems as if you are addressing him at the same level as the Commissioners of the Police. Therefore, to make a distinction, it was proposed that it be amended to Commissioner General of the Prison Service or Commissioner General of Correctional Services. That is just to bring it into conformity with many of the Commonwealth countries.

That has been agreed upon and I believe the Right Honourable Prime Minister will most probably propose an Amendment during the Committee Stage and I have been promised that it has been agreed upon and the Amendment has been prepared to be effected. That is all I wanted to say. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussions? Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Comrade Deputy Speaker, mine is just a question. I would like to know whether the proposed Commissioner-General for Correctional Services, in terms of rank will be equal to the Inspector-General of the Police?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Deputy Speaker, that is exactly the problem, that the Commissioner of the Prison Service is of equal rank to the Inspector-General and the Chief of the Defence Force, who is the Lieutenant-General of the Defence Force. They are at equal level.

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON T GURIRAB / HON NAMOLOH**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: I will be brief, Deputy Speaker. I rise to add our support to the proposed Amendments. I was not in the Chamber when this was tabled a week ago and I read in the press that many of my Colleagues stood up to support the extension of the term for non-Namibians marrying nationals from two years to a ten year term and also for those applying for naturalisation. I read in the media that Colleagues argued that that be the case because there are so many fake marriages by non-nationals marrying for reasons different from those of love.

What I want to say is that the term of ten years is almost standard in many places. In many jurisdictions the ten year term is almost universal and for that very reason we support the Amendment.

The same applies to aligning the tenure of the Regional Councillors with the tenure of the President, the National Assembly and the Local Authorities, because we think it makes sense because for reasons of efficiency and cost and we support that. We support the Amendment Bill.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I recognise Minister Namoloh.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I did not intend to speak, but I wanted to come in on the issue of the Commissioner-General and Inspector-General.

I think sometimes this issue of rank causes confusion. The Minister said it is common practice in the Commonwealth to refer to Commissioner-General of Police, but even Inspector-General of Police is not really the

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON DIENDA**

terminology being used elsewhere, but Inspector of Police which means he is the Chief of the Police. If he is Commissioner of Prisons or Correctional Services, it would indicate that he is the overall Chief, instead of saying Commissioner-General. It is like an Attorney-General now.

Maybe the Minister has consulted, but we were not consulted to find the correct terminology. If you say Commissioner of Police or Inspector of Police it is the overall Inspector of Police and normally it suffices to say that. However, to say Commissioner-General, we would not agree on that. Maybe we could discuss further on this issue and find a proper title. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would just like to ask the Prime Minister what is the possibility that the whole Constitution be reviewed. This Constitution was drawn up 19 years ago and there are so many issues which have been overtaken by time and we need to address those issues within the Constitution. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Such as?

HON DIENDA: Such as free primary education. We need to talk about that. Secondly, we made an Amendment that the President of the country will only serve for three consecutive terms, but what about the terms of Members of Parliament? The MPs are for life, but the President is only for three terms and we need to talk about those issues. That is one of the reasons why I think we need to review our whole Constitution and talk about it.

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KASINGO**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will try to focus on the Amendments which were brought to this House. Honourable Minister of Justice, you might remember that 2 years ago I asked you questions regarding these marriages that took place in the Courts and I told you that it only took us five minutes to tie the knot and 5 years to get rid of that same marriage. It was exactly because of this problem. Therefore, I do believe what the Catholic Church is doing is the right way, first to announce in the church, “is there anybody who has a problem with this marriage taking place?” Then at least we will solve this problem of fake marriages.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, are we addressing the problem or are we just addressing the symptoms of these marriages? We cannot say all the marriages to non-Namibians are fake marriages, I do not believe that and I want us to look into the merits. If a Nigerian doctor married a Namibian, are we now saying that that doctor must wait for 10 years and that doctor cannot even get a work permit to start working in the country?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, if you apply for a work permit, they will ask you for a permanent address in this country and if you are sitting in Nigeria and your wife has a permanent address in Namibia, you cannot even refer to that address, you will not be allowed in this country on a permanent basis if you do not have the necessary documents. That is why I see a trick in this 10 years Amendment.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, my question is, are we not punishing those people who do not need to be punished, but the real culprits are the ones who will continue faking marriages. That is my problem.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I support the Amendments but I have some issues regarding the 10 years. I feel that somehow we are missing something here. Thank you.

HON KASINGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor to make some comments on the Namibian Constitution Second Appropriation Bill. I support the extension of the period to

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KASINGO**

acquire citizenship through marriage from 2 years to 10 years and I should think our intention with the extension is to deter those foreigners who marry Namibians and at the end of the day they are not serious and they divorce them.

I understand that when Namibia got Independence in 1990, the reason for the 2 years was that by then we had a number of freedom fighters who married outside and these people came with them to Namibia. However, immediately after Independence there was an influx of *male fide* foreigners and I have to admit that the second Minister of Home Affairs who is now the Head of State and then Honourable Jerry Ekandjo experienced problems with the Namibian women and I also had some conversations with them. They come to our offices, they cry and they say these people are making trouble. The phrase goes, “true love waits” and indeed, in SADC Region, for example in Botswana, you cannot get citizenship by virtue of marriage.

I do not agree with Honourable Dienda who asked whether we are not punishing the people with good intentions. No, we are not punishing them, they will be there, they will be given all the rights and they can apply in terms of the procedure. I also did not agree when she mentioned the procedures in church. This is just an Amendment of the Supreme Law and after it has been amended, surely the regulations will be covered by Act of Parliament. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. The *male fides* are those people who have bad intentions and it has been proven that a lot of Namibian women got married to these *male fide* men, who came to Namibia only with the intention to acquire citizenship. As a result they marry quickly, sometimes they go to the churches, sometimes they go to the Magistrate’s Court and as soon as they have acquired Namibian citizenship, then they dump the poor Namibian women and then bring their wives. I am aware of such cases and this Amendment is an attempt to protect our women.

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KASINGO**

HON KASINGO: Honourable Deputy Minister, I agree and I would also like to caution our fellow Namibians who are targeted by these *male fide* foreigners...(Intervention)

HON CHRISTIAN: May I ask a tiny question? The Constitution is a very expensive document. Do you think it is wise to amend the Constitution every now and then? I think there is provision to make Amendments, why change the Constitution?

HON KASINGO: Yes, I agree that the Constitution is the Supreme Law and I should think there is good reason to amend. You may be aware that in terms of the provisions of the Constitution citizenship is covered here. There is no way you can change that without amending the Constitution. (Intervention)

HON CHRISTIAN: My question is, why change the whole Constitution? Provision is made for Amendments, why change the whole Constitution?

HON KASINGO: My dearest Comrade, I should think the rationale behind what Honourable Dienda said is that there is a need to look at the whole Constitution to see which provisions should be amended and I agree. (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: May I ask my Colleague a question? I just want to ask whether now when we are going to amend the Constitution, can we reclaim our women as well?

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KASINGO**

HON KASINGO: I am a woman, I cannot teach you the skills, you can claim them. (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: On the point of reclaiming our women, the Namibian men are already less than the women. How do you want to handle all of us?

HON KASINGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was saying that the intention is really to target those *male fide* foreigners and the reason for this Amendment is because there is a provision in the Constitution which provides citizenship by virtue of marriage and other related factors. (Intervention)

HON T GURIRAB: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Declined.

HON KASINGO: It is a very good Amendment and also the Amendment to bring the term of Regional Councils to 5 years. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: May I ask a question? Through the Chair, thank you, Comrade Kasingo. Do you agree with me that this Amendment is being proposed to address the issue of injustice or abuse that has been perpetuated against women who are

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KASINGO**

human beings and not property that can be reclaimed? Do you agree with me?

HON KASINGO: Yes, senior Minister, I was supposed to ask that the Comrade over there withdraws. I agree with you, the women are human beings, they cannot be reclaimed as if you are reclaiming a farm.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Comrade Kasingo, the notion that Namibian men are in the minority, numerically speaking, are you sure this is not what the fathers and mothers of our Constitution recognised when they deliberately recognised the traditional marriage in our Constitution and to our understanding, there are still so many traditional marriages remaining in Namibia that the question of being a minority does not arise.

HON KASINGO: I do not think so. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am saying it is a very good Amendment, it targets the good women...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Kasingo a question, please? Honourable Kasingo, let me first read the article the Honourable Minister just made reference to, Article 66(1): “*Both the customary law and the common law of Namibia in force on the date of Independence shall remain valid to the extent to which such customary or common law does not conflict with the Constitution or any other statutory law.*” Do you not think the qualification in Article 66 is to recognise that polygamist marriage is unconstitutional? Article 10 states: “All persons shall be equal before the law.” Men and women in law are considered as equal. When one man marries two women, what equality is there?

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KASINGO**

Therefore, do you not think, Honourable Member, that what Article 66 refers to as that law which conflicts with the Constitution or any other statutory law, is precisely polygamist marriages? Do you not think so?

HON KASINGO: Honourable Minister of Justice, you have brought a very interesting legal argument and there is a need to scrutinise some of the provisions of the Constitution. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Information, Comrade Deputy Speaker. My understanding of equality is that both polygamy and monogamy are equal before the law.

HON KASINGO: Before I answer that, Honourable Minister of Justice, you have brought quite an interesting legal question. As we go along and see a need to look at all the provisions of the Constitution, we should look at those issues. Why I cannot pronounce myself on that legal point is that in my own opinion, equality could also mean...(Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. Does this House realise that we are about to violate natural law, that a woman may be married to two men. That is against natural law and the natural order.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, then how do you understand Article 10 about all people being equal if you married to two wives? Is your wife equal to you?

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KASINGO**

HON MOONGO: Yes, it is against natural law. Natural law says a woman cannot be married to two men, but a man can marry two women.

HON KASINGO: I would like to wrap up, Honourable Deputy Speaker. (Intervention)

HON NASHANDI: On a Point of Information. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I know of an incident, somebody arrived in Namibia on the 26th of February, got married on the 13th of March to a young girl born in 1984. Unfortunately the parents do not know about this marriage and now she does not even know where her husband is. To perhaps solve this problem, why can we not stop the importation of husbands? If we cannot do that, then we should allow our married sisters to follow the husbands to their country of origin.

HON KASINGO: I do not agree that women should follow them. The Namibian population is very small and I do not agree to that. However, let me go back to the question by the Minister of Justice. If at all we are going to discuss polygamy...(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. I have tried to listen to the Debate and it seems that we have deviated. Can we perhaps come back to the Motion and later I will move a Motion so that we can discuss that issue. Let us for now concentrate on the Motion.

HON KASINGO: I would like to say that that question of equality...(Intervention)

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON IIPINGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I rise to give information in relation to Honourable Moongo's intervention on natural law. There are communities that practise polygamy and that a woman may marry two men. Is that natural law only applied to Namibia or to the whole world?

HON KASINGO: I do not agree with Honourable Moongo that that is natural law. I am sure the women will bring that issue of equality, that if the men are allowed to marry two wives, what about us? I will leave it there.

I would once more like to welcome this Amendment and also the Amendment to bring the term of Regional Councils to five years so that we can cut costs.

To the fellow women, I would like to advise you to be strong, not to be fooled by these people who promise us heaven and then when you go there, it is hell. With this, I support the Amendment.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you. I now recognise Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I also want to give my support to this Constitutional Amendment Bill. I have a few comments to make, firstly in regard to the Amendment of Article 4 which is numbered 1(a), (b).

I wonder whether it would not be necessary for us to think in terms of what happens where two people enter into a marriage in good faith, a national of Namibia and a non-national, but after eight years the Namibian passes away. I am not saying that it should be in the Constitution, it may

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

be provided for in the Act, but maybe it is something worth considering, because we may have a situation where, if this person cannot be allowed to have citizenship, the children born to a Namibian parent would now be forced to go with this father or mother to another country where we cannot guarantee the safety of these children. There are some communities where children are subjected to all kinds of things and now we will not be able to protect these children, nor will we be able to prevent this parent from taking away the children. I know that this is a difficult issue, but maybe we should somehow think about it and see what can be done in order to make sure that the children do not end up being exposed to negative circumstances. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, I understand when you get married and have kids, these are our kids, mine and that of my wife. If I pass on, then it is the responsibility of my wife to take care of our kids. In the event where the mother passed on after 9 years, eleven months and 23 days, then as far as I am concerned, the father should take responsibility for our kids and if he has to move to Canada or South Africa, he has to take his kids with him. If he has to go, who is going to take care of these kids?

HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA: I am not saying the surviving parent who is not a citizen of Namibia should be prohibited from taking the children away, I am only saying that maybe the law should allow that in a situation where that parent wants to remain here and raise the child here, there should be flexibility in the law to allow that person to remain. I am not saying the law should stipulate that once a Namibian parent passes away, the other parent is not allowed to take the child.

The next one is 1(b). We talk about a person having been so resident in Namibia. Is the emphasis on “residence” or is the emphasis on staying in a marriage? For example, you are married to a Namibian, this Namibian

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

was resident some place for 5 years, you have been married for 5 years, staying together there, then you will come to Namibia, you will stay another five years, is that marriage not 10 years?

The third point is that, I assume that the relevant Act that would enable us to operationalise these provisions would make provision for dissolution of a marriage if it was entered into in bad faith. I assume that if it is found that the foreigner has a wife somewhere, that marriage should be dissolved and all the rights that accompany this marriage will fall away, because the constitutional provision, as cited recently, refers only to marriages by Namibian customs, which means that I am correct to assume that we are not recognising marriages by other customs, other than Namibian customs.

Another comment is that we have been having problems with the quorum in the House and I was hoping that now that we are amending the Constitution we would make provision for a working quorum, because in the past we sometimes only engaged in general Debate or to answer questions posed, but we found that we could not proceed with that although no law is to be passed, because we do not have that quorum as stipulated in the Constitution. I had hoped that we could take advantage of this opportunity to make it a working quorum, so that when there is no need to pass a law, we would be able to continue with the discussions with a lower number of Parliamentarians.

My last comment may be controversial, but please, Honourable Tjihiuko, the question is not directed to you, it is to the Mover of the Motion. It is with regard to the provision in the Constitution on who qualifies to assume the position of President of the Republic of Namibia. There are views out there that that provision should be more stringent, so that a person who qualifies to be the President of Namibia should, for example, be a second generation citizen, rather than a citizen by birth only. With regard to the age, I know that would constitute a conflict of interest in my case, therefore I will not say anything about that, but it is necessary to look at the issue of second generation so that we do not end up with a situation where, under certain circumstances, people would start to doubt the

07 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Commander-in-Chief because they would say, *“the grandmother is on the other side, what do we expect?”*

With these comments I support the Bill.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, unfortunately I missed the motivation of this very important Amendment Bill and my memory is bothering me because of what I know as to what the intentions of many of my Colleagues were and my apologies to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, because I might not sound like a Cabinet Member. However, I am really provoked by issues being raised by, for example, Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. What were prepared as Amendments to the Constitution were more than this and I do not understand why only a few of those articles are now being subjected to Amendments. I now do not know where we place the issues being raised from the Floor, whether we are going to add to the Amendments already tabled or how are we going to deal with them? I know that there are various issues waiting for Amendments, but now we are dealing with only these few, but what are we going to do with those proposed now? Otherwise I support what is here and not what is being proposed. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Members, this is a very important Amendment and I do not want anyone to later claim that they

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAIYAMO**

were bulldozed through this House. Therefore, I give you another week and I will reply on the 16th of April.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reply by the Right Honourable Prime Minister will be on the 17th of April 2009. The House stands adjourned for tea-break.

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

**APPROPRIATION BILL:
RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING**

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the House adjourned in terms of Rule 90 on Thursday, the 2nd of April, 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 discussions? I recognise Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope you will have sympathy with me, because I was not here and I may repeat things which have been mentioned before.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAIYAMO**

As a matter of principle I need to join all those who congratulated the able Minister of Finance and her able team. Comrade Minister, congratulations, you have now become a veteran.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in the second paragraph of my speech I want to put some misunderstandings into perspective, because I read the newspapers when I was abroad. SWAPO Party is still the Party which I trust, is still the Party the people I come from trust, is still the Party worth trusting. There must be no misunderstanding among the progressive intellectuals as well. SWAPO Party is still the movement that liberated this country. You and I know exactly who are the people, I mean yesterday of this day. Those beautiful colours, green, red and blue, only becomes beautiful to some people now. SWAPO Party has a proud history, it is the only Party that has a proud history and when you have a proud history, you want to tell everybody about that history.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, many of those people whom we regard as heroes and heroines are hardly seen in newspapers, are hardly seen in these airconditioned offices, but history is on their side. SWAPO Party is still the Party that brought reconciliation in this country and Comrade Pohamba, in his speech during the Independence Celebrations called it the *“far-sighted policy of SWAPO Party.”*

I also fully agree with the late Maxuilili that if it were not for Comrade Sam Nujoma, some of the personalities seen in our towns would not be here to enjoy this Independence. Everyone in this Republic is where he is today because of Sam Nujoma even if we want to tell other stories.

This Budget is once again the reconciliation of our SWAPO Party and its Government. The SWAPO Party is well aware of the class nature of our society. After all, some of us wanted a classless society, but we had to take the second-best option. These days some of you call it capitalism. Capitalism is capitalism. There is no middle road. We have been telling you that monopolistic capitalism is bad, it is still bad.

I am very proud of this Budget document where the Government is reporting what we have been doing as a Government. I want everybody to

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAIYAMO**

read it and then speak from an informed point of view. This Report clearly indicates what Government has been doing and I only want to quote from Defence.

I heard that some people were talking about the allocation to Defence. Honourable Deputy Speaker, you and I were in this Chamber when the Committee led by Comrade Amathila went to the Regions and we saw the outdated equipment of our army and we also saw our soldiers in their old, outdated uniforms. We recommended to this Parliament that Defence be given more resources and it was done. Why now the contradictions, why the selective morality? I was reading that one helicopter for the Army costs nearly half the Budget which we gave them. Therefore, I thank the Honourable Minister for giving the Army the Budget they need.

The Minister of Education reported in this document that books for every child will only be available by 2011. Do not come with other stories, this is what is reported in this Budget. That is why I also thank the Minister for giving money for libraries and education in general.

I also see in the Budget that the Minister is also closing the prosperity gap between class divisions. This Budget makes allocations for all the classes and what we need to do is to read the Budget and to advise our people to apply for what is given to us in the Budget. I am saying this because I was in one of the Regions and we found somebody building a school with wet bricks and the people told them to stop. What I am saying is that let us as Colleagues, as people of this Republic be vigilant and not allow people to build our schools with useless materials. The Budget makes provision for that.

The Budget also brings trust in the Party and its people. We must just make sure that all our cadres understand what is in the Budget for them, not only for the bourgeoisie to get contracts. That is why the Budget is clearly for every person in all segments of classes, so that all people in society will benefit from the Budget.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAIYAMO**

We also want this Republic to be investor-friendly. I call on the Custom officials at least to smile at our visitors, because some of the visitors are bringing money to create jobs for our people.

I also respect the multi-directional foreign policy. Let us go back to the drawing board and let our foreign policy respect our old friends – Cuba, Soviet Union and all the others. SWAPO had a policy on foreign affairs and it did not change. We are not reading and I want us to read, because people are making a lot of statements without reading.

The Budget brings financial and social stability to the Republic due to the good political leadership by the SWAPO Government in cooperation with the elected leaders in this Parliament and I underline that, the good leadership in the country is also because of the good leadership of SWAPO Party and the elected leaders in this Parliament.

Security and stability. Colleagues, why should we buy stolen goods? You are creating a market if you buy stolen goods. Let us use the Budget to create safety for all of us, but we cannot create safety if we buy stolen goods. You are not helping the Republic by buying stolen goods.

When we want investment in Namibia, we need to tell the people that Namibia should be the first stop on the way to Zambia, Botswana, etcetera. If they want to invest in the Region, they should use Namibia as a point of departure. The opportunities are right in front of us, let us use it, the Budget makes provision for that. I want to say to some of our bourgeoisies, let us share the cake. Some people think we are stupid to see things. Colleagues, the people are not stupid, they are awake, they see what we are doing and let us be thankful for the truth.

Education is an issue close to my heart and education should be for all of us, not only for the poor teachers. The Ministry of Education has policies in place and in my view, those policies are 110% correct. Comrade Nahas Angula, Comrade Mutorwa and Comrade Mbumba, thank you for a good policy in the Ministry. The problem is the implementation of these policies. For example, last year people were making a lot of noise here and outside that the Grade 10 must repeat. Well and good, we let

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KAIYAMO**

them repeat and do you know how many passed? And for your information, some Regions did not even get the money that was given for them to repeat until the examination results came out. The problem is the implementation.

The board members of schools should also play their part, the churches should also play their part, and the traditional leaders should also play their part. It is useful to respect some issues in cultural upbringing. In Oshivambo we say, "*Gwaapandula ino vaka*", meaning that if you do not say thank you, you might end up stealing. We must say, thank you, Honourable Kuugengelwa-Amadhila, it is a good Budget.

The grassroots people in my area are thankful for the increase in the salaries of Members of Parliament and Civil Servants, they are thankful for the money given to the old-aged. They are thankful for the money given to the veterans, despite those elements who are trying to create confusion.

In conclusion, there may be a few patriotic Comrades who realise that politics need hard work in the spirit of transition, but do not know how to go about it. We as leaders must help them in every possible way. Do not allow the colleagues to fall, let us help them. Neither must we as people overlook those who have not fully understood the class struggle as well as those who do not understand the ongoing class contradictions. The SWAPO Party Manifesto is the torch and only useful tool for peace and stability in our country.

Lastly, in all instances we should remember Lenin's warning and I quote: "*Illusions and self-deception are terrible, the Party and the people need to hear the truth in big things and small things. Lies, and half-truths corrupt the mind.*" I support the Budget.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Goreseb.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

HON GORESEB: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I am honoured to comment on the Appropriation Bill and the statement by Honourable Minister of Finance on the 2009/10 Budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, Namibia has been faced by many challenges since times immemorial and has overcome them, hence, the peace, security and unity of nationhood and the policy of national reconciliation we have adopted.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we crafted our long-term Vision 2030, supplemented by the then NDP1, NDP2 and now by NDP3, to develop this country to become prosperous and an industrialised country. However, these noble visions and aspirations are troubled by global economic factors which are beyond our control, with a negative impact on our local economy and human development. This in turn will affect the peace and tranquillity we enjoy.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the global economic downturn is a global problem and needs a global response. It is true that the G20 Nations have met recently and they were busy to discuss this global issue. Nevertheless, it is imperative that we act regionally and locally to move forward to weather the storms.

This Budget for 1009/10 Financial Year has been tabled at the most crucial time in our history when the world economy is facing the crisis of the 1930s and when our elections are due. Therefore, maybe the appropriate name for this Budget is "Election Budget."

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Government of the day can delegate authority and decision-making, but can never delegate responsibility. As one vision lies in one's mind, the responsibility rests squarely on one's head.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, notable economists and bankers had the following to say on our economy during this economic downturn: "*Gross domestic product growth is expected to slump to 1% this Financial Year. This is miles away from the targeted growth rate in Vision 2030*"

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

and NDP3, which is at 7%. This simply means that we will never reach Vision 2030 with this low economic growth of 1%. The primary sector will be worst hit by the global economic crisis, we have learnt. Negative growth, closure of mines, retrenchment of workers and increasing unemployment are things we are experiencing on a daily basis. Export is to decline due to a lack of demand and low commodity prices, nobody wants to buy our diamonds anymore. Revenue as a ratio to gross domestic product has been in decline, revenue from SACU is expected to decline sharply in the next fiscal year. The total expenditure will exceed the expenditure rule at the medium term. The bulk of expenditure is still earmarked for operational items, resulting in low economic growth. That you will realise if you study those documents. The Wage Bill remains high by international standards. Due to high expenditure and revenue shortfall the deficit rule will be violated and the total debts as ratio to Gross Domestic Product is expected to reach 25% in the medium term. Foreign debt as a percentage to total debt has been on the increase, exposing the country to currency risk.”

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the largest economies of the world, which also account for a substantial portion of the consumer market for diamonds, have clearly started to shrink at a rate that is unprecedented since the early 1930s. Industrial production in many economies is falling even faster at minus 2.6% in Japan, minus 7.8% in USA and minus 7.7% in the Euro area. We are hopeful that a substantial stimulus by the major industrial countries will turn things around.

However, Honourable Deputy Speaker, we must also recognise that we are not facing a normal business cycle and it may take several years for the world economy to recover to its former levels.

The pro-poor, pro-growth Budget embodies the NDP3 which incorporates the long-term vision for Namibia to be industrialised and prosperous in the national development planning process. It is now more than ten years since Vision 2030 was adopted, leaving us only with ten years plus for fully achieving the aspirations of Namibia as articulated in Vision 2030.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

While during NDP2 little progress was made towards both the Vision 2030 targets and realising the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to which Namibia subscribes, more needs to be done to effectively tackle national development issues. For example, there is a need to accelerate poverty reduction, employment creation and economic diversification, as well as to consolidate our social and physical infrastructure achievements. Here I am referring to the implementation of the programmes as mentioned by Honourable Kawana, the improved capacity of the various Ministries in order to implement those policies.

Preparing a National Budget plan is extensive and follows a bottom-up approach which involves widespread consultation with shared stakeholders, including communities in general and public structures, such as village development committees, Local and Regional Authorities.

However, Honourable Deputy Speaker, what happens to the expressed regional development ideas from Regions? Are our development strategies in line with the wishes from the people who need this development? Budget has an important political implication, as I said during my contribution in the 2007 Budget and I quote? *“People want to know who pays what and who gets what.”*

With this Budget we are trying to appropriate and endorse funds to the various Votes to benefit the people and to develop. Again Education got the highest funding, N\$5,3 billion, for quality education and skills development as well as infrastructure upgrading and development. Schools must be built, as indicated, hostels to be built, dilapidated buildings must be renovated. I have to commend the Honourable Minister of Finance for allocating substantial amounts to Education to carry out its mandate. However, it is disappointing to note that the recommended schools for urgent attention in Erongo Rural, Kunene Rural and Omaheke Rural did not feature again under schools in line for renovation or building. When are these schools also going to get attention? People pay and want to know who gets what.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we cannot expect effective learning to take place under such harsh conditions. Failure to do so will leave many Namibians free but lacking power.

Allow me to touch on the salient issues raised by the Honourable Minister in her statement for 2009/10 Budget, but before I do that, let me quote her South African counterpart, Trevor Manuel, Minister of Finance: *“In the light of present circumstances where every day each one of us is called upon to articulate views on trends in the global economy, it is fairly safe to declare we are all economists now and in view of the size of the stimulus packages across the world, it may even be safe to declare, as Ronald Reagan 1971, we are all Keynesians now.”*

The Honourable Minister of Finance has come up with various stimulus actions in her Budget. Things like inclusion for OVCs, social grants for pensioners and war veterans to the tune of N\$200 million over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period is really commendable steps in the right direction. However, as it was clearly alluded by Honourable Mbai earlier on, more social workers, who are really lacking in our country, are needed for registering beneficiaries for these programmes to be effective.

With regard to the **war veterans**, it seems to be a bottomless ocean with no life at the end. Numbers of war veterans will just increase as years goes with no end in sight, which will place more and more pressure on our scarce resources. Bold actions are needed from the Government, no fear or favour must be the order of the day.

Allowing Grade 10 learners to repeat was another good feature or gesture. 13,740 learners benefited under this scheme, who would have been on the streets and just increased the unemployment rate and crime rate. My credit here equally goes to all the Opposition Parties or the Alternative Government for strongly voicing themselves on this issue, forcing the Government to listen.

State-Owned Enterprises; Honourable Deputy Speaker, various speakers strongly expressed themselves on the non-performance of these State-

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

Owned Enterprises, however I have just one issue, namely dividend payment by the very same non-performing state-owned enterprises. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I am extremely sorry, I heard something but did not understand exactly. May I pose a question for clarity's sake? Honourable Member, I did not understand you exactly, can you please clarify what you were saying? You mentioned that the veterans of the liberation struggle are a bottomless pit or what did you mean by that?

HON GORESEB: What I said there is that the issue of the veterans is to me a bottomless ocean, there is no end in sight. What I referred to is that we do not have specific numbers of veterans we intend including in this programme and the numbers will just increase and increase as the years go. That is what I said.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, previous speakers strongly expressed themselves on the non-performance of some State-Owned Enterprises. However, I have just one issue, the dividend payment by the same non-performing State-Owned Enterprises. Would it not be wise and good business practice not to declare dividends if no or little profit is made during a particular year and reimburse whatever there is to expand their capacity to be more profitable in the future?

Small and Medium Enterprise support is always welcome as a stimulus for the economy and job creation.

Support to AgriBank to provide production loans to farmers under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme is the right thing to do, but rules and regulations of this scheme must be carefully formulated and looked at. This AgriBank is only for the elite and it is anti-poor. The poor are always left out in the cold by attaching requirements one has to comply with.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

Safety and Security is another issue mentioned by the Honourable Minister of Finance. The allocated N\$1,3 billion to this Vote is very minimal or little. We are a country governed by Rule of Law and as such, law and order must always be maintained at all cost for our own safety and security and good business operations. More resources are needed to control crimes which are increasing. Here I would suggest to reduce the Defence Vote to supplement safety and security as they are supplementary units. It is up to the Honourable Minister of Finance to look into this.

Tax concessions: As long as one has additional purchasing power to use, it stimulates the economic activities especially in the poor rural areas. Therefore, I would disagree with some of our learned friends who are of the opinion that the tax-breaks could not stimulate the economy, which is a mere 0,1% of the Gross Domestic Product. Here I will appeal to the Government again to re-visit the position of the Basic Income Grant Pilot Programme which is pro-poor in the true sense of the word and redefine the beneficiaries to be more cost effective and sustainable in the long-run. Only programmes that are pro-poor, as this one, will benefit the poor and the unemployed. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is suggesting that Government look into the Basic Income Grant. It is a very good proposal, but I think you are also aware that Government has on numerous occasions said that unfortunately it is currently beyond the means of Government to do so. This was stated very emphatically but honourably. Now I want to give information that last week I was at Omitara and the records of the Police there clearly indicate that the level of crime has increased since the grant was given – more rapes, more housebreaking, more drunkenness, increase of shebeens. I am only saying, yes, it is obviously one thing to assist people in that sense, but perhaps it would have been better to create income-generating projects, rather than simply giving cash. Think about that, it might be very important to help our people in the long-run, rather than a temporary handout of cash to people. Think carefully as a leader and Member of Parliament.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

HON GORESEB: Thank you very much for that information, Honourable Minister, but to be pro-poor we must also think about the programmes that would benefit the unemployed. With this Basic Income Grant I was thinking about the unemployed masses, not the pensioners or those who are receiving grants from the Government, but those people who are really unemployed and do not have a penny to support themselves.

Tax exemption of retrenchment packages increased from N\$100,000 to N\$300,000, which is commendable and really will give relief to people who will become redundant due to retrenchment. Changes are always welcome in human life as long as it is aimed at improving one's life.

Pension payout, which is compulsory saving for old-age, happens at the end of one's productive life and as such, this needs to be looked at. Here I propose a change to the formula, to make two-thirds of one's pension tax free to mitigate all the impacts of double taxation. Honourable Minister of Finance, please look into that one.

Lowering the corporate tax on non-mining operations from 35 to 34% is a welcome move. Although still comparatively high in the Region, this will in due course improve our competitiveness in the Region to attract more Foreign Direct Investments.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the market balance shows a significant deterioration. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. I heard the Honourable Member saying that nobody wants to buy Namibian diamonds and that is a misleading statement. The truth is that there is no money in the world to buy diamonds anywhere in the world and not only from Namibia. To say that nobody wants to buy Namibian diamonds is misleading. Everybody, including yourself, wants to buy Namibian diamonds.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON GORESEB**

HON GORESEB: Thank you, Honourable Minister, for that information but I think the Honourable Minister is quoting me wrongly. The demand for our commodities has dropped and the prices have also dropped and it is not wise for us to sell our products at those cheap prices. If there is no demand, then you are not going to sell your product. The price is influenced by the demand, that is what I was referring to, Honourable Minister.

Nevertheless, in conclusion, the market balance shows a significant deterioration and I agree with the experts' view that during the 2010/11 Financial Year the cash balance will be exhausted and the borrowing requirements would begin to increase at a faster rate and beyond 2010/11 the financial policy will become miles apart between addressing social ills and debt management. It will carry considerable public persuasion and political will to roll back institutionalised social spending. Here I am referring to old-age pensions, what we are giving to the veterans through pressure that we are experiencing, what we are giving to the Civil Servants and OVC grants. This is just as good as inviting civil war, because you cannot again change it overnight and say, no these programmes are too expensive. What I am referring to here is that Government must guard against pressure from the communities and the citizens.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, although debt levels are still modest and below Government's target threshold, the unfavourable revenue outlook, centre-stage in the current MTEF period, dictates that there is a need to guard against unwarranted public pressure to force the Government down to a Welfare State and other forms of favour to the communities, because we are listening and we are hearing, "*no favour, no vote*" and whenever those outcries are coming, the Government is bending.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, foreign debt increased by almost plus N\$300 million as a result of currency depression and it is worrisome. However, the recognition expressed that foreign debt is expensive and as such, consideration for early redemption is a commendable issue, but is it really feasible? We have to buckle-up as more difficult times are still ahead of us.

07 April 2009

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

With these few observations and interventions, we support the Budget and the Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Deputy Prime Minister.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. May I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Honourable Deputy Minister Tweya, the Permanent Secretary and all the directors who were involved in drawing up this beautiful Budget.

Every year we witness marked improvement in the design and contents of our Budget. This is indeed a pro-growth and pro-poor Budget. Some development projects have also received increase from the mere N\$400,000 in 2007/08 to N\$800,000 in 2008/09 and it is going up to N\$996,000 in 2009/10 and is estimated to go to N\$2 million in the following two Financial Years. This increase will enable my Office to proceed with integration of the San communities into the mainstream of our country.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I support the idea of taxation reform aimed at improving the competitiveness of our businesses and relief to individuals. I am also in agreement with those Honourable Members who questioned whether businesses will honour Government's effort and reduce the prices of essential items, such as maize-meal, milk, bread, etcetera. With these few ideas in mind, I am wondering whether we as Government have mechanisms to monitor the businesses in this regard.

One thing I have noticed is that certain areas of our Operational Budget becomes a yearly exercise for criticism from the other side, such as the Defence Budget, Air Namibia and pension increases. Therefore, I

07 April 2009

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

decided, Honourable Deputy Speaker, to look into those three areas and let me start with Air Namibia and then come to the other two.

Before I make a short comment, let me use this opportunity to express my heartfelt condolence to the late flight attendant who passed on, Mr Louis Boshoff. I had the pleasure to be served by him on many of the flights and he was very pleasant and helpful. Let his soul rest in eternal peace.

Now on **Air Namibia**. Airlines in general operate in a dynamic, relatively, fast-changing and highly regulated and competitive environment, yet travel by air is the safest, most productive, efficient and least environmentally polluting mode of travel and transport. It is a well-researched fact that airlines add significant economic value to national economies, even if little of their value created accrue to shareholders of airlines. The national wealth directly created by Air Namibia, registered and base airlines from its activities should not just be a measurement of sales and financial profits. It should be a holistic measure of the direct contribution made to the national Gross Domestic Product. It is how we should evaluate and measure the performance of Air Namibia.

For example, overseas visitors who arrived by Air Namibia at Hosea Kutako International Airport in 2007 were 221,173. Statistics indicated that 36% of these air tourist arrivals came to our country on Air Namibia, meaning that Air Namibia brought in over 800,285 tourists to Namibia. The average extrapolated daily spending of these tourists by 2009 is estimated to be N\$1,200 per day. The average stay in Namibia for overseas visitors is eleven days. Conservatively estimated, therefore, leisure tourists arriving on Air Namibia in 2007 brought in over N\$1 billion, spent on hotels, food, souvenirs and incidentals. In addition, they spent over N\$700 million to purchase the flight tickets on Air Namibia. The 2008 figures will have a modest increase due to the effects of recession.

The Airline has generated about N\$1,3 billion in revenue in the year 2008/09 which ended on 31 March 2009. About 80% of this revenue was generated outside the borders of Namibia and more than N\$560 million

07 April 2009

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

was spent in Namibia, while Air Namibia received N\$150 million from Government in the same year.

The national carrier has transported over 400,000 passengers and over 7,300 tons of cargo from April 2008 to March 2009. This constitutes about 35% of all visitors in Namibia that arrived by air. The balance were transported by other airlines, such as South African Airways, BA and Air Berlin.

Air Namibia is a Namibian company and more than 50% of the revenue it makes is spent here in our country. Airline tickets purchased on South African Airways, BA or Air Berlin represent little economic leakage from the Namibian economy as those funds bring the tourists here that do not benefit the Namibian economy directly and to the fullest extent.

The majority of tourists arriving at Hosea Kutako International Airport from Germany, Angola and UK arrive on Air Namibia. The vast majority of German tourists who arrive on Air Namibia spend between 14 to 21 days in Namibia. They stay in numerous lodges around the country. Many will not come if we did not have this direct flight.

Airlines globally have last year and in the coming year made net financial losses and a global loss of around N\$5 billion in 2009. This is projected by the International Aviation Transport Association, which represents 93% of schedule international air traffic in the world.

Air Namibia provides marketing support for the entire tourism industry that is irreplaceable. Increased marketing efforts are the only way to cut the edge off the economic downturn for the rich hunters worldwide. There is more competition to less rich hunters and Namibia must compete to survive. More marketing support from Air Namibia is needed now than ever. The investment in marketing Namibia by Air Namibia has generated a huge boom in tourism from 2004 to 2007, culminating in over 11% increase in tourism in 2007 over and above 2006.

While the international travel and tourism climate for 2009/2011 indicates a slowdown in the growth of tourism, the basic number will still travel to

07 April 2009

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

Namibia on Air Namibia and that can bring more tourists here and will continue to assist our industry to stabilise.

It is worth noting that over the last few years the airline industry witnessed several airlines going down, becoming bankrupt, being placed under judicial management. At the same time, various Governments and shareholders have injected billions of US dollars in their own airlines. The assistance given was in the form of cash injections, guarantees of line of credit, subsidising fuel, bankruptcy protection, etcetera. That is what is happening in the world to other Governments.

Government support to Air Namibia as a shareholder is, therefore, neither an exceptional phenomenon, nor limited to Namibia only and should be viewed as a strategic and necessary imperative to stimulate and advance the attainment of Vision 2030 stated objectives of the growing of our tourism sector.

It is worth noting that the financial performance of Air Namibia has demonstrated consistent improvement over the past three Financial Years. Air Namibia's audit reports revealed that the operating losses reduced from N\$338 million in 2005/06 to N\$159 million in 2007/08, while the revenue generated through its ticket sales improved from N\$652 million in 2005/06 to N\$1,1 billion in 2007/08 and that is an encouraging improvement indeed.

Due to continuing and deteriorating global economic conditions, the International Aviation Transport Association on the 24th of March 2009 announced a revised outlook for the global air transport industry, predicting losses of 2009 to be 47 billion. African airlines will suffer losses amounting to 6 billion, which is six times higher than the losses of 2008 and Air Namibia anticipates a loss of N\$180 million.

The presence of Air Namibia as one of the airlines operating into Namibia ensures that there is competition and thus contributes directly towards keeping cost of travel to Namibia at competitive levels and by so doing, ensuring that Namibia as a destination is competitively priced.

07 April 2009

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

The World Cup in 2010 will be a nightmare for Namibia if we do not have Air Namibia to ensure that our regular tourists can still obtain air tickets to arrive here between May and August. Seats into southern Africa by air are already at a premium and in demand. World Cup 2010 opens on July 11 2010 during our regular peak season for our visitors, which is June to October in general. If our regular tourists cannot get air tickets to get here during that time, they will not come here to Namibia and our hotels and lodges will stay empty. Air Namibia can service our whole industry and profit from World Cup 2010 and Africa Cup of Nations in Angola if we are placed properly and quickly. Air Namibia may be the only factor that saves some parts of the tourism industry in Namibia during 2010.

In conclusion on Air Namibia, Air Namibia's performance should be measured in terms of its net contribution to the Namibian economy. The net economic gain also includes the impact that Air Namibia has on employment in Namibia. The value added is measured in terms of contribution to the GDP and employment and comes in the form of visitor percentage as well as its indirect contribution to job creation in resorts, hotels and facilities which are frequented by our tourists.

Let us just check how much bigger airlines are faring in this time of recession. Air France and KLM reported operating losses of US\$271 million in 2008. Lufthansa in 2008 saw their profits fall by more than 63% to €599 million. British Airways reported a loss of about £115 million in 2008 and 2009. The Japanese airline almost went bankrupt, they lost 1,1 billion and Air Namibia has lost N\$180 million, so we are not doing very badly. Therefore, this idea of thrashing Air Namibia in every discussion must stop.

Now I will deal with the other item which is also a daily thrashing in this House when we have elections and that is pensions. Somebody was saying the other day, the poorest of the poor are the old people in Namibia. If you do not know poor people, please follow me and you will see people who have nothing to eat in the morning. Yes, N\$480 is not enough, but believe you me, when payday comes you see how these young people swarm around the old people to get a penny from that pension. You also know that they drop their babies with the

07 April 2009

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

grandmothers, the mothers are in Swakopmund and elsewhere. That old lady is the one sending the kid to school. We said the money for the old people was not supposed to buy uniforms for the kids. It was for her to eat and rest, but we have dumped the wrong thing on the old people to survive from this N\$400. Now you are saying we must give them N\$1,000, but that N\$1,000 will do the same thing and you will also remember how the old people have been killed because of this income.

The other time I was discussing something with my Neighbour here. If the children of the old people or their relatives could only add N\$50 or N\$100 to what Government is giving, our old people will live better and some of you who have farms, how much are you paying your workers? Not even N\$400. You are giving them N\$150 or N\$200 and they have six, seven children. Now you are telling us the old people with N\$480 are the poorest of the poor.

I also overheard some of you saying that the funeral benefits must be given to the old people so that they can eat it. Life is not just food. We have three areas in our lives as Africans, which you celebrate – birth, marriage and death. Can anyone on that side stand up and tell me that he or she does not want a decent funeral for his or her grandmother? You are saying, why should they have funeral benefits?

Some of you think that when somebody dies you can go and get N\$2,000. No, you will get service, my brothers. Let me explain this to you. I went to my village in 1991 and I went to pay respect to an old lady and I asked where is the old lady's body. It was on a wagon outside. She is waiting for the local carpenters to put a coffin together. I was quite horrified, the planks were not available, the old guys who had to do this were not available. From there I was very upset. I came back to Windhoek and I contacted some of these clever guys, particularly the United Africa Group and explained my problem, that it is uncalled for that our old people are suffering and I recounted the story, is there anything we can do to assist and how can we do that? They said they will look into that and call me.

Later they came up with a fantastic idea how it should be done. They will put up some kind of a social welfare trust for the pensioners and the

07 April 2009

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

disabled. Through that they can come up with a project which will assist the old people. I shared that with President Nujoma and he thought it was a good idea. That is how the funeral scheme for the pensioners and the people living with disability came into existence. To that effect, the funeral cost is covered by the scheme and the family does not have to look for money, because we know even if there are five children, it is only one who struggles to bury his parent. We said, let the old people at least have a decent burial. Is there something wrong with that?

We are the only country in the world, not Africa, who takes care of the final day of our elderly. They get a standard type of coffin, the gravesite is paid, 50 copies of the funeral programme, preparation of the body is done, mortuary facilities, transportation of the corpse by hearse, not by a Toyota, by a hearse. The burial service fees are paid. Namibia is the only country in the world giving the service to the elderly and I am proud to have been the midwife of this. Some of you think the N\$2,000 are given but it is a service rendered through registered undertakers. Therefore, stop this nonsense of saying that money should be paid to them.

I just want to give you statistics of the total number of beneficiaries who received these services since December 2001:

December 2001 – 10,333 old people were buried; in 2006 138,000; in 2007 – 141,000; in 2008 – 143,000 people who benefited from this service and I can tell you that our old people are proud to be buried decently. Anyone who questions that is a hypocrite of the last order.

Finally, let me come to Defence. I have been reading something horrible. The President of Liberia is writing a book and the title is, *“From Prison to Palace – The Triumph of Africa’s First Women President”* and if you read an excerpt from her book which will be out in a month or so, I must say to you that God has blessed us that we spent our lives in the struggle where we grew up with discipline, from the freedom fighter here up to today’s Defence. Comrades, our Defence should be congratulated and I want to congratulate from late Mweshihange to today’s Ho Chi Minh. They have moved steadily to improve the lot of our Defence Forces.

07 April 2009

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

When I was with the Australian General, I took her to the airport and this woman was so shocked by how they played the Australian National Anthem, how they were dressed and the discipline was just pathetic. If you read this, when a villager sees a uniformed soldier, they collapse because of fear and the things the soldiers do to the communities.

During the struggle our guys used to come to Namibia in that rugged uniform with respect, never raped somebody's wife. Let us support our Defence and the only way we can do it is to keep on increasing their salaries, because they are now also recruiting Grade 12 and Grade 10 learners and our Army is now highly respected. What do you want us to do in times of floods? Do you want us to call the Americans to come and help our people in the flood Regions? Our Defence Force is doing it with their helicopters. I have been flying in a helicopter and I can tell you, I sit there and I sleep because I know I am safe – well-trained, respectful young men. In some countries these ones will rape you the minute you say good morning.

Honourable Minister of Defence, I am very pleased that the Defence Budget has been increased. I am one of those who benefit from the services of NDF. I can assure the Namibian population about the wonderful work our women and men in uniform are doing. They are truly servants of the Nation. Where would we have been today without our uniformed forces who are spending sleepless nights, rescuing our people from floods and giving jobs to our youth? Every day the NDF is ready to assist in any activity that serves the Nation.

When I was in the mountains in Kunene, settling the Ovatua and Ovatjimba communities, it was the Defence Force who availed a truck and paid three drivers to assist with the transportation and gave assistance for the whole six months I was there. To this effect, it took us only six months to settle these communities, which would not have been possible without the Defence Force. I could tell them any time that I need more cement and they would drive that night and by the next morning they were back.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NASHANDI**

I have the greatest pleasure to report that those three drivers – and one of them was a woman – were highly disciplined and it was a pleasure working with them. I recommended them for acknowledgement and they were acknowledged.

Therefore, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the increment to our Defence Budget is not a waste, it is for our behalf and we must be very proud to have an army such as the one we have. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Prime Minister, the Mother of the Nation, for your contribution and for supporting our Defence Force. When some of you are touching our Defence, you are touching us because we grew up in those ranks. I recognise Honourable Nashandi.

HON NASHANDI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also join others to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Deputy Minister and all the staff members of the Ministry who worked so tirelessly to produce this fine document the 2009/10 Budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, much has been said about the impact of the current global financial crisis and its impact on the global and domestic economy. Last week, the group of twenty industrialised nations met in London. Unsurprisingly, the commitment of world leaders to stimulate global demand and avert the crisis was manifested in the resolutions taken at this prestigious gathering. The benefits of such decisions will, without doubt, help us to address some of our economic challenges here at home. Such resolutions include:

- Extra US\$1 trillion for international bodies;
- IMF support to help poor countries

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NASHANDI**

- Agreement to conclude World Trade Organisation treaties as soon as possible.

Namibia has also been severely affected by the torrential rainfall in the central northern and north-eastern parts. Such rainfall, which has reoccurred at least twice in succession in the case of the north-central Regions, have either confirmed the change in climate or challenge our readiness and response capacity as a Nation to the effect of such disasters. Such developments thus demand proper planning and consultation in the relocation of our residents, so that our people move to highlands as much as possible. In this vein, I wish to applaud the relief efforts of our Government and the assistance rendered by other citizens, be they individuals or corporate.

Therefore, the dual effects of global financial crisis and of floods have a challenging impact on the domestic economy and livelihood of our people. I am thus glad that our Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2009/10 to 2011/12 addresses some of these challenges. I will dwell, in support, on some of them.

The Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance, tabled proposals to ease the tax burden on our citizens, which will see N\$800 million in 2009/10 retained by respective earners. Such proposals constitute a saving which can be used to foster growth through increased consumption, together with the tax relief proposals on some basic commodities. Such measures, with varying degrees, leave extra income at the hands of our deserving citizens.

We have seen the impact of slowdown in global economic activity, especially in the mining sector. Following falling commodity prices and low earnings, the diminishing demand for diamonds led our “On Diamonds We Build (NAMDEB) and other institutions affected, to introduce operational cost-cutting measures, including voluntary retrenchments and production holidays. Those that will receive retrenchment packages will thus be spared N\$200,000 income in taxes, as such incentive is increased from N\$100,000 to N\$200,000. I, therefore,

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NASHANDI**

throw my support behind these and other measures aimed at bringing financial and economic relief to our citizens as a consequence of economic distress.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia is well-respected regionally and internationally for its flourishing democracy, Rule of Law, peace and stability, which is mostly attributed to the Ruling Party. As a Nation we should further strive to earn such recognitions. Such confidence in our democracy and in our institutions of Government is also manifested in our participation in the peace efforts of the United Nations and the SADC Region. I am informed that currently we have Namibia Defence Force Observers under the UN in Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, Chad, Liberia and Kosovo. In this vein, I recognise the election of our Speaker as the President of the IPU. I wish him well in this task.

Therefore, Comrade Deputy Speaker, in light of the abovementioned, it is vital that we continue to invest in our people through ongoing training and ensure the adequate funding of equipment and supplies of our Namibian Defence Force and revitalise the obsolete machinery. The status of our defence resources, human and material, is a sign of how strong and ready they are for the protection of our territory. We should aim for a technologically well-equipped Defence Force. An amount of N\$731 million under Vote 08 – Defence for procurement of capital materials should thus be portrayed in a positive light and in the interest of national security. I support such initiative to revamp our NDF materials and equipment and maintain the motivated spirit of our men and women in uniform.

It is also worth noting that, without hesitance, our men and women in uniforms gave a helping hand in the flood relief efforts. Army vehicles are often the only ones to access the areas cut off by high levels of water. Army personnel offer their services even in night hours, more often to save lives. I applaud the efforts by the Police in the same exercise. However, our people should be warned on the dangers of high levels of water as well as the dangers of the strong water currents. It is worrying to note the rising incidents of citizens drowning.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NASHANDI**

The heavy rain has destroyed roads and bridges are put under extreme pressure as they have to endure high pressures and strong water currents. More potholes are noticeable in many roads across the country. If we let those features to remain permanent, their accumulation might be too expensive in the light of rising challenges on the national cake. Therefore, budgetary efforts to rebuild roads and bridges are a welcome gesture. However, our contractors should also deploy their efforts and offer quality services so that roads and bridges could withstand the test of high flowing waters. The tendering process should not only consider prices in awarding tenders, but experience and quality features should override the criteria. Otherwise the people's money would be recycled in the same projects and same places year after year. I really suggest that, while we should strive to empower our people, it should not come at a price. Big contractors should, as a matter of policy, be mandated to subcontract works to upcoming local entrepreneurs so that the aspect of quality is ensured and guaranteed.

The proposed appropriation of N\$83 million for construction, renovation and improvements under Vote 23 – Works should fulfil those aspirations and empower local entrepreneurs through quality works.

Air Namibia continues to enjoy Government support. However, in order for such investments to bear fruits for the Airline and eventually relieve Treasury of bailouts, more support is needed to the Airline. It has been proposed years back that Civil Servants on Government missions should as far as is practically possible fly the national airline. This directive needs also to be extended to other State institutions, including State-Owned Enterprises. The Airline should however also prove reliable in its services. We do not want to advocate support to the Airline and people end up stranded at airports due to cancelled or delayed flights and people missed their on-bound connections as it has been recently experienced with regional flights. Air Namibia should prove that it can compete in the industry it operates in.

Government is duty-bound to allocate resources and stabilise the economy when business cycles distort economic activities. Such intervention on large scale by Government is justified by the analogy of profit pursuit by

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NASHANDI**

individuals and the notion of market failures, whereby markets alone will not allocate resources efficiently to all sectors where high-risk and low-return is perceived.

This brings me to the importance of infrastructure development in the agenda of economic development. Investors are most often driven, rightly so, by genuine motives, such as “*resources, efficiency and markets*” in the host countries. Therefore, our efficiency also partly lies in the manner in which our institutions and infrastructures are maintained.

The role played by all veterans, in exile and at home, in the struggle for national freedom and Independence is self-sacrifice and testimony of the love for the country and its people. Government has, since Independence, also demonstrated its commitment to address the socio-economic plight of the war veterans.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I started my contribution referring to the effects we experience as an economy due to floods and the global financial crisis. Surely, there are lessons to take home in both situations. I want to conclude by referring to economic impacts of the global financial crisis. We should learn that, for economies to function amidst challenges we should innovate new ways of doing things. After all, one scholar recently alluded that in order to do one’s work, three things are necessary. These are skills - to give us know-how; quality - to ensure excellence; innovation – to ensure we overcome challenges posed by others.

Therefore, those three factors are relevant, more so when external shocks do pose threats to our economy. Abundance of natural resources alone is not a way to prosperity. We have seen that in the current recession. Therefore, it is an illusion for the wealth of a Nation to depend on natural resources alone. Efforts for national development depend on stakeholder engagement, driven by innovation, collaboration and leadership.

The driver for innovation is higher education, amongst others. We should, therefore, put more efforts in our education and support its plans to drive us to the new era if we are to stay on course towards Vision 2030.

07 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NASHANDI**

Lastly, I thank the Honourable Minister of Finance and Cabinet for the responsive Budget tabled, which responds to the needs of the time. I, therefore, support the Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2009/10 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Year 2009/10 to 2011/12. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have a very important announcement. I would like to bring to your attention, on behalf of the National Assembly, that the South African Minister of Communication, Ms Ivy Kasaburi Mosebe, has passed on yesterday. She was a friend of the Namibian people during the struggle there at the United Nations Institute for Namibia for a long time and all UNIN students, including Honourable Pendukeni Ithana, Honourable Dr Kawana and many others were taught by her. These are her products. She was also known by the young Namibian girls as a mother figure. I would therefore, on behalf of the National Assembly, like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to all the people of South Africa, family and friends on the passing on of Honourable Ms Mosebe. May her soul rest in peace. I am inviting you to join me in a minute of silence.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

HON BAYER: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I Move that the House adjourns until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.04.08 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
08 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? Deputy Prime Minister.

**TABLING: REPORT ON NATIONAL RESPONSE
TO 2008 FLOOD DISASTER**

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report on National Response to 2008 Flood Disaster from the Office of the Prime Minister.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Report Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. Further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

Honourable Members, tomorrow we will have a morning session from 09:00 until 12:30 due to the Easter Weekend. I want to urge all Members to attend tomorrow's session to form a quorum. Many Members are attending to official business outside the country, therefore I urge you to be here at 09:00. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON BAYER**

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION
OF SECOND READING**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading –
Appropriation Bill

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, Tuesday, the 7th of 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 Bayer adjourned the Debate and she now has the Floor.

HON BAYER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, in spite of externally induced negative factors, such as high oil prices, high food prices, the depreciation of our currency against the major currencies, the downturn in the world economy, the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister and their staff still managed to lay upon the table a well-balanced Budget.

I wish to thank and congratulate the Minister, the Deputy Minister and staff for a job well done in such a difficult economic climate.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Budget ought to be looked at as putting the people first and lifting them up so that they can have the best possible chance to live up to their God-given capacities.

Not even the financial experts in this country could find major shortcomings in this year's Budget. I am sure that even the critics in this august House will realise how shrewdly the scarce resources of our country are managed if we look at the amount of money that has to be spent

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON BAYER**

on HIV/AIDS, coupled with the effects of natural disasters like floods, drought, veldtfires, animal diseases and pests.

The Budget through the tax system stimulates investment by reducing the Government's take out of the workers and entrepreneurs' pockets. I would, however, like to see that it stimulates more growth by giving people such tax-breaks as a credit for first-time home buyers.

The SWAPO Party Congress re-emphasised the Ruling Party's commitment to remain a people-centred movement, a Party by the people for the people. Therefore, the Budget is the most important economic policy instrument of the Government and as such it can be a powerful tool in transforming our country to meet the needs of our people, especially in the rural areas. It is, however, very important to make sure that macro-economic sustainability is translated into programmes and projects and activities which must result in tangible benefits for our people.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the major share of our resources still go to Education and Health, which implies that human development is a priority for our Government.

I am very optimistic about the future of my country, Namibia, and there I think the Members of the Opposition and I differ when listening to the rhetoric of a country in decline. I would, however, like to see the Budget include measures to boost national savings and promote strong investment growth, while limiting additions to foreign debt.

On the non-increment of the old-age grant, I would like to remind the Honourable Members that the aged, people with disabilities, orphans and other vulnerable persons also receive free medical treatment. People suffering from high blood pressure and diabetes and other chronic diseases receive medical aid worth more than N\$500 per month. Our Government's medical aid is one of the best in the country. I thank you.

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. I call on Honourable Mudge.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this Honourable House, there is no greater and a more precious gift than our children. Nothing makes us more proud when our children succeed in life, nothing makes us more happy than when our children are happy. Nothing makes us suffer more than when our children are suffering.

Those of us in this House who are fathers and mothers will agree that as parents we always aspire to create opportunities for our children to be better off than we were and this is even more so amongst our previously disadvantaged community where the parents have suffered tremendously under the colonial Governments, not having had the opportunity to go to universities and to achieve the level of education they would have liked to have.

It is especially those ones who will do whatever possible or even the impossible to have their children achieve these goals. When the child do excel, one can understand the pride of their parents and it is therefore just logical that anything that happened over which the parents have no control which will prevent a child (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Order, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Today, being Wednesday, the 8th and following the Budget Programme, I do not see RP having been allocated time today. Is there any arrangement that we are not aware of?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, yesterday the RP was supposed to speak, but the majority of the people who spoke yesterday were from SWAPO. We have to give them a chance to contribute. Proceed, Honourable Member.

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

HON MUDGE: I said it is especially those ones who will do whatever possible or even the impossible to have their children achieve these goals. When the children do excel, one can understand the pride of the parents and it is, therefore, just logical that anything that happened over which the parents have no control, which will prevent a child to rise above the circumstances, could be devastating not only for the child but even more so for the parents.

Deputy Speaker, I am sorry my Neighbour is not here today, but Honourable Chilinda's son, Keith, a young man of only 20 years, has managed to achieve just that to the delight of his family, but a few weeks ago disaster struck when he was diagnosed with a malignant tumour. He was operated upon, but unfortunately it seems as if the tumour has spread in the brain and according to the doctors the chances for him to survive do not look good. Honourable Chilinda is very brave and I know that he is suffering as any parent will do.

When it comes to issues like this, I must assume that we are all Comrades who will stand together in sympathy and it is for this reason that I would like to encourage the Members of this august House ...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, in terms of the rights of the patient, are you authorised to disclose that information?

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will not stand here talking about this if I did not have that authority. I said, when it comes to issues like this, I must assume that we are all Comrades who will stand together in sympathy and for this reason, I would like to encourage the Members of this august House as well as the Nation out there to pray for Keith and the Chilinda family, that we will be united in our belief that our God who has created the Universe and for whom absolutely nothing is impossible to perform yet another miracle and will heal Honourable

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

Chilinda's son and let us, while we are praying, never forget God's promise in Mark 11:22 to 24 where he said: *"I will show you that you can say to this mountain, "may God lift you up and throw you into the sea" and your command will be obeyed. All that you require is that you really believe and do not darken your heart. Listen to Me, you can pray for anything and if you believe, you can have it."*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to continue with my contribution to the Appropriation Bill. It is always interesting to hear the reactions of the economists and financial gurus when the annual Appropriation Bill is tabled and this year was no exception. It is just unfortunate that those statements are normally so technical that the ordinary citizen finds it difficult to understand.

My observation concerning the numbers in the Budget is, that although the Republican Party has serious concerns regarding the allocations, that the Budget itself is probably as good as one could have hoped for. The primary issue for us is the overall fiscal position of the country and on this score the Honourable Minister of Finance and her whole team can be congratulated for having managed to ensure, amongst others, that our total Government debt remains under control and that Namibia's fiscal position remains sound. There are numerous examples across the world and Africa where Governments have allowed the debt to spiral out of control with dire consequences. Today they have become the slaves of institutions like the IMF and the World Bank.

We appreciate the fact that surpluses were used to repay debt and that there is a positive slowdown in the growth in public debt. We are aware of the fact that the global economic crisis has not spared us and has hit us hard especially in the mining industry with our diamond exports. We cross our fingers that the revenue contribution by SACU, which represents 44% of the total revenue from own resources, will remain as projected. That will obviously only be possible if the Government can manage to stimulate economic growth.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, another positive aspect is the fact that our financial system is fairly stable. We are of the opinion that the discipline

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

in the financial sector under the supervision of the Bank of Namibia has a lot to do with the current stability and that the banking sector in general should be commended for that. In other parts of the world, banks have gone bankrupt, private investors and companies have lost billions, with old-aged people who have lost all their savings. When one compares that with our situation, then we have a lot to be grateful for.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, because we have very little, if any control, over the effect that the global economic crisis will have on us, there can be no doubt that this is the year, if ever there was one, when the Government will have to appropriate the revenue wisely and cut unnecessary spending. We are of the opinion that this year will be the acid test.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is, when it comes to the appropriation of the revenue collected by the Government, that we are a little bit upset. At this point I would like to make a statement and would like the Honourable Minister and the SWAPO Party Government to publicly confirm whether they agree or disagree.

Namibia in totality belongs to the people of Namibia and all the natural resources also belong to the people of Namibia, the Namibian citizens. The responsibility of the Government elected by the people is merely to manage the country to the best of its ability always and only for the benefit of all the citizens. Honourable Deputy Speaker, if we agree on this, then there can be no argument that the first priority of the Government should be to address and solve the issue of unemployment and poverty and to do it without any further delay. The reason why I am saying this is because these two evils have created a social disorder in our society through which people have lost their dignity and I am specifically referring to the fathers in the house. What happens is that when a father has lost his job, he can no longer provide for his family, the daughters are selling their bodies to earn money and the sons steal with the father sitting helpless, having lost his God-given authority to manage his household. The obvious result is that discipline in the family is being compromised and the children could fail to become law-abiding and productive citizens. You can trace all these evils in our society, of which a few are theft,

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

murder, prostitution, corruption and all others to one source and that is poverty, which obviously.... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Mudge a question? Honourable Mudge, you made reference to the father in the house, you are talking about the family unit, but if they inherited poverty, what do you expect that family to do? These families you are talking about have inherited poverty from an apartheid system which was declared as a crime against humanity by the United Nations. Can you answer that question? Do not blame the poverty on us, this Government is trying to address that poverty by all means and that is why this Budget is here. That is why we call this Budget pro-poor, pro-growth and we will continue to do that in order to address that legacy which we have inherited, which is not to be blamed on the SWAPO Party Government.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is for this reason that I am worried about the way in which these issues have been addressed up to now.

Having listened to speakers before me, I must assume that some of the issues that I would like to address could be sensitive for some, but Honourable Deputy Speaker, we as elected leaders should never shy away from our responsibility to address issues head-on and to find solutions to the problems facing us. It will be irresponsible to pretend that everything is okay if we know that we have problems.

The Government can simply not expect to be seen to be serious to solve the unemployment problem if it allows literally thousands of Chinese to settle in Namibia and to open up shops and bazaars in every little town and village in the country in direct competition with Namibian shop owners and also to allow them to be awarded Government construction projects in direct competition with our own local construction companies.

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

How are we going to explain to our children that all the buildings that are supposed to personify the birth of this Nation, like the State House, Heroes Acre, the Supreme Court and many other government buildings, have been constructed by foreigners and not by our own skilled contractors who over the years have successfully completed projects all over Namibia worth billions of dollars? The Government can also not be seen as to be serious to address the unemployment and poverty issue as long as it consistently and stubbornly refuse to increase the old-age grants, expecting the pensioners to live of a meagre N\$470 per month with the excuse that the revenue available for distribution does not allow for more. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Henk Mudge as an Honourable Member needs to be honest and only if you are truthful can you be recognised as one. How much money were you giving the elderly people nineteen years ago? Now you are the one saying we do not want to increase. Just imagine where we got them and where we put them today. One thing Honourable Mudge needs to understand is that no one from the SWAPO Party says that the N\$470 is enough. How much money did you gain from the income which is owned by the State? Now you are even starting to bribe our people, still using this colonial mentality and you want to say you do good things.

HON MUDGE: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Order. I want the Honourable Deputy Minister ...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you cannot have a Point of Order. You have to answer if you feel like answering.

HON MUDGE: I insist that the Honourable Deputy Minister withdraw the word “*bribe*”. We never bribed anybody. I want him to withdraw,

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

unless he can prove it now and tell me where have I or we bribed anybody.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, just withdraw that word “*bribe*” because there is no proof. If there is proof, you can say you have proof.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Just because of the Deputy Speaker’s order I withdraw that provided that the Honourable Member gives *boerewors* to our people.

HON MUDGE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister, I will. Old age grants ... (Intervention)

HON KASINGO: On a Point of Information. I just want to inform Honourable Mudge, when he posed the question, “how are we going to explain to our kids in the future that Heroes Acre, and the State House were built by the Chinese and Koreans, there are many positive answers we can give to our children. One of them is to say these are the people who were with us during the tough struggle of liberation. Take that into consideration.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, old-age grants should be at least N\$800 a month, which results in an additional expenditure of N\$370 million per annum for the 135,000 pensioners.

At this point I just want to also make reference to what the Right Honourable Deputy Prime Minister said yesterday and I fully agree with her. We heard that the pensioners also have to foot the bill for the children of their children, their grandchildren in other words.

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE**

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. I do understand the Honourable Member's concern because they used to get more than N\$3,000 and now when the SWAPO-led Government is accommodating all of them, including his father, to get N\$450, he cannot accept that because they used to get N\$3,000 and our own grandfathers and mothers used to get N\$60 and N\$30. That difference is hurting him, that is why he is talking like that. But Honourable Mudge, that has already passed, we are talking of N\$450 for everybody in Namibia.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was saying that what the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister said yesterday is true, that a lot of these pensioners have to look after their grandchildren, but the fact is, that is a fact. Therefore, to say that we cannot increase their pensions because we are already paying this money and more children will come to feed off them is not an excuse. That is exactly the reason why it should be increased. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. I do not understand why the Opposition Parties, everyone who talks about the elderly, are afraid to give responsibility to the children of the elderly to assist the Government. Why are you shy to ask the kids also to pitch in, why just blame the Government?

HON MUDGE: I cannot disagree with that, it is true. Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Minister will say that it is not possible to pay these amounts, but then you decide to spend N\$45 million on an office block for the former President, N\$400 million to buy a new Falcon jet....(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, when we talk about the Founding President of this country, the Honourable

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

Member was calling Namibia a branch of South Africa and today he talks about Namibia as a country. Please, do not even repeat what you have said.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Some of us are sick and tired of the bashing of our Founding President. To some of us he is a hero of this country. Given the humble beginnings, the humble origin of that man, we will always salute him right up to the grave. I also want to remind the Honourable Member that in 2004 we passed a law here called, Former Presidents Pension and Benefits Act and the Government is legally, statutorily obliged to provide an office, not only to him but also to any President who will retire, including our current President after his second term because we are going to defeat you and defeat you decisively. After that we are also going to build an office for him. But this things of “*Sam Nujoma, Sam Nujoma, Sam Nujoma’s State House, Sam Nujoma’s office must be stopped and stopped immediately!*”

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I did not say ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member also mentioned the buying of the Falcon. Honourable Member, the Falcon is a Government transport plane, which plane also transports the President. I am now speaking as the Minister of Safety and Security. There are things that I know that you do not know, the President is the embodiment of the security of all Namibians and for that and that alone, his security cannot be compromised. Please, Honourable Member, if you continue to speak about that, it is your right, but rest assured, that plane will be bought.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I never thought that they will not buy it, it will be bought. The question is, why was it then hidden

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

somewhere in the Budget where nobody else could see it? Why not put it there and say for safety and security reasons we need this plane for the President, but you hide it in the pages where nobody can see it. (Intervention)

HON AMWEELO: On a Point of technical Information. Any infrastructure, any equipment, any machinery which reaches the end of its lifespan should be replaced. Otherwise it will cause a safety hazard.

HON MUDGE: The point is, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I also know aeroplanes and I can tell you that any aeroplane that has 4,000 hours can be viewed as basically new and this is what this current Falcon has, it has done 4,000 hours. If you however feel you want to do it, you will do it and we accept that, but do not expect us to agree with that. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. It is high time Mr Mudge becomes serious, he is behaving like a spoilt child. I think it is high time he becomes serious. (Interjection)

HON MUDGE: I am serious.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: He has no technical knowledge about the plane we are talking about. He is a pilot, but he cannot even pilot it because he has no licence for that. For your information, 2 years ago when the President was coming from the United Nations, one of the engines of that plane caught fire at the Cape Verde Islands, that very plane you are saying is a new one. The President had to be brought here by the Ghana presidential jet. Do you know that? Do not pretend that you know everything. If you want to address the Budget, address the Budget, but not this childish thing you are trying to bring here.

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have the right to say what I think and what my Party wants me to say. I am saying, if this is true, why only come out with this information now? If it is true, the Nation will be very glad for you to buy the plane for the President, but do not hide it somewhere so that nobody knows what is going on. This is what we are talking about. You are not transparent as far as this is concerned and you know that. It has nothing to do with the safety of the President, we all agree that if that is the issue, buy it.

However, then we talk about another N\$150 million that is being spent now, that very few people know about, on the hangers and offices for the President's plane and also for the pilots – N\$150 million. How do you expect to be seen to be sensitive to the plight of the pensioners, the unemployed and the poor and those desperately in need of houses when you keep on throwing money into the seemingly bottomless pit of Air Namibia?

HON DR ANKAMA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable Member has companies and I want to ask the Honourable Member, the people who have retired from your companies, can we look at the records of the pensions you are paying them right now? You want the Government to increase the pensions, what is the rate of pensions you give to the retired employees from your companies?

HON MUDGE: I said, how do you expect the Government to be seen as sensitive to the plight of the pensioners, the unemployed and the poor? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information for the public out there. During the liberation struggle, when the unemployed went to Honourable Henk Mudge's company, they told the Namibian people, *we do not have*

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

employment here, go to Sam Nujoma to look for jobs. Which unemployment are you talking about here today?

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, a lot has been said about Air Namibia also yesterday by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and many questions have been asked. I can tell you today that sooner than later it will become clear that what we think we know about the problems in Air Namibia is only the tip of the iceberg. When the cards come tumbling down, Honourable Minister of Finance as the caretaker Minister for Air Namibia, you will have to explain to the Nation what happened and what went wrong. We are happy to wait.

One question that is being asked by everybody is why CEOs and other senior officials in Government as well as Parastatals as well as Local Authorities are allowed to remain in their jobs when it is obvious that they are incapable of doing the job properly? Is Government honestly prepared...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Henk Mudge a question? Honourable Member, you are saying some people are incompetent. If you are competent, when are you going to pay me for my car which you crashed with your leader? As competent as you are, when are you going to pay?

HON MUDGE: Is the Government honestly prepared to sacrifice the well-being of the entire Nation just to protect a few individuals who seems to be untouchable?

Many comments have been made about the Ministry of Defence. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I fully agree with what Honourable Venaani has said, we have no problem with the allocations to the Ministry of Defence which will be used to improve the living conditions of our soldiers, to provide for better training, uniforms, etcetera, but we have a

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

problem with the hardware that the Government wants to purchase. Is there something that the Government knows that the Namibian Nation does not know regarding our safety as a sovereign country? Is there the slightest possibility that we will be attacked and if so, by whom? Can this Government really expect to be seen to be sensitive to the plight of the pensioners....(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Mudge, I do not know which strategy you are trying to advocate here. Do we have to wait until we are attacked and then go on a shopping spree to buy the vehicles or do we have to prepare ourselves for the eventuality? How do you keep an army without arms and then wait until you are attacked and that is the time that you are rushing to buy arms?

HON MUDGE: I am just asking whether there is something that we do not know. Can this Government really expect to be seen to be sensitive to the plight of the pensioners? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. We all know it was family Mudge which invited the South African Defence Force to be here during colonial times and we never heard the family Mudge complaining about Casspirs and other equipment used by the South African Defence Force. Why is it a problem now when your family was on the forefront of inviting a foreign army to invade your own country?

HON MUDGE: Right Honourable Prime Minister, through the Deputy Speaker, you are talking an untruth now. We did not invite anybody nor the South African Army to this country. It was not our prerogative to do that. (Intervention)

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. Honourable Mudge, do you realise that the people on that side do not want criticism, therefore they have a lack of tolerance and they are not listening to the points of view of other Political Parties. They are very far from understanding democracy and they are lost.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Out of Order. Proceed.

HON MUDGE: Deputy Speaker, I said, can this Government really expect to be seen to be sensitive to the plight of the pensioners, the unemployed and the poor and those desperately in need of houses?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Speaker. As a responsible Government, the security of this Nation is not negotiable by a Namibian citizen, a foreign citizen. That is first thing. Secondly, we spend on Defence, assessing what is happening in the world. We are a peace-loving Nation, we even assist those Nations in distress by sending peacekeeping missions. We cannot send our army with bows and arrows. That will expose them to danger because some of those countries are at war. That is why today we have peace in Namibia. It is one of the most peaceful Nations so that Mudge's farm can be protected, Mudge's companies can be protected under a strong army, so that it can swat the intentions of any criminal. Honourable Mudge knows during the Cold War there used to be a defence strategy called Mutual Assured Destruction (M.A.D.). You cannot wait until your adversary attacks you before you go and shop. Where do you shop? You will be defeated even before you have crossed your border. Therefore, the SWAPO Party's vision is to make sure we have security in this country so that economic development, foreign investments are protected and we prosper as a Nation.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, for the third time....

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. I just wanted to add to what Comrade Kawana has said. It is unfair for anyone to think that the SWAPO Party Government is going on an uncontrolled spending spree for arms. Let me give you information that you also know. When we arrived here in 1989, the time that we put together the NDF from the remnants of what was happening here, we had the opportunity to buy arms, but we armed the army with the arms that belonged to PLAN and we refrained from buying any arms at that time. For many years NDF was using the arms that belonged to PLAN and we deliberately did not buy arms until such time that those arms are obsolete and we have to replace them. If those arms are now becoming obsolete, what is wrong with buying arms? Therefore, we are reasonable people.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, can this Government really expect to be seen to be sensitive to the plight....(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, as there is nobody on the Floor, can I adjourn the Debate until tomorrow morning?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, give a chance to the Honourable Member to finish. Those questions are delaying.

HON MOONGO: We have to amend this Point of Order, because they are misusing the Point of Order to disrupt other people and prevent them from speaking. This is intolerable. That is why some of us left SWAPO because of that intolerable situation.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: As usual Out of Order. This book is governing this House. You know it very well and I cannot amend it here. We sent it to you people to go and amend it, but you failed to amend that Point of Order. Proceed, Honourable Mudge.

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will say this, nobody will stop me to say this, you can interject and you can do whatever you want, but if I cannot finish today, I will just give it to the newspapers. I will say what I want to say. (Interjections). You do not want to listen to that because you do not like what I am saying.

Can this Government really expect to be seen to be sensitive to the plight of the pensioners, the unemployed and the poor and those desperately in need of houses if one looks at the appalling conditions of those...(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Is it allowed in this Honourable House for an Honourable Member, whose family bought a newspaper chain with South African money, to tell us that he is going to give his speech to a newspaper which was bought with slush fund money, public money of South Africa? Is it allowed?

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Right Honourable Prime Minister will not distract me. I say, can it be seen to be sensitive to the unemployed, the poor and those desperately in need of houses if one looks at the appalling conditions under which the resident in areas right in Windhoek, Okahandja Park, Babylon, Havana, Daan Viljoen and many others, are expected to live under. Many, if not all these areas have no sewerage systems, with the result that it is expected from those residents...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Thank you, Honourable Mudge, for accepting a question from me. Is it true that you are only able to say what you are saying because Independence freed you from the bondage of apartheid, to be able to see that there are places like Okahandja Park? Is it true that you went to Katutura for the first time after Independence?

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MUDGE

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, these areas do not have proper sewerage systems, with the result that it is expected from those residents to use communal...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed for an Honourable Member to threaten this House by saying that he will go to the newspapers to publish his speech? Secondly, is it also allowed for an Honourable Member to speak longer than the time allocated to him and encroach on other Members' time to speak?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, you are giving me a headache because you are intervening. If you are intervening, you are using his time. To give speeches to the newspapers is normal practice, they always ask for our speeches. Honourable Mudge, consider others because there are many people on the list.

HON MUDGE: I have one opportunity to speak in the Second Reading and I have 45 minutes and that is it. This whole speech is 12 minutes, I have been speaking now for almost 40 minutes.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just finish and when we come in after tea, somebody else should take the Floor. Others want to contribute.

HON MUDGE: It is expected from those residents to use communal sack systems which are totally unhygienic and much worse than the bucket system, with the result that most of these residents walk hundreds of metres to go to bushes between the Monte Christo Road and the Western Bypass. (Intervention)

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: May I ask a very small question? Honourable Mudge, we are following your contribution but is it not true to say the bucket system that we found in this country at Independence was introduced by the defunct administration where you contributed better?

HON MUDGE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are now almost 20 years after Independence. If you have such a serious problem, why not rectify it? But I will come to that. I said, that these residents now have to walk hundreds of metres between the Monte Christo Road and the Western Bypass. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will rise for tea-break and when we come back, Honourable Tjihiuko should take the Floor.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call on Honourable Tjihiuko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I will try to finish my speech in ten minutes. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is this time of the year when the Nation's hopes and expectations are voiced, hoping that the Budget of that specific year will be different, hoping that the Budget will eventually address their pertinent problems. This expectation is justifiable because the Budget, especially the Development Budget, is a vehicle for the Government to implement public sector investment programmes that support economic growth and facilitate the delivery of essential economic, social and

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

security services, particularly for the poorer section of the Namibian society.

We all know that the Development Budget has a critical impact on poverty reduction including things like provision of social safety nets for those who cannot help themselves, the elderly, children and people living with disability. Through the Budget, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Government acts both as the facilitator and provider of important services. We are talking about enough and reasonably stocked hospitals, enough and up to standard schools not where children are being taught in tents, dilapidated buildings and under trees, provision of housing with basic human necessities, clean water, sanitation and toilets.

Through a national Budget, Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is the time when Government takes tight ropes to provide sustainable, equitable distribution of national resources among its people. While we expected to see development taking place in our respective Regions, Constituencies and towns, we have been presented with the stark reality, that Government only spent only 60% of the Development Budget.

I have been saying this for many years now. The problem of this beautiful Nation of ours is not a problem of lack of policies and programmes, it is indeed a problem of our ability to implement Government programmes, 40% of the money that we have approved here for the Development Budget is not being utilised, while the Nation is facing high unemployment, poverty and diseases.

Looking at the regional allocation of the Development Budget, I do not understand why a chunk of the regional Development Budget at 29,6% went to Khomas Region with an annual average expenditure per person of N\$4,675 per person, while Ohangwena Region, one of the poorest Regions in Namibia, is only given 6,5% of the regional Development Budget and Omaheke Region with 3,2%. Otjozondjupa Region receives the least per capita at N\$1,094 per person per annum. Normally it could have been the other way around, but I do not understand that while we want to develop the Regions and keep people in the Regions so that they do not move into the cities, we are spending more money in the affluent

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

areas, in the process encouraging people to move from the Regions into the metropolitan cities. Under normal circumstances, Honourable Deputy Speaker, one would have expected to see more development going to the Regions as to create job opportunities. That would have been the best way to encourage job seekers not to move into metropolitan cities in search of opportunities.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, given the global economic downturn the world is facing, Governments are expected to be prudent in spending, spending money to stimulate growth, bail out strategic industries in order to retain or keep the existing jobs. While other countries are refraining from increasing salaries and wages of their workforce, it was reported that, for example Sweden is banning bonuses from managers at all State-Owned Enterprises. The French and the Dutch Governments took steps to curb executive bonuses at firms receiving State aid. President Obama took a similar decision. Volvo and Bank SEB have withdrawn planned executive pay schemes and Sweden's main industrial workers' union IF Metall, equivalent to NUNW agreed a deal for companies to cut wages and working hours by as much as 20 percent because of the downturn in global demand. This is what one would expect.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, to my surprise our Government has made substantive contributions towards State-Owned Enterprises. What I have not seen is whether there are any clear directives as to how should this money be spent. Should the money be spent for salary increases or how should the money be spent? I did not see it in the Budget, so I was moved to realise it. Air Namibia got N\$100 million, NamWater N\$120 million, NamPower N\$50 million. These are the enterprises that were supposed to be looking after themselves. NBC, of course, N\$100 million, NAMPA N\$11,5, New Era N\$3 million and NamZim N\$4 million.

This NamZim, Honourable Speaker, I remember that about 2 or 3 years ago I asked a question....(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

Tjihuiko, you listed NamWater among the institutions that are supposed to sustain themselves. Are you aware that there is a lot of water debts that have not yet been paid to NamWater in order for NamWater to sustain itself and also for the last 3 years NamWater has not increased their tariffs while the price of fuel and everything else has increased. What do you have to say about that?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Minister, yesterday I had an opportunity to sit down with NamWater and what they were saying is that they were concerned with Government putting money aside to subsidise the poorest of the poor in the community, not a contribution. If this money was given to NamWater to subsidise the poorest of the poor, I will be the happiest person. My problem is that there is no indication as to how the money is going to be spent and that is the problem. You have given them N\$50 million to do what with the money? That is the question you were supposed to answer, not to ask me questions. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, are you aware that these parastatals are being run by boards of directors which are independent entities. We give them the money and they have to draw up their own programmes. It is not for Government to tell them what to do, they are supposed to know their business and do what they believe will make them profitable.

Secondly, Honourable Tjihuiko, we cannot only talk about Air Namibia. What is the subsidy given to British Airways under these current economic difficulties? All the airlines, those in the United States, the Pacific and all of them are being subsidised.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Minister, I do not have a problem with the subsidy, my problem is that we have given them the money to do what with the money? If you can stand up and say we have given NamWater the N\$50 million to subsidise water for the poor, I do not have

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

a problem with that. My problem is that you are giving them a blank cheque. Unless you explain to the Nation to know exactly what they are going to do with the money. Therefore, my concern is not that we are giving money to parastatals, my concern is, is that to pay salaries? I think you will agree with me. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: On a Point of Information. Honourable Tjihuiko, no money will be given by Government just like that, never! The parastatal would have requested the money for specific reasons and Government then gives the money. You as a Parliamentarian have the right, through a Parliamentary Committee, to ask: “That money that was allocated to your parastatal in the Budget, what was it used for?” You can get the details

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are talking about public funds, we are not asking parliamentary funds, information that should be shared by Members of Parliament by sitting in a Committee. I am saying that by the time you are saying you are going to give N\$50 million to NamWater, you should also explain, not to me, to the people out there so that they know for what purpose their tax money is being given to this organisation. You should not expect that since I am sitting in a Committee I should know. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko, I think when the Ministers are going to motivate their Votes we will hear why they allocated this money.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, it is my right to raise it and the right of the Minister to answer. It is up to the relevant Ministries to take note and then to say, “*Tjihuiko, here you were wrong, this is the information.*” I would appreciate that.

Now coming to the point, I believe NamZim is a newspaper that was

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

started some time back to promote propaganda ...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: The unsuspecting public should not be tricked by the clique here, the circus which this House is being subjected to. The Honourable Member knows the procedures and what is going to be done, but he is doing it in order to be able to say it is him who asked for that information. It is politicking.

HON TJIHUIKO: We were told by the Minister that NamZim is a joint venture. How much money is Zimbabwe putting into this project and until when are we going to pay for NamZim? What is the objective, what is it that we are getting out of NamZim while spending N\$4 million of the Namibian taxpayers' money? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member is anti-Zimbabwe, therefore he will always be anti-Zimbabwe and I just want to remind the Honourable Member that when his neighbour started going astray, we showed him the way and he will follow soon.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, normally I do not like to be threatened and if you threaten me, I will get angry and you would not like me when I am angry. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is trying very hard to campaign and mislead the public by beating the usual drum of anti-Zimbabwe. NamZim was established as a regional newspaper to carry regional stories told from the African perspective.

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON TJIHUIKO: Our Government continues spending money on issues that could have waited for a later time, for instance increasing Civil Servants from the current 83,231 to 87,190, increasing that with 3,959 during the current downturn. That could have waited because the fact is that the Nation and everybody is complaining that the Namibia Civil Service is the highest and we are increasing it at a time when we are ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Speaker. This is the point where we will always differ with the Opposition. On the one hand the Opposition says there is no employment, the rate of unemployment is too high. On the other hand they say we should decrease the Civil Service. The public sector should answer the call for employment, but we are being let down by the public sector notwithstanding what we call a conducive environment for the private sector. They are only after super profits at the expense of employment and at least the SWAPO Party is trying. I hope that the voters out there, particularly the Civil Servants and the families of those civil servants are listening to the speech of NUDO, and it is not only NUDO but all the Opposition Parties. It is only the SWAPO Party which will make sure that at least we alleviate poverty through employment in the Civil Service.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, what I am talking about is priority.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. I would like to agree hundred percent with what Dr Kawana said and I really hope that the public outside there will see the real colour of political chameleons changing. A person is saying that the plight of the Civil Servants in this crisis of oil and food price increases should have waited, but the Honourable Member did not advise Treasury not to increase the salaries of Parliamentarians. If the others should wait,

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

why did you not wait to receive your cheque?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the problem with the Honourable Colleagues is that they do not listen. It is very important to listen. I was saying that the current Civil Service that we have is 83,000. You are planning to increase with almost 4,000, to employ more. I am not saying that it is wrong for them to be given salary hikes. The point that I am trying to make, and I want you to understand, is that you must have your priorities right. Under normal circumstances you do that, but given the conditions that we have in this country now, you will say that because you are sitting here. Think about the people who are eating rotten fish, these are the people you should consider, not the people employed by the Government.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information to Honourable Tjiuiko. Honourable Tjiuiko, you were a Civil Servant, a Deputy Director in a very important Ministry of Trade and Industry before you ran away from your responsibilities because you failed to do it and came here. What you need to know is that we have a 3-year rolling Budget and the Government and the Unions agreed to negotiate increments at the end of the 3-year term. They did not do it because there is a campaign this year, it is because the term ended. You wanted to use that as your campaign point, that the salaries of the civil service have not been increased, like the others who say we did not increase the pensions for the elderly. However, now you cannot use that point because the civil servants can see that their Government is behind them. Sorry, Honourable Tjiuiko, you have nothing to gain.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, there is another one, the spending of 10% on the Defence Budget, so you are just denying me to bring that. Just give me a chance.

The point I wanted to make is that, given the economic conditions in

08 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO

which we find ourselves, we need to pause and think. The increase in Civil Servants, not the salaries, could have waited and we could have solved the current burning issues that we have now. That is the point.

Spending 10% of the National Budget on Defence in peacetime, that money could have been spent wisely to stimulate the economy so that more unemployed born-free people can get employment. Yesterday I was reading a very interesting article. The Oshakati and Eenhana Municipalities announced their Budgets. If you look at those Budgets, given the situation in which they find themselves now with the floods in those areas, those are the people who need to be assisted, roads and infrastructure have to be repaired which have been destroyed. These are the things that need to be done now and this is what we are saying. We are not opposing, but we are saying, let us prioritise. You do not care about those people, you care about the army. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member seems to be uninformed as to what has happened in the North with the flood situation. Eenhana as a town has not been affected by the floods. The Honourable Member does not know at all. He is making wild allegations. Certain parts of Ohangwena as a Region are affected, but not Eenhana. Oshakati as a Municipality is seriously affected by the floods. Honourable Member, go to the North and see for yourself. You sit here and make propaganda, nothing else.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, with due respect to the Honourable Minister, if she puts her earphones on, she will hear what I am saying. I mentioned Eenhana, I mentioned Ohangwena, because I said the regional development allocation to the poorest of the poor, like Eenhana, is N\$3,2 million. That is why I mentioned that and you are not going to deny. You do not care about Enhana (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Tjiuiko, you forgot your jacket in the toilet. (Laughter)

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, if NUDO and I had our way, we would have spent more money on sectors with the potential of stimulating economic growth and job creation. I am not going to answer questions. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: The Honourable Members must face the music, you cannot subject me to the Herero tradition here, but outside there I will behave otherwise. Honourable Tjihuiko, with all due respect to culture and cultural norms ... (Interjection). You can subject me to that outside this House, you cannot use that to silence me here. Honourable Tjihuiko, your demand and good tactics are not getting you anywhere. Eenhana, Ongwediva and other places are part and parcel of this Government. The Regional Budget is motivated at the Ministry, so you cannot separate the child from his mother and father. The SWAPO Party is leading in that area, it is our Regional Governments.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, there is an article on agriculture by Oliver Horsthemke titled, "*Agriculture Unlocking our True Potential – it is an engine for growth in the Namibian economy.*" He said: "*Although the agricultural sector in Namibia has experienced the effects of food inflation, more and more people are starting to realise that the sector may hold potential they previously thought possible. To date, the performance of the sector has been fairly moderate, but with the focused sectoral strategy its real value could be unlocked and used to the benefit of the Namibian Nation as a whole.*" Given the potential that the sector has effected and with the right mix of policies and programmes, the sector will grow the Namibian economy and create the necessary jobs."

Instead of spending money on Defence in peacetime, you could have spent more millions on promotion and support of the Green Scheme, because the development of the Green Scheme will not only provide jobs, but most importantly, would provide security. (Intervention)

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, from 1978 up to 1989 NUDO was part and parcel of the previous so-called Government. What has NUDO done? You say NUDO would do that, but for more than 10 years, from 1978 to 1989, what has NUDO done?

HON TJIHUIKO: I have great respect for the Minister, but I cannot remember NUDO having been the Ruling Party during that time. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Order. You just joined NUDO recently from SWANU, but NUDO was part and parcel of the Government here through DTA. You do not know because you were in another Party, you were in SWANU. Ask Moongo, he will tell you what they have done.

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. I would only like to say that when I came into DTA, I did not find NUDO there, I found other Parties there.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the development of the Green Scheme will not only provide...(Intervention)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD
WELFARE:** On a Point of Information about NUDO. Even now NUDO is divided. Some went where Tjihuiko, the other remained where Venaani is a member, in that NUDO under the umbrella of DTA.

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON TJIHUIKO: The development of the Green Scheme will not only provide jobs, but most importantly, it will provide food security. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a tiny question? Honourable Tjiuiko, is it true that the speech you are reading was drafted by Mr Henk Mudge?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, let me try to answer that question. The speech that Honourable Mudge was reading this afternoon, and I am saying this with an open heart, if that speech was read by somebody else, you could not have acted the way you have acted. You acted the way you have acted because the man who was standing there is white. So, the speech that I am reading is the speech that I have written myself and as far as I am concerned, even if he is the one who has written the speech for me, he is a Namibian, no question about it, unless you tell me otherwise.

The development of the Green Scheme will not only provide jobs, but most importantly, it will provide food security and household food security for the Namibian Nation.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information, it is not my intention to disturb the Honourable Colleague, but I think as a student of history some issues should be put into context. The reality, Honourable Tjiuiko, is that NUDO, being an affiliate of the DTA during those years, was the Ruling Party of the Herero second-tier Government. NUDO was the Ruling Party, that is history.

Secondly, the other day Honourable Kaapanda rose and asked a question, and I am one of those people who wants to refrain from comparing the successes of an independent legitimate government with that of an Interim Government of the past. They are not comparable. However, Honourable Kaapanda asked “*what did the DTA do during the time when it was administering this country*” and he said that the Damara Council built a

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

building and in fact, the first offices that housed the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development was the office of the Herero Administration. The infrastructure that you are talking about, the current UNAM and the Polytechnic were built and all other things were built by that Administration and those are just historical realities.

HON TJIHUIKO: The Green Scheme, if properly designed, supported and properly funded...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. There is something which Honourable Tjiuiko has said which should be corrected. He said the way this side of the House has reacted to Honourable Mudge is because he is white and it is misleading and insulting the principles of the SWAPO Party. We do not even have to go outside this House. Here in this House SWAPO Party is the Party that represents the rainbow of the society we are trying to establish. Parties such as NUDO are pure tribal Herero Parties and they are family Parties, Parties of people who are from the same village, who share the same principles. Some who joined at the eleventh hour were even appointed without following procedures because they are related and they are here. SWAPO is the only Party where you will find the true representation of Namibia. It is insulting to say that is why SWAPO Party reacted that way and if a person is insulting, then we have to react.

HON TJIHUIKO: The Green Scheme, if properly funded, would create opportunities for entrepreneurs who are knowledgeable in irrigation agriculture, especially in the Caprivi, Kavango and the South along the Orange River. I believe, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, that our Government's strategy on the development of Green Scheme leaves much to be desired. (Intervention)

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, before you conclude, you said we intervened because Honourable Mudge is white. Are you now white?

HON TJIHUIKO: I am wearing a white shirt. Before I conclude, Honourable Deputy Speaker, let us look at the so-called pro-poor, pro-growth Government approach. Let me first look at pro-growth and I need your assistance here, let me deal with pro-growth, then I will look at pro-poor and then you can come in. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, I want you tell me and the public out there what is the meaning of “*so-called?*”

HON TJIHUIKO: The public knows. I will correct it, let me talk about the pro-poor, pro-growth Government approach. Pro-growth: This is what we have seen with pro-growth: We are investing money in bottomless pits called State-Owned Enterprises, the figures I have mentioned.

HON BOOYS: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question, please? Honourable Tjihuiko, are you really telling this House, now that you got an increment, if you have moved from A to B and the next time you are coming to C, it is not growth? Is that not growth?

HON TJIHUIKO: It is money we could have used to stimulate the economy. The 10% of the National Budget I have mentioned, could have increased the Capital Budget, showing to the public out there that we are spending more money on development and spending 40% less, means in real terms that the Capital Budget has not been increased because the 40% is not to be spent. If you do not spend on capital projects, it means that

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

the economy will not grow. You will only grow the economy by creating jobs, by being involved in the real economic issues. If you spend money on current expenditure as you are doing now, you are taking the wrong direction.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, according to the SWAPO Party this Budget qualifies to be called a pro-growth Budget but from the look of things, the priorities of the Namibian people and the priorities of the ruling clique of the SWAPO Party are not the same. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, he should withdraw, SWAPO was elected by the Namibian people and now he is calling it a clique. He should withdraw that or otherwise we will meet outside.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, if he wants to meet me outside, then I withdraw that one.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, according to my definition, the poorest of the poor in Namibia among many are the pensioners, vulnerable children, people who depend on Government social problems. These are the poorest of the poor and the unemployed. In support of those sectors, Government did not increase old-age pension neither that for the kids. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The question I posed to the Honourable Member was answered wishy-washy. Now I want the House to know that the point of departure between the Parliament and the two gentlemen is the fact that the old-age pension is not at N\$3,000 where the white pensioners used to be. It pains him the same way it pains the gentleman sitting here. The two of them have so much in common, that is

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

why I posed the question whether it is true that his speech was written by that Member.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, before Independence the whites were getting the N\$3,000 you are talking about, the blacks were getting N\$75. During that time I have applauded and appreciated the Government's decision to equal the pensions, but the pensioners we are talking about are the veterans of the liberation struggle. These are the people who were hiding the Kazenambos and Uutonis when they were coming to fight inside the country. These are the people who faced the brunt of the Boers because they were inside here, but what we have done, Honourable Minister, we have increased the one for veterans to N\$2,000 and we left this one at N\$470. What is the difference between what the Boers are doing and what we are doing?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the returnees at Gam and Eiseb Block...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable Tjihiuko a question? Honourable Tjihiuko, you are complaining about the salary increase of civil servants...(Interjection)

HON TJIHUIKO: I did not.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: And you are saying it is untimely, yet on the other side you are complaining because the old-age pension has not been increased. Would that have been timely?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the returnees at Gam and Eiseb Block, the offspring of the great warriors who fought the

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

Germans, all of them born in free and independent Botswana, but being patriots supported the Namibian freedom fighters and even sent their own kids, born-free in Botswana, to fight for the Independence of their forefathers' and foremothers' land. Since their arrival in Namibia in 1993 I have not seen a special programme to address the basic needs of those people. A community of approximately 6,000 people with one school without a school principal, with an acting principal for almost 2 years. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: On a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Torture is... (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Have you declared that jacket with ACC?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Torture is banned by the Constitution of Namibia. We have been tortured for the last 45 minutes, how much longer shall we continue to be tortured by this diatribe of this Honourable Member?

HON TJIHUIKO: I am just about to conclude, Honourable Deputy Speaker. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Before the Honourable Member concludes, some of us are consistent and we will die consistent and we need to expose hypocrisy where it is being used to exploit ignorance. The Honourable Gentleman here said this, Honourable Gentleman here was not supposed to be appointed a Deputy Minister because I am a foreigner from Botswana. He said it here in this House and he says there is no special programme for the people he is talking of now. What special programme should be designed for foreigners who are not supposed to be in Gam in the first place? That is hypocrisy.

08 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON TJIHUIKO**

Secondly on the issue of special programme. These people returned from Botswana. The Government of the Republic of Namibia catered for a resettlement programme. In Gam there was a *twee-spoor* when we arrived here for only one car and today there is a gravel road. When we arrived in Gam, there was no school and today Gam has a fully-fledged primary and secondary school, you can do your Grade 12 in Gam. There was not even a mortuary in Gam, today there is a clinic and mortuary in Gam. There was no telecommunication or radio in Gam, today there is telephone, MTC, Telecom, there is a clinic, there is a mortuary. What other special programmes are you talking about if you are not employing the politics of divide and rule? Hippocratic NUDO, you call them foreigners and when you want to attract their vote for elections, you say Government should come up with programmes. Be consistent!

HON TJIHUIKO: In fact, the Honourable Deputy Minister has a problem with remembering. You say you are a foreigner and I support him.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, there has been no school principal for almost three years. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask a small question? Do you admit that what Honourable Kazenambo has said is the truth. Do you admit that the Government has done a lot, what he mentioned was never there before until the SWAPO Government came to power? What is your comment on that?

HON TJIHUIKO: There is one clinic with two nurses and no doctor, one ambulance covering Gam, Tsumkwe and Mangetti, approximately 250 kilometres in radius. The nearest hospital is in Grootfontein 410 kilometres from Gam. (Intervention)

08 April 2009

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

HON BOHITILE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Order. If we were to go to the Hansard now, we will see that Honourable Tjihuiko said right at the start of his speech that he will only speak for ten minutes. Deputy Speaker, those ten minutes are over.

HON TJIHUIKO: The nearest hospital in Grootfontein is 410 kilometres from Gam without a proper linking road from Gam to other villages. The registration of people, especially people who have renounced their Botswana citizenship around 2005/2006 to date there is no response, either positive or negative.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, it could have been good and humanly correct for our Government to have considered Gam and Eiseb resettlement as special cases and developed and designed a specific intervention to address those areas.

Allow me to conclude, Honourable Deputy Speaker, by appealing – and I will go down on my knees – to our Government to do something about Gam because it is humanly possible to do something in Gam. I would appreciate that and I thank you very much. I rest my case.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call on Minister Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Before I read my speech, I just want to give you information in view of what has been said here.

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed for a Member to comment on a speech that has already been concluded?

08 April 2009

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it is allowed, people may respond.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Sometimes when somebody makes a speech, you just keep quiet and then you elaborate on what has been said in the House, to correct or not and this is exactly what I am doing.

I was assigned by the SWAPO Party as a national leader to the Otjozondjupa Region. At one point in time we went with Comrade Sam Nujoma, the President of the Republic of Namibia and I think Kazenambo must have been there too. When the President went to address the very same people that the Honourable Member is talking about, they boycotted the Head of State of this country. They boycotted the Head of State of this country and they mobilised it under the leadership of some of the Parties. I just wanted to give you that information. You do not hate the cow and like the milk. Kazenambo was there, they boycotted the President. (Interjections). They did, I was there. I do not talk about something I do not know, I was there.

Comrade Speaker, I would like to briefly contribute to the Debate currently on the Floor of this august House.

In the first place, let me congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for tabling this very important Budget in this august House.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I will confine myself to the following issues: Issues facing the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, the land issue and thirdly, comment on some of the allegations made against SWAPO during this Debate.

On the first one, concerning the veterans of the liberation struggle: Deputy Speaker, the struggle for the liberation of our country was a protracted and bitter one. It was also an unprecedented struggle in the sense that the enemy happened to be the most formidable economically and very powerful militarily on the whole African continent.

08 April 2009

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

To make it even worse, the enemy we were fighting against was the only brutal fascist regime on the continent. Eventually the people of Namibia emerged victorious, however it was not after indescribable suffering which our people had to be subjected to.

When the South African fascist regime was forced to leave Namibia, it left behind ugly scars of the aggressive colonial war. Some of these scars were the big numbers of traumatised, disabled and displaced people of this country. Many of those who fought for the Independence of this country are today living in abhorrent conditions.

Those who have lost their limbs are unable to afford artificial limbs or wheelchairs. Many former fighters are amongst those who swell the slums of every town, village or city. It is now the mission of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs to take those who selflessly sacrificed to bring the Independence and freedom we are enjoying today out of this misery and enable them to live a better life and restore their honour and dignity.

I am sure and confident that with everybody's support and understanding, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs will achieve this glorious objective sooner than later. I shall dwell on this issue when I am going to introduce the Ministry's Vote.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, allow me now to briefly touch on my second point, the land issue.

It is difficult to adequately analyse in a brief statement like this the status, ownership, occupation and disposition of agricultural commercial land in Namibia. The three major purposes of this intervention, however, are to:

- Draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the present unsatisfactory state of agricultural commercial land situation;
- Comment briefly on some of the aspects of commercial land tenure; and
- Make recommendations on utilisation of agricultural land.

08 April 2009

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

The Constitution of Namibia in Articles 16 and 100 deal with land; the former in general terms and the latter in particular. Honourable Members are aware of the patent and apparent criticism of the proviso in Article 100 to the effect that land, water and natural resources below and above the surface of the land belong to the State, and then the proviso which says, if they are not otherwise lawfully owned. This proviso has some effects on agricultural land acquisition, occupation and disposition.

The ownership and management of agricultural land is currently regulated by the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act of 1995, Act 6, the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Amendment Act of 2000, Act 16 and the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Amendment Act of 2001, Act 2.

The current legislation provides for, among other things, the establishment and powers and functions of the Land Board, the establishment of the Fund, restrictions on transfer of agricultural land and the collection of a land tax.

The present law allows ownership of agricultural land by –

- a natural person. (Under Article 16 of the Namibian Constitution, Parliament may by legislation prohibit or regulate as it deems expedient the right to acquire property by persons who are not Namibian citizens.)
- a company (registered under the Companies Act, 1973 (Act 61 of 1973); or
- a corporation (incorporated under the Close Corporations Act, 1988 (Act 26 of 1988).

The word “*person*” in Article 16 of the Constitution covers both natural and legal persons. A Company or a Close Corporation registered or incorporated in Namibia is both a “*person*” and a “*Namibian citizen*.” Consequently, a non-Namibian person may acquire and own or dispose of agricultural land in Namibia through a Company or Corporation registered

08 April 2009

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

in Namibia. This state of affairs opens loopholes which is today abused by those who want to defeat the land policy of the State.

Namibians and non-Namibians are holding agricultural land through Companies or Corporations mainly for four apparent reasons:

- In case of non-Namibians, to defeat and beat the constitutional requirement that there should be regulation of land ownership by non-Namibians. This has now become a common practice.
- In case of Namibians, to hold several agricultural pieces of land incognito and to demand high prices of sale of land; (this practice is commonly applied particularly by the former advantaged Namibians.)
- To thwart easy compulsory acquisition of an individual person's land and inadequate compensation by the State; and
- To make land thus held by companies and corporations inaccessible and expensive and beyond the means of the ordinary Namibians.

Agricultural land in Namibia is being transferred to and "owned" by Companies and Corporations and has become extremely expensive. Sooner or later there will be no available agricultural land to be acquired either by the State or individual Namibians. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Minister, I am sorry to disturb your very intellectual thoughts on these legalities, but are you further aware that there is another loophole where especially South African foreigners acquire land through loans from banks through a leasehold system of 99 years. If I own a farm and I want to sell this farm, to circumvent the waiver system, I go and sign a legal contract with this person, apparently leasing this land for 99 years and the bank also finance the lease of 99 years because the loan of a bank is always 25 years. Are you aware that a lot of farms are being purchased through that scheme and I am speaking from experienced because even my neighbouring farms were acquired in such ways.

08 April 2009

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

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: That is quite correct and when I come to my recommendations, those who are doing that have to be unearthed. However, there may be other tricks as well, I have just mentioned a few of them and the situation is very bad indeed.

Agricultural land in Namibia is being transferred to and owned by Companies and Corporations and has become extremely expensive. Sooner or later there will be no available agricultural land to be acquired either by the State or individual Namibians. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am extremely sorry that I have to interrupt the Honourable Colleague addressing a very serious matter in the manner that he is doing. I would just like to ask a question. Honourable Tjiriange, just a few days ago there was a Debate here in this House and as I was making my contribution, I was more or less addressing the issue from this perspective and I mentioned the fact that our previously advantaged Namibians were not genuine, were not honest when we agreed at the Land Conference that we should address the land issue in that fashion. They were not with us and the Honourable Member from the other side stood up and almost slapped me and it is only because of the distance that he could not reach me. Honourable Minister, do you share my position that the formerly advantaged Namibians are not with us, we are not on the same wavelength with them when it comes to land reform in this country?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Yes, Comrade Pendukeni, I can repeat one of the tactics that I attribute to that group we are talking about. I am saying, in case of Namibians, to incognito hold several agricultural piece of land and to demand high prices on sale of land, this practice is commonly applied particularly by the former advantaged Namibians. That is just in addition to what you have said that time and I am entirely in agreement with you. Of course, it is not so easy for some people to lose their advantage which they were entitled to during the colonial Government, so it becomes a struggle.

08 April 2009

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

This is precisely why after you I was talking about the revolution, that if it continues that way, we may be rendered irrelevant because we are not solving the problems and the people may enter those farms by force. I said that we are landless people, we have a landless Army and landless Police and if you are a stupid Government of landless people, sending the landless army to evict the landless people, we are in trouble. That is exactly what I said in support of what you said.

Now my recommendations on this issue: Honourable Members, the liberation struggle was in part a fight for our land. Let us do and be seen to be doing something to fulfil that goal. I recommend:

- That a national commission be immediately constituted and to report to His Excellency within the shortest reasonable time, not more than a year from now. The land is going.
 - The terms of reference for the commission should include -
 - (i) Consideration of the practical effects of the provisions of Article 100 of the Namibian Constitution.
 - (ii) Reviewing and recommending an equitable system of tenure of agricultural (commercial) land acquisition, ownership, occupation and disposition appropriate for Namibia.
 - (iii) Recommendation of appropriate policies to be converted into legislation or practices on the management of agricultural land.
 - (iv) Determination of the terms and conditions on sale of agricultural land, including price control on land sale, and
 - (v) Determination of mechanisms of remedying any present agricultural land acquisition, ownership and use which may hinder the implementation of its recommendations. (Intervention)
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08 April 2009

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

HON CHRISTIAN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask a question or make a little recommendation to my Senior Minister? My advice would be the Ministry of Lands, the Ministry of Agriculture, AgriBank and other stakeholders must create a forum that would investigate and report on the feasibility of putting price ceilings or curbing land prices periodically, based on the present agro-sense as defined by the Minister of Agriculture. That would be my little advice.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you. The Commission that I am recommending will definitely have to be created by the President and it will have to look into all those things, including many things that I did not say here. I definitely agree with you.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, let me now turn to some of the allegations which were made against SWAPO and its Government during the Debate.

I would specifically like to respond to the serious allegations made by Honourable Venaani in this august House regarding the printing of ballot papers. I respect Honourable Venaani and usually regard him as an intelligent person, which he is. However, I was disappointed to hear what he was saying that day when he made that truly false statement. I really do not understand why the Opposition politicians do not accept outright defeat without attributing such defeat to extraneous issues.

I would like to emphasise that the popularity of SWAPO Party is deep-rooted and anchored in the masses of our people. We do not need Namprint to help us win the elections. SWAPO has been winning elections before the creation of Namprint. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is making a very serious allegation. What Honourable Venaani said is: There is a rumour by your former colleagues that you are doing ballot printing. Now, if you listened to the whole story, Venaani did not mention anybody's name. If the rumour is rejected, a rumour is either confirmed

08 April 2009

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

or denied and I have put it as a rumour, but another Honourable Member mentioned a name and it is not Honourable Venaani.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Rumour or no rumour, I understand what you mean. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask my Senior Colleague a question? Honourable Dr Tjirange, even if it is a rumour that is being perpetuated by the Opposition to the effect that Namprint is printing double ballot papers, will it make a difference in the election results, because whoever is voting for SWAPO is also voting for the Opposition, using those double ballot papers. Will there be a difference?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Rumour or no rumour, it has been said here that it needs to be addressed for what it is.

I said that we do not need Namprint for us to win elections. SWAPO has been winning elections before the creation of Namprint. Let us look at the elections of 1989. The South African colonial regime did the following and even more:

- Gave the DTA massive political support;
- Demonised SWAPO through pamphlets and publications in favour of DTA;
- Gave financial support to DTA

Above all, during the election period, the colonial regime...(Intervention)

08 April 2009

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

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am sorry to interrupt, but may I ask a tiny question? Are you aware that all the suits of Honourable Venaani were bought with slush funds?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I did not know about that. Above all, during the election period the colonial regime brought in big numbers of South Africans through Hosea Kutako and Eros Airports. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. Is the Honourable Member aware and the entire Nation aware that the millions given by the Chinese into the SWAPO coffers are also regarded as slush funds?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I do not believe what I am hearing. Comrades, we were waging a war against a pariah regime in this country, a regime which was declared criminal, which was committing international crimes according to the United Nations and it is against this background that the United Nations said, "*these people have a cause, they are fighting for their rights, help them.*" Obviously those who could do so, including the Chinese. (Interjection). The Americans were helping South Africa. Therefore, you cannot compare the money that was given by the peace-loving people to the liberation movement with your puppet money that you got from South Africa. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Once a puppet, always a puppet!

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I said, above all, during the election period the colonial regime brought in big numbers of South

08 April 2009

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

Africans through Hosea Kutako and Eros Airports as well as by buses at border towns to vote for DTA.

Even at that time when SWAPO was working against all odds and obstacles put in the way to victory by the South African colonial regimes and the Parties it had created, SWAPO nevertheless convincingly beat the combined band of the South African quislings in those crucial elections of 1989. We were not allowed to go to that airport, the planes were coming to vote for DTA, but we won and we do not need Namprint.

The fact and the truth of the matter is that the people of Namibia are not fools. They know that Parties such as DTA which is making these unfounded allegations are not their own creators, they were artificially made to fight SWAPO and by extension, fight against genuine freedom and Independence of Namibia. The reality is that this stigma is haunting you. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask a tiny question? Why, every time you speak about colonial South Africa, is Honourable Member Moongo not feeling comfortable? You are not talking about him, you are talking about South Africa, but he thinks maybe you are talking about him. Why is he uncomfortable?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I could have answered that if there was time, but I have only three paragraphs to finish.

Finally on this issue, the Opposition Parties are free to inspect the printing of ballot papers, they are even free to be there during the whole process of printing of the ballots to satisfy themselves that everything is done to their satisfaction. (Intervention)

08 April 2009

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

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information-cum-question. Would you argue as a legal person and the intelligent person that you are, that the Opposition Parties that have lost elections, including this Party that you have fought for many years, have we not conceded defeat in elections? Have we not conceded defeat in elections?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. History is faithful to itself. The very Opposition Party Honourable Venaani, my good friend and Colleague in farming, is trying to defend never wanted elections in the first place. You were forced only because the South African Army withdrew. (Interjection)

HON VENAANI: No ways!

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: It is only because the South African Army withdrew, then you said there is no other option. You never wanted elections.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, one member of the CoD who masquerades himself as a human rights activist was on BBC Radio this morning, alleging that the Government of Namibia has failed to help the victims of the present floods; that the Government has no capacity whatsoever to attend to the plight of the flood victims. He further went on to say that the Prime Minister was quoted to say that the Government is not prepared to meet the challenges of the floods. He questioned why the Government is buying a plane instead of using the money to help flood victims.

I would like to say that it is true that the situation in the affected area is critical. It is also true that the Government is doing its level best to attend to the situation and help the victims of the floods. To make such statements at this critical time is not helpful because such statements have

08 April 2009

ADJOURNMENT

the potential to discourage the international community, which wants to help Namibia in this critical time from doing so.

The issue of the floods is a tragedy for the country. Therefore, it is not necessary for anyone, more so for Political Parties, to politicise this tragedy. I am not sure whether the said person had the CoD's blessing to say what he said, but the fact is that he is a part of them and he must be brought to order. I thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The House stands adjourned in terms of Rule 90 under automatic adjournment until tomorrow, 09:00

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.04.09 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
09 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 QUESTIONS

QUESTION 37:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 16th of April 2009, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Honourable Alpheus !Naraseb, the following good-natured questions:

On Monday, 6 April 2009 the Honourable Minister addressed Members on the Planning Workshop at Swakopmund and according to the newspapers the following was said: *“That the current selection criteria to allocate farming units are not addressing the plight of the previously disadvantaged.”*

1. What are the new criteria that will be implemented?
2. What is the post-settlement support which are to be given to all beneficiaries? Is it training in particular systems or is it financial support?

09 April 2009

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VILJOEN**

3. Demands and suggestions were made in this Honourable House in the face of the coming election about a new Land Reform Policy. What is the position of those Namibian citizens who lawfully own reasonably sized farming units?
4. Why is the Government, 19 years after Independence, still reluctant to put those Namibian farmers at ease who feel threatened by what happened in Zimbabwe where the land grabbing is seen by many Namibians as the ultimate solution and furthermore the demands and suggestions to expropriate farms in Namibia and redistribute it to the so-called land hungry people?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the questions, Honourable Member. Further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Mutorwa.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I am rising in terms of Rule 89 of the Standing Rules and Orders to make a Ministerial Statement.

I wish to inform the Namibian public, through this august House, about the ongoing disputes in the farming community of Okamatapati in the Okakarara Constituency of the Otjozondjupa Region. This is a dispute over access to the auction kraal pens, the use thereof and over the livestock marketing calendar.

This dispute, in our view, has nothing to do with the Government's policies and/or actions, but has more to do with the perceived differences in local political dynamics, affiliations and commissions that are derived from the auctions.

09 April 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has acted to address the dispute, but some parties involved in the dispute do not want/seem to appreciate and/or accept our efforts in this regard, hence the information to the general public.

A little bit of background:

Ongombe Farmers Association, which was affiliated to the Namibian National Farmers Union (NNFU), have been the only body facilitating livestock auctions in Okamatapati for many years. Sometime last year, 2008, some members of the Ongombe Farmers Association decided to be affiliated to the Namibia Agriculture Union (NAU). This split the Association into 2 groups.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry learned sometime last year that the Ongombe Farmers Association, the body that has facilitated auctions in the Okamatapati area has indeed split into 2 groups. This came to our attention when the 2 Ongombe groups requested funding for the purpose of agricultural shows where livestock are showcased. The Ministry cannot, however, fund 2 Associations in one place. As a direct consequence of this split, a dispute arose between the 2 groups over access to the auction facility and the livestock marketing calendar for the area.

Let us look at these auction kraals and pens that we are talking about. The facility was established with the objective to create enabling conditions for farmers associations, community-based organisations and individuals to market their livestock and to host agricultural shows, among other things. The auction kraals and pens belong to the Government and were leased out to the Ongombe Farmers Association at a time when the organisation was still one single entity. The main purpose of leasing out the facility is to give the management of the property to community-based organisations, farmers associations, individuals and all the members of the community regardless of their affiliations. The only right and obligation given to an organisation or an individual leasing the facility is to manage and maintain the property and charge organisations which want to utilise the facility a certain fee. This is a public facility and it is, therefore, not for the exclusive use of one group alone.

09 April 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

However, the Ongombe NNFU affiliated group claimed that it forwarded a request to use the facility some time last year but was denied access to the facility by the Ongombe NAU affiliated group. The latter claimed that the request was forwarded at the last minute and this was despite the fact that there was no time limit for submitting requests for the utilisation of the facility.

The 2 Farmers Associations took the matter to the courts last year and they did so without consulting the legal owners of the property, namely the Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

Something about the livestock marketing calendar: As I have noted earlier, a dispute also arose over the livestock marketing calendar for the area. As a consequence of the division, the Ongombe Farmers Association as a single entity then initially facilitated auctions in Okamatapati and there was no problem at that stage. With the split, it now meant that the 2 groups will facilitate auctions in Okamatapati, a situation which was bound to lead to friction anyway.

The livestock marketing calendar is drawn up by a marketing Committee under the chairpersonship of the Regional Councillor of the Okakarara Constituency and signed by all parties involved before it is submitted to the State Veterinarian before or on the 30th of November of the preceding year. This has been the practice since 2004. The Regional Councillor signs the calendar as a witness.

Because of the limited resources at the Ministry's disposal, a decision was made that 2 auctions be held per month per community. Following the split, Honourable Members, the Ongombe NNFU affiliated requested to be included in the marketing calendar for 2009/2010. The Ongombe NAU affiliated, on the other hand, submitted its calendar before the 30th of November as per the auction protocol, proposing 2 days per month for them to organise their auctions. This meant that the Ongombe NNFU affiliated was to be excluded from organising its auctions. What did the Ministry do and what is the Ministry doing?

The Ministry took actions in an effort to resolve the matter. These

09 April 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

included the following: The Ministry issued a press statement on the 22nd of August 2008 of which copies were sent to the stakeholders. The purpose of the statement was to clarify the position of the Government through the Ministry regarding the utilisation of the kraals and pens in Okamatapati by the members of the community. We reminded the parties involved about the objective why the facilities were established there in the first place, namely to create enabling conditions for Farmers Associations, community-based organisations and individuals to market their livestock, to host agricultural shows and in essence to assist with the economic development of the particular area.

The Ministry also urged that any party engaged in activities of preventing access to, or use of the facility by another party should stop that with immediate effect. An appeal was made for unity, as it would be easier for the Government to deal with a united farmers bargaining group so as not to duplicate the scarce resources at the Government's disposal.

We also terminated the lease agreement. Due to the prevailing dispute, the Ministry issued the notice of the termination of the lease agreement as the lessee was no longer constituted in status as at the time of the conclusion of the agreement. The notice was sent to the chairpersons of the 2 Farmers Associations.

Then in September last year I personally visited Okamatapati and at that particular event which was held from the 10th to the 14th of September 2008, I reiterated our appeal for unity and cooperation among the members of the 2 organisations, regardless of affiliation in order to allow the Government to channel support and assistance to the farming community and to avoid duplication and wastage.

Then on the 9th of February this year, the Regional Councillor of the Okakarara Constituency, who is the chairperson of the marketing Committee responsible for the drawing up of the marketing calendar, convened a meeting on the 9th of February 2009 for the stakeholders to draw up a marketing calendar for the area for the year 2009/2010. A representative of the Ongombe NAU affiliated walked out of that meeting. The calendar was however drafted, which included the Ongombe NNFU

09 April 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

affiliated as well. The latter rejected the calendar, but the other communities who agreed were allowed to have auctions as per the calendar.

Subsequent to this, several meetings were held to try to resolve the matter, which included, amongst others, the following;

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry requested the Regional Councillor to convene a meeting in collaboration with the State Veterinarian responsible for the area, with the chairpersons of the 2 Ongombe groups on the 24th of February 2009 to discuss and eventually approve the calendar as drafted by the Committee. That meeting did not reach its objective as the Ongombe NAU affiliated insisted that the Ongombe NNFU is allegedly not recognised in the Okamatapati community.

What are the decisions now?

1. Following meetings on the matter with the parties involved in the dispute, the Ministry decided and conveyed the decision that the public facility was available for use by all Farmers Associations, community-based organisations, individuals and all the members of the community.
2. The parties involved in the dispute were also informed that the management of the facility reverted back to the Ministry. In the interim, the animal health technician, a staff member of the Ministry in that area, will keep the keys to the facility and manage the facility and any organisation wishing to use the facility for the purpose of an auction, as per the approved calendar, will have to make arrangements with the animal health technician.
3. Regarding the farmers' days and other events other than the auctions, organisations will have to submit their requests to the animal health technician and obtain a letter of approval in that respect from the technician. The requests will be considered on the

09 April 2009

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

basis of a first come, first served principle. Whoever puts in his or her request first will enjoy preference.

4. As for the management of the public facility in the long term, the Ministry has plans to enlist the services of a neutral company management group to manage the facility on behalf of the Ministry. In this regard the Ministry is working on the terms of reference to be advertised in the media, inviting expressions of interest.
5. With regard to the marketing calendar that was drafted and approved, the Ministry discussed and approved the calendar drawn up on the 9th of February 2009. It was subsequently signed by and announced in the media by the Regional Councillor and other stakeholders with the exception of the Ongombe NAU branches. The Ministry approved the said calendar because it is inclusive. The 2 groups are included. They have their days for their auctions and the limited resources at the disposal of the Ministry will enable it to serve the days on the calendar. The Ministry will, however, not be in a position to serve additional days because of constraints.

I want to clearly reiterate that the decisions of the Ministry regarding the auction kraal pens and the marketing calendar as approved by the marketing Committee stand and it is not my intention to undo that. Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker, for allowing me to make this Ministerial Statement and to provide this relevant information to the general public so as to make the position of the Government on this issue crystal clear and unambiguously clear. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much for that information. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION
OF SECOND READING**

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIERGAARDT**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading –
Appropriation Bill

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, Wednesday, the 8th of April 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 discussions? I recognise Honourable Diergaardt.

HON DIERGAARDT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I am participating in this very important Debate today, conscious of the grievous economic challenges besetting this country and its people and in fact, the whole world, but I speak to you in a spirit of transcending hope and overriding faith in humanity. Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I believe in this country and its people. This is a land filled with hope and promise.

On Thursday, 19 March 2009, I was as always a proud Namibian. I was a proud Member of this august House and, indeed, a proud Member of the SWAPO Party when our energetic, innovative and dynamic Minister of Finance and her loyal team leading the chart, under the watchful eye of our calm and collected President and assisted by her loyal and supportive SWAPO Colleagues in this House, took both friend and foe by surprise by introducing a well-structured and innovative Budget, for which I want to congratulate her and thank her and her entire team.

These trying times we are living in challenge us to improvise. It was the great Albert Einstein who once remarked that, “*imagination is more important than knowledge.*” The Minister has once again proven that we should never be long on ideas and short on actionable plans. This specific Budget Debate and the results thereof will shape our lives and the lives of our children for many years to come. These are trying but fascinating times in which we live. The character and spirit of man are pitted against

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIERGAARDT**

social and scientific forces and the stress placed on them increases the strength and resilience of the spirit and character of those facing up to the challenges of life. On the other hand, the weak, ambitious and faithless are overcome and fall by the wayside. We must never lose hope, this will be the greatest disservice to ourselves.

The SWAPO Party is facing the future with a deep sense of destiny and with an understanding of the magnitude of the past. To the hundreds of thousands of Namibians who have pledged their support to this Party, we can do no better than to hold out as a motto for the future the famous words of Abraham Lincoln, the American President who signed the Emancipation Proclamation to ban slavery, and I quote: *“With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in.”*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, in my opinion this Budget will go down as the most important Budget in recent Namibian history given the world economic meltdown. The Budget is well documented and structured, detailed in seven volumes loaded with information and transparent, especially with reference to the Government’s accountability report.

For obvious reasons, Madam Deputy Speaker, I decided to focus in my brief intervention on the potential of tourism in Namibia. For the last 50 years this has been the fastest growing industry globally. This is equally true that as we speak, it is also the fastest growing sector in the Land of the Brave. Despite the economic downturn, people are still travelling and countries all over the world are competing for that market. It is also an empirical fact that tourism is the fastest recovering industry. People do not regard holiday as a luxury anymore, but rather as a necessity. People are still travelling even though the number of travellers has declined.

We will only be able to attain the goals we set for ourselves in Vision 2030 through job and wealth creation and in doing so, we will increase the value of our economy. Since tourism is a critical sector in our economy, we must work towards positioning Namibia as the preferred tourist destination. We must be geared towards taking advantage of the recovery

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIERGAARDT**

of the market once it happens.

As is commonly known by now, South Africa will play host to the world biggest sport spectacular, the FIFA World Cup in 2010. It is furthermore a known fact that South Africa is not in a position to host all visitors expected. As a neighbouring country Namibia is ideally situated to host those displaced tourists. It is believed that for every twelve new tourists that arrive, one new job is created. Let us step into that because it will mitigate the impact of the current economic recession.

I am encouraged by assurances that the assets of the Namibia Wildlife Resorts would soon be transferred to the Company. The fact that the Act was promulgated in 1998 and the assets have still not been transferred must definitely be seen as a stumbling block in the turnaround strategy of the NWR. For example, in this Budget, unfortunately, no amount is allocated for the revamp or expansion of the infrastructure of the resorts under their control. However, since the company possesses no assets, but only a zero balance sheet, commercial banks would not be interested in dealing with such entity.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I have always been advocating that the speedy, prompt and vigilant implementation of our Capital Budget can be a tool of transformation in terms of job creation and poverty alleviation. I am encouraged to hear that there are negotiations under way to look into our protracted and cumbersome tender procedures. We must change those procedures for the better, because there is no sense in allocating an amount for a project and due to the tender procedures, the project can only commence one or two months before the end of the Financial Year. Such a situation leaves a lot of room for corruption.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, I wish to address our youth out there. One of the signs of hope is the youthfulness of our continent. Over half of the population in almost all African countries is composed of young people. This in itself is a sign of continued life and, indeed, hope of positive change. These young minds and energies can be harnessed and properly developed to be leaders who would make a difference, but if this has to be realised, the young people must get the message and start to act now. I

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DIERGAARDT**

wish to call on those youth indulging in destructive activities such as substance abuse, violence, greed, slander, backbiting, deceit, pride and every form of wickedness to rethink their position. Those are the things that pollute you. I rather call on you to exchange your knives and guns for calculators and computers, the malls and clubs for institutes of learning, your energy to build instead of to destroy, your very expensive American branded clothes and shoes for school uniforms and exchange your hate for love. If you want to be successful in doing this, you need a change in attitude because the change in attitude will bring a change in altitude.

I am not implying or suggesting that our young do not need recreation, I realise that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. However, whatever we do should be constructive, not only to ourselves but to the Nation at large. My message to our young out there is that everything is not dark, we must retain hope. We must not dissipate our energies by cursing the darkness, but give our time by lighting candles. We must retain our faith in humanity, we must not allow the rocks, storms and high winds to deter us, they must inspire us. We must recognise this and know it.

My humble call on our young is: Let us humbly pledge ourselves from day-to-day to do that which is right, to be fired by idealism for others and to see the beauty we may render to our fellowman and our community as our greatest challenge and esteemed service to our brothers and sisters as final reward. Let us draw faith from the inspiring words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt when the Second World War was at its peak: *“The only limit to our realisation of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith. Let our young remind ourselves about the fact that there is no escalator to success, each and every demanding step must be climbed patiently, but also with enthusiasm. The dictionary is the only place where success comes before work. Let us remember that all success starts with a dream. I firmly believe that our young have the inherent potential to realise their dreams.”*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to conclude by wishing all our people celebrating the Easter Weekend a happy Easter

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB**

Weekend, drive safely and let us remember the reason for this season. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now call upon Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I listened with great interest to the statement by Honourable Minister of Agriculture. I went to Okamatapati in 1989 with Comrade Jerry where we had an obligation to eat a whole ox. I think to solve this problem a delegation of Comrade Jerry and myself should go back to Okamatapati to solve this problem.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to make a brief contribution on the Government's expenditure plans for the 2008, 2009, 2010 Fiscal Years, as tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance on the 19th day of March 2009 in the year of our Lord.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is self-evident that this year will be a year of very little economic fortunes globally. In this sense our country will not go unscathed. As Namibians we are witnessing one of the toughest economic climates for the last 36 months or so. We have been hit by a triple whammy, firstly rising global food prices, secondly combined with the steepest surge in oil prices since OPEC, oil crisis in the 1970's, which seriously constrained both output and consumption. These surging oil prices have not only added fuel to producer prices, but have aided to contract global output and aggregate demand as a consequence of weak consumer spending. To crown it all, we currently go buckled under a financial crisis which is essentially a combined function of greed and misplaced faith in Adam Smith's "**invisible hand of the market place.**" Such, Honourable Deputy Speaker, is the tableau on which this year's Budget is crafted.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Let me therefore, say from the outset that

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB**

given this macro environment the Government's Budget is fine curate's egg. To be sure, there are some measures, such as addressing the bracket creep, which could already have been addressed in last year's Budget and we said as much already last year, but I suppose it is a case of better late than never.

The impact of the global crisis is known and it has already been felt on the factory floor and workplaces in lost jobs and redundancies or company slowdowns and/or production holidays. The 1% reduction in company tax will cushion business during these difficult times, but as is common course, the primary sector of the economy, that is mining, agriculture and fishing, constitute the mainstream of our economy. It is, therefore, inexplicable why mining should also not benefit from this generous but modest tax reduction of 1%.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are mindful of the assistance being extended under this Budget to the Affirmative Action Loan Fund, but we believe that a comprehensive assistance to agriculture as a whole and the fishing sector should have been considered to tie these important sectors of our economy over in the interest of job retention and contribution to the economy as a whole.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, economist Keynes has done well for himself lately, with so many converts to his cause of supply management via the fiat of Government spending. Many, both inside and outside this Honourable House, have spoken about the need for a so-called stimulus package, bail-outs etc. We believe that these calls are, however, a knee-jerk reaction to a problem misdefined, at least in Namibia. Our problems in Namibia are long-term structural problems of growth and underdevelopment. Our problems of development will not be solved by pseudo Keynesianism of digging up and filling up trenches again in Tsandi in a false quest to stimulate demand and/or create jobs. Our problems in Namibia will be addressed by looking at bottlenecks to our economic development some of which include physical skills and absence of value addition to our natural resources in our country.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we must make the education system in our

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB**

country to work and to deliver. We must remove barriers for those who wish to innovate, invest and create wealth - both for themselves and for our country. Whilst we must protect our jobs, our reach as Namibians must go beyond the mindset of our village, such that we are able to embrace technology, skills and, yes, workers - from beyond our borders in our quest for growth, prosperity and indeed, excellence.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are aware of a Government Committee called into life and headed by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry. It is our understanding that this Committee is to produce a plan to steer our country through the present difficult economic phase. This Committee, it was reported, is to report this month, April. If they still have not reported, they have 21 days to do so. Even if the Committee finally reports, it is not clear how Government plans to profit from their labour and recommendations which are feasible- for the crisis is ever-changing and waits for no one. It will stifle the Government's efforts in this regard amount to much ado about little or end up being simply an RR exercise.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, global markets appear to be responding to the impact of the US stimulus package and feel good factor following the G20 Summit in London last week. This is good news. (Interjection). You did not see the markets. You do not have investments, so you do not read the market. Honourable Deputy Speaker, this is good news, this is good for our country.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we accept that our monetary policy space is severely limited because of international commitments, that is because of our membership of the CMA. Government's only main policy intervention is fiscal policy, thanks for other devices such as direct intervention in the economy via the State-Owned Enterprises, etcetera. Government's recent revenue collection has been robust, but this is wholly because Government has almost entirely outsourced the collection and compliance enforcement function. We believe that Government's own Inland Revenue capacity needs to be strengthened. I have said this for 9 years here.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB

Having said that, we welcome, in the main, the tax concessions announced in this year's Budget. Particularly, we wish to recognise the announcement on the environmental levy, details of which the Minister promised to announce soon. We believe this will be along the principle of the polluter pays.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we welcome particularly the increase in the threshold from N\$40,000 to N\$80,000. Already during last year's Budget presentation we said it was unfortunate and a missed opportunity that this was not done. As regards to corporate tax, while we believe that this is a good thing. We still do not understand why the same was not extended to the mining sector.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, whilst we remain concerned about the growth in the debt stock, we are happy to note that the measures announced by the Minister are in the circumstances prudent and responsible. This is despite the authorities overshooting the Medium Term Expenditure Framework targets in this case. As regards currency depreciation, we are optimistic and we are not unduly concerned, as we believe that there will be a correction from the second half of this year onwards.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the latest international figures show a decline in our Human Development Index. It also shows that our country has the highest ...(Intervention).

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? You are talking about a threshold from N\$40,000 to N\$80,000. Which one do you mean? I thought the threshold was from N\$36,000 to N\$40,000. What did you have in mind? Are we talking about different things?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the Minister is right and I am wrong, it is from N\$36,000 to N\$40,000.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the latest international figures show a decline in our country's Human Development Index. It also shows that our country has the highest Gini-coefficient in the whole world. This gives us the dubious honour of being the country with the most unequal income distribution. (Interjection). Brazil is number 10, South Africa is number 11. We have the dubious honour of being number one in terms of income inequality. This is what we have done for the last 20 years. We were number three 20 years ago and 20 years later we are the most unequal. (Interjections). It is the truth, I can give the figures. Honourable Deputy Speaker, most Namibians remain poor. By Government's own last figures, 6% of Namibians are severely poor, 36% of Namibians are poor.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I was listening to you very carefully. Are you really trying to tell me that Namibia is currently worse off than 19 years ago? I just want to be clear on that. Can you just explain? I do not understand, I want you to explain.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, what the world figures say is that wealth in Namibia is concentrated in a few hands. It only shows that the outcome of SWAPO Government's policies of the last 20 years is that that has even been more concentrated, that over the last 20 years fewer Namibians have owned the wealth. In the last 20 years it has even worsened.

HON MEMBER: You are one of them.

HON T GURIRAB: I earn a salary.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Maybe the Honourable Member can assist me, is it not maybe the case that some of the Honourable Members in this House who are seated not very far from where you are seated, are part of this inequality, because they have amassed wealth at the expense of the poor?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, what the United Nations is saying is that what we have done over the last 20 years, is that we have by our own policies, our actions or inactions....(Intervention).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you always talk about democracy, Chapter 3, which makes wealth a fundamental right, therefore you cannot touch that. What are you as an Honourable Member asking your Neighbour there who owns more than 5 farms after 19 years, without even considering your question? (Interjections). No, his Neighbour.

HON MEMBER: His Neighbour does not have a farm.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: You will not find a person who is a pilot and owns a plane who is not wealthy. The question is, are you supporting Honourable Tjiriange who was asking that we amend Article 100, so that the land can be owned by the State and then we will distribute wealth because wealth is based on land. It is not based on the political statement which you want to make. Are you aware that the problem is not the SWAPO Party Government, it is because we are bound to honour the Constitution. What do you say about that?

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, to tell the truth, the farm owners in this Chamber are sitting on that side of the House. The people who own farms in this Chamber are sitting on that side of the House. (Interjections). I do not care whether you have stolen them or whether you have bought them, but the farm owners...(Intervention).

HON BOOYS: On a Point of Information. If there are Members in this House who feel that because you are a Member of Parliament and you have a farm, you are rich, they are wrong. All of us are poor. Once you leave the Parliament, you will start suffering from hunger. We are not rich. The people who are rich are sitting there. (Interjections).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Gurirab was given the Floor, not everybody in the Chamber.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Honourable Tsudao Gurirab, there is nobody on this side of the House who owns a farm. There are people on this side of the House who are using AgriBank's farms to farm, they do not own those farm, they are owned by AgriBank. That is the truth.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I live in a house which is owned by NedBank, but I am saying the farm owners sit on that side of the House, all of them. The point I was making is that the outcome of SWAPO's mis-governance of 20 years is that fewer people in this country own wealth. That is the outcome of your mis-governance of the last 20 years. Government's own figures show that 6% of Namibians...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Will the Honourable Member accept a question? Honourable Member can you explain to me what is your definition of "ownership" and definition of a

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB

“farm”, so that you can justify what you are saying, that all of us on this side own farms?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, my definition of a “farm” is the same as the Government’s. It is like the Honourable Minister’s clothes which she has bought from Edgars on credit, it is the Honourable Minister’s clothes. My house which I am paying, I have a mortgage from NedBank, I am paying, it is my house. The Honourable Prime Minister has taken a loan to buy a farm, I have taken a loan from NedBank, that is where I live.

Government’s own figures show that 6% of Namibians are severely poor. Government’s figures also show that 36% of Namibians are poor, that is 40% of Namibians. A further 10 or 15% of Namibians(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask a question? His main premise is that the gini-coefficient has increased and it is because of the policy of the Government. At the same time the Honourable Member turns around and accuses other black people that all of them have farms, all of them have properties. For the first time in the history of this country we, as black people, are moving into modern economy and he is bashing us that we have done nothing. Is it because you have gone to the other side?

HON T GURIRAB: You misunderstood me. For the first time I have a house, I own a house, it is a good thing. More of us of, whatever our colour, I do not care what Namibians look like, whether they are Damara, Nama, I do not care, Namibians, whatever their colour or whatever their tribe, I do not care what they are, but Namibians must own houses, they must own cars, they must have money. I do not care who they are, I do not care whether they come from Opuwo, they must own that.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. When you talk about farms, from Maharero, Mandume, we fought for this country to get farms, but today you are telling the people they are not supposed to go to the land.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, what I am saying is that you must have a farm, I must have a farm, that is all I am saying. However, I am saying that 60% of our people, the people in whose name we speak here today, do not have anything to eat and we must be concerned about that. That is all I am saying. We must own farms, 10 if we can.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Gurirab, you are really raising very important points, but you have not yet touched on one thing. How do you see Namibia getting into creating those opportunities for the percentage that you are talking about, because you have raised the point that there is this percentage that are not well-off. What is your view, how should Government go about to solve that problem?

HON T GURIRAB: I think the alternative is that those Comrades there and all of you join the CoD in the elections in November...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. On the speech of the Honourable Member of the CoD one can deduce that that Party is being run by poor-minded leaders, because that gentleman, that Honourable Gentleman was a Permanent Secretary, now an MP, yet he has failed even to inform himself. The young Honourable Gentleman behind him there, Honourable Venaani, was never in the Government, was just an ordinary citizen and now an MP, he owns a farm. How come that this Gentleman cannot own a farm?

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, that is the malaise in SWAPO. Government is not a means for self-enrichment, it is to serve our people. It is not a means, Government is to serve her people.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I would like to ask your indulgence, if you could just proceed, because I have 13 people who want to contribute. Continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. It is a pity that an economist, whom I respected once upon a time, could stoop so low to start misguiding and misinforming the Nation. He has been part of this Government, a respected SWAPO personality by then, but when you left SWAPO's door you lived in a polluted world to the extent that even the good things that you have learned have disappeared. Be that as it may, Namibians should not be misinformed by the distortions here. The SWAPO Party Government, based on the Rule of Law, is managing the macro and micro-economic fundamentals of this country to make this country prosper, but this has unfortunately been taken as a sign of weakness when we see some people even lacking sensitivity. Because of that Constitution we could not nationalise the means of production and there are some countries that nationalised mines, that nationalised everything and we evaded that for the sake of reconciliation. That gini-coefficient is a result of that. What we are doing, we are managing in a very evolutionary way, avoiding a revolution and this is distorted and I do not appreciate that. We can start nationalising mines, banks and everything like the National Party when they took over from the British and they even designed apartheid from which some of these people benefited. Are we now accused for not coming up with apartheid, are we now accused of following the capitalist system, of respecting the Rule of Law? Are we now accused of following the regulations we have set or what is the alternative of the Opposition rather than hypocrisy?

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB

HON T GURIRAB: My Brother and good Friend, even in Singapore, in Sweden, Norway and Botswana you have the capitalist system and they have half the income disparities we have here. It is a policy choice, it is your decision, it is because of mis-governance.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: On a Point of Information. Honourable Tsudao, firstly, as an Economist you are telling us if you have a loan at NedBank and you bought a house with that loan, that house is your house. You do not get a Title Deed, that Title Deed stays in the bank until you finish paying. That is the only time you get a Title Deed, then that house belongs to you. If you are still disputing that, then you do not get it. You are an Economist, unless you are making deals with your bank, there is something wrong. You can go and get a loan at the bank and you are holding a mortgage to service for 20 years, you are not going to get a Title Deed, it is held by the bank until you finish paying. If you got your Title Deed without paying for it there is something wrong, there is some corruption somewhere.

I knew Tsudao to be a very revolutionary young man, he grew up under me, he was more revolutionary than me, but now he is the spokesperson for Mudge. He is just looking at him, admiring him, answering him. What has happened to you that you are the spokesperson now for Mr Mudge?

You said 6% are in abject poverty, but I would like you to compare that with other countries like South Africa and Botswana. Where do we stand?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Speaker, I have figures provided by Government and by Government's figures, 42% of Namibians ...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Information, Honourable Deputy Speaker. The Honourable Member became jittery when Honourable Ithana

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB

indicated that he has not empowered himself and he is saying that he was not there to enrich himself. I think he must make a clear distinction between empowerment and enrichment. Honourable Venaani is said to have empowered himself and that does not mean that he has enriched himself. Empowerment is when the Government provides an enabling environment for one to take a decision to do whatever you feel to empower yourself, whereas enrichment is when you are doing things illegally or in a corrupt manner to acquire whatever you acquire. That is enrichment and therefore, Honourable Tsudao, please, when you tell the Nation, make a distinction between the two terms. Thank you.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not own a farm, I own a house, you do not know what the value of my house is, I do not know what the value of his farm is, I do not own a farm. She is asking me why do I not own a farm, that is what she says. I do not own a farm. She says I own a farm.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Namibians remain poor because they neither had the skills to sell, because all of us went to about Grade 10, they have no skills to sell, so they are poor and they do not understand business, nor do they have assets to derive a livelihood from. Nyerere said: “*Our people walk barefoot on diamonds.*” Because we have no skills we walk on diamonds and we do not know it.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I am extremely sorry but I am getting more confused. The Honourable Member started very well but now some of the things are confusing me. He was mentioning some of us having farms here, some people having houses and he was talking about the Government having done almost nothing. I remember him and myself as students in Zambia, we did not have a house, we did not have farms, we came here and he has a house, I have a farm, is that not what you want? You are saying we have not done anything, but you have a house now and that is why I am getting confused.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON T GURIRAB

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Lecturer from UNAM, I think it is a good thing that you have your farm, it is a good thing that I have a house. I am saying we must consider others...(Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. I think the other side of the isle is advancing a very dangerous policy of ownership, because when you start arguing to say that people that own what they own do not have property, it is true that you do not really own, you owe. You would allow those that have today to go into a perpetual strategy to owe. They will pay N\$5 million for a farm and that property never becomes yours, you will always have an overdraft on the farm and you will not have the property. Let us not argue, if you start arguing like that, the business people, the farm owners and land barons will continue to go to the banks and get overdrafts on their properties and would not have the Title Deeds that you are talking about. They are going to do that. Owning the property is the means of production. The means of production must be pursued by all of us, just as a large number of black farmers have accessed land as a means to empower people. There we are on the right track, but other areas should also be addressed, in businesses, in companies, in mines. If I am however saying, if you owe on your property, it is not yours, the people who have the properties today will just go into that perpetual cycle and own the properties.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Deputy Speaker, we welcome the expansion in social grants to assist the indigents and the vulnerable. It is often said that how a society treats its weak and vulnerable is a measure of its civilisation. We still, however, remain concerned that the old-age pension still does not reach the most needy, that is the people in Omaheke, those in those farms beyond the Minister's farm, in Tsumkwe. Those people are not reached because they do not have identity documents. Those are the people whom we must reach for social grants.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: On that note I call on Honourable Christian to take the Floor. We cannot have one speaker the whole day.

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON CHRISTIAN**

HON CHRISTIAN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor. I want to make it very clear today that we should make a distinction between President Sam Nujoma, the Founding Father of this country, and an ordinary member of the SWAPO Party. I think we should really remind ourselves time and again that even the prosperity we have today as Members of this Parliament or as citizens of this country who was in front of the battle during the struggle? When we talk about this noble man, some of you maybe do not know. Let us give him the benefits that he deserves, we are not going to compromise with any other person when it comes to his benefits.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I am standing up to speak on some provisions of the Budget of 2009/2010 and to provide in my humble way suggestions which I think would be appropriate.

First of all, let me congratulate the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her team for presenting a Budget once again that is pro-poor and pro-development. During the tabling of last year's Budget, when the Honourable Minister mentioned that the Budget is pro-poor, pro-growth, there might have been reservations, but you continued this year and have proven once again with this Budget that developmental issues, welfare and prosperity of the Namibian population are priorities of this Government, this people's Government, for that matter.

The zero-rating of essential basic items, such as milk, sugar, etcetera, increasing the tax-free amount of those receiving salaries up to N\$40,000 annually, lowering of tax rates on personal income, provision of medical cover for children who are in need of special medical treatment and the inclusion of veterans in the provision of social grants are testimonies of the pro-growth approach of this Budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, some of us have a teaching background, therefore when the Budget is being presented, if it is relating to education, child welfare, general well-being and health issues become high priorities. I am, therefore, delighted with the provision of the additional N\$9,8 million to the education sector, thereby lifting its total allocation of

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON CHRISTIAN**

N\$16,9 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. This should be seen as the way in which our Government wants to prioritise provision of classrooms and hostels until all our children are taught in a classroom environment and conditions relating to teaching at schools are favourable. Namibia's education system has undergone an extraordinary transformation, from serving a privileged few to one in which all learners are in an integrated classroom environment.

Our Head of State has once again mentioned during the Independence Celebrations in the Karas Region as well as during the recent SWAPO Party rally in Kavango Region about the importance of maintaining peace and stability in our country. This call for peace and stability in our country should be heeded by all peace-loving citizens of our country, irrespective of our differences. I wish to quote the words of the Honourable Minister of Finance in her Budget speech on peace when she said: *"Namibia was blessed with close to two decades of peace, democracy and prosperity."* Peace is a prerequisite for development and without peace there will be no development. This Budget and its provisions will not be implemented if peace is absent in our country.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the law enforcement agencies that are maintaining peace and law and order should, therefore, be looked after with the provision of a total of N\$1,3 billion in additional funding. The Police and other law enforcement agencies should be in a position to acquire needed facilities, like vehicles to reach out to areas where crimes are reported and to apprehend criminals timeously. It should be appreciated that the Namibian Government is doing everything in its power. The provision of essential items, like vehicles, to law enforcement agencies, especially the Police, should be seen as the way Government is addressing the stability situation in our country.

As citizens of this country it is our duty and responsibility to look after the properties of the Government. Taking into consideration that all these Budget provisions are made while financial resources are limited, let us therefore look after the properties of the Government and if allocations to purchase essential items, like vehicles, are made, let it be our collective

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON CHRISTIAN**

responsibility to look after these items and to utilise it only for the purpose for which it was bought.

While the Government is making all efforts to guarantee access to quality health care services, as mentioned by the Honourable Minister in her Budget speech, it is disappointing to note that the behaviour of some of our people, as it relates to health care and prevention of infectious diseases, continue to indulge in excessive drug and alcohol abuse. At the same time, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, headed by Dr Kamwi, should be commended for the major strides it made in providing essential health services to the citizens of Namibia across the country.

Major achievements of the Ministry are the provision of anti-retroviral therapy for more than 70% of Namibians who are living with HIV/AIDS, the opening of the modern Cardiac Unit at the Central State Hospital for heart patients. Therefore, our patients do not have to travel to South Africa for treatment of heart diseases.

Honourable Members, most of last year has seen the registration of those who sacrificed their lives and resources in the pursuit of the desire to free their motherland. The registration of veterans has mostly been completed and still continues and it is, therefore, appreciated that this Government appropriated funds to provide social grants to these heroes and heroines of our motherland.

The flood situation in the North and North-East of our country should be seen as a major disaster affecting all our people. We have a common destiny as a Nation and resources allocated to address that situation come from the contribution of all our citizens and we should be committed and concerned that we cannot be at ease if in one part of the country some of our people are affected whilst in the other part we are enjoying peace and stability. Let us think about them, let us make our contributions.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Namibian Nation has the habit of blaming one another for the wrongs happening in our societies. While fingers are pointed to the SWAPO Party-led Government for all the wrongs, it should be noted that this Government, by virtue of the way it is

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON CHRISTIAN

constituted, is there to serve all the people and I also think the Members who are blaming the SWAPO Party Government are also part of that Government and must remember that. We in this House are here as Honourable Members representing different political ideologies, yet we are brought together here with a common purpose, that is to draft, regulate and pass laws for this country, for these laws to be in conformity with the wishes and aspirations of our people. That collective mandate should encourage us to address programmes jointly to reach goals we set ourselves to achieve and that is Vision 2030. Vision 2030 is not only for SWAPO Party, but it is for the whole country. Even if you are from the Opposition, you are part of these Visions.

We are coming from a past where resources were available to a selected few. Now the same resources have to be divided amongst the majority of our people, therefore it is a challenge for our Government and all of us and efforts of this Government are there to see and you can also touch it, because within 19 years visible improvements have been achieved in most sectors.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, last but not least, this is the election year and while all the participating Political Parties are geared towards speaking for candidates of their choice...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Francina, my question is, those who cannot touch and see the progress SWAPO has made, they can also take their tongues and lick. Would you agree?

HON CHRISTIAN: Thank you, Comrade, I think the nose can smell and it can also be licked. It is important for the SWAPO Party to continue choosing candidates that will serve the people, rather than to select those who want to be served, like some of the Members of the House on my right side. (Intervention)

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON CHRISTIAN

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, what did you say?

HON CHRISTIAN: Let me repeat myself. I said some of you on my right side are always blaming the Party and you must realise the Party is the Government now and if you are the Government, it is your choice to prioritise. We sit around one table to prioritise our visions as a Party that is this time responsible to govern with other Members whose mandates are not the same as ours. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. It is true that the Ruling Party SWAPO is the Party in public office, in Government, but this story of bashing the Opposition should come to an end. All the Members that took the Floor on this side of the House recognised the positive elements in the Budget. (Interjection). Most of the points that Honourable Gurirab raised are positive points on the Budget. In fact, his introductory remark said it is a good Budget. That is what he said. The Ruling Party is telling the public out there, if you belong to the Opposition you are a bad person. The Government must also realise that one day they will also be in the Opposition, so the Opposition is not that bad. (Interjection). You will never be because of the age, but surely your Party will become the Opposition and I would like to see Honourable Kavetuna in the Opposition and Venaani would be sitting right there.

HON CHRISTIAN: Honourable Members, Opposition is not a bad thing in a country, but the attitude of some Members of the Opposition is not good for us. You should make sure that your words are encouraging. As the Government of this country we also need motivation, but sometimes you are bringing us down. We are not against the Opposition, you are there, (Interjection).

The pro-approach of the Government should reach the rural poor and those in the remote areas of the Regions. The decentralisation process should,

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

therefore, be implemented through elected representatives that have the problems of the people at heart.

I, therefore, have the honour and the privilege to support the Appropriation Bill for 2009/2010 as well as the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognised Honourable Minister Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this Honourable House. It however gives me a pleasant opportunity to make a contribution to the national Debate on the distribution of the national cake to different departments and sectors of our State.

Allow me, therefore, the opportunity to offer some pleasantries to those the Government has entrusted with the responsibility to collect the revenue from the public and work out the formula for distributing it back for the service of the State and to ameliorate the plight of the vulnerable in our society.

My gratitude goes to the Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance, her Deputy, Honourable Tjekero Tweya and their officials for presenting yet a pro-poor and pro-development Budget. While he is not here, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, Honourable Dr Peter Katjivivi, and his staff also deserve commendations as his office forms part and parcel of the budgetary exercise.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, “*Ondumbo niise*”, meaning, “*let us put jealousy aside*”, this is yet another knock-out round against the opponent, if at all there is such an expression politically speaking. It is a foul cry, the demand for a coalition Government for the purpose of budgeting. Those fellow Members of Parliament cannot work here. In the results of

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

the last National Assembly election, SWAPO Party scored 75,83% of the total votes cast. Where does the idea of a coalition Government come from? Is the proponent of such a demand a messenger of some other forces or is it her own idea. If it is her original idea, why bring it up only now on the eve of the coming elections? What is the motivation behind such a demand?

Comrade Deputy Speaker, there is a clear separation of powers in terms of our Constitution. Article 40(b) states: “*The Members of Cabinet shall have the duties to initiate Bills for submission to the National Assembly*” and the Honourable Minister of Finance did just that. Cabinet just did that and the Honourable Member of the CoD is apparently not satisfied. What is it that they are looking for? Having said so, let me now move on to the more intelligible aspects of the Budget.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the Budget under discussion has set a trend of addressing poverty in the country and is indeed a pro-poor and pro-growth Budget, whether we agree with that or not, facts speak for themselves and the following are empirical evidence:

- Since the last Financial Year, the old-age grant has been increased by 21% to N\$450 per month and the coverage of the recipients increased to 90%.
- The coverage of OVC grants is increased with an additional 10,489 children benefiting.
- The school-feeding programme is expanding, as can be seen from the current allocation, if you care to read the Budget documents.
- Since April last year, the veterans are covered under the Veteran Grant and with the ongoing registration the number of the beneficiaries will increase tremendously.
- Extra allocation has been made to the Emergency Management Unit to take care of those affected by disasters, the recent floods in the North and North-Eastern part of our country.

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

While at this point, I should thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for at least explaining to Namibians what Government has done in meeting the plight of those affected by the flood, because what I have heard on NBC Radio yesterday morning, apparently airing a BBC programme, was very disturbing. An untruth was being told to the world, that the Prime Minister himself has told the world that apparently his Office does not have personnel to deal with the crisis. There is no money allocated for the floods and I was saying, *“where did this happen, why do some of us not know about such a situation?”* However, I was not surprised that the person who was being interviewed was none other than the usual story-teller, famous story-teller, a founding member of the CoD and to tell the truth, I want to know whether what is aired by that gentleman is sanctioned by the CoD. Really, it is very damaging. This person has a website where he sends out information into the world and this information is either meant to denigrate the leadership in this country, to downplay any activities of this country and to blackmail those who are leading in this country. My question: Is this strategy sanctioned by the CoD or what is going on?

Having said so, let me continue with my written statement. The other points I want to add to why this Budget should be seen as a pro-poor, pro-development Budget is that:

- Additional funds have been made to the Ministry of Education for the grade 10 repeaters.

But while here, I must point out to the Minister of Education, that there are schools in our country which are refusing children to repeat Grade 10. While we have gone out of our way as a Party to change the policy so that Grade 10 failures are allowed to repeat, how come that certain principals of schools are refusing the children to repeat? Why is it so? Another point is:

- The Students’ Financial Assistance Fund has been increased to allow more students to benefit and they are benefiting at universities and other institutions of higher learning.

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

- A huge allocation is made towards the purchasing of the ARV medication.

I do not know whether the Honourable Members know of anybody who is HIV-positive and who is on this treatment. I have encountered many of such people and I am telling you, if there are people who are grateful, it is this category of Namibians, because this Government has given hope to so many Namibians who at one point, when they were told they are HIV-positive, saw death. Now they have been on this medication for three, four, five years and some have even forgotten that death was a threat at one point in time. Really, let us give credit where it is due.

- Rural electrification and rural water supply are funded by the State on a yearly basis and this Financial Year is no exception.

I know some Colleagues from the Opposition benches have been saying all kinds of things about water and payment thereof. One thing we should know is that Namibia is a drought-prone country and the water that is supplied through the funding of the State is not done cheaply. The Government has to buy chemicals that should be used and energy is used to pump this water from far away to those points in our rural areas. It is not a cheap programme and therefore, if we cannot say thank you for the smallest gift we get, how do we expect to say thank you for the big things when they happen? Never. In my language they say “*Gwa pandula Inoyaka*”, if you create a habit of not appreciating, you will one day end up being a thief.

Water supply and rural electrification is done by this Government. From scratch, at Independence, the electricity pylons were running through the forests, avoiding villages, directed towards urban centres and army bases where the whites were living. I am sorry to use the word, “white”, it is for lack of a better word. The electricity pylons from Ruacana where electricity is generated, avoided all the villages in the North to come to Oshakati, but nowadays schools, community places, certain business houses are electrified and therefore, we will say “thank you”. It is probably not enough but we must start to say thank you.

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, if what I have tabulated above does not qualify this Budget to be called a pro-poor, pro-development Budget, then something is wrong somewhere and we must know what it is. I will repeat my expression, “Ondumbo niise.” (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, you are right on track when talking about the expansion of rural electrification and clean water supply to the people, but are you aware that in the Water Act there is a Clause that says Government has a responsibility to subsidise the poor people that cannot afford water? Up to this moment the San communities are not subsidised. Why is Government not using this Clause and budget to subsidise the poorest of the poor? I agree with you 100% that Government has done more on rural electrification, it has done improvements on clean water supply. I remember before Independence the people in the villages in the North were carrying these drums to go and fetch water, but today they can open a tap. That is a success of Government, but why is your Government not subsidising the poorest of the poor?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Our Government.

HON VENAANI: In this instance your Government, because you are addressing us now. I always talk about “our Government”, but you are addressing us.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Colleagues, we should also understand what subsidisation means. Clean water supply is not just water from a well somewhere. Clean water supply is water piped to a certain destination, purified and treated. Is that not subsidisation? The communities are not asked to pay for the pipes, to pay for the equipment, to pay for anything other than the water usage that somebody taps either

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

for cooking or whatever. Really, if the Government has to go to that length, how many communities are going to be subsidised? How many?

On the one hand you talk about poverty in the country, on the other you want to segregate. If there is poverty in the country, then everybody must be subsidised, not only to say the San community. The San community are not being discriminated against. That should not be the issue. The other day you were saying only old people are the poorest and I said no, the old people are probably a segment of the poor people in the country. To me the youth are the poorest, they are unemployed, they do not get any grant while the old people are receiving a subvention. Even if it is not enough, at least they are getting something. What are the unemployed youth in this country getting? Nothing! Zero! The elderly San people are getting the subvention just like others, OVCs from the San community the same. If you now subsidise their water it is also not quite correct.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Minister, this is where the Opposition clearly differs from the Ruling Party. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: The Opposition is now one?

HON VENAANI: There is only one credible Opposition in this country. I will not mention the name, but there is only one credible Opposition. Honourable Minister, I agree with your views that Government cannot subsidise everything, but if we have explicitly legislated to subsidise the poorest of the poor and we are not doing that, we are doing a disservice to what we have decided upon.

In the village where I come from and it is not only my village, even people in Ohangwena, Onkongo, all those areas, you have San communities living around those homesteads, some of them helping, some of them just living around there, but those farmers are forced to supply water to these 20 to 30 compatriots of theirs.

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

If we have intended to subsidise the poor, why put the pressure on the farmers? There are farmers who have 20 people living around their homesteads and the bill only comes to you and those people are utilising the water. They should say, farmer Ithana is subsidising 20 people, your bill is N\$1,000 now, we are subsidising N\$300. Why is that not happening?

That is the problem that Venaani has with the Ruling Party on the question of subsidisation.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I do not deem myself as an expert on water affairs. The Honourable Colleague will deal with that matter when the time comes. However, what I want to say is that as an African person who grew up in a village, I know that we as Africans always help those who are less privileged and I do not want us to shift these good mannerisms of Africans on the Government. When I started at my village and brought water there, I told my elderly neighbours that they do not have to walk long distances to go and fetch water elsewhere. Since 1996 up to now I am helping my neighbours to draw water from my tap at the house. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. I appreciate what the Honourable Minister has done, but the majority of the Opposition have been doing that for 19 years without being subsidised. Livestock are drinking the water from the pipe and we assist the people. The Government is silent on that and they failed to give boreholes to the communities for livestock. It is good that the Minister is doing that, but we have been doing that for 19 years and we are tired of doing this while the Government is keeping quiet.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, as I was saying, it is not to blow my own trumpet, I said so just to indicate that you cannot be at a village, have a tap at your house and yet your neighbours cannot draw

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

water just for house consumption. There are points set up by the Government where the animals get their water and it is a distance.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. It is not fair for the Honourable Member to claim that the Opposition is doing that and this side is not doing that. It is not true. Let me just give you an example of what one Minister is doing and many of us are doing. When Comrade Pohamba was a Minister, not yet the President, hehe brought water kilometres from somewhere else to the village and he made two drinking places, one for the village itself and one for his house. This is just an example. These things are happening and all of us are doing that. Do not paint the picture as if only the Opposition is doing that.

The Honourable Minister could probably explain a little bit more on “*Ondumbo*” to the Herero people so that you are not misunderstood. “*Ondumbo*” means a sickness, when a woman has given birth and caught cold and as a result get sick.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I tried to give a layperson’s translation. “*Ondumbo*” in Oshivambo is jealousy. “*Ondumbo niise*”, kill it or put it aside.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, let me move on to other issues. The consideration of this year’s Budget takes place amidst interesting happenings:

The world economy is going through a serious financial crisis, affecting even the wealthiest countries of the world. The Honourable Minister of Finance adequately addressed that situation, hence I will be the last person to bore you on this topic.

Last Saturday, Comrade Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Republic of Korea launched what it called a communication satellite into orbit, while Japan deployed its battleships and patriot missiles to apparently intercept what is perceived to be the test for long-range missile in space. As our

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Speaker, Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab like to say, “*the taste of the pudding is in the eating.*” what was launched on Saturday? Can anyone tell us?

Whatever was launched, to many Nations which neither own, nor desire to own nuclear weapons, find the quarrel in European circles very hypocritical. The fact that those who possess nuclear weapons prevent others from acquiring them defeats logic. These countries know that they possess weapons of mass destruction which are a threat to world peace. What purpose does it serve to acquire such weapons, yet such weapons cannot be used for fear of wiping out the world? The condemnation and criticism in Europe of those who emulate developed countries in developing nuclear warheads is, therefore, received with utter cynicism. the world does not need such weapons, to start with, and every country which possess them should feel guilty for posing a threat to world peace. The recent call by President Barak Obama of the United States of America for a nuclear-free world should be echoed worldwide and must be supported.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, a few days ago, two important meetings took place: the G20 in London and the NATO Summit in Strasbourg. In the usual habit of the local media, I expected to see in these days’ issues in our newspapers headlines and pictures of burning buildings as a true reflection of the violent demonstrations which characterised the London and Strasbourg meetings. But alas, not a word and not a picture! The question is, why?

Had the kind of demonstrations taken place in one of the African countries, Comrade Deputy Speaker, the world would have seen it and heard about it. Why is it that the media in our country is eager to expose and blow out of proportion whatever is happening in Africa, but be circumspect when it comes to the actual happenings in certain countries in Europe and North America? Why, is the question?

I have said it before and I will repeat it again here today. These media houses we have in our countries have an agenda to always portray Africa in a bad light and to demonise African leaders whose views they do not

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

agree with. Examples in this connection are abundant. It should, therefore, not surprise us that Africa has produced no indigenous role model. Whoever the people of this continent recognise as their role model is immediately targeted for slander through the media and certain foreign-funded organisation.

As long as Africa's children are growing up reading and listening to stories of slander and denigration of their elders and leaders on the continent, we should forget these children to one day develop self-respect and love for their continent and its people. It is, therefore, typical of such a mentality of Afro-pessimism and self-hate, that a certain MP feels that criticism levelled against a certain Ambassador is a direct criticism against the Head of State of the sending State of that Ambassador. The hypocrisy in the whole thing is that the same MP has hurled so many insults to an African Head of State in this House and that did not just bother that MP. Self-hate and hypocrisy.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, for how long can we allow this destructive and systematic brainwashing of the African mentality to continue? We need a total mind shift and the media should be made to understand and play its catalytic role for the building of respect for Africa and its people.

This, Comrade Deputy Speaker, takes me to the issue of the indictment of former and current Heads of State by the International Criminal Court for the crimes against humanity charges. So far, only leaders from what is called Third World countries have been indicted. How much atrocities should a leader from the developed world commit before such can warrant indictment by the International Criminal Court? How many innocent civilians should have died in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine before someone is indicted for such crimes? What is the International Criminal Court waiting for? The world is watching.

Comrade Speaker, world peace cannot be maintained when the arrogance of power and double standards have become the mode of operation in the place of international law. The rules of international law should operate generally and all Nations of the world should abide thereto for peaceful coexistence.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON N ANGULA

These happenings make our times very interesting and challenging, as these issues seek understanding, mutual respect and cooperation. However, in spite of the bleak world outlook, Namibia has generally been enjoying peace and tranquillity. Let us all recommit ourselves to those principles and conducts enunciated by the SWAPO Party, that is, national reconciliation and non-tribal and non-racialism. Let us recommit ourselves to those principles so that we can reach greater heights.

With these few words, Comrade Deputy Speaker, it now gives me the opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful, restful Easter Weekend. Drive safely and come back in one piece. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. A Budget is a form of household planning. The Budget ascertains the fiscal state of the household, assesses its needs, sets priorities and allocates resource to such priorities. A Budget is, therefore, a planning exercise. Hard choices had to be made. Some needs have to be shelved for a while. A Budget cannot, therefore, claim to address all the demands, all the needs and all the aspirations of the people.

Budget 2009/2010 has, by and large, addressed itself to the priority needs of the country as defined in the Third National Development Plan and Vision 2030. The building of a prosperous, harmonious, peaceful and competitive human capital starts with annual planning and budgeting.

Annual Budget plans lead into Medium Term Plans which inform the size, content and direction of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The Medium Term Expenditure Framework allocates resources according to the objectives and priorities of the National Development Plan. The goals of NDP3 are informed by the mission, values and aspirations of Vision

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON N ANGULA

2030. Judged from this standpoint, Budget 2009/2010 is yet another milestone to Vision 2030.

This means that our choices, plans and priorities as a household are not arbitrary, haphazard or randomly. Our choices are goal directed. In terms of NDP3, the objective is to achieve accelerated economic growth and deepening rural development. The current Medium Term Expenditure Framework promotes such goals through a pro-poor and pro-growth strategy.

Such a strategy is underpinned by three priority considerations, namely, investing for competitiveness, fostering the development of our human capital and improving the social safety nets. Targeted allocations to social safety nets, health, education, food security, safety and national security, growth, investment and good governance are aimed at creating favourable conditions for future growth, prosperity and peace. However, a Budget cannot entirely forecast the future. There are certain externalities which are not under our control.

The Namibian household is part of the larger global household. Global shocks and uncertainties shall equally affect our household. Global warming is, by and large, responsible for unprecedented floods which are affecting our people and destroying their agricultural livelihoods. The turmoil in the financial systems of major industrial countries is negatively affecting the global trading system. The demand for our commodities is equally affected. In the short and medium term, our revenue and balance of payments are likely to be negatively impacted upon. Trade negotiations, especially the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union, is likely to have serious implications to our industrialisation strategy, regional fiscal and economic arrangements and our relations with other trading partners. The threat of terrorism, especially within the context of African and world soccer games in our neighbouring countries, necessitated huge allocations to safety and security sectors. Migration of people, though not of immediate threat to Namibia, cannot be entirely ignored. There is a need to monitor movement of people into Namibia in order to counter population and demographic imbalances in the long run.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON N ANGULA

This is the debit side of externalities.

On the credit side of the externalities balance sheet, we are encouraged by the outcome of the Group 20 Summit in London early this month. Equally, the movement to renegotiate a global environmental framework should be supported vigorously by Namibia. Namibia should sponsor in the United Nations General Assembly, a resolution demanding immediate establishment of a global disaster mitigation fund. Such a fund should be financed by major historical and current polluters. In our immediate neighbourhood we are encouraged by the establishment of a Government of national unity in Zimbabwe. The people of Zimbabwe now need solidarity. In this regard, in my view, SADC should send a Foreign Ministers Mission to the European Union, USA and other centres of power to advocate for the lifting of sanctions on Zimbabwe. African Development Bank should devise a recovery package for Zimbabwe.

The falling commodity prices are impacting negatively on poor developing countries. The closing of mines and the associated retrenchment of workers is exacerbating poverty. This situation shall hinder our efforts at meeting the MDGs. Ways and means should be found to assist affected poor countries to weather the storms. The financial turmoil was brought about by rich countries. They should come to the rescue of the poor victims of their greed and mismanagement. A fund should be established to help the victim countries. The Non-Aligned Movement should advocate for such a stabilisation fund. Namibia should take the lead in campaigning for the establishment of such a fund.

This brings me to our domestic challenges.

The vision of building a prosperous, peaceful, stable, harmonious and industrialised country is hampered by various and sometimes intractable challenges. Such challenges range from poverty to inequities, HIV/AIDS pandemic to maternal health care, nutrition and sanitation; empowerment and unemployment; gender and generation; and rural and urban dichotomies.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON N ANGULA

Poverty, both general and relative, is the overarching challenge facing our country. Poverty is racial, gendered, rural and generational. Due to historical reasons, wealth continues to be concentrated in racial groups which were favoured by the ancient regimes. 18 years of Independence have not changed this pattern. Government policies to alter the status quo are being frustrated by vested interests. Efforts to redistribute land, for example, are deliberately being sabotaged and frustrated. There is an urgent need for the Ministers of Trade and Industry and Lands and Resettlement to put their heads together and close loopholes both in the Company Law and Commercial Land Act. The treating of land as any other commodity which can be traded by acquiring shares in companies has led to serious abuse. Land is the only renewable common heritage we have. It should be guarded jealously.

Furthermore, inequities are perpetrated by unequal patterns of ownership of productive assets. The Transformational Economic and Social Empowerment Framework aims at setting targets and timeframes through a wealth creation score card, which will guide the process of redress and redistribution. Such a strategy will target redistribution of ownership of productive assets by previously excluded sections of our population. The strategy will further promote management control of enterprises by those who were historically excluded, as well as establishment of companies owned and controlled by them.

Training and mentorship programmes shall be promoted in order to encourage the growth of small and medium enterprises. The women and the youth shall receive enhanced consideration in empowerment arrangements.

Social entrepreneurship aimed at community level development and empowerment shall be highly valued. Fronting, window-dressing and patronage shall be outlawed. The goal of transformational empowerment is to fundamentally change the economic and social relations in our society. The objective is to create a fair and just society as required by Vision 2030.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON N ANGULA

The ravages of HIV/AIDS continue to torment our society. We salute the contribution of the Global Fund and USAID/PEPFAR for allocating N\$153,574,000 and N\$123,700,00, respectively, to HIV/AIDS programmes in this year's Budget. All the public sector players should redouble their efforts to make tangible contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases. The Office of the Prime Minister shall launch a monitoring exercise to evaluate sector response programmes to HIV/AIDS. A score card shall be developed to score sectoral activities against HIV/AIDS.

Maternal health care, nutrition and sanitation are other health related challenges. These are not challenges of the Health Sector alone, these are national challenges. We all must come up with innovative ways of finding solutions to those national challenges. On my own part, I am starting a conversation with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in order to interest them in assisting Namibia to develop a nutrition strategy.

Earlier on I had the privilege of convincing the Synergos Institute of New York to work with the Ministry of Health and Social Services to develop a health personnel strategic plan. The Berlinda and Bill Gates Foundation allocated US\$7 million to the Synergos Institute to assist the Ministry of Health and Social Services in this regard. In our own small ways we can make a difference.

On the credit side of the domestic balance sheet we note with appreciation that sectoral allocations do reflect the priorities of the SWAPO Party Government. The economic and infrastructure sectors shall grow above 30% in 2009/2010 Fiscal Year. The social sectors shall grow by 14%. Public safety grows by 12%. Overall, the Budget growth is 13% for the Financial Year 2009/2010 as compared to the previous Fiscal Year.

Honourable Members, before I conclude, allow me to say a word or two on the State-Owned Enterprises.

The State-Owned Enterprises are part and parcel of the public sector investment programme. Their absence in the National Budget is

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
RT HON N ANGULA

regrettable. I would like to argue that in the future their investment programmes should be reflected in the Budget.

The State-Owned Enterprises could play a critical catalytic role in national development. Namibia as a developmental State should leverage its State-Owned Enterprises as agents for growth and development. I am happy, therefore, to report that the secretariat of the State-Owned Enterprise Governance Council is now up and running. More permanent staff members are being recruited to the Council Secretariat.

In addition, regulations for the implementation of the Act are being finalised. Moreover, a comprehensive study is underway aimed at establishing benchmarks for remuneration packages of different types of State-Owned Enterprises' executives. The Secretariat is further considering a study on best ways to align the investment programmes of State-Owned Enterprises to the national development goals of NDP3. In this regard, I would like to fully agree with Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila that State-Owned Enterprises should subject themselves to international credit rating so as to determine their credit-worthiness.

Honourable Members, in conclusion, I would like to sincerely commend Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her staff for a comprehensive documentation on the Budget. Besides her own Budget Statement, there are documents on fiscal policy framework, macro-economic framework, the Government accountability report, estimates of revenue and expenditure, Medium Term Expenditure Framework and the Development Budget. These documents provide detailed information on all aspects of the national fiscal regime. Government is clearly transparent and accountable. Honourable Members should find time to thoroughly study these documents. They are of great value to every policy-maker.

Once again, thank you and congratulations, Honourable Minister of Finance and your staff. You make Namibia a proud Nation! I thank you all for your attention. I support the Budget 2009/2010. Our household is in a healthy state.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON //GAROËB

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Chief Justus //Garoëb.

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, I rise to make my humble and brief contribution to the 2009/2010 Appropriation Bill which is now slowly but surely reaching its Second Reading stage in this august House. I would like to join the rest of the Honourable Members in congratulating the Minister of Finance and her entire team as well as the Director General of the National Planning Commission for tabling the 2009/2010 Appropriation Bill as well as the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2009/10 to 2011/13 Financial Years.

As the Nation's elected representatives, it is our task to debate and appropriate funds in the public interest. That includes the funds that will make it possible for us to respond to the needs and aspirations of our people. Our people have mandated each and every one of us in this august House to work together as leaders of our country towards the goal of a better life for all our people and especially the economically weak members of our society.

I thought it right to mention during my contribution that as we address the necessary questions of deficits, interest and exchange rates, inflation, labour market flexibility, the affordability of social welfare systems and many others, we must not forget that the purpose of it all and the mandate which brings us to this House is the continued and sustained improvement in the lives of each and every Namibian citizen.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as we scrutinise the way in which Ministries use the monies they receive, our Debates and constructive contributions should be the yardstick by which we must measure the performance of the Government.

I want to say today that in the context of this need to improve the lives of the poor, the Budget which has been put before us by the Honourable Minister of Finance is one which we can take pride of. As the Opposition

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON //GAROËB**

Parties we are not always there to oppose the work of the Government of the day, but we also give credit where credit is due.

The Government's commitment to social development and the reduction of poverty can clearly be seen in the 2009/2010 Budget. This is facilitated by the Government's macroeconomic policy for growth, employment and redistribution. It is in accordance with these priorities that Government spending has since the latter part of 1995 and onwards been shifted towards social services. Therefore, the continued allocation of the greater parts of the State revenue to sectors of education and health is indeed a step in the right direction.

As a result, Namibia is one of the few countries in the world spending considerably more on social services and development than compared to other middle-income countries.

I fully concur with my Colleague, Honourable Goreseb, that with this Budget we should try to appropriate and endorse funds to various Votes to benefit the people and to develop. Again, education got the highest funding, N\$5,3 billion, for quality education and skills development as well as infrastructural upgrading and developments for schools to be built, hostels to be built. Dilapidated buildings which we built during the second-tier Governments' term and which produced a number of medical doctors, teachers, lawyers, etcetera, but are today forgotten and stand like white elephants need that to be renovated.

In this regard, I have to commend the Honourable Minister of Finance for allocating a substantial amount to education to carry out its mandate.

However, it is disappointing to note that the recommended schools for urgent attention in Erongo rural, Kunene rural and Omaheke rural did not feature again under schools in line for renovation or building. What went wrong? When are these schools also going to get attention?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we cannot expect effective learning to take place under such harsh conditions. Failure to do so will leave many Namibians free but lacking power skills.

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON //GAROËB**

The current old-age pension allowances have been the bone of contention in this august House. As much as one would want to agree with the remarks made by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister the day before yesterday in her contribution, that we as children also have a solemn duty and responsibility to look after our elders and meet the Government of the day halfway, it should be borne in mind that our country is handicapped by unemployment and life is more challenging than ever.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, our priorities also show how we have adjusted the impact of the prevailing international financial crisis which has brought some of our industries to a complete halt. We need to face the world with vigour and determination to ensure that our citizens are not badly affected by this economic meltdown. Government, therefore, must continue to take concrete steps to bail out, after thorough consideration, those companies and industries that need bail-outs from the State revenue.

When we celebrate achievements we have made and the commitments of Government spending, in terms of change for the better in the lives of the poor, we must do it with the full knowledge that we face serious challenges if they are to be sustained, not least in shifting sector expenditure away from personnel costs to services.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the importance of protecting and sustaining the peace and stability which we have achieved in our country, should be in the minds of all of us as we approach our Presidential and National Assembly elections. What is critical is not that we should have the same views on everything, nor that we should refrain from expressing our differences in a robust way. It rather is that we should be tolerant of one another's views and as leaders work towards uniting our Nation on the basis of the founding consensus which underpin the adoption of our Constitution on the 7th of February 1990.

I will make a few of my observations in the Committee Stage when we discuss the different Votes. For now, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I support the 2009/2010 Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SIMUNJA

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Chief. I recognise Honourable Simunja.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House. I rise to complement other Colleagues who have already appreciated and thanked the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy, Comrade Tjekero Tweya, and the staff for presenting the people's three-year Rolling Budget, the pro-poor, pro-growth Budget. I further thank the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and staff for a well-balanced Development Budget presented.

Several measures of relief contained in this Financial Year's Budget come at an opportune time when the entire world is faced with an economic recession. This situation has seen many losing their jobs that were the only source of their livelihood. Indeed, this a tough and most difficult time to our citizens.

Honourable Speaker, all along I have held the view that in the past 19 years we from the SWAPO Party have done what we were obliged to do to make some Members and our Colleagues on that side to understand the relationship between security and development, but to my surprise, I was shocked to hear some of the Colleagues speaking against the allocation to the Ministry of Defence.

"Defence", Comrades and Friends, means protection, just in simple words. I do not think the other Colleagues really need to speak against protection. It is a common fact that each one of us here would prefer to live in a secure environment. It is also common that before you develop anything, including your property, you would prefer to put up a perimeter fence to protect your property and that is also protection. This is simply what we refer to as "defence".

Namibia, as vast country which is sparsely populated with predominantly impassable terrain, is a country that is difficult to traverse and to defend.

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SIMUNJA**

In order to enhance proper mobility and manoeuvrability, the troops need to be provided with different types of transportation means, including air assets. Any organisation or institution does not only need to exist, but must be able to fulfil the mandate that it is created for, otherwise such institution would be hopeless and must not exist at all. That is why, if we spend on Defence, we are enabling the institution to fulfil its mandate. To have men in uniform alone does not make this institution effective.

My point of departure, Honourable Deputy Speaker, will be specifically on the statements made by my fellow Colleagues, especially Honourable Venaani, who stated that Defence does not need helicopters. Though I agree, Colleague, that you are not a strategist, let me ask you to sometimes consult your Colleagues this side of the House before you make your statement.

The world today has become too small and more dangerous than it has been during the Cold War. This can be witnessed by the number of conflicts and peace-support operations that are currently going on around the world. It is really immaterial to compare the spending of our country on Defence with that of the United States of America, a Defence Force that has been in existence for many centuries.

At Independence, just 19 years ago, Namibia had no Defence Force. We must make a difference between force build-up and force establishment. We are currently establishing what was not there. The Defence Force is the only institution at Independence that was dismantled and disbanded and all military hardware that was here was carried across the border to South Africa. This is common knowledge.

We always remind our Colleagues that the equipment that is in possession of the Defence Force in Namibia were donated by the SWAPO Party and this equipment has right now become obsolete and do not serve the purpose of the 21st century. That is why we need to gradually replace this equipment.

Helicopters in any Defence Force do not only serve as a means of transportation, but helicopters are fighting machines that are also used to

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SIMUNJA**

inject forces in strategic areas in a very quick period time. They make the response of the forces to be very quick and effective.

The purpose of the Defence Force is to maintain deterrence at peacetime. Should the deterrence fail, a Defence Force is required to fight and win the war. It is only when it is properly equipped. Hence the need to spend on deterrence rather than spending on war. Wars are very expensive.

The policy of the SWAPO Party was that we have to fight for our Independence and once the country is independent, to defend the gains of this Independence. We do not want to go the way we are seeing now in Iraq and Afghanistan, whereby the same countries have seen the same colonisers who were there before, returning to continue exploiting their resources. The world is full of unfairness, as the Honourable Minister of Justice has already indicated.

I am saying the world is full of unfairness, because smaller countries are the ones that suffer. To give an example, when Namibia, Angola and Zimbabwe went into the DRC at the invitation of the legitimate Government to serve the people of that country, the Opposition over there, including other countries outside the SADC Region, made a loud noise. Commissions of enquiry were set up to investigate that Namibia, Angola and Zimbabwe are plundering Congo's resources, but what is happening in Iraq today? Those who went there uninvited are tapping the Iraqi oil in broad daylight, but no such investigations were conducted in those countries.

Larger countries are using the international organisations to oppress the smaller countries. That is why we need to prepare ourselves as smaller countries to be able to speak for ourselves. Strategists always say that if you fail to plan, you have plan to fail. That is why in peacetime you need to procure equipment and train the forces how to operate such equipment. For example, just to train a combat pilot to be called a combat pilot – not training a pilot like your Colleague there, Honourable Henk Mudge – this takes 3 years. Therefore, the insinuation that we do not need to spend on Defence in peacetime is just out. You cannot wait to be in war and then start buying equipment.

09 April 2009

**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SIMUNJA**

Colleagues, I may tell you that there is no way in the world you could go and buy a tank in a shop, like you are buying BMWs. You first have to put in an order and that is when they start producing that equipment and the same with aircraft, they are not available on the market.

Your fellow Colleagues there are accusing Government for buying a Falcon. Other Comrades have already indicated that this was an order which was placed when the economic situation was still stable in the country. After you have placed that order for a Falcon, the same thing happened with the Defence equipment. The manufacturer has started manufacturing the aircraft and there is no way you can get out of that agreement. If you retract your agreement, there is no one who will come and purchase that equipment, it is specifically ordered for you.

Comrade Speaker, I was also surprised the other day when Honourable De Waal was speaking on that side of the House. He spoke against the money to be allocated to Air Namibia, but at the same time this Honourable Member was accusing the SWAPO Government for not dealing with bush encroachment. He wanted the money to be allocated for bush encroachment on private farms. What does he want to tell the public out there? We understand why you keep on losing.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have decided to cut my intervention short in order to allow other Comrades to participate. I thank you and I support the Bill.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Amutenya. This is a maiden speech and I am not going to allow any questions.

HON DR AMUTENYA: Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, allow me, with all due respect, to request your attention as this is my first intervention in this august House and also

09 April 2009

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

being the last-born of all the Members in this House.

In the first place, I would like to thank my parents for having brought me up in the manner that they did, especially my mother who raised me single-handedly since the demise of my beloved father 45 years ago. The values of respect, humbleness and to be content with what one has are deeply appreciated. I would also like to thank the SWAPO Party for guidance, upbringing and exposure to the struggle for freedom and Independence, hard work, perseverance and above all, patriotism for the past 37 years.

I am equally humbled to represent the majority of the electorate and the Party that has enormously contributed towards our freedom and national Independence. I am not mentioning this to attract sympathy or to satisfy certain egos, but to let you know of other qualifications in life that are not readily available like academic qualifications.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, your combined effort as elected Members in this august House guaranteed peace and stability for the past 19 years. Your work is highly appreciated. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us now to ensure the continuation of peace, stability, national unity and maintenance of our territorial integrity, for which so many of our heroes and heroines sacrificed their precious lives.

We are blessed with the formidable inspiration from our forefathers and mothers, such as Hendrik Witbooi, Kakurukaze Mungunda, Jacob Marenga, Samuel Maharero, Mandume Ndemufayo, Ipumbu ya Tshilongo and many others. We have also witnessed heroism during our epoch from gallant freedom fighters, such as Tobias Hainyeko, Dimo Amaambo, Helao Nafidi, Peter Mweshihange, Greenwell Matongo, to mention but just a few. Their blood waters our freedom.

As we are debating the 2009/2010 Appropriation Bill and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2009/2010 to 2011/2012, let me thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Deputy Minister Tjekero Tweya and their entire staff for a well-defined Budget that was articulated to us in this House, a pro-poor and pro-

09 April 2009

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

development Budget indeed.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my opinion that the Budget is consistent with Government policies and programmes as per contract and mandate with the electorate in addressing Namibia's developmental challenges which include rural development, provision of social amenities, such as safe drinking water, sanitation, alleviation of poverty, employment creation, provision of quality of education, provision of adequate health facilities to our people as well as to modernise our Police and Armed Forces to meet contemporary challenges, as well as the provision of food security, to mention but a few.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, priorities in the Budget are right, sound and consistent with plans and programmes set by Government. I, however, wish to stress that gone are the days when we had to rely on the commitment and patriotism of our men and women in uniform alone in the execution of their duties. We, as a matter of fact, are obliged to make sure that our forces are well-equipped with modern warfare equipment and that supplies and logistics are sufficient to allow effective deployment of forces, depending on the level of threat. Not only that, these men and women in uniform also have needs that need to be addressed, such as reasonable accommodation in their barracks, continuous training and retraining in order to maintain combat readiness, as well as improvement of their remuneration packages. I am referring to our citizens ready to protect lives, always if not often at the expense of their own lives.

Last week bullets were flying right here in our capital city. Thanks to our Police Forces, law and order was maintained in a matter of minutes, while of course regretting the unnecessary loss of lives. These are the men and women ensuring our safety and security at all times and, therefore, deserve better from us.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, coming to the distribution of our resources, it is often said that Namibia is a country that flows with milk and honey. Scholars and learned friends suggest that the per capita income is about US\$2,000, but only if evenly distributed. The

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMUTENYA

challenge, however, is the way we relate to the means of production. The disparities we observe are a direct expression of who owns what and who accumulates the wealth that the country generates. One may suggest a revisit to this fundamental issue.

In the process of conscious practical engagement, we set ourselves specific objectives and propose activities to be carried out to fulfil these thoughts. I am aware that the rich will obviously resist, as this suggests a new order of redistribution. The poor, the have-nots, will welcome such a move earnestly. It is my opinion, therefore, that we must employ methods specific to our conditions in order to avoid what is avoidable. What can be done will bring me to rural development. One way is to intensify rural development and create jobs close to where the majority of our rural communities live. The Green Scheme, the inland aquaculture and the rural electrification programmes are worth mentioning in this regard. This strategy will relieve Local Authorities from the burden of rapid urbanisation and demographic changes in our cities, as well as reducing poverty while improving food security at household levels in rural areas. We, therefore, need to continue to find new funding mechanisms to support communal farmers, while continuing with the provision of seeds, fertilisers, ploughing services and cross-breeding techniques in order to improve the quality of their livestock.

One wonders whether it is real or only a perception in our mindset with this terminology of communal versus commercial. Should one really believe that productivity of the land depends on the classification of being either commercial or communal? I have my doubts. Nonetheless, I have no doubt that when land is managed well, we will be able to produce enough food to feed ourselves and even export surplus without having to rely on imported food. A Nation that cannot feed itself, is a doomed Nation. We must make concerted efforts to implement our Green Scheme projects in the Kavango, Caprivi and part of the Omusati Region and elsewhere where it is possible. We need to support these projects without reservation across the board.

Coming to the health sector where I hail from, the health of our Nation is cardinal to our national development agenda. The allocation to this sector

09 April 2009

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

is proper, in my view. The purpose of this sector is to secure, through resources available, the greatest possible improvement in the physical and mental health of the people of Namibia in order for us to be able to promote and prevent ill-health, as well as to diagnose, treat diseases and injuries and caring for those with long-term illness and disability.

Health services should be available to all on the basis of clinical need, regardless of the ability to pay. As a Public Service, results of this sector need to be judged on how equitable services are distributed, how efficient services are and its responsiveness to the needs of the people and not by discouraging statements from us, such as calling our health institutions “slaughter houses.”

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the personnel in this sector also deserves our undivided support. We need to constantly evaluate our performance and adjust accordingly. Our hospital managers, for example, need to be trained in hospital management in order for them to be equipped with the art of effectively dealing with the external environment of hospitals, such as political issues, health related issues, economic and financial issues as well as social or community-oriented issues. It is often how these issues are handled that may create an impression of all not being well and can be eliminated if we train and retrain our hospital managers.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the challenges facing Namibia is the ever-rising cost of health services. Most of the distributors of health products are dominantly from the Republic of South Africa. They, however, do not add value to most of the products sold and distributed in our market, but because of the size of the economy, South Africa is regarded as the sole distributor for the African Region. One may be tempted to suggest that Government can play a role by giving local companies or entrepreneurs in this sector special guarantees to purchase such products directly from manufacturers without having to go through the South African chain, as is the case with close to 90% of our products at the moment. The impact of benefits if Government supports local companies, who in turn will reinvest their returns in the local economy and not take their profits outside our borders, can be high.

09 April 2009

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR AMUTENYA

Finally, let me once more, being cognisant of the pressure on the Deputy Speaker, congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for a well-thought and balanced Budget and I support the 2009/2010 Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you. Honourable Members, let me apologise to those who could not take the Floor, but next time we should come earlier. This has brought us to the end of the General Debate and I call on the Honourable Minister of Finance to adjourn the Debate.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to adjourn the reply on the Budget Debate until Tuesday, 14th of April.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I move that the House adjourns until Tuesday, the 14th of April 2009, and I wish you a happy, peaceful and safe Easter.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 12:30 UNTIL 2009.04.14 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
14 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? Honourable Viljoen.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 38:

HON VILJOEN: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 23rd of April 2009, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism the following question:

On Friday, the 10th of April 2009 the gates of the Von Bach Dam near Okahandja were locked for the public without notice and no one was allowed to leave or to enter the resort. Can the Honourable Minister please explain what was the cause of this unfortunate incident?

QUESTION 39:

HON VILJOEN: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 23rd of April 2009, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration the following questions:

14 April 2009

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VILJOEN**

1. The Honourable Minister accused some Opposition Parties of fraudulently, secretly issuing the handwritten passports in order to increase the number of their voters during the forthcoming election. Due to the fact that this is a criminal offence, did the Minister, as whistle-blower of our beloved country, report this irregularity to the Anti-Corruption Commission?
2. If the answer is negative, why was it not done?
3. If the statement of the Minister is true, can he please give this Honourable House and the Nation the name of the Party that is under suspicion?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Questions, Honourable Member. Further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move without Notice, that leave of absence be granted to Honourable De Waal due to official business until the 20th of April 2009.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

14 April 2009

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

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION
OF SECOND READING**

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 9th of April 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Debate was concluded and now the Minister of Finance has the Floor to reply.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, with two weeks into the new Financial Year, this august House is about to conclude the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

The formulation of this Budget was conducted under gloomy economic prospects, yet we have found ways and means to address the most pressing issues facing our economy. We have expanded expenditure to stimulate the economy, to consolidate the basis for future growth and to improve welfare conditions of our people while still maintaining fiscal sustainability.

These measures are timely, but in order to reap their full benefits, we need to expedite the Appropriation of the Bill to allow adequate time for full implementation of the programmes under the Budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to express my appreciation to the Members of this House and the general public for the

14 April 2009

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

constructive comments made on the Budget. These comments will definitely assist us to improve the Budget further.

As usual, I would concentrate on issues that are related to the Budget, but I will do so in general as my Honourable Colleagues, the Ministers, will provide the details on their sector programmes when they motivate their Votes at Committee Stage.

Overall Fiscal Policy:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, as I have indicated at the time of introducing this Bill, the global economic environment poses serious uncertainty on our fiscal outlook. In spite of this, for a Government committed to addressing the needs of its people, an expansionary Budget is the only option as the developmental challenges of our country are way too abundant and too grave to be deferred.

We are looking for ways to ensure that expenditure is executed in a more efficient manner while at the same time diversifying the economy to broaden the revenue base.

Prioritisation of Expenditure – A Pro-Poor Budget:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, a number of Parliamentarians from the Opposition benches questioned the pro-poor, pro-growth aspects of this Budget.

The pro-poor aspects of this Budget are clearly illustrated by the significant increase in expenditures to strengthen our investments in human capital. We have prioritised allocations to education, health, housing and sanitation and to the social safety nets. These interventions will result in improved access to quality health services, improved nutrition, as a result of the feeding programme for OVCs, improved sanitation by a larger part of our citizenry, even in the most remote areas and a strengthened skills base for increased economic growth and reduced joblessness.

14 April 2009

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

As a human-centred Government, social safety net contributions over the 2008/2009 to 2011/2012 period will total N\$15,2 billion, averaging 5,26% of GDP. Further, Namibia is one of only four sub-Saharan African countries offering old-age pensions and social grants to the vulnerable. With this level of expenditures, there is little flexibility for dramatic increases as requested by some of our Colleagues from the Opposition benches. Besides, most of these Honourable Members have failed to recognise the strides we have made in increasing coverage to almost all persons eligible, that is 88%% in 2007/2008 and 90% estimated by the end of 2008/2009.

In spite of the already high expenditures for social safety nets, Government still increased old-age grants by 22% in 2008/2009 at an additional cost of N\$164 million. Besides, an additional N\$63 million were spent to provide grants to an increased number of beneficiaries under the OVCs programme. Apart from providing relief to these children, providing OVC grants means that pensioners no longer have to use their pensions to take care of OVCs. This Budget consolidates the gains made in this area and we intend to reach an additional 21,000 people at a cost of N\$824 million over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. This is in addition to the N\$691 million allocated for veterans and N\$689 million for school feeding programmes.

To respond to the proposal on an emergency Marshall plan, I wish to inform this House that Government has an emergency management programme in place. This programme is managed by a dedicated unit and it has a dedicated fund with an amount of about N\$340 million allocated to it under the 2008/2009 to 2010/2011 Medium Term Expenditure Framework. A policy on this fund was recently laid on the table of Parliament by the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

As natural disasters affect all of us, I wish to commend those members of the private sector who complemented Government efforts in this regard and I call on others to emulate these good gestures of support and solidarity.

Concerning support to traditional leaders: An amount of N\$25 million is

14 April 2009

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

allocated over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the increase of their allowances and to provide them with transport.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, this august House and the public noted with utter dismay the ridicule heaped on our Government for providing office space for our Founding President to operate from. President Nujoma is a Namibian patriot who dedicated his whole adult life to the service of his people at great sacrifice. President Nujoma could have opted to spend his retirement period enjoying his well-deserved rest and render no further service to the public, especially since he is not being compensated for it. I do not know how many among us would be prepared to render services to the public without being compensated for it. In fact I know of many who would not hesitate to withhold their services if they are not adequately compensated.

Namibia, as a country with a scarcity of skilled and experienced persons, would do well to embrace every opportunity to harness the skills and capabilities that are offered to us, more so when such service is to be provided for free. We need to consider this possibility in other areas, especially where there is a critical shortage of skilled people, for example, Medicine, Law, Accounting, Engineering, Education, and many other areas. The benefits provided by volunteers are immeasurable and this is visible from the benefits derived from programmes involving volunteers from other Nations, some young people who were supposed to be enjoying their youth in their countries that are often more developed than ours and, therefore, with more attractions to offer their youth; some old who ought to be enjoying their retirement restfully in their countries.

All patriotic Namibians should express deserved appreciation to these volunteers and commend them for their selflessness. I am on record urging our citizens to consider volunteering services as a way of ploughing back into society what society invested into them, and this seemed to have received the support of everyone. Now I do not understand why the Opposition Colleagues are objecting to volunteerism by the Founding Father or are they saying the Founding President should service us from the street?

14 April 2009

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

Similarly, on the criticism about the replacement of Government air transport equipment, I wish to ensure the critics that our Government will not compromise on the safety of our President. It should further be noted that such an acquisition will be partly be financed with the proceeds from the sale of the existing equipment which has become old and unsafe for the use of our President. Naturally, it follows that we need to put in place appropriate shelter infrastructure for the equipment if we are to safeguard it and prolong its life and, thus, saving on maintenance and repair expenses.

As to the claims that Government is concealing the expenditure for the replacement of the air transport equipment, that is far-fetched. Our Government has established a record of transparency and there can be no genuine concerns about the openness of our expenditure proposals. This is evidenced by the range of documents that accompanies our Appropriation Bill and that aims to provide full and complete information not only about the proposed Appropriation Bill, but also about the implementation of appropriations for previous years.

A Pro-Growth Budget:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, now about the pro-growth aspects of the Budget under this Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the allocation to the infrastructure and productive sectors, such as Agriculture, Fisheries, Mining, Trade and Tourism have increased by N\$853 million, excluding transfers to State-Owned Enterprises. This expansion is expected to generate employment for our youth, while promoting growth and to support local enterprise development.

While on this point, let me address the concern about participation of previously disadvantaged Namibians in public procurement. Through the existing preferences in our procurement law, between the period from 2005 to 2009, N\$227 million in public tenders have been allocated to small and medium enterprises. There is no arguing that this needs to increase significantly and we are finalising Amendments to the Procurement Act to strengthen the empowerment aspects of public

14 April 2009

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

procurement. We are aiming to finalise the Appropriation Bill during this year.

TESEF will also greatly assist in addressing empowerment as it establishes numerical targets for local ownership in corporate entities, as a precondition for doing business with Government. Another important aspect for empowerment that other role players should consider is the capacity building to enable previously disadvantaged persons to meaningfully participate in public programmes instead of being used as fronts. From the side of Finance, the Financial Charter is now ready and I will have the honour of launching it in a short while. Although the Charter is voluntary, there is consensus among industry members that all its signatories must comply with its provisions and Government will hold the industry to its commitments made under the Charter.

In addition to the Charter, Government provides funding through numerous public financial institutions, including the Development Bank of Namibia, the National Housing Enterprise and AgriBank. I urge the public to make use of these facilities and to continuously engage the management of these institutions to ensure that their programmes continue to address the needs of the public.

With regard to the tirade of attacks launched against Chinese companies for allegedly taking up opportunities of local Small and Medium Enterprises, I must state here that our Government is committed to the empowerment of our people who were previously marginalised and is undertaking measures to address this vexing situation.

It should be made clear, however, that our people are marginalised because of elaborate policies adopted by the apartheid system to reserve the country's wealth for a specific minority section of our population which continue to own most of our resources up to now. Some of these beneficiaries of the apartheid policies are the ones shouting loudest about poverty and marginalisation among the majority and are attempting to apportion the blame for this on our Government and even on the Chinese companies now, but they are doing nothing to share the wealth they amassed during apartheid with their impoverished compatriots. Instead,

14 April 2009

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

they make it difficult for our Government to address the issue, like for example inflating land prices in order to frustrate the land reform programme, paying slave wages to the farm workers and some are now using previously disadvantaged citizens as window-dressing to access benefits intended for the previously disadvantaged. They should be assured that our people will not be fooled by this. We shall restructure this economy to ensure that all our people share in the wealth of our country and we will not be sent on a wild goose chase, while those who have always been enjoying our national resources continue to monopolise them at the exclusion of the majority of our people.

In moving on to the thorny issue of Government's financial support to State-Owned Enterprises, I wish to reiterate Government's commitment to reforming our State-Owned Enterprises. The Right Honourable Prime Minister has, in his contribution to the General Budget Debate, related the progress made so far to operationalise the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council. In terms of the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act, all State-Owned Enterprises' management will be required to submit business plans and they will be held to specific performance targets through performance agreements.

Even as these arrangements are being made, we are targeting any subsidies to State-Owned Enterprises to specific programmes and are holding State-Owned Enterprises accountable for the resources they get.

On the need for investments of State-Owned Enterprises to be reflected in the Budget, I can only agree. Accordingly, we have started with including in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework financial statements of State-Owned Enterprises. Unfortunately, however, not all of them are up to date. With the cooperation of the Line Ministries who exercise oversight over these State-Owned Enterprises, we shall fully account for the investments by State-Owned Enterprises in the future.

Concerning subsidies to State-Owned Enterprises in general, there seems to be little appreciation that some subsidies are intended to reduce prices for essential services to make them affordable for especially the poor.

14 April 2009

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

It is also fair, however, to acknowledge that whilst some State-Owned Enterprises continue to perform poorly, there is an increasing number of State-Owned Enterprises who have improved their performances. Some of these State-Owned Enterprises are paying dividends to the shareholder, while others who are non-profit making have decreased their reliance on Budget transfers.

It is important to note, however, that even the usually better performing State-Owned Enterprises may feel the pinch of the global crisis and see their profits reduced.

Given the strong criticism against Air Namibia, it is warranted for me to put the case of Air Namibia in its proper context and I wish to thank my senior leaders who have already assisted in this regard.

It is true that Air Namibia has been for many years a recipient of Budget subsidies. However, a close scrutiny of the financial returns reveals that there has been a consistent improvement in the performance of the airline over the past few years, although the company is still making losses. Obviously, the improved historical financial trend at Air Namibia would be threatened in future by external conditions derived from the global financial crisis. We have heard how most airlines around the globe are struggling as a result of the crisis.

Further, Air Namibia operates in a highly competitive environment which many a times inhibit it from realising operational gains which could allow it to function without Government support. Nonetheless, its contribution to the growth of our economy through the promotion of tourism – a labour intensive sector with perhaps the greatest potential to absorb many of our unskilled citizens – far exceeds the cost of subsidies from the State. In fact, the traffic carried by the company in 2008 contributed to the national economy in excess of N\$1 billion, while subsidies provided through the Budget during the same year amounted to N\$150 million. Support to Air Namibia should thus be seen in that context, rather than in a narrow financial cost-benefit analysis.

14 April 2009

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

Furthermore, on the allegations made about the technical capabilities of black pilots at Air Namibia, I wish to state that these pilots have diligently served this national airline for a good 15 years without endangering its highly valued passengers. This is an outstanding record that must be applauded, not ridiculed, by some Honourable Members who had benefited from a very unjust system that the Affirmative Action Scheme was in the first instance designed to address. This is particularly so within the current context of aviation accidents happening all over the world, including here in our own country.

The allocation to Defence was another one that attracted criticism from some Opposition MPs.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it was merely 2 years ago when the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence and Security, constituted out of Honourable Members from both sides of the aisle in this august House, undertook a nationwide inspection of the conditions of the facilities of the Defence Forces and then recommended that Government increase allocations to address the identified problems. This increase in resources caters for infrastructure maintenance, upgrading, peace-keeping operations and acquisition of equipment.

The argument by some Honourable Members who, on the one hand, call for adequate training of our Defence Force, but on the other, campaign against the availing of necessary equipment to them, deny a fundamental relationship between the two as a basis for a successful Defence Force. If we agree to have a Defence Force, we agree to arm it, at least to the minimum level required to be able to defend our country. Further, obsolete equipment must be replaced even for safety reasons.

As a socially responsible force, our uniformed men and women have assisted us to avert catastrophes during emergency situations over the past few years.

Further, whilst we are all in unison that Namibia is a peaceful country, we cannot ignore that we are an integral part of the global community whose

14 April 2009

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

interdependence is more apparent today than ever before. Instability in a neighbouring country could destabilise the whole Region with detrimental effects for the whole regional economy. As members of the human race, our destiny is inseparable, hence our endeavours to try and bring about peaceful coexistence around the world. Namibia, having been a beneficiary of international solidarity during its struggle for Independence, we pride ourselves in the fact that our service men and women have participated in numerous peacekeeping operations on the continent and beyond.

While it is true that peacekeeping missions are at times costly, we operate on a cost recovery basis where the Government is reimbursed by the United Nations for the costs incurred.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, while we depend on our Defence Force to safeguard our country against external threats, the Defence industry also contributes to the diversification of our economic activities through manufacturing of a range of equipments and goods which have not only created jobs locally but also earned Namibia foreign currency.

With regard to the allegations of some Honourable Members that Government has failed to deliver on its promise to provide clean water and electricity services, I want to state that the successes of the SWAPO Party Government are evidence for everyone to see. Statistics show that more and more Namibians have access to these services than ever before and we are on course to meet the MDG for water provision. Further, we are providing N\$500 million over this Medium Term Expenditure Framework towards water and rural electricity programmes.

As a Party and Government we are proud that we are delivering on our promises to all our people, unlike some Parties who openly declare the reason for their establishment as being to cater for the interests of only a section of Namibians, specifically the former privileged. With such a pronouncement, one cannot be wrong to assume that the previously disadvantaged Namibians who joined his Party, are just being used for window-dressing. No wonder that the Honourable Member is so

14 April 2009

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

vehemently opposed to Affirmative Action and constantly questions the capabilities of persons from other races than his own.

This Honourable Member indicated and I quote: *“Government used the outcome of the previous regime as an excuse to divert the attention away from the real burning issues.”*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not surprising that once again the Honourable Member is belittling the devastating impact of apartheid on the majority of our people. What is surprising though is that the apartheid system seems to have had a psychological impact on those it purported to be protecting. The Honourable Member can shout all he wants that apartheid had no influence on the appalling conditions our people find themselves in, but he would not be able to erase the evidence of its grave impact. We would, therefore, continue to tackle the effects of this system on the living conditions of our people with or without him.

With respect to the type of projects that Government should implement, I wish to remind the Honourable Member that we have clear plans in Vision 2030 and our National Development Plans. Our Budget, therefore, is aimed at implementing these plans. Our Vision aims, amongst others, at ensuring that every single Namibian lives a decent life and it is undeniable that we are making significant progress in this regard and consistently so.

On the issue of environmental pollution, I agree that the main polluters should contribute funds to enable smaller economies affected by climate change and related emergencies to meet the cost of addressing their effects. We should, however, be wary of artificial barriers such as economic indicators that make it difficult for some countries, especially middle-income countries, such as ours, to access such assistance.

On the allegations that our Government is failing to manage the affairs of our economy properly, international opinion, including that by internationally recognised credit-rating agencies and our own economic statistics refute these allegations. Our economy is in a healthy state in spite of the current turmoil in the global economy. The concern about

14 April 2009

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

poor management, rather applies to Opposition Parties who are failing to manage their own financial affairs. God forbid that they be put in charge of our national economy one day, for they would drive it into the ground the same way they did to the public funds entrusted to them.

Concerning the Green Scheme, I need to remind some Honourable Members that this Scheme was initiated by our SWAPO Party Government out of the need to ensure food security and the potential it has for job creation and economic growth. This Budget, like others before it, is paying due attention to this Scheme.

I was shocked by the criticism from some Members on the improvement in the Conditions of Service of Civil Servants, given the high inflation experienced since last year that has eroded the purchasing power of their salaries.

Further, complaints about the marginal growth in the size of the public service overlook the need to improve staffing in the critical sectors, such as education, health, agriculture, Police and justice which are necessary for improved public service delivery.

Regarding the allegedly low implementation rate of the Budget, I wish to inform this august House that during the period 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 the implementation rate was on average above 90%. As for the 2008/2009 Financial Year, the apparent low implementation rate is a preliminary figure for only part of the year. It is customary that implementation picks up dramatically over the last quarter of the year and hence, a complete picture would only be drawn once the books for the Financial Year have been closed.

However, as a responsible Government, we shall continue to improve in all areas in order to optimise public expenditure. I have already referred to the ongoing review of the Tender Board Act to optimise its support to the local economy and to the empowerment of the previously disadvantaged. A project cycle review has however revealed that improvements would be necessary in a number of areas and not necessarily just at the

14 April 2009

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

Tender Board, since the procurement process extends well beyond the Tender Board to individual Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

Finally, I want to emphasise once again that the Capital Budget does not necessarily constitute all our development expenditure. A significant amount of expenditure that is of a development nature is covered under the Operational Budget. These include transfers to State-Owned Enterprises to implement capital projects. Further, there are significant development expenditures financed with foreign loans that are shown as below-the-line items in the Budget, as well as donor grants provided outside the Budget. Many of these projects are not implemented through our tender, because of the requirements that come with such funding.

As pertaining to the supposed bias for the Khomas Region in the Development Budget allocation, I wish to state that as Windhoek is both administrative and commercial capital, there is naturally an over-concentration of infrastructure in the Khomas Region, which hosts Windhoek. In this regard, it is not possible to dramatically reduce expenditures for the Khomas Region without disrupting service delivery. Conceptually, most of the projects under the Khomas Region allocation are of national character and hence should be viewed within the context of overall national investments. Be that as it may, Government is about to finalise a policy aimed at enhancing equitable resource allocation to Regions. Already such a policy has been approved for the education sector.

Some Members decried the change of fiscal targets, suggesting that this was to accommodate the fiscal stance. I have explained on numerous occasions that our fiscal targets are not cast in stone, nor are they set in a policy vacuum. Our fiscal policy has always promoted the following objectives:

- Promoting economic growth;
- Reducing poverty and inequity;
- Maintaining macro-economic stability.

14 April 2009

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

The adjustments in our fiscal targets are well-aligned with these objectives and this is clearly stated in both the Budget statement that I delivered to this House and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document. They were not concealed in any way.

With regard to the expenditure target, the aim has always been to ensure that expenditure commitments made under the Budget are not beyond the capacity of the economy to sustain them and does not threaten the macroeconomic stability of our country.

Both these aspects are appropriately addressed under the Budget. Firstly, much of the expansion in expenditure will be financed with Government's own cash reserves. Secondly, a large part of the expansion is directed towards developmental aspects, which will bring about economic growth.

The quality of some of the background documents has been questioned by some Members. It is undeniable, however, that these documents provide useful information about Government programmes and that they have improved significantly since the time of their inception. This in turn has helped improve the quality of the Budget Debate. We shall, however, continue to improve them.

During this period of economic downturn, it becomes critical to have focused interventions aimed at retaining existing jobs and creating new ones. Some of these activities covered under the Budget are as follows:

AgriBank is providing production loans to enable new farmers to make optimal use of their newly acquired farms. This will provide opportunities for new jobs. Along this, they are providing training to new farmers.

Infrastructure projects also create a significant number of jobs during the construction phase. They further create opportunities for local enterprise development. As a further step to secure high participation of Small and Medium Enterprises in the implementation of the Budget, Offices, Ministries and Agencies have been directed to set aside part of their programmes for Small and Medium Enterprises.

14 April 2009

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

I have already referred to the Green Scheme and I do not need to repeat this.

Capitalisation of the Development Bank of Namibia is continuing through the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The activities under the Bank are all geared to create new jobs. To assist emerging entrepreneurs, a low-cost bridging facility has been developed through which funding is provided to those awarded tenders. Further, such entrepreneurs would be able to use their contract income as security for the loan.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I wanted one specific Honourable Member to hear this, but unfortunately he left. I was stunned to hear an Honourable Member referring to our compatriots who lived in exile in our neighbouring country of Botswana as born-free. These compatriots were born there because their ancestors were brutally forced into exile by the colonial forces. Our sister country of Botswana generously hosted them and we are thankful for that. However no amount of generosity could take away the pain of being forced to live in exile or subdue the yearning to return to your country of origin. The SWAPO Party and its Government want to assure our compatriots who had to experience this atrocity that we recognise their suffering and sacrifices for our country and we welcome them back home with open arms. We take their needs seriously and we are committed to address them equitably alongside those of other citizens.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members it is a tradition that I report on the use of the Contingency Provision for the past Financial Year. I have a list of activities that were funded from the Contingency Fund and I will not spend too much time reading the whole list.

I shall now present the Appropriation Bill for Second Reading. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. I now Put the Question, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Objection? Agreed

14 April 2009

**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON MOONGO**

to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill.*

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The First Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Dienda. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Dienda has the Floor.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not want interruptions, that is why I would like to postpone it until the 2nd of June.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion stands over until the 2nd of June 2009. The Second Notice of a Motion is the one of Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Member has the Floor.

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, progressive countries in the world are only strong if their leaders are united, honest towards each other, hardworking to develop their countries and share the cake of the conomy equally, for every Region to get an equal share of the national cake.

14 April 2009

**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON MOONGO**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia's national leaders are political leaders, traditional leaders and church leaders. They have the responsibility to unite people and to ensure that the national cake and the fruits of Independence are equally shared among the people.

When the civil and political office-bearers are united the citizens will be united as well and everybody will have the welfare of the country at heart, with the result that there will be peace, prosperity with all people enjoying the fruits of Independence here in the Land of the Brave. If the Namibian economy is enjoyed by some leaders only, if development is not distributed equally to all Regions, if the powers of some leaders are limited, then the peace and stability is at stake and unity cannot be achieved and our Independence will be meaningless.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a pity that we have given conditions to the spiritual churches in Article 1(1) of our Constitution. "*Namibia is established as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State.*" The church leaders contributed to the struggle for Independence of this country. Some died as a result, some churches were burnt to ashes and today some church leaders are controlled, they are not free to share in the power and do not enjoy the fruits of Independence. This constitutes unfairness that needs to be re-visited.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, traditional leaders have constitutional powers, duties and functions as per the Traditional Authorities Act of 2000. They have to administer and execute the customary laws of that Traditional Authority. They have to hear and settle disputes between the members of the traditional community in accordance with the customary law of that community. They have to promote peace and welfare amongst the members of the community, unite the community and they have to assist the Namibian Police and other law-enforcement agencies in the prevention and investigation of crime and the apprehension of offenders within their jurisdiction, among others.

However, although they are expected by the Government and also by their communities to carry out all these responsibilities, no budgetary provision is provided for them by Government. I, therefore, urge the Government to

14 April 2009

**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON MOONGO**

look into the welfare of the traditional leaders as a matter of urgency. Government cannot expect the traditional leaders to perform their duties and functions diligently while they do not give them Budgets to fund their activities.

Traditional leaders also fought for Independence and some sacrificed their lives as a result. Is this the correct way to address their needs? Is this what you give to the offspring and successors of the late Hendrik Witbooi, Mandume Ndemefayo, Ipumbu Nahale and Kapuuo? If you starve a dog it will not bark, neither will it defend your household and protect your property. It will only howl. This is the same starvation meted out on traditional leaders in order to weaken them. Millions got lost in ODC, the Social Security Commission and the NBC, just to mention a few?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, those millions could have been used to build new Traditional Court buildings and offices countrywide. Currently the traditional leaders carry out their functions under trees and do not have any means of transportation and I salute the Ministry because they have now provided transportation after long Debates and a lot of arguments. I thank the Minister for this.

They do not receive maintenance allowances for their vehicles, neither travel and subsistence allowance and no medical aid. The Government has a constitutional duty as per Article 10 to ensure equality and freedom from discrimination. Imagine how busy the Sub-headmen are, they have to travel every day to attend to the needs of their communities, they have to keep peace and order within their communities, listen to disputes and solve them, while at the same time they have families and they are expected to make time to attend to their family matters. These are some of the factors that Government should consider as these people play an important role by helping to keep a good image of Government in their vast communities.

At the beginning when these Headmen and Sub-headmen were installed, they had their own properties, ranging from clothes, furniture, cattle, goats and many more, but after 10 years they have nothing, neither can they afford basic commodities because they have either sold their properties in

14 April 2009

**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON MOONGO**

order to fund their expenses for looking after their communities or have shared their properties with their communities during difficult times when foodstuffs and basic products were scarce. Now in times of floods they share everything.

The Government failed to support traditional leaders and subjected and exposed them to degradation and total humiliation. I, therefore, call upon my fellow Members of Parliament to read and acquaint themselves with the Traditional Authorities Act (Act 25 of 2000). It is where the powers, duties and functions of Traditional Authorities and the members thereof are stipulated. It is only after reading their responsibilities that it would be understood how they could be expected to perform all such functions if they are not funded by the same Government that expects all that from them. *“Let the king and his subjects have what is due to them,”* so states the Bible and let all kings have their share.

How can we starve each other in the Land of the Brave while we are supposed to share the cake of Independence equally and look after each other? The blood of Ipumbu Nehale, Mandume, Kapuuo and Philemon Elifas and many others were shed for a good cause, not in vain. It is their blood that waters our freedom.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the time has come to forget the fears of the past, that if you look after traditional leaders properly they will undermine, sabotage or become disloyal to the Government. Those things have now passed. SWAPO must understand that those fears are something of the past now. Those eras of feudalism, of killing the tsars and the kings are history and will never be revived. We are now in a peaceful and strong democratic country where we should now consider better remuneration and benefits for all our traditional leaders and the staff who assist them.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the majority of traditional leaders; Chiefs, Headmen and Sub-headmen in their old age are sickly, they need proper medical attention. The majority get medical operations which are very costly because they are required to be treated with modern, technical equipment for diseases and kidney complications

14 April 2009

**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON MOONGO**

which is very, very expensive. (Interjections) Yes, many of them are very sick. Just investigate how many of them are suffering and they cannot afford medical care because they do not have a proper medical aid and Government does not assist them and they die due to lack of medical attention.

I attended many funerals of traditional leaders who have died due to poor and not enough medical attention by the Government. I have noticed that many of the funerals are poorly arranged and funded without Government assistance. I, therefore, propose that they should be well looked after up to the day when they leave this world. The Government must not only respect and show dignity to them when they are alive, but should assist and stand with them even in difficult times and up to the day when they leave this world.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I have distributed the salary structures of traditional leaders of the SADC Region, indicating how they are remunerated by their Governments and I call upon the Sergeant-at-Arms to distribute it so that you update yourselves.

Honourable Members, in that structure you will notice that the Namibian traditional leaders, Chiefs and Headmen, sub-headmen and the staff are poorly remunerated and neglected. Let us look at the structures and compare whether the salaries of traditional leaders in Namibia are fair or not. A Chief in Namibia is getting N\$23,000 per year, in South Africa a Chief gets N\$94,000 per year. The chairperson of the National House of Chiefs is getting N\$28,000 per year, while the South African counterpart is getting N\$311,000 per year. Honourable Members, this comparison shows that we are paying our traditional leaders peanuts. On humanitarian grounds we have to change our attitude towards these honourable leaders.

I hope Government will learn something out of this and will immediately put measures in place to improve the salaries and allowances of traditional leaders.

In conclusion, my appeal to the House is for all of us to apply our minds positively to the betterment of the social living of our traditional leaders.

14 April 2009

**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON VENAANI**

With this, I expect the whole House to accept the Motion and I thank you very much.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45
HOUSE RESUMED AT 15:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House resumes. Any further discussion? Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I shall be very brief in rising to support the Motion as moved by Honourable Philemon Moongo, Vice-President of the DTA of Namibia. (Interjection). Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not intend to be derailed by rumour-mongers.

I want to support Honourable Moongo's Motion. If there is one issue that Honourable Moongo should be remembered for as a politician, he has consistently raised this matter since he has been a Member of this House so passionately. I think this issue needs a much deeper reflection from us, the leaders of this country, it is a relevant and important issue and I thank the Government for realising the importance of giving transport to traditional leaders. It is one step in addressing the plight of traditional leaders.

Honourable Moongo has attempted to address the historical background of chieftaincy on our continent and elsewhere and all major movements and Political Parties that took power throughout Africa were behaving in an adverse manner, there was always confrontation between traditional leaders and political leaders. This was born through a lot of different experiences and these experiences are coming from the fact that throughout the history of Africa many colonisers were able to penetrate

14 April 2009

**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON VENAANI**

Chiefs as soft targets to become quasi-puppets of the colonial regimes.

If you look at the history of land, of course the advanced colonial powers would come and give a material benefit to a Chief which has no value equivalent to land, but they would tell a person that this mirror I am giving you is of equal value to a hundred cows. A man who has never seen the reflection of his own face would believe that this mirror must be expensive. Therefore, there was also economic bartering under duress and many Chiefs were suppressed because of not knowing the value of their properties and Namibia is no exception. Sometimes people claim that they bought land in Namibia, but this land was bought for a few litres of wine. These are some of the historical problems for new emerging political institutions supporting the cause of Chiefs.

Be that as it may, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think our society in Namibia and the Region has evolved in a way that all of us do appreciate the roles that the Chiefs are playing and all of us are invited to gatherings, we come from these societies, we support the chieftaincies, but I feel as a country we need to reflect on how best to address these problems.

South Africa, for example, has many kingdoms and especially the Zulu Kingdom that is a recipient of many millions of dollars from South Africa. The South African economy is of course a very large economy, they can afford some of these excursions. However, it does not denote the fact that we as a poorer Nation can also follow suit at the minimum means that we can afford.

Currently Chiefs in our societies are arbitrators, adjudicators of all our family problems, starting from marriages, this one was three nights at another place and the Chiefs get involved and many of our rural societies are really being helped by the Chiefs and do not have to incur legal costs which people in urban centres have to incur because of all these petty problems. Sometimes it is about grazing land, sometimes it is about cattle theft and all these things. Therefore, the Chiefs are playing a very important role.

However, I must also state, Honourable Moongo, that in certain areas

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON VENAANI

there is also a direct conflict between the duties of Regional Councillors and Traditional Authorities. A lot of Traditional Authority and Regional Councillors do not know where their jurisdiction ends. Sometimes you would hear that a Chief in a particular community is calling for a development Committee, whereas that is a function of the Regional Councils. Of course, I think Namibia should praise itself that we have really managed the evolution of power in a very positive way and that the Chiefs know their place and the Regional Councillors know their place, but we really need to do more to address that political-traditional conflict that arises between many of our communities.

My brief intervention on this matter, Honourable Deputy Speaker, is the fact that a Commission or a Committee should go and investigate the role of traditional leaders, and investigate their remuneration packages, because I also believe that it is not fair that a Council of Traditional Leaders only meets once a year. Even if they meet twice a year or three times a year it would help to solve a lot of disputes, because some of the disputes are lying there for twelve months until they meet. If we address their remuneration packages it would be a good thing and coupled to that we should also address their functions to be able to solve some of these long-standing disputes in society.

This Parliamentary Committee should go further and visit a country like Botswana. Of course, the dynamics of Botswana are very different from Namibia. Botswana is a big country with one or two tribes, literally one big tribe with sub-tribes, whereas in Namibia it is a mixture – a lot of tribes, a lot of ethnic groups, a lot of cultures. (Intervention)

HON BOOYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the young, energetic and dynamic Honourable Venaani a small question? Honourable Venaani, the Government has increased the allowances for pensioners, Members of Parliament, Civil Servants and last December the Minister was talking about buying cars for Chiefs. Why do you think that these issues should go to a Committee? Why can you not leave it in the hands of Government to deal with it as she has done with others?

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: Honourable Chief Whip, you have been a Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs before your ascendancy to Chief Whip. What was the relevance of you chairing a Committee? Why did you not leave all those matters in Government's hands? I need you to answer that question. This issue has nothing to do with cars, we should not do it haphazardly. Now we are giving cars and we are giving salary increase. It has to do with synchronising and valuing the role of traditional leaders coupled with a remuneration package.

Before you disturbed me I spoke of Botswana. Botswana is one country that values the role of traditional leaders, but their disputes are much easier to handle because it is one big tradition. It is only the Hereros there, the Batswanas, different ethnic groups but mainly it is one country, one people and they handle their problems better.

Imagine if you put a man from Okatjoruu and a man from Onyaanya in one village to try to solve problems, there will be a conflict of limits, a conflict of everything.

South Africa has shown the way by giving prominence to the role of traditional leaders...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just want to give the Honourable Member the correct information with regard to the issue of dealing with conflicts in the annual meeting of traditional leaders. There is a Committee called the High-Level Committee under the Council of Traditional Leaders which look into conflicts which arise in different communities and that High-Level Committee remains active throughout the year. It is not correct that the conflicts are only discussed at the annual Council of Traditional Leaders. There is a continuing process of dealing with conflicts as they arise.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON VENAANI

HON VENAANI: Honourable Colleague, the Traditional Authorities Act states, *inter alia*.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I would like to ask a question. The Honourable Member has implied that somehow our Government is addressing matters related to traditional leaders in a haphazard, if not in a half-hearted kind of manner and he tries to make comparisons with the benefits provided to these leaders in Botswana and South Africa. Can the Honourable Member inform this House what proportion of the GDP are these expenditures in South Africa and Botswana that go to these allowances and what proportion of our GDP goes to this type of expenditure?

Does the Honourable Member think that it would be appropriate that we should spend more on the allowances of our Traditional Authority than per capita on our children to educate them for tomorrow or on the health of our people, including the Traditional Authorities?

HON VENAANI: I think the Honourable Member's intention is to catch me off-guard and indeed, you did. I do not know the per capita proportions, but their proportions are better than ours. The Kingdom of the Zulu Nation annually receives over N\$185 million. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Information. Just recently SADC held a meeting for Finance Ministers together with Ministers from a number of the economic sectors, including Agriculture, and I want to provide the Honourable Member with information, that the budgetary allocation of the South African Government to agriculture is less than 4%. The allocation of our Government to welfare grants is more than 5%. Imagine, if they are allocating less than 4% to agriculture, what proportion are they allocating to welfare? They have masses that we do

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON VENAANI

not have, we will break ourselves if we imitate other people in an *ad hoc* manner.

HON VENAANI: Colleague, I am a very cautious politician. That you must always remember and you must always listen to my wording. I was just telling you that we should commensurate the traditional leaders with the meagre resources that we have, meaning that we should look at their conditions. Of course, their conditions are in an appalling state. Now, if you want to compare South Africa spending 4% on agriculture, maybe that is the need of South Africa, but the respect and value that the South African Government gives to traditional leaders are not the same as here. It is just a reality. (Interjections).

I can give you countries which have economies slightly higher than ours, but if you look at the recognition they are giving to their liberation struggle, in terms of offices, in terms of infrastructure and remuneration, it is not the same. It is a reality. (Interjection). If your proportion is more, then you are spending it at the wrong places.

Honourable Kaapanda gave important information, but he stopped short of telling this House that the Traditional Authorities Act of 2000 says that if there is a dispute of a Traditional Authority to be recognised, they have to wait for a period of twelve months for the Council of Traditional Leaders to sit. In my opinion they play a very important role in dealing with these Traditional Authorities, but if we could regularise their meetings to two or three times a year, it would be able to speed up the solving of problems. It is not Venaani saying it, it is an Act of Parliament that you as the Minister were supposed to preside over. You are not a Chief, sit down. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am a descendant of the Chiefs. You do not know history, that is your problem. Go and read about

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON VENAANI

the Kingdom of Ipumbu ya Tshilongo, then you will speak to me with respect. Would you accept a question? Do you not think the list distributed here by Honourable Moongo is of no consequence, because honestly speaking, if you start with the Ministers, the Ministers in South Africa are paid almost seven times more than the Namibian Ministers. The proportion the Minister gave is the correct one. If you look at the proportion of the GDP, then it will come down to exactly the same. Maybe our own traditional leaders are much better off than their counterparts, proportionally.

Secondly, Honourable Venaani, at Independence in Tanzania, Mwalimu Nyerere abolished Traditional Authorities. Can you tell me what was the reason? Perhaps you do not know, but you should also look at those issues and if you want to make comparisons, you must compare the whole African Region. Mwalimu Nyerere abolished Traditional Authorities and today the Tanzanians are more united than ever before. You will never see a person claiming to be a Herero or an Ovambo or a Damara, they are just Tanzanians, they speak Swahili *Karibu sana, Hasante sana*. When we compare certain things, we need to look far beyond and see if we can also follow the same process and unite our people, because unity is the most important thing. We are all One Namibia, One Nation, but we should not strive to return to one being Herero and the other one telling you his history. That is why we are always at loggerheads.

HON VENAANI: Yes, I couched my introductory remarks in such a way that it will expose people like you. I knew it would expose people like him, because in fact, Honourable Uutoni Nujoma's view is that Traditional Authorities must be abolished. However, let me tell you, Honourable Nujoma, I know you come from Royal blood, but let me tell you that diversity is not necessarily a bad thing, it is how you manage diversity that makes you a patriot to nationalism or against it.

I can tell you that in Tanzania there is diversity, there are clans in Tanzania. Recently I was in Tanzania and there are ethnic clans in Tanzania that are killing people from other clans, saying that if you kill those people you will become rich. These stereotypes are found in all our

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON VENAANI

societies, but one of the many reasons why the late President Nyerere abolished Chieftains is what I said, that many African Political Parties ascend to power because of the negative role the Chiefs played in colonialism, that people thought that Chiefs abused their powers and of course, there is that history. One can never deny that in African history a lot of chieftaincies have abused their powers.

However, we are living in modern times and our Chiefs are becoming modern. I was invited to the coronation of this young new Chief, a bright young man, an educated businessman. Do you think his role would be the same as a Chief who thought a mirror costs 20 oxen?

HON MEMBER: He is not a Chief, he is a Headman.

HON VENAANI: Well, “*Headman*” in my language is “*Chief*”. It is the same thing. All these words you were taught by foreigners. Whether you call the “*Headman*”, whether you call them “*Chief*”, they are the same thing. Just as *Omuhona*, *Ombara* has many names but he is our God, same thing. (Interjection). Well, we have 150 Chiefs because of historical realities. You can go and deny those historical realities, but they exist. Why do we have too many reserves? Ask yourself those questions...(Interjection)

HON MEMBER: A household Headman is not a Chief.

HON VENAANI: You cannot impose your culture on my culture, that you cannot do. At least respect mine, I respect yours, but you cannot impose how your chieftaincy in my area has been named since time immemorial. Mine has been moved around from Windhoek. I was here in Windhoek, my elders come from Windhoek, but Windhoek belongs to you and me equally. My people were Chiefs here, so let us not go there. (Interjection)

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON VENAANI

HON MEMBER: We are the ones from Windhoek.

HON VENAANI: You are the ones from Windhoek together with me.
(Interjection)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: May I ask a question?
Honourable Member, you are talking of your culture and my culture, what culture are you referring to?

HON VENAANI: You see, these new Namibians want to deny where they come from. I am not that Namibian that denies that I am first and foremost a Namibian and then a Herero. If you want to do it in the reverse, it is your problem, but I saw you at the coronation in the village where you come from, unless you were there for political expediency. I saw you there with traditional regalia. What were you doing there? Your chieftaincy has been there for almost 200 years.

Honourable Booyis is correct by saying people were living at Daan Viljoen and today Daan Viljoen is a game reserve. Those people were resettled somewhere. Our people have been moved around by colonialism and even if you go to the Damara areas, you have mushrooming chieftaincies because of displacements. During those years people had three or four Chiefs, but because of displacements a lot of Chiefs came. However, that is not what I am trying to raise. (Interjection). From Daan Viljoen to Sorris-Sorris. This land is now owned by rich absentee landlords. If I come and reclaim Windhoek, obviously Honourable Nahas Angula would say his erf in Klein Windhoek is his and Honourable Iyambo would claim his property, but Windhoek used to belong to people. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Onyaanya belongs to Elifas, not to me.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON DR GEINGOB

HON VENAANI: Well, you are the Ambassador of Onyaanya. Be that as it may, Honourable Moongo, I think there has been unanimity in this House over the years that we have to address the issue of Traditional Authorities. It is not because these Traditional Authorities belong to Political Party B or C, it is because time has caught up with us and I think after 19 years the time is right to address this.

At Independence the value of traditional leaders were seen differently. As the society evolved we are today seeing traditional leaders differently and the role they are playing is also a different role from before Independence. I feel a Committee should go and investigate and recommend to this House whether next year or later. The reason why we bring Motions to this House is to ensure that future generations will know the thinking of the legislators at a particular time regarding a certain issue. I feel we can only address this issue if we go and do a thorough study.

There was an issue of whether this information given by Honourable Moongo is relevant. It is very relevant as an eye-opener, the salaries and allowances of traditional leaders in the Republic of Namibia and South Africa. I support the idea, I support your thoughts and I want the other side of the aisle to really appreciate some of these efforts, they are in the interest of our own people. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise Minister Geingob.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. It was my intention to ask questions, but sometimes it is better to take the Floor and put the questions instead of interrupting the Honourable Members and by the way, I do not support the Motion.

My first question: Chiefs have subjects: Who maintained the Chiefs and kings in the olden days? Some external source or your own people? If you are maintained by an external source, what respect is going to be

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON DR GEINGOB

there? In other words, I am asking, if we want to build up our Chiefs, is it healthy that they are on the payroll of the Government like Civil Servants?

When I was in Nigeria with my Colleague there, we went to Ibadan and we came to the palace of the King with Professor Ade Ajayi and he took us to his king. It was a real palace. After we went in, the king received us and there were old vintage cars parked in the yard and he boasted, *“all what you see here is from my subjects, not a single cent from the Government.”* That is how our Chiefs are supposed to be, then they will be respected.

Are you now saying our Chiefs must become Civil Servants and if the Government is paying them, Government is going to call the tune. That is the problem and danger I see in this situation. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, given the fact that this issue of traditional leaders is a constitutional provision, do you mean that we have to amend the Constitution and abolish that portion which establishes the House of Traditional Leaders?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I was coming to the Constitution. The Constitution is creating one king only in this country and that is the Republican State. In a Republic you do not have kingdoms. The President is the only king here. That is what the Constitution says. The Constitution allows for powers, namely to advise the supreme king, the President, on traditional land use. That is the only power they have, to advise. To advise is not power. Therefore, do not try to equate them to the one King. If you are going to try to elevate them, give them more powers, more say, then you are going to have different locales of power and then tribalism is going to increase the things more. If I have a kingdom, I must have subjects, I must have the land, I must defend that and we are going to have different kingdoms fighting a war.

14 April 2009

**MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON DR GEINGOB**

The idea was to unite the Namibian people and to have one kingdom. We can all have different ethnic groups, we should be very proud of it, and that is where the Chiefs are coming in now. In fact, we outlawed the word “*King*”, we are saying it should be “*Chief*”. There is nowhere we are referring to a King in the law, because we realised that in our languages we do not have the equivalent of “*Chief*.” The one says “*Gao-aob*” or “*Omuhona*” or whatever it is. Therefore we said in other languages we can use the word “*king*”, but not in English. It is to minimise division. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Minister a question, please? Honourable Member, have you forgotten the fact that our kings were relegated to the position of Headmen because a King could only be the King of England or a white person could be called “*King*”, but a black person could not be called “*King*” even if he was a King, therefore his position was diminished to that of a Headman?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I am sorry, my younger Brother, the point I am trying to make is that what you have as a tribe will exist in your language and, therefore, you were saying, “*King*” and they were relegated, but then, that process also caused our Chiefs to be puppets. Are you forgetting that? They became the puppets of those same people. We have that ugly history. Hosea Kutako was respected by everybody, who was maintaining him? Who was maintaining Hosea Kutako. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: As a Chief, Hosea Kutako was receiving a salary from the South African Government. They were all receiving salaries.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: We are trying to distinguish him from others because he was highly respected.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON DR GEINGOB

HON VENAANI: It is a very interesting Debate, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Now that we have heard that Hosea Kutako was receiving a salary or an allowance, but yet while receiving that allowance, he carried himself in such a way to earn your respect. Would you think it would be very different if we had to pay a king, the Chairman of the Traditional Council, the King of Indonga? If we would remunerate him well, do you think that would diminish his importance and role and why?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: The point I am trying to make is that the Chiefs should not become paid servants of the Government. That would reduce their status to Civil Servants. The Chairman of the Council is highly respected. (Interjection).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Floor is still open, the discussion has just started. Take the Floor instead of pointing fingers to one another.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I said I wanted to ask the question to Honourable Moongo when he was speaking, but I thought instead of interrupting, I will take the Floor and put my questions.

What I was trying to say is that there should be no misunderstanding that I have the greatest respect for King Kauluma. I call him a King because his behaviour is commanding respect. If we emphasise this question of “*my Chief, my King*”, we are talking of that particular tribe and they are going to elevate it that they become very important, which is good, but when tribalism comes in, nothing belongs to only an ethnic group. I always warned that when you add an “*ism*”, tribalism is where the problem is.

Instead of building a Nation, having One Nation and one King, we now want to emphasise that we must build up our own ethnic groups and tribalism is going to step in. You have to fight for what is yours, so we are trying to create unity. Sovereignty is given up in the interest of unity.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
RT HON N ANGULA

The same with the Chiefs and Kings. Kings who have one sovereign State have to give up whatever they had to create their own Nations.

Coming to comparisons, we sometimes make mistakes. I wanted to ask Honourable Moongo, but I thought I must take the Floor. South Africa's Gross Domestic Product is about US\$400 to US\$500 billion and ours is about N\$25 billion if not less than that. That is the comparison we are making. Let us be serious about these things.

Namibia's GDP is so small and somebody already took my speech by mentioning the Parliamentarians. What are the South African Parliamentarians paid in comparison to what we are getting? Ours is peanuts compared to theirs. Do not compare the incomparable, you must always compare the same things. Botswana is lucky because they have diamond income, with a good, healthy GDP. Our populations are the same but they are better off.

Therefore, let us be proud of what we are and live within our resources. Otherwise, if we live beyond it we will be in trouble. Let us not build up tribalism through talking about Headmen and Chiefs and let us try to have one Namibian culture. After 19 years we do not have a Namibian culture emerging, a Namibian song that we all sing proudly. It is not there because of this, Honourable Moongo. Thank you very much. I do not support the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I am rising to debunk the Motion by Honourable Headman Moongo. I know that Honourable Moongo is thinking about himself in case he does not come back after November, so that he has somewhere to fall back to and since he does not qualify as an ex-combatant, he cannot receive the ex-combatant gratuity and he has to try all sorts of things.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
RT HON N ANGULA

However, this time this was a poor try because Honourable Moongo is trying to hijack the Government programme.

Honourable Moongo knows that the Government is planning to do a few things for the traditional leaders, first providing them with transport so that they are mobile and they can reach their subjects in order for them to perform their functions which are stated in our Constitution and also in the traditional Acts/law. Now he wants to get credit because he realised that the Chiefs in Okakarara are supporting the big man and he now wants to reclaim them, but unfortunately the big man there got them recognised.

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed to make such insinuations in this House of “*big man*?” It is unparliamentary.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: A “*big man*” means “*Omunene*” or “*Omuhona*”, so it is Namlish, but the people of Okatjoruu know what I am talking about.

Honourable Moongo is trying to get this credit and he is not going to get it, because we are not going to allow the Government programme to be hijacked by Honourable Moongo. Government is very aware of the role the Traditional Authorities are playing, especially in resolving disputes among our communities.

In my area they have specific special disputes they solve very well and I think Honourable Moongo knows that. One of them is called “*Oshikodongo*”. “*Oshikodongo*” is when you steal somebody’s goat and you slaughter it without the owner’s consent. The Chiefs are very good at finding out who did it and what you have to pay and that is maintaining peace in our communities and I am quite sure Honourable Moongo also specialises in solving “*oshikodongo*” problems.

With that recognition Government has created the Council of Traditional Leaders because Government knows they can perform a stabilising role in our communities. The only problem is that once the Council of

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
RT HON N ANGULA

Traditional Leaders has been proclaimed, every unemployed person in our community wants to be a Chief. Now you have communities being divided in small groups by ambitious traditional leaders because they think they are going to get better benefits from the Government. (Interjection). No, he was appointed by the late King, he is not claiming anything from anybody. This is problem number one, the multiplication of too many Traditional Authorities in Namibia. Very soon we are going to have two million Traditional Authorities in Namibia.

That is not healthy. It does not help the traditions we are respecting and promoting.

Honourable Moongo is telling us that Senior Headmen, Headmen and Kings are dying because of neglect by the Government. That is definitely not true. Medical treatment in our communal lands is free, you just pay a token amount, unless you want private treatment and he is claiming that he is attending funerals of other Chiefs. I am not quite sure whether he goes there because of sympathy, perhaps he goes there to celebrate. In my language there is a word "*Elenga ihali yawala ekwawo tali gu konkambe*"?, which means that the Headman does not care when the other one falls from the horse, he even beats the horse so that he can fall and die. Honourable Moongo knows why he goes to these funerals, it is to celebrate the death of others. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed to misinform the House that I am not doing it because of sympathy? Can he withdraw that please? Of course I am a Christian, I am a Headman, but not of that old type.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: As long as he withdraws that they are dying because of neglect by the Government. That is your *quid pro quo*. If you withdraw that, I will also withdraw. That they are dying because of Government neglect is also an untruth and if you withdraw that, I will also withdraw that you go there to celebrate.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
RT HON N ANGULA

Honourable Moongo, this side of the House does respect the traditional leaders. In fact, Comrade Pohamba is also a traditional leader in his own right. Okambuti Village was ruled by his father and he is also ruling it in absentia, so he knows what traditional leadership is all about and this Government does not need to be taught by a Committee created by you. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Created by this House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: No, it is by him. He wants to use this Committee to go around and say that they are speaking for the Chiefs. He wants to create this Committee to go around and say, "*we are speaking for you, support the DTA.*" That is the whole thing and the truth sometimes hurts.

However, for this time I am a truthful person, a Christian like Moongo, but not a Chief, that is the difference, because the Chiefs' tradition is that a Chief will not care when another Chief dies. You are even making it possible for the other Chief to die, that is tradition. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Is that your own culture?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am quite sure even in Otjiherero. I am quite sure even in your language it is just said differently. (Interjection) I will expose you if you continue. I will bring the story of Nicodemus Kavikunua. If you want me to go to that story, I will go to that story. Let us leave that story buried in Okahandja for now, but the tradition of the Chiefs is like that.

Honourable Moongo, I want you to know that we should continue to maintain peace and unity in our communities by making sure that *Onkondelela* is taken care of, *linkondongo* are taken care of and other crimes that take place there, like stock theft and all that. If you can

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
RT HON N ANGULA

maintain that, Government will definitely look after you, but not on your terms and demands. Government knows its responsibility. Therefore, this Motion is totally unnecessary. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, is it acceptable in your culture that if someone is telling you the truth, for you to say *it is the truth, but I will not accept it until somebody from my family tells me this truth*. Is that your culture? If Moongo is telling you something that is truthful, then you say, it is truthful yes, but I do not need to hear it from you, I need to hear it from my own Comrades. Is that part of your culture?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: No, you misunderstood your own Member. Moongo has seen that Government is improving the conditions, the welfare of the Chiefs and Moongo wants to take credit for that, the same as Honourable Kaura who immediately moves a Motion when he sees that Government is going to increase the pensions. This year he saw that the Minister was not going to increase the pensions and he kept quiet because he knew that he was not going to benefit anything. Now Moongo saw that the Government is going to do something for the Chiefs and he moved the Motion so that he can take credit. That is the point and that is why we are dismissing this as an unnecessary Motion. The Minister in her reply today said that Government is also improving the welfare of the Chiefs, but when Moongo wants to say, *“the little you are going to receive is because of me.”*...(Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister a question? Right Honourable Prime Minister, do you remember a man by the name Ralph Neider of the United States of America.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Of the consumer lobby.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
RT HON N ANGULA

HON KAURA: The consumer lobby. Honourable Moongo is the consumer lobby on this side of the House like Ralph Neider.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am not quite sure of that, because Ralph Neider does not do it for anything else but to help the poor consumers. Moongo is doing it for political reasons, to convince the traditional leaders that he is here for them and also for selfish reasons, because he knows he may not come back here and he will be receiving something as a headman. It is self-serving.

Honourable Kaura, I do not want to call your Party members self-serving, but it amounts to that. Government is aware of the role, functions and responsibilities of traditional leaders. Government respects them, that is why Government consults them from time to time and similarly with the church leaders. We are trying to form a partnership with faith-based organisation to implement some of our social programmes and in so doing, we hope that our church leaders will be partners in development and that they will also benefit in one form or another.

However, as members of our communities we also have responsibilities to our Chiefs and as members of our churches we also have a responsibility to our church, so that our community leaders, church leaders also maintain their Independence as the conscience of the Nation. Government wants all the citizens of this country to have a reasonable standard of living when we can afford it, but first of all we must all work hard, not just selling beer like one Honourable Member does in Uukumwe. He was telling us the story here the other day that he give free water to people so that people can come to his cuca shops. That is only the reason. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: And Honourable Ithana is giving free water to the people of her village.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Ithana is not here, when she comes back you can ask her that question.

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. Is it allowed that the Prime Minister misleads the House? Is it not because of the failure of the Government that I brought water to the people who are living in an area with salty water? He now says it is because of politics, but the Government failed to provide water.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Moongo took water from the pipeline of the Government which is not more than 200 metres away from him. The reason why he took water is for his cuca shop to benefit, that is the only reason. When people come to fetch water he sells alcohol to them and he benefits from the sale of alcohol. That is the tragedy of Honourable Moongo in helping the community. Instead of helping the community to be healthier, he is helping the community to be drunk. That is now allowed. Honourable Moongo should think of other ways of making a living, like some of us are ploughing, planting mahangu and we are satisfied.

In conclusion, this Motion is misdirected, it must be dismissed because Government has programmes for traditional leaders. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. I do not know whether this is the place to appeal to the Honourable Vice-President of SWAPO to take a re-look at the position of the Leader of

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

Government Business in the House, because the Leader of Government Business right now is talking too much and instead of waiting until the commoners have taken a position, he is the one always in the forefront.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. When you are commanding a battle you have to fire a flare so that people can start shooting. That is the job of the commander, I am firing a flare so that they can start shooting.

HON KAURA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, during World War II a mother wrote a letter to her son and said: *“My son, are you safe during this war? Are you not going to be in danger?”* He said: *“Mother, do not worry, I am so far back next to the generals, so I am not in the forefront at all, do not worry about it.”* The generals are always at the back, they are not in the front.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to rebut the position which was made by Honourable Minister Geingob that Chiefs cannot be paid by the Government, they will become Civil Servants or they would look like Civil Servants, but those of us sitting in this House are paid by the Government but we are not Civil Servants. Therefore, that position of saying that by paying Chiefs, they will become like Civil Servants does not carry water. They are also there because of the Traditional Authorities Act 17 of 1995 and the Traditional Authorities Act 25 of 2000. All that went through this House to establish their positions with everything that goes along with it and I thought, Honourable Deputy Speaker, one can only speak against a constitutional provision if you have the intention to amend it. If you do not have the intention to amend it, you do not speak against the Constitution. Therefore, we cannot speak against the position of Chiefs legally because it is a constitutional provision and it will be wrong to talk about it unless you want to amend the Constitution. Anybody who wants to talk against that position without trying to amend the position in the Constitution should be called to order.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

Based on Article 102(5) of this Constitution we should all know very well that the House of Chiefs is going to be there to advise the President on the utilisation of communal land. That was the position which was taken during the Land Conference which was chaired by Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, that communal land will stay as is, it will be untouchable and the only people who are going to advise the President on the utilisation of communal land are going to be Chiefs. However, now the Honourable Member is talking down on the position of Chiefs. He is saying it is tribalism while it is provided for in the Constitution and he is the one who said they must look after the communal land. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Order, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I was here in the House this afternoon when the Honourable Members contributed to the Motion of Honourable Moongo. Since he has started, I did not hear him bringing anything new to the House. The two speakers who spoke said that traditional leaders are recognised in the Constitution, nobody spoke against them or even their roles. Now he is lamenting that you are talking against the Constitution and nobody did that. Why is Honourable Kaura following that line when nobody said anything against the Constitution?

HON KAURA: I think I understood Honourable Geingob very well and I ought to understand it very well, because when we met at Augustineum we were 17 years old. I have known him for the last 52 years and I should be the person to understand him very well because I know him better than anyone of you.

Therefore, based on the fact that the Land Conference cemented the continuation of communal land, the Chiefs are a categorical necessity and it is imperative that they must be there to look after our land and its utilisation and because of that we must look after them very well. They should not be beggars because people respect you only when you look

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

good. Regardless of the fact that we are poorly remunerated here at Parliament, people think you are somebody by virtue of the fact that you are wearing a brown suit. This optical effect must be there as far as our traditional leaders are concerned and I am grateful that they are now getting vehicles instead of walking to their meetings on foot. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Kaura question? You are saying we are not properly remunerated in Parliament. In your view, what would be the proper remuneration for Parliamentarians?

HON KAURA: I will send you a letter to that effect, what would be a proper remuneration, 61% of the Minister's package will be enough, because this is what is provided for in our Rules, 61% of the Minister's package and I will be satisfied with that.

I do not want to repeat myself, but our traditional leaders must be remunerated in such a way that they get the dignity that they deserve. They do not have to walk on foot, the provision of vehicles is welcomed and we thank the Government for doing just that and they can do more. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Honourable President of the DTA a question? Honourable Kaura, you mentioned something in this Parliament which is troubling me as a teacher of children, because you put it on record that Chief Hosea Kutako was being paid and we would like that to be very, very clear. Was he being paid a salary, an allowance, was it a proposal from the colonial authority, was it a negotiated settlement between the Traditional Authority and the colonial authority? That one creates problems in the minds of some of us who teach children about the heroes of this country and Hosea Kutako is one of them. We really want very clear information on exactly how much was he getting and on what basis.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

HON KAURA: I think you have all the records. The Minister responsible for the Traditional Authorities has all the records. He can go through all those records. At that point in time there were no negotiations for salaries, they decided that you are a Headman, you are given a rifle because you are a Headman and a certain amount of money per month. There was no negotiation. Whether you accepted it or not, it was a position you were occupying and therefore you were given those things. However, that did not deter Chief Hosea Kutako from fighting for the liberation of this country.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kaura, in 2007 some Chiefs wrote a letter to the United Nations against this SWAPO Government. Are they going to withdraw that case after they got vehicles from the SWAPO Government or are they going to continue with that case?

HON KAURA: The Chiefs who wrote that letter, Honourable Muharukua, are still not recognised and they are not going to benefit from those vehicles. They are still left in the dark and a continuing inequity is perpetrated against these non-recognised traditional leaders...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. Amongst the signatories to that letter is Chief Tjavara from the Okaoko Traditional Authority who is recognised and Honourable Kaura knows that.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

HON KAURA: Chief Tjavara is fighting against an injustice and he is continuing to fight against that injustice perpetrated in 1997 by Act 17 of 1995.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: May I ask the Honourable young Brother of mine a question? (Intervention)

HON KAURA: No, I am older than you by six months.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: May I ask my school mate and my age mate a question? He said that Chief Hosea Kutako, whom we all respect, was on the payroll of the colonial Government. The first question is: Were all the other Chiefs being paid as Chief Hosea Kutako? After Bantustans were set up, some Chiefs were paid and some were left out and there was differentiation in payment. The more compliant you were, the more you got. The more resistant you were, you were getting less. I would like to know, because as the Honourable Minister of Education said, this is a very important revelation to many of us. Not that I will lose respect for him, but I was always going around with my head held high, saying there was a Chief in this country who was with us, fighting and maintained by his own people whom he loved. This is new information and I want to know whether they all were being paid.

HON KAURA: I think you have the records. Who is now in charge of Traditional Authorities? The person who is in charge of Local Government has all the information at his disposal. If I am wrong, he should come and show us. Kazenambo, it is now your responsibility to go and check your records and come to this House and say Kaura was wrong. (Intervention)

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

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

On a Point of Information. There is no point in checking the records, because the records of colonialism were informed by puppet philosophy which was never the principle of Hosea Kutako. That should be the record. It was never at one point the principle of Hosea Kutako and as has been said here correctly, the colonial masters imposed a scheme upon the Traditional Authorities and there was such an imposition on the Traditional Authority which Hosea Kutako was leading. However, the point of departure to be underlined here is that the well-being, the position of Hosea Kutako was maintained not only by the Hereros in Namibia, but it was also maintained by Hereros in Botswana, by his subjects and Hosea Kutako was the one who refused that Namibia be annexed as a fifth province of South Africa. That was Hosea Kutako!

HON KAURA: Stand up and make your own speech. We all know about Hosea Kutako. What we know is that anybody who was recognised as a Chief, a Headman in whatever position he was, whether it was in Ovitoro, Okakarara or wherever, that Headman was given a 303 rifle by the Government and he was getting that pittance at the end of the month, whatever amount it was. That was provided for by the South African Government. Hosea Kutako did not accept Bantustans, the Odendaal Commission of 1968, he never accepted that, he never accepted Bantustans. (Intervention)

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

On a Point of Information. What should be on Record is the role of traditional leaders in this country before Independence, especially those that I belonged to as a subject. There was no difference between the position of Chief Hosea Kutako and that of Chief Munjuku Nguvauva. There was an arrangement of Ceadmen, but their status in communities was that they

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

were recognised as Chiefs. They were above the Headman status, it was a colonial Government scheme.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we come back to the topic? Hosea Kutako is taking over now.

HON KAURA: That is an absolute expression of historical ignorance. Among the Otjiherero-speaking people in this country there was one person or in the whole of Namibia who was called Chief, the others were called headmen. The only person who was called Chief was Hosea Kutako, nobody else. That is history, that is a fact. Even the late Munjuku was never called Chief, he was a Headman. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information. Honourable Kaura continues to give us conflicting information. On the one side he recognises the special status enjoyed by Chief Hosea Kutako among all Namibians. At the same time he told us this afternoon that Chief Hosea Kutako was getting a salary. That is what is confusing us and he should make a correction.

HON KAURA: The Minister responsible has access to this information. Please go to this information and come and dispute in this Parliament that he never got a salary, he only got a rifle as a traditional leader. Dispute the facts, do not only dispute it orally. You have all the information on the books. (Intervention)

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, you are an old Member of this House, you should sit down and give a chance to others. You cannot force yourself, we know you are strong, but you cannot force yourself.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: This Motion is not about Chief Hosea Kutako. Let his soul rest in peace. He has done his service to the community and that should be respected, not be spoiled by irrelevant information. Everybody knows that Chief Hosea Kutako was a traditional leader. If he was entitled to some traditional leader benefits, fine. Everybody also knows that Chief Hosea Kutako was also a nationalist and that is the role all of us should respect, not to try to unearth him from his sleeping place. Please, leave him alone, talk about the Motion, but leave the Chief out.

HON KAURA: When Moses Katjiuongua stood up here to rename the airport as Chief Hosea Kutako International Airport, I was the second person who supported that. When you wanted to erect the monument of Chief Hosea Kutako in Aminuis, I was the one who protested against that and said his statue must come in front of this Namibian Parliament and then you put it in front of Parliament and for 3 years it was wrapped up because you did not know what to do with it and we insisted that it must be unwrapped, because you did not want to bring him in front of this Parliament. We all know that and have been a subject of Chief Hosea Kutako and I still follow Chief Hosea Kutako. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, please, I am requesting you to refrain from Chief Hosea Kutako. All of us are children of Chief Hosea Kutako. I hope the question by the Minister is not about Chief Hosea Kutako.

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

HON MINISTER OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was just joining you in what you have said, that the Honourable Gentleman is insisting on irrelevance. He should follow the advice given, because this controversy is arising from his misinformation about salaries and payment and we beg him to stop!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed. Can you support the Motion of Honourable Moongo?

HON KAURA: I support the Motion of Honourable Moongo, but the questions you have asked me are the ones that have introduced the irrelevancy in our own Motion, because right now you are wrapping yourself around somebody who even in life you did not recognise and now you are trying to wrap yourself around him while I am the one who has always been his follower up to today. Now you are trying to make yourself heroes out of somebody else's hero. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Order. I am terribly sorry to interrupt Honourable Kaura, but I would like to share information concerning those allowances that were given to the Chiefs or Headmen during the colonial era. I might have learned about this much later than the period of Chief Hosea Kutako, I am not talking about him, but I know that these allowances had certain strings attached. I can recall that when Chief Joël Stephanus refused to participate in the then Interim Government after 1975, that allowance was immediately withdrawn because he was not cooperating with the then Government. I just wanted to give this information, that during the colonial era these allowances were not meant to assist the Chiefs or Headmen for them to be able to do their work or to

14 April 2009

MOTION ON TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES
HON KAURA

look after their subordinates, but this was indeed meant for them to dance to the tune of the then Government.

HON KAURA: The cancellation was done by the Nama Second-tier Authority, if at all it was not done by the former Member of Parliament, Honourable Daniel Luipert who has now joined the ranks of SWAPO and he is accepted as a highly respected member of SWAPO. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: That letter came from the Minister in South Africa and not from Luipert. Of course, Honourable Luipert and others did cooperate, there is no doubt about that, but the letter we received, telling the Chief that his recognition as a Chief was withdrawn and that the allowance was withdrawn, came from South Africa, not from Luipert, not even from Windhoek.

HON KAURA: I support the Motion of Honourable Moongo (Interjection) and you are not going to let me sit down, Honourable Muharukua, it is my right to stand up here. You are not in Opuwo. I am supporting this Motion, because I know that the whole hullabaloo about this Motion is that SWAPO, in the first place, never wanted Chiefs to exist in this country and that is why you were killing them all over the place, even up to the time when you sent somebody to go and kill a 93 year old man, Ludwig Ndinda, in Okakarara. So, you were forced by traditions to accept them, but you never wanted them to be there in the first place. That is your problem and we will support the Motion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned in terms of Rule 90 until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.04.15 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
15 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: Honourable Members, in accordance with Article 32(2) of the Constitution, the President and the Cabinet shall each year during the consideration of the official Budget attend Parliament. During such session the President shall address the Parliament on the State of the Nation and on future policies of the Government, report on policies of the previous years and shall be available to respond to questions from any sectors.

Honourable Members, I now suspend the business of the House while I go and invite His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, into the Chamber. Please remain standing until His Excellency, the President's procession enters the Chamber. I thank you.

WELCOMING ADDRESS

HON SPEAKER: Our President, Hifikepunye Pohamba, fellow Parliamentarians, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Houses of Parliament annually anticipate this happy reunion with the Executive in the person of the Head of State and Government of our Republic.

Whereas the opening session of Parliament brings together all the three branches of State in a ceremonial and colourful celebration after a holiday break, this one is manifestly differently.

15 April 2009

**WELCOMING ADDRESS
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

Our President, who is elected by a popular vote, is required by the Constitution to deliver a State of the Nation Address before Parliament and spend some of his working hours in a lively engagement with leaders of Political Parties represented in the House. We are keeping alive in this way transparent culture of political pluralism, accountability and transparency.

Namibia is a young but daring democracy which will once again this year, 2009, go through a dynamic electioneering test of continuity and change at 19 years of age. We uphold the ideals of constitutional democracy, equality under the law, national unity, gender balance, inclusive tolerance and social justice for all. These are essential virtues of democracy but they are far from being sufficient, given the state of the pernicious income distribution in the country.

Namibia cannot maintain this and be proud of a divided country, consisting of two incompatible societies, one living on a hilltop, enjoying abundant opulence, and the other wallowing in a squalor of abject poverty. We are, however, making good faith efforts to transform hope into change for the better for all. But we must do more to become a caring Nation.

We cannot forget for a moment that we are racing against strong headwinds loaded with many uncertainties, more so given the fact that global economic powers and major international financial institutions are undecided about recession and needed reforms. Regional integration, land reform and the Millennium Development Goals all seek empowerment of the people, but are incapacitated by a lack of capital and more so by policy doldrums.

The Namibian IPU delegation and my own as IPU President returned over the Easter weekend after a week's attendance at the 120th IPU Assembly Session in Addis Ababa. It was a successful indaba and we are committed to the outcome.

Among the important issues on the conference agenda was the critical place occupied by the National Budget process in the society and the competing priorities that must be catered for by the Executive. Apart

15 April 2009

**WELCOMING ADDRESS
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

from the traditional functions of lawmaking and oversight, Parliaments are nowadays expected to have a say in public diplomacy, peacekeeping, women's rights issues and the mentoring of youth and students on volunteerism and anti-corruption advocacy, amongst others.

We dealt with an emergency item, which was unanimously adopted. It was entitled: The Role of Parliaments in Mitigating the Social and Political Impact of the International Economic and Financial Crisis on the Most Vulnerable Sectors of the Global Community, especially in Africa."

Its operative paragraphs, and I highlight only those relating to Parliaments, state as follows:

"Calls for urgent action by all Parliaments to address the global financial crisis at the forthcoming IPU Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis scheduled for 7 and 8 May 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland;

Calls on the Parliaments and Government to consider the eradication of poverty and social justice and its root causes in Africa and other developing countries as a priority, and to implement actions to deal effectively with them;

Urges Parliaments to explore ways to mitigate the social, political and economic effects of the global financial crisis, particularly on developing Nations;

Calls on Parliaments to ensure effective governance of financial systems, including regulatory measures in order to avoid future financial crises and provide for accountability."

The other three IPU resolutions relate to:

- Advancing Nuclear Non-proliferations and Disarmament and Securing the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-test Ban Treaty: The Role of Parliaments.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

- Climate Change, Sustainable Development Models and Renewable Energies.
- Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information.

Thus, not only the Government but also the Parliament has its work cut out for it during the next weeks and the months to come. This calls for teamwork and mutual support.

Now, as provided for in the Constitution and by established convention, I have the distinct honour and personal pleasure indeed to invite the President of the Republic, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba to deliver the State of the Nation Address, for the fifth time. This is a friendly and familiar territory for you. Excellency!

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA: Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, First Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Members of Parliament, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of the Media, Fellow Namibians.

I stand before this joint Session of our Parliament to report on the State of the Nation, covering the 2008/2009 Financial Year. As per the requirements of the Namibian Constitution, I will focus my address on the policies and programmes of our SWAPO Party Government during the period under review and also provide insights into our future plans in the new Financial Year. This is in keeping with the values and ethos of accountability, transparency and good governance to which we are fully committed.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

A few weeks ago, the Namibian people commemorated our nineteenth anniversary of freedom and Independence, a date on which we remember our rendezvous with history; a day when we as people took into our own hands the social, political and economic destiny of our country. We remember the sacrifices made by the brave sons and daughters of our soil who gave their lives and shed their precious blood for our freedom and Independence. Theirs was the utmost demonstration of patriotism and we will forever remember and salute them for their selflessness and gallantry. The work that we have done and continue to do, the progresses that we have scored and continue to record were made possible by their sacrifices.

The Economy and Global Economic Crisis:

For Namibia, the period under review was a time of mixed blessings. The peace and stability that we enjoy have made it possible for our Government to remain focused on the pressing issues of the day.

I have in mind the issues of economic growth, employment creation, the social and economic well-being of our people and the development challenges that demand our attention in the areas of health, education, housing, training, employment creation as well as the provision of basic amenities, such as water, electricity and human security.

We welcome the new investments and expansion by local companies in the construction, retail, property development, uranium and tourism sectors. The livestock industry has also moved beyond the traditional export of de-boned beef to include other value-added products.

It is also encouraging to see continuing investor confidence and interest in our country. The recent investment of N\$2,5 billion by German investors in Ohorongo Cement and the N\$2 billion Namundjebo Plaza Hotel development by Namibia's United Africa Group are some cases in point. However, the deteriorating global demand for our products has hurt our mining industry, resulting in the closure of mines, the scaling back of operations and loss of jobs.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Given the size of the domestic market, our Government has made export promotion and the development of new markets a central component of the country's economic growth strategy. In this connection, our Government is pursuing negotiations to secure preferential market access for our goods and services through bilateral, regional and multilateral trade arrangements.

Some progress has been made in the negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union. However, more work remains to be done. We will continue to engage with our partners, such as the European Union, while insisting on, and highlighting the tremendous strategic and economic consequences that such agreements can have on smaller economies such as our country.

Memories of the major fluctuations in oil prices that were experienced last year are still fresh. Indeed, we remember the price increases for food and other commodities. The fluctuations depressed key economic sectors on which our growth is anchored. It also placed enormous pressure on many households, especially on the low-income groups.

Our Government has been seized with seeking ways to effectively deal with the negative impact of the global financial crisis on our economy. We started by introducing VAT exemption of certain essential basic food items. I have expressed my views that effective monitoring mechanisms are needed in order to ensure that VAT benefits of these measures do reach the consumers who are the intended beneficiaries. With the fall of the price of oil and interest rates, I find it difficult to see any justification for the ever-increasing food prices in our country.

The Bank of Namibia has softened the impact by keeping the interest rates unchanged, while our Government has reduced the income tax for different wage categories. The tax threshold has also been raised to N\$40,000. I trust that collectively as a Nation we can and will weather the storm.

During this Financial Year our Government has increased budgetary allocation for capital projects. We will accelerate the implementation of

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

capital projects in order to boost economic growth and employment creation.

Our Government has successfully engaged our development cooperation partners with the view to enhance mutually beneficial relationships and building stronger partnerships. This has brought about many benefits for Namibia in the form of funding and technical assistance from various countries and organisations. I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to you. You have stood with us through thick and thin, even during these difficult times of the global economic crisis.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, a sound labour relations environment is critical for the growth of our economy and the welfare of our workers. With this in mind, our Government modernised our labour legislation by enacting the new Labour Act which is already facilitating speedier resolution of labour disputes.

I have noted the expansion of labour-related services, such as the opening of Regional Labour Offices in different towns, including Opuwo and Outapi in recent months. Similar offices will be opened at Rundu and Gobabis this year. Our Government will introduce legislation to create a legal framework, institutions and tools to help record accurate statistics on the extent of unemployment in the country.

The envisaged Employment Services Bill will provide for the establishment of an electronic national employment information system to register job seekers, to list job vacancies, to match jobseekers and prospective employers, to identify skills deficits and to provide information on enterprises, training and bursary opportunities. Employers will be required by law to report all employment vacancies to the Government. An Employment Creation Commission will be established to coordinate national employment creation initiatives.

We know that the unemployment situation in our country is worsened by skills deficits, which also handicaps economic growth. Our Government will, therefore, continue to facilitate and promote skills development through vocational training programmes and the deployment of qualified

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

vocational counsellors at Regional Labour Offices. They will provide guidance to young people to help them choose professions that match their competencies and aptitudes. These services will be provided free of charge to the public as part of our strategy to fight unemployment.

Another programme aimed at helping our young people to secure a better future is the National Youth Credit Scheme through which hundreds of our youth have already received mentoring and training in basic business management and other aspects. Many of them are now engaged in business activities.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the Government's social grant programme provides a social safety net for vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, orphans and vulnerable children and people with disabilities. Our Government increased the grants from N\$370 to N\$450 last year. Currently, about 280,690 beneficiaries qualify to receive these benefits. Funeral support for senior citizens has also been increased from N\$2,000 last year to N\$2,200. I reiterate our commitment to improve these benefits because our Government is fully aware that they are insufficient to meet the increasing needs of households.

We will continue to monitor the flood situation in the North and North-Eastern parts of our country. Measures should be taken to ensure that all necessary support is rendered to the affected communities.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, for our Government to succeed in achieving our national development objectives, we must plan thoroughly and meticulously. We must be able to measure the progress that we are making and also make adjustments where goals are not being met.

I am happy to say that the Third National Development Plan (NDP3) was successfully launched in November last year and the National Planning Commission is currently busy with an Annual Review of the implementation of the Plan. The review will track the performance of different implementing agencies, with specific focus on the achievement of annual targets and the identification of constraints.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Millennium Development Goals:

As a Government we are constantly striving to combat the impact of poverty on our people. We can do this best if we can reliably measure and analyse the poverty indicators. It is for this reason that a new poverty line indicator, based on the Cost of Basic Needs approach, was introduced. It will guide our Government to design effective measures to assist poor households.

The 2008 Millennium Development Goals Progress Report has brought to light important insights about the realities of poverty levels in different communities in our country. It indicates that poor and severely poor households make up around 28% of all households in the country. The good news is that Namibia has already achieved the target of halving the number of severely poor households in the country. Moreover, inequalities in income distribution have been reduced considerably, although the levels remain unacceptably high. We are working extra hard to pull more households out of poverty.

The focus is on our rural communities, including the San. Several anti-poverty projects were introduced to fight poverty among the San communities. These include a bread-making project at Oshivelo, a revolving small livestock project at Tsumkwe, Bagani, Chetto and Omega III, the building of houses as well as increased enrolment of the San children in schools.

Region Specific Action Plans for Food Security and Nutrition, which address cross-cutting issues of food security and poverty, were also launched in December last year. San communities in identified Regions will benefit from a project known as "*Empowerment of the San Community for Household Food Security*" under the Office of the Prime Minister.

Our Government is seized with the integration of the veterans of the struggle for liberation into the socio-economic mainstream of the Namibian society. We have put in place laws, regulations, policies and institutions to achieve this goal.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Our Government will also provide funding of economic projects for veterans to create job opportunities in different sectors. There is a ceiling of N\$250,000 per project. Qualifying veterans will receive a social grant of N\$2,000 per month. Our Government will also continue with the construction of houses for identified veterans.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the health status of our Nation remains one of Government's top priorities. In this regard, we have built hospitals, health centres and clinics, especially in rural areas. Our people should stand together to confront and reverse the march of the deadly HIV/AIDS pandemic which is devastating our communities. The National Policy on HIV/AIDS which I launched recently should be used to add momentum to our efforts to fight the pandemic.

We are concerned about the child mortality rates which have shown an upward trend in recent years. This is compounded in part by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and inadequate nutrition in low-income households. This threat must be addressed with all the force and resources that we can muster. Indeed, it calls for the intensification of prevention programmes to stop the transmission of the virus from expectant mothers to their unborn babies. It also calls for the expansion of immunisation programmes to cover all children against childhood illnesses. Immunisation coverage currently stands at around 84% of all one-year old children in Namibia. We are on course to achieve the Millennium Development Goals target of 100% immunisation coverage by 2012. The health of Namibian mothers is paramount in the development of our country.

We must work harder to improve the health of Namibian mothers by increasing anti-retroviral treatment for those infected by HIV/AIDS. We should also increase the percentage of births attended by trained health personnel, which now stands at 80%. We are on track to meet the 95% Millennium Development Goals target by 2012.

The fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic has been intensified on many fronts, resulting in encouraging outcomes. As a result of the education campaign, the prevalence rate has dropped from 12 to 10% among

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

the 15 to 19 years age group and from 20 to 16% in the 20 to 24 years age group.

On our part, the Government will continue to provide anti-retroviral drugs to our infected citizens in all parts of our country. I call upon all stakeholders to work together in order to address this national challenge. Our programme of upgrading and renovating public health facilities is continuing. The construction of a new laundry at Oshakati Hospital was completed in June last year. Contractors are now busy with the construction of a new 40 beds private ward at that hospital. In addition, a tender for the construction of a TB ward, a new administration block and a 43 beds paediatric ward has been advertised.

I should also mention that a tender for the construction of the main kitchen and dining hall has been awarded to contractors. The Onandjokwe Lutheran Medical Hospital is also receiving attention. A tender for the upgrading and extension of the hospital is expected to be awarded soon. Planning for the construction of a 60-bed hospital at Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region is at an advanced stage.

In the Ohangwena Region, the construction of Eenhana Hospital Phase 2, which includes the construction of a 52-bed ward, was completed in October 2007. Phase 3, which includes extension of Regional Management Team Office Block, mortuary, dental unit, general and chemical stores, is currently underway. The Onambutu clinic was constructed and completed in June last year.

The construction of a new clinic and staff accommodation at Oshaango is in progress. At Ongha health centre, the construction of a new additional 8-bed ward and ablution facilities were completed in September last year. In addition, anti-retroviral therapy clinics are being constructed at Eenhana, Engela and Okongo Hospitals.

Our Government is determined to improve our health infrastructure throughout the country so that we can render quality health care to our people. In addition to the facilities I have referred to, we carried out upgrading, renovation and construction of health facilities in various parts

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

of our country. We carried out renovations and upgrading at our intermediate and National Referral Hospitals, namely Katutura, Windhoek Central, Oshakati and Rundu State Hospitals.

District hospitals at Khorixas and Outjo in the Kunene Region, Tsandi in the Omusati Region, Katima Mulilo in the Caprivi Region, Keetmanshoop in the Karas Region, Okakarara in the Otjozondjupa Region and Tsumeb in the Oshikoto Region were also renovated and upgraded.

We carried out renovations and upgrading at the following clinics: Bersig in the Kunene Region, Warmbad and Aus in the Karas Region, Ovitoto in the Otjozondjupa Region, Elombe and Okankolo Health Centres in the Oshikoto Region, Otjomuise in the Khomas Region, Ogongo and Iilyateko in the Omusati Region. Construction of mortuaries at Aminuis clinic and Okanguati Health Centre in the Omaheke and Kunene Regions, respectively, were also completed.

In addition, our Government opened anti-retroviral treatment clinics with the assistance of our social partners at the following places: Eenhana, Engela and Okongo in the Ohangwena Region, Katutura Health Centre in Khomas Region, Oshakati in the Oshana Region, Otjiwarongo in the Otjozondjupa Region and Kuisebmund in the Erongo Region.

With a view to improving the provision of health services, the Ministry has acquired 195 vehicles, including outreach service vehicles and 16 ambulances. Development partners and the private sector have provided support in terms of renovations of hospitals, provision of linen and other materials, as well as the provision of outreach service vehicles and ambulances.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services carried out a Health and Social Services System Review, looking at the successes and challenges in the Namibian public health sector since Independence. As a result, a Health Strategic Plan for the period 2009 to 2013 was developed. Accelerated training of health professionals remains a key priority in addressing the shortage of qualified health personnel in the country. A total number 381

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

students in health related fields of study completed the training at the Ministry's Health Training Centres at the end of last year.

Meanwhile, 23 Namibian medical doctors completed their degrees and are completing their internships at Katutura and Windhoek Central Hospitals. I am also pleased to report that the pre-medical course at UNAM is progressing well. In this regard, Namibia will soon be graduating its own medical doctors.

You will recall that prior to Namibia's Independence, churches played a vital role in catering for the health needs of our Nation. It is, therefore, important to formalise a cooperation agreement between our Government and our major churches.

I am pleased to report that the Partnership Agreement in Health between the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches was signed in October last year. In terms of the Agreement, our Government will give a 100% subsidy for salaries of health personnel and 85% for capital projects to church hospitals.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, **on housing.**

Housing is one of the top four priorities of our Government. The aim is to provide decent housing to our people. Hence, various programmes have been created. Following its restructuring and reorganisation during the past 3 years; the National Housing Enterprise acquired close to 6,000 plots throughout the country at a combined value of N\$12,9 million. Out of that number, 1,234 plots have been serviced at a cost of about N\$66 million.

An amount of N\$194,3 million was also spent to finance homes, home improvement and building loans. These investments are aimed at complementing the Build-Together Programme and Shack-Dwellers Projects. During the review period, the National Housing Enterprise has constructed 871 houses at an estimated cost of N\$150 million. It is also busy installing municipal infrastructure in different areas at a cost of N\$50 million. This will yield 836 fully serviced plots. Construction of low-cost

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

houses for San households at Okatuuo in the Omaheke Region has been completed and dwellings were handed over to the beneficiaries by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

Physical planning and surveying were completed in 2008/2009 at Divundu proper, Okalongo proper, Kalkrand, Aranos Extensions 4 and 5, Gochas and Bethanie. Koës, Aroab, Leonardville, Okalongo Extension 1 and Fransfontein will follow during the current Financial Year. We want to ensure that the bucket system becomes something of the past. Thus, work is already underway to modernise sewerage systems at places such as Gibeon, Rehoboth, Stampriet, Kalkrand, Aroab, Koës, Tses, Bethanie, Berseba and Kamanjab.

The provision of services, such as water, sewerage and roads, is also underway at Bukalo, Henties Bay, Rehoboth, Aussenkehr, Divundu, Katima Mulilo, Nkurenkuru, Otjinene, Otuzemba and Omuthiya gwipundi. The Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision implemented major projects to upgrade sewerage networks at Karibib, Ruacana and Rundu.

The proclamation of new Local Authorities is progressing well. Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region was proclaimed as a town in September last year. Otjinene is to be proclaimed as a town this year. Focus is also on the Caprivi Region where only one Local Authority exists. The planning and surveying of Oranjemund Township have been finalised and the Ministry envisages finalising the proclamation of the town this year. Divundu will also be proclaimed as a town soon.

In order to facilitate the smooth running of the Traditional Authority activities, Government decided to provide vehicles to all recognised Traditional Authorities. This is necessary in light of the pending implementation of Community Courts by Traditional Authorities and many other administrative activities that they carry out.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Rural Water Supply:

The Rural Water Supply Programme is continuing in order to supply clean and safe drinking water to rural communities. The construction of Phase 3 of the Onambutu Water Pipeline Network, covering 215 kilometres and 81 water points in the Ohangwena Region was completed in September 2008. Phase 4 of this project will cover a distance 207 kilometres and 94 water points. It will be completed in January next year. Phase 3 of the Tsandi South Project in the Otamanzi area, entails the construction of a 4.8 kilometre power line, a water pump stations, a 160 cubic metre reservoir, a 20 kilometre bulk water pipeline, a 110 kilometre rural water pipeline and 54 water points. It will be completed in June this year. In June last year, 189 community water points in the Otjozondjupa Region were transformed into 1,651 private customer water points.

Since the attainment of Independence, our SWAPO Party Government placed first priority on the education of our people. We believe that education is the answer to addressing poverty and to promoting a healthy Nation. It is for this reason that we regard education as a priority above priorities. We will continue to allocate more financial and human resources in education. We are on course to achieve the Millennium Development Goals target of 99% enrolment at primary school level by 2012. Namibia has already achieved 92% enrolment.

Our efforts to provide greater access by our girl children to education have yielded good results in terms of the ratios of girls to boys in primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary education institutions. All indications are that we have exceeded gender parity at tertiary education level.

Like in previous years, our Government placed special emphasis on the development and expansion of educational infrastructure by building more classrooms, new schools as well as on teacher training with a view to improving the quality of education. You will recall, Honourable Members that in 2007 a big number of Grade 10 learners did not meet the entry requirements for Grade 11. These learners were reabsorbed into the education and training system. About 4,600 were re-admitted to full-time

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Grade 10, while the remaining 9,000 opted to improve their grades with NAMCOL on those subjects which they performed poorly.

A number of measures were taken to ensure that NAMCOL learners are not disadvantaged. These included additional classroom hours of teaching as well as additional educational programmes on radio and television. I am pleased to inform you that as a result of these measures, NAMCOL learners performed much better than Grade 10 full-time learners.

The remaining grade 10 learners were absorbed by vocational training centres. I look forward to even better results for Grade 10 and Grade 12 learners in future, so that Namibia can have a proud and educated Nation under the SWAPO Party Government. Several schools were renovated; others were upgraded, while new ones were built during the reporting period.

Thirty schools were upgraded to offer the secondary education phase and new schools were built in the Khomas Region, two catering for primary and two for the secondary education phase to cope with the continued influx of people to the capital.

New classrooms, libraries, laboratories, administration blocks, teachers houses and hostels were built in Caprivi, Erongo, Hardap, Karas, Kavango, Khomas, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omaheke, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa Regions. In total, 467 classrooms, 18 libraries and laboratories, 28 administration blocks and 38 teachers houses were built.

The provision of quality education to all our children is at the heart of ETSIP. Our Government is fully committed to provide resources in order to accelerate its implementation. In fact, the proportion of Government funding to ETSIP will increase significantly as a result of the additional resources allocated in the current Budget.

A new Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate qualification and examination was also introduced to replace the IGCSE and HIGCSE qualifications and examinations of the Cambridge International

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBHA**

Examinations syndicate. The number of candidates increased from just under 36,000 in 2007 to more than 40,000. In Grade 10, more than 36,000 sat for examination in 2008.

Access to pre-primary education has direct bearing to the school-readiness and academic performance of children at school. Funding has been made available for that purpose and to help those children with special education needs. Good nutrition plays an important part in pupils' ability to learn and, thus, to benefit from their education.

Our Government is, therefore, increasing the coverage of the school feeding programme and improving the quality of the catering services. These changes will predominantly benefit poorer families, particularly those in rural areas.

The National Student Financial Assistance Fund is receiving extra money to enable it to extend access to tertiary education by our youth. In addition, funding has been provided to both the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia to enable them to provide better tuition to an increasing number of the country's youth. I am pleased to report that our tertiary education institutions are growing and expanding. The University of Namibia now has eight faculties and four academic centres. In addition to the main campus in Windhoek and four other campuses at Ogongo, Oshakati, Ongwediva and Neudamm, there is a Centre for External Studies with nine Outreach Centres in different towns. During the period under review, UNAM added one new Faculty as part of the University. The School of Engineering at Ongwediva will be inaugurated soon.

The total number of students enrolled at UNAM now stands at 10,140 this year. Likewise, the Polytechnic of Namibia is also growing steadily. Enrolment numbers now stand at 10,000 students.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, I now turn my attention to the main sectors of our economy.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Tourism:

Our Government fully supports the strengthening of the tourism sector. We, therefore, welcome the opening of new tourism facilities, such as the Sossus Dune Lodge and the International Tourism Access Facilities at the Mata-Mata and Sendelingsdrift border posts. Our Government will continue to support the good efforts of Namibia Wildlife Resorts. Through the upgrading and establishment of tourism facilities, a number of jobs have been created for Namibian citizens.

Honourable Members may recall that according to the Tourism Satellite Account research released by the World Travel and Tourism Council for the period 2009 to 2018, Namibia was projected to have the fastest growth in travel and tourism industry in the world. The tourism sector was projected to produce the second highest projected growth in terms of contribution to the GDP. It is clear, therefore, that prior to the world economic recession, tourism was one of the fastest and largest employers in our country.

It is now becoming evident that tourism is weakening as financially-strained tourists from North America, Europe and Asia find it expensive to travel abroad. From the end of last year, international tourist arrivals into SADC Region have slightly declined. Against this background our Government must continue to adopt measures aimed at mitigating the effects of tourism decline on employment and revenue generation. We will continue to put special emphasis on community-based tourism by assisting Conservancies to improve their infrastructure. In addition, Namibia Wildlife Resorts needs to be assisted in order to mitigate the impact of possible job losses. Moreover, measures must be put in place to ensure that tourism also benefits previously disadvantaged Namibians.

Fisheries:

The marine fisheries sector continues to make significant contribution to the national economy in terms of employment, export earnings and contributions to our Gross Domestic Product. Fourteen thousand people are employed in the sector on a permanent basis.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

During the period under review, the sector attracted both local and international investments, resulting in the opening of new fish processing facilities, such as the Pomona Factory at Lüderitz. Other welcome investments have been made in the modernisation of fish processing and value addition at Walvis Bay.

We welcome the growth in the aquaculture sub-sector where Government invested more than N\$62 million since 2003. Freshwater aquaculture now employs close to 700 people. Plans are underway to establish a fish feed plant at Onavivi at the cost of N\$6 million. The plant will use local raw materials, such as fish meal from our fishing industry and mahangu from the agricultural sector.

I am aware that the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the National Youth Service have joined hands to deploy members of the National Youth Service at aquaculture projects around the country to receive training in fish farming. They will use these skills to teach communities to practise integrated crop and fish farming techniques.

In October 2008, I inaugurated Phase 1 of the Kamutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute which was built at the cost of N\$28 million. It is designed as a Centre of Excellence for Namibia and the entire SADC Region. Phase 2 will continue during the current Financial Year. Our Government is continuing to implement practical measures to conserve our marine resources. In this light, the Total Allowable Catch is being allocated conservatively, taking into account the observed biomass and research statistics. This is part of our commitment to utilise our natural resources in a sustainable manner for the benefit of future generations.

Agriculture and Food Production:

The revised Green Scheme Policy was recently approved by Cabinet. It will form the basis for expanding crop production under irrigation. An amount of N\$55 million was allocated to the Scheme and utilised to construct infrastructure, such as irrigation systems and houses for small-scale farmers at Ndonga-Linena, Shadikongoro and Vungu-Vungu agricultural projects in Kavango Region.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

In addition, the Etunda Agricultural Project will be expanded by developing Phases 5, 6, 7 and 8. Agricultural projects will be expanded to other parts of the country, such as the Caprivi Region where rice-growing trials is being developed at Kalimbeza Rice Project. We encourage Public-Private Partnership projects to boost food production. I am happy to say that such projects are already operational at places such as the Musese and Shitemo Irrigation Schemes in the Kavango Region.

In the south, the Hardap Research station was converted to small-scale farmer's plots for commercial crop production. While good progress has been made, the implementation of the Green scheme Programme is hampered by a shortage of engineers and other experts. Plans are in place to address this shortage by approaching our development cooperation partners to provide technical assistance. Our Government has constructed silos in the grain producing Regions at the cost of N\$15 million. The aim is to encourage food production in communal areas. Two silos were constructed at Okongo, two at Omuthiya, two at Rundu and four at Katima Mulilo. The silos for Tsandi have been budgeted for in the current Financial Year.

Under the Programme to Support Dry-land Crop Production, our Government provided fertilisers, improved seeds and ploughing services to farmers at subsidised rates in the six crop-growing Regions of Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto. An amount of N\$25 million was spent to implement this programme.

Floods and abnormal rains hampered the effective implementation of the programme during the 2008/2009 cropping season. I call upon the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to ensure that information on these schemes reaches our people so that they can benefit from them.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, we must all strengthen measures to improve yields by our livestock farmers. The eastern Caprivi Region has experienced outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease since November 2007. The recent outbreak of the disease in the Kavango Region disrupted international marketing of livestock from the northern communal areas. Cabinet directed the Line Ministry to consult with local

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBHA**

Traditional Authorities and Councillors in the Mukwe and Ndiyona Constituencies to erect a temporary barrier in the area to restrict the movement of livestock to uninfected areas and to facilitate the vaccination and tagging of animals in the affected Constituencies.

Quarantine farms at Omutambo-WoMawe, Oshivelo, Ikongo, Mangetti, Kopano and Katima Mulilo have been upgraded through the project Animal Health Improvement and Marketing in the northern communal areas. The ultimate aim of this project is to achieve the foot-and-mouth disease free status for the northern communal areas. In addition, our Government has erected and maintains auction pens, thereby assisting communal farmers with the marketing of their livestock.

Last year our Government provided N\$100 million to enable AgriBank to reduce interest rates on a wide range of products so as to ensure and maintain affordability of these products by the farmers during the global economic crisis. Interest rates on the National Agricultural Credit Programme were reduced to 4%. In addition, AgriBank introduced the loan consolidation facility to provide further relief to farmers by consolidating existing loans into one facility at weighted interest rates over a period between 10 to 25 years.

Also introduced during 2008 was the Ekwatho Meatco scheme to assist farmers to increase marketing of weaners to the Meatco abattoirs. This will create more jobs and reduce the export of livestock on the hoof. Since the inception of the scheme in November 2008, AgriBank has granted nearly N\$15 million to Affirmative Action Loan Scheme farmers to raise weaners.

AgriBank also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement valued at N\$20 million annually to establish the Post Resettlement Support Fund. The Fund will be administered by the Bank to enable resettled farmers to access affordable financing in order to improve and maximise agricultural productivity. The loans will be offered to resettled farmers at affordable interest rates of 4% in order to stimulate productivity, enhance the living standards of the resettled farmers and promote economic development of our Nation.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the development, expansion and maintenance of our physical infrastructure is one of the cornerstones of our national development strategy. Many projects were carried out to expand, repair and maintain our roads, bridges, electricity networks, communication lines and other vital infrastructure. This is important for a number of reasons.

Firstly, we must continue to invest in our infrastructure in order to achieve our strategic development goals and secondly, we must act quickly to repair the damage caused by flood waters in the Northern and North-Eastern Namibia. An amount of more than N\$720 million was invested in road maintenance programmes during the period under review. This includes the resealing of paved roads, routine maintenance, special maintenance of bridges, maintenance of road reserves and road signs, re-gravelling re-compaction and blading of gravel roads.

On 14 October 2008, Cabinet approved an amount of N\$45 million from the Contingency Fund to repair the road infrastructure damaged by floods in the Northern and North-Eastern Regions of the country. The roads in question include the road between Okalongo and Outapi, the Onheleiwa road, the road from MR111 to Onaanda, the road between Ondangwa and Onakamwandi and the road between Ondangwa and Ohalushu.

Other roads and bridges under the flood repair programme are the Uukwiyu-Omukandu road; Oshakati-Ompundja road; Oshakati-Endola road; Ogongo-Olusiidhi road and the Ongwediva bridge. Due to the exceptionally high floods this year, most of these roads have again been washed away. The Regional Roads Master Plans for Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena and Kavango were revised. The feasibility study for the improvement of the Otavi-Tsumeb road was completed in September last year.

The Government is studying the possibility of tarring the Swakopmund-Henties Bay-Kamanjab road. The tarring of the road between Kamanjab and Omakange, covering a distance of 104 kilometres, was completed last year at a cost of N\$165 million.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

Also, the rehabilitation of the road between Okahandja and Karibib to the tune of N\$290 million, which started in February year, is progressing well. The tarring of the road between Rosh Pinah and the Sendelingsdrift turn-off commenced in January last year and is expected to be completed in May this year. Work has also started on Phase 1 of the tarring of the road between Tsumeb and Katwitwi at the border with Angola at the cost of N\$810 million.

Other projects include: Gobabis to Otjinene road via Drimiopsis, at a cost of N\$600 million; the widening of the Divundu Bridge at the cost of N\$40 million; Omakange to Okahao road at a cost of N\$345 million; Oshikuku to Okalongo road and the Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu road. This one will benefit both Kavango and Ohangwena Regions.

Many labour-based road construction projects have been completed, while others are continuing in different parts of the country. These include the following roads: Ngoma to Muyako; Kongola to the Zambian border, Katima Mulilo to Kopana Quarantine facility; and Ngoma to Nakubulwa.

A feasibility study will be conducted to construct a bridge connecting Impalila Island to Zambia and Botswana as part of the Kazungula Bridge. This bridge will be built by Zambia, Botswana and Namibia. Other labour-based construction projects include: Ompundja to Eheke gravel road; Ekamba to Onkani road; Tondoro to Kamupupu road; Rupara-Muveve-Gcangcu road; Liselo-Linyanti-Singalamwe bitumen road; the road to Mangetti West Quarantine Camp and Epukiro-Eiseb-Gam road.

Energy and Power:

The provision of reliable energy is crucial for our economy. It is for this reason that our Government is pursuing different options to secure a reliable supply of electricity for the country. More than N\$350 million has been invested in electrifying rural communities in all Regions of the country since the programme started.

The hydro-power option is also of strategic importance for the country. The Namibia/Angola Permanent Joint Technical Commission has

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

appointed the Cunene Consortium to conduct an updated Techno-Economic study of the Baynes Hydropower Option. It submitted a Draft Phase 1 Report in January this year.

Our Government has engaged NamPower to investigate the possibility of developing a small-scale hydropower plant along the Orange River. Work has started on the construction of the Caprivi Link from Katima Mulilo to Otjiwarongo. The line will connect Namibia's power grid to Zambia and Zimbabwe, making it possible for a more direct trade in electricity.

In order to boost capacity, NamPower is adding a fourth unit at the Ruacana Hydropower Plant. It will add 80 megawatts more to the existing capacity of 249 megawatts.

Security, Law and Order:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, it is an established fact that democracy and economic development can only be sustained through the security of the Nation. Therefore, security is a prerequisite for economic growth, peace and stability. Lack of security discourages investors from investing in societies where economic returns are uncertain. Namibia is not immune from the spill-overs from conflicts elsewhere in the world.

Against this background, we have provided funding to enhance the effectiveness of our uniformed forces as part of our obligation to contribute to international peace, security and stability. It is for this reason that defence spending has been increased to meet our national and international obligations. Our uniformed personnel need modern equipment in order to carry out their duties effectively. I commend our men and women in uniform for making Namibia proud in peacekeeping operations abroad as well as the maintenance of law and order here at home.

As I have already pointed out, a strong criminal justice system is a critical factor in a democratic State based on the rule of law and democracy. In this regard, specific steps were taken to address the backlog of cases on

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

our court roll, including the recruitment of additional Magistrates and the creation of additional posts for Judges.

The reporting period also saw the completion of the High Court building at Oshakati, the completion of a new court building at Khorixas and the commencement of the construction of a new court building at Tsumkwe. The Ministry of Justice has rolled out the Namibian Court Information System to Magistrate's Offices in Windhoek, Swakopmund, Usakos, Karibib, Omaruru and Walvis Bay. It will soon be rolled out to other Magistrate's Courts countrywide.

Namibia has acceded to and ratified multilateral international instruments, such as the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocols; the UN, AU and SADC Conventions and Protocols against Corruption, SADC Protocol on Extradition; and most recently the United Nations Convention against the Illicit Trafficking in Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

We have done this to join hands with other countries in combating transnational organised crime. Furthermore, Namibia has entered into bilateral extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties with many countries to enhance effective administration of justice.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, we are committed to combat crime and to ensure that our citizens live in safety. That is why a fully-fledged Ministry of Safety and Security was established. During 2008/2009 Financial Year, our Government allocated an amount of N\$135 million to the police to address the problem of transport. To date, 705 vehicles have been acquired.

These vehicles were distributed to Police Stations around the country and various specialised units of the Police Force. Our Government has also established an Air Wing within the Namibian Police Force. It currently operates with one helicopter. I just want to remind the Honourable Members that Windhoek was not built in a day. It currently operates with one helicopter. In addition to fighting crime, the helicopter has been used to assist with the rescue of flood victims.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

As Honourable Members are aware, this year we will hold Presidential and National Assembly elections. The Electoral Commission of Namibia is making progress in preparing for these elections. The Commission has also initiated a comprehensive review of the Electoral Act of 1992, resulting in the drafting of the Electoral Amendment Bill. The draft Bill will be submitted to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development to take the process further.

I do hope that the Honourable Members will expedite the passing of this Bill in time for enactment into law before the forthcoming national elections. No stone should be left unturned to ensure that all persons who could not be registered during the continuous voter's registration exercise are registered during a comprehensive nationwide supplementary registration of voters in September this year. I also urge all citizens who did not find time to register and those who will turn 18 years by or before September to register.

After the achievement of Independence, our SWAPO Party Government started with the process of nationbuilding to mould a new society based on the pillars of democratic governance and respect for human rights as enshrined in the Namibian Constitution. We are proud that our people have internalised these democratic values that have enabled our country to remain stable both socially and economically.

As this is an election year, I call upon all Namibians to ensure that all our laws are respected. We should ensure that election campaigns and other political activities are conducted in a peaceful atmosphere. Political support should only be gained through the power of persuasion. Provocative acts which could incite violence should be avoided at all cost. Our common aims should be the holding of credible, peaceful, free and fair elections. I, therefore, call upon all our people to join hands and work together to build a better society, a country where citizens preoccupy themselves with constructive and productive endeavours aimed at Nation-building and enhancing the policy of National Reconciliation. These are the ideals that our heroes and heroines fought and died for. They must be ideals that we as Namibians should promote and live for.

15 April 2009

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Honourable Speaker Honourable Chairperson, through this statement I have reported on many of the practical steps taken by our Government to spread the benefits of social and economic development to all corners of the Republic. I believe that it is possible to mobilise all our citizens, men, women, workers, peasants, urban dwellers, boys and girls to contribute in their unique ways to the development of their Motherland. As a Nation we take pride in advocating the motto of One Namibia, One Nation. We take pride in advocating the principle of national reconciliation. We take pride in promoting peace, security, stability and tolerance in our country. We must vehemently reject tribalism, regionalism, ethnicity, racism, sexism and nepotism with the contempt they deserve.

Let us all embrace what is good and noble. Let us all embrace the patriotic spirit of our forefathers and other heroes and heroines, to guide us towards the future as we strive to make Namibia a better place for all and to reach our chosen destination – the destination of economic prosperity, the destination of poverty eradication, the destination of education for all, the destination of health for all, the destination of infrastructure development, the attainment of Vision 2030. We must always remember that the journey to our final destination was made possible by our heroes and heroines. Their blood waters our freedom.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, we start the new Financial Year with renewed commitment to the achievement of our national priorities. The Honourable Members of this august House have been scrutinising and debating the 2009/2010 Appropriation Bill for the past few weeks. I am pleased that overall the Bill has received the support of the majority of the Honourable Members.

I am also pleased that, where warranted, genuine criticisms have been raised with the view to improve. The Appropriation Bill is a planning tool for the execution of Government plans over a specific period. While I have highlighted some of the major intended plans of our Government in the new Financial Year and beyond, the Appropriation Bill provides full details of Government expenditure in the next twelve months.

15 April 2009

**QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT
HON CHILINDA**

As we look back at the period under review, we are encouraged by the successes that have been recorded. At the same time, we are reminded of the improvements that we must make in order to serve more people, reach more communities and improve the living conditions of those Namibians who live in difficult conditions. The lessons of the past have encouraged us to plan better and work smarter. We are confident that we will do better, achieve more and improve the performance of the Public Service in the new Financial Year and in the future. Namibia must always be a winning Nation. Namibia must continue to walk tall among the community of free Nations. Namibia must be a country of equal opportunities to every citizen. Namibia must be a country of hope and pride for the current and future generations.

Long live the Republic of Namibia!

HON SPEAKER: While you are having the deserved drink of water, Your Excellency, may I thank you for this comprehensive speech on the State of the Nation, an encouraging topical report on the work of the Government.

Honourable Members, as the tradition has it, the Floor is now open for a two-way engagement and feedback with His Excellency the President. Honourable Chilinda on behalf of CoD.

HON CHILINDA: Your Excellency, President of our Republic, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I rise to commend the President on his State of the Nation Address. I believe, as your loyal Opposition, we share in the joy of achievements made during Your Excellency's tenure to improve the lot of our people and their well-being.

Having said that, Your Excellency, allow me to raise just a few questions in brief.

15 April 2009

**QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT
HON CHILINDA**

Firstly, the Nation has responded positively to the fight against graft and corruption. However, I continue to hear concerns about what appears to be abuse of Government transport on the side of Members and some Members of the Executive. I refer Your Excellency to a grey area about whether the Government transport and S&T acquired can be used for meetings and functions which are clearly of Political Party nature.

Secondly, our country has this year again experienced severe floods mainly in the northern central Regions, Kavango and Caprivi. Let me again commend Government for its timely response. However, we are concerned about many learners, including those in Grade 10 and 12, who have lost valuable school time. My question, therefore, Your Excellency is, what plans, if any, does your Government have in place to ensure that these learners catch up with the lost time?

Your Excellency, it is common cause that there is a global economic downturn. The Ministry of Finance has just tabled the Budget estimates for the next Financial Year which we are now busy debating. At the same time, Your Excellency has commissioned a Report under the able leadership of the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry. When and how are we expected to benefit from the recommendations arising from this report?

The last one, Your Excellency: After your excellent State of the Nation Address some years ago, my predecessor in Parliament, Honourable Ben Ulenga, as leader of the Official Opposition, enquired as to when the many reports of the commissions of enquiry would be made public. Your Excellency then pleaded at that time that you needed more time, because it was your early days in office. Is it now possible, Your Excellency, to ask the same question now, whether and when we should expect these reports to be made public to your Nation?

Your Excellency, allow me to rest my questions and give space to others. I thank you.

15 April 2009

**QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT
HON MUDGE / HON KAURA**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Leader of CoD. Honourable Mudge of the Republican Party.

HON MUDGE: Your Excellency, I said this morning I will not ask a question, but I have decided to use this opportunity to speak without the unruly interruptions by your Ruling Party Members. I have two questions. (Interjections). It seems to me your members are very easily provoked.

It is common knowledge that the majority of State-Owned Enterprises are under-performing. It is also common knowledge that most, if not all, are experiencing these problems because of incapable persons in charge of these enterprises. This problem does not only exist and lie with the State-Owned Enterprises, but also within a great number of your Ministries. It seems as if no mechanism exists whereby these incapable persons and/or boards of directors can be replaced by capable and efficient ones. Even more worrying is the fact that it seems as if the most incapable ones are also the most untouchable ones.

Secondly, the perception exists that nobody other than the Ruling Party supporters can be entrusted with jobs in the Government. There are often the publicly expressed excuses that non-Ruling Party Members will sabotage the Government. Can you tell the Nation what the Government's policy is on these two issues and if the abovementioned is not in line with your policy, what can and should then be done about it, Your Excellency? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Mudge. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to say to His Excellency that the State of the Nation Address he delivered today was A-plus. I was also delighted when he mentioned that this is election year, for Presidential and Parliamentary elections and I want to assure

15 April 2009

**QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT
HON RIRUAKO**

His Excellency that I would be delivering the State of the Nation Address next year. (Laughter).

Your Excellency, just a few questions: What is our country's role in trying to influence the rich countries to pay up for their responsibility of releasing gas emissions that threaten the environment and human existence because of global warming?

Your Excellency, our great Nation is targeting agriculture as an area that can stimulate growth, but when, in your opinion, would our Nation become food self-sufficient and what concrete steps are being taken to attain that goal?

Cognisant of the floods that devastated our Northern and North-Eastern areas over the last two years, what measures is the Government contemplating to cushion the disaster in the future, because it appears as if these floods would continue to happen because of global warming?

Your Excellency, aware of the declaration you made of the North-Eastern areas as disaster stricken areas, what measures are in place to feed the residents of those areas, given what we have picked up in the newspapers and news media, that some of our people were eating rotten fish because there was not enough food? Is the provision of food not sufficient or what is the problem? Those are the few questions I have for you, Your Excellency. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Kaura for his questions. Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: I listened very carefully, Your Excellency, and what you said must be implemented in our Constitution and nobody must deviate from those principles.

This august House passed a Motion on Genocide in 2005, but up to now the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not come back to us yet. In this House

15 April 2009

**QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT
HON RIRUAKO**

we do not know what happens at Foreign Affairs, the Minister is always on the road and we do not get feedback and it has become a habit.

Your Excellency, we are tolerant but not beyond measure. I am saying so because the National Planning Commission, via the German Special Initiative, is now donating cattle and goats and goes with their fact finding Committee on the German war, but they do not communicate with us and the Government does not communicate with us. The 200 million did not come from Heaven, we worked for it. It did not drop from Heaven. Somebody has taken care of that in order to achieve, they are there. His Excellency knows what I mean by that. It was not just something from nowhere, it was a job well done and you were next to me at Hamakari and after that, somebody, somewhere mentioned that she has to be forgiven and out of that she dropped 160 million and beyond that, 50 million was attached to it and now this initiative works by itself and do things in this country without any permission. Does the Government know about this?

This House has not yet been informed about the status or progress on the implementation of our Motions. We are together and we do not want to be alone and as such, we do not want to be left alone without knowing what is going on. This question must be answered.

Your Excellency, we know what is good and what is bad and we are humble and we want this country to be taken to the hill and to be known as a great country, but with those kinds of notions everything must be done according to that line. (Interjections) I did not say “*nonsense*”, I said “*notions*”.

Your Excellency, you mentioned tourism and we support you, but we do not want our visitors to be killed every now and then. That is unfair. Our visitors from other countries join us here, but our name is too fragile to be touched and we keep ourselves to certain principles and order, but we do not want to be interrupted by certain people who get themselves together in order to do damage to our Nation as a whole. I thank the Police for the way they acted and give them credit, but they must be given permission in order to take care of what they are supposed to take care of.

15 April 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

With these few words I am going to sit down and expect Your Excellency to answer those questions. However, I heard the Honourable Member of the CoD talking about Parastatals and a member of the DTA talking about the Parastatals. Those people who are in those departments are not only members of the Ruling Party, some of them are coming from somewhere and they have run away with millions and millions of our money and I am sorry, the whip cannot only come from this side to the other side. There are two sides and that is the way it is. I do not agree with what they did, but those gentlemen ran away from this country with our money. If we are honest we are supposed to say what happened and how it happened. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Those are the questions addressed to you, Your Excellency. We still remain a lively and exciting House like in your days here. You have the Floor.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. Through you, I want to thank the Honourable Members of the Opposition Parties in our Parliament who have posed questions and I would like to respond to some of them, perhaps not all, as follows:

The Honourable Chilinda has spoken about the abuse of Government vehicles by those who are entrusted to use them and he even said the Executive members use the vehicles for political activities. First, I do not subscribe to misuse of Government properties and citizens have the right to report those who are misusing Government properties, including the vehicles. Honourable Chilinda has made a general statement and it is very difficult for one to follow up on a general statement. I would have liked him to give me more information, but there is still time, he can forward specific information to my office so that I investigate those who are misusing Government vehicles.

15 April 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

With the Executive I want to believe you are referring to the Ministers. The Ministers are authorised to use Government vehicles, but they are not allowed to misuse them, as you are putting it. They may use them for Government activities and they can also use them for their own activities to a certain extent. They are allowed to do so as Ministers and Deputy Ministers. This is what I can say on the question of using Government vehicles by those who are said to be misusing them. Please give me the list of those people and I will follow up.

It is true that the floods have affected the schools and the children could not attend classes. Normally the Ministry of Education could advise how these abnormal cases can be attended to, but always remember, nobody has knowledge of when these natural disasters will occur. You can also be of assistance as a citizen and leader of this country. We can also benefit from you, because we are talking about our children, including your children. I also wish to get your views as to what you think should be done in this regard.

The Committee headed by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry has not yet submitted their Report to the Cabinet and I do not know exactly what is contained in it, but the Committee is there to do the best for the Nation and I think they will make good recommendations and the Government, including other stakeholders, would have to find ways to implement.

Yes, Honourable Mudge talked about the incompetence of those who are running the State-Owned Enterprises. Again here you have not indicated which ones, but I recall that you came to me, pointing out one of the agencies and I have called you in to tell you what that agency is talking about and I hope after having looked into what I have told you, you will be able to come back to me, as we agreed this morning, to further get into the details of this particular State-Owned Enterprise.

You spoke about the interruptions by the Honourable Members of the Ruling Party, but please, I cannot answer to things that I have not seen. I have not seen any interruption and it will be difficult for me to comment on things that I have not seen.

15 April 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Honourable Kaura, I said in my statement that the electorate should be brought about by persuasion. If DTA has grown some wings to expand its activities to persuade the electorate, you might, perhaps not next elections, but you might one day come to this stand to do that. However, I think you need other people to assist you in persuading the electorate.

Then you asked about Namibia's role when it comes to global warming. Yes, we attend these meetings, we do make our contribution, but then when you make a contribution, you are not sure whether those who have the big industries which cause the emissions into the atmosphere will understand you. However, all that I can tell you is that we will continue voicing our proposals on the situation.

Global warming is real. The other time when I went to Swakopmund, I found that the sea level has risen, covering certain areas where the people used to have picnics. When I was growing up in the areas affected by the floods, I have never seen such big waters. I think there is something wrong somewhere. Whether you call it global warming or whatever name, something is happening, the signs are clear. However, we will work together with the international community to see what could possibly be applied to reduce emissions.

Sometimes when you talk and say aeroplanes are the ones causing emissions and if I ask Honourable Kaura to go by donkey to Johannesburg, he would protest. You would wish to go by plane, but perhaps the planes are the ones causing these emissions. This one is a problem facing the whole world, including ourselves and we will make our contribution to this.

All of us need to work towards food sufficiency. The other day I passed an establishment at Outjo and I failed to see the efforts to cultivate. Food is not only meat; we should have integrated agricultural activities to produce food. As I have said, the Government has re-visited the policy on the Green Scheme and we have made extensive Amendments to the policy. As of now I think our Minister of Agriculture is doing all he can in especially the Kavango Region to ensure that they produce food, especially in the areas with rivers. He is also working hard and as I said in

15 April 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

my statement Etunda in the Omusati Region will be expanded. We want to add Phase 6, 7, 8 and 9. There is a programme to intensify the Green Scheme activities under the amended policy and wherever possible, every Namibian should be a food producer. We should not only produce meat and milk, we should also produce maize and rice. I have also told you in my statement that we are working hard to produce rice in this country. In the Caprivi Region there is an area called Kalimbeza and we have already produced seven to eight tons of rice on four hectares that were cultivated last year. Therefore, we are making progress with food production. However, I particularly want the Members of Parliament to take the lead in their personal capacities in their Constituencies. Let us do it together.

I have not heard about the flood victims eating rotten fish. What I heard is that somebody apparently dumped fish, but it was not rotten. Maybe it became rotten later on, but it was not rotten. I have yet to get the information from the administrators, whether we have rotten fish and other kinds of food being given to the victims of the flood.

I really want to thank the business community in this country and Namibian individuals and cooperation partners for having responded positively to our requests. We have been receiving assistance from neighbouring countries, such as Botswana, we have been receiving assistance from Namibian companies and I want to express my thanks on behalf of the Government for their contributions. The Deputy Prime Minister is the person receiving this assistance and I think at the end, when all is over, Government will be able to report on who has contributed, etcetera.

Again, for the information of the Nation, the water in the northern areas is now subsiding, but in the Caprivi we still have a very big problem and our colleagues who have been given the responsibility to work together with the Regional Government, are doing everything possible to assist our people there.

Honourable Riruako spoke about feedback on the genocide. As a Government we have conveyed our Parliament's decision to the German Authorities, but we have not yet received a response from them. Yes,

15 April 2009

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

when it comes to the place where you and I were, in fact where I was listening to you at Hamakari, when the German Minister apologised, something came out of the German Initiative and I think it has started working. It is not compensation, I am talking about the initiative by the Germans. I think something has started coming out and we have those who are doing the implementation thereof. Our Director of the National Planning Commission is very much involved in the implementation of the Initiative, but we are not talking about compensation.

I really agree with you that nobody wants anybody to be killed in this country, be it a visitor, be it a citizen. You are concentrating more on the visitors, but the policy of the Government is that we do not want to see loss of life in this country and the Police are very active in working to ensure that our citizens, including tourists to our country, are safe. The Police are dealing with those who are killing others.

When I was in Swakopmund recently, the Erongo Police Authority informed me that those who killed near Omaruru have been arrested. It is here that we as lawmakers should also publicly express our appreciation for a job well done by the Police in this Chamber.

This is all that I have been able to note and respond to. Honourable Speaker, once again I thank my fellow leaders, Members of Parliament, particularly those leaders in the Opposition Parties for putting these questions. May I suggest that you do not wait until the President comes to the Parliament, please take the initiative to come and see me at my place. I do not know whether you are scared of me or what, you only do it when I ask you to please come. You have the right to come and see me and then we will discuss some of these issues. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: As we are about to conclude and before I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House, may I once again reiterate our collective trust and confidence in your reassuring leadership, Comrade President of our Nation. We wish you the very best in managing our Nation's daunting tasks and for your compassionate focus on our

15 April 2009

ADJOURNMENT

people's hopes for a prosperous and happy future. Once again, thank you very much. I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I thank His Excellency for spending this afternoon with us, I think we have learned a lot and we benefited from his presence here. We wish that he could turn up any other time just to spend some time with us, but for now, let me move that we adjourn now until tomorrow, 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: I call on the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the presidential procession out of the House. I will ask the Honourable Members and guests to remain standing.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:10 UNTIL 2009.04.16 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
16 APRIL 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? Deputy Prime Minister.

**TABLING: SAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
REPORT 2005/2009**

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I lay upon the Table, the San Development Programme Report, 2005/2009 of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Deputy Prime Minister table the Report? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Boos.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

16 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
RT HON N ANGULA**

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 1, 2, 4 and 30 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND AMENDMENT
BILL: RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading - *Namibia Constitution Second Amendment Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 07 April 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Prime Minister, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Prime Minister adjourned the Debate for his reply this afternoon.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the august Assembly. I sincerely thank all those of you who took part in the Debate on the Second reading of the Second Amendment to the Namibian Constitution. Broadly speaking, the proposed technical Amendments received wide support within this august House and in the general public.

16 April 2009

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: SECOND READING
RT HON N ANGULA**

Two Amendments drew attention of a number of Honourable Members, namely citizenship through marriage and the power of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Acquiring Namibian citizenship is an option available to any person married to a Namibian citizen. However, Namibian residence can also be acquired through a permanent residence permit or a work permit. There are different requirements to acquire such permits. Some Honourable Members complained about the speed, or lack of it, of getting such permits. My understanding is that the Immigration Selection Board has been revitalised. I trust the revitalisation process shall also result in the establishment of a Public Relations Office where the public can register complaints, if any.

The powers of the Anti-Corruption Commission seems to be widely or vaguely defined in Article 94 A, Clause 3. To remove the doubts on what is intended in that Clause, the House might wish to consider to give precise definition along the lines of Article 89, Clauses (2) and (3) of the Constitution. I, therefore, beg the Acting Attorney-General to advise on this matter.

A number of Honourable Members raised the issues which require attention and the Amendments of the Constitution. Perhaps the suggestion to establish a Constitutional Review Commission might be the right answer to some of the passionate arguments advanced in this august House. As you may recall, the Constitution was drawn up by the Constituent Assembly on the mandate of the electorate. We are graced by the presence in this Assembly of the Chairperson of the Constitution Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, the Venerable Dr Hage G. Geingob. He might give this Assembly sensible advice on this matter.

Ladies and gentlemen, I value your support on the proposed Amendments to the Namibian Constitution. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his reply. I now Put the Question that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any

16 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE

objections? Agreed to. The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

SECRETARY: *Namibian Constitution Second Amendment Bill.*

APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE

SECRETARY: Committee Stage – *Appropriation Bill.*

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

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

HON SPEAKER: Objection? Secondment? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill.*

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA**

Vote 01 – “PRESIDENT” – N\$356,280,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole house Committee, I rise to motivate Vote 01, Office of the President.

Yesterday, the President of the Republic of Namibia delivered in this Chamber the State of the Nation Address. This is an important duty enshrined in the Namibian Constitution. The Honourable Members of this august House will also recall that the President was in this Chamber on Tuesday, the 17th of February this year, opening the 9th Session of the Fourth Parliament. Our democracy is indeed functional and vibrant. The Namibian Nation should, therefore, be proud of its governance structures.

Our Nation celebrated 19 years of tranquillity, peace and progress a few weeks ago in all corners of our country. Honourable Members will recall the statements by His Excellency the President in this House when he opened the current session as well as those he made during the Independence celebrations a few weeks ago. Hard work, tolerance, peace, civic duty, honouring our heroes and heroines, were the key words in those statements. We must, therefore, not relent as lawmakers and politicians to heed the call to promote the well-being of all our people.

Since the tabling of the National Budget by our Minister of Finance, Comrade Nandjila Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila a few weeks ago, Members of this august House have been exercising their democratic rights as representatives of the Namibian people to Debate and discuss the Appropriation Bill. The Debate during the past weeks has centred on a wide range of issues in keeping with the spirit of the Second Reading stage of the Appropriation Bill.

We have now reached the Committee Stage where we are required to discuss specific projects of different Votes to establish how the scarce public resources have been allocated to different Offices, Ministries and

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA

Agencies. Today, I am standing before you to present to this august House my motivation for the funds allocated to the Vote of the Office of the President for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. Honourable Chairperson, I have a dilemma, the President has spoken. The Ministry of Finance tabled a number of volumes in this august Chamber detailing the Budget. A few weeks ago, I laid on the table the 2007/2008 Annual Report of the Office of the President. What more can I say about the activities of the Office?

However, for the sake of the Record, allow me to say a few words. In order to carry out such responsibilities within the letter and spirit of the Namibian Constitution, the Office of the President requires a reasonably funded and well-equipped support infrastructure.

Article 27(1) of the Namibian Constitution states that the President is the Head of State and of the Government and is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force. The most critical functions of the President are contained in Article 32 of the Namibian Constitution. The President is also entrusted with numerous functions under a number of Acts of Parliament. In this regard, Parliament from time to time through legislation assigns functions to the President. In addition, the common law as well as customary law imposes certain functions on the President. These responsibilities place additional demands on the calendar of the President and their implementation require both human and financial resources.

At the international level, the President has continued to promote a positive image and esteem of our country. Namibia enjoys respect and prestige globally and our citizens are able to walk tall among the free Nations of the world. In this regard, many sons and daughters of Namibia are being called upon, from time to time, to assist in the resolution of conflicts and in promoting world peace and stability in many parts of the world. Their involvement has been sought within the framework of the United Nations, the African Union, SADC and more recently, by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, where our own Speaker, the son of the soil, Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab has been elected as President. Once again, I congratulate him.

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA**

As was the case in the past, the President made time available to interact with various stakeholders around the country as well as foreign visitors. He invited important economic actors and policy-makers from the Government, private sector, organised labour and the youth to State House in order to engage them and solicit their views regarding the performance of our economy and other challenges that we face. The President also engaged our citizens, from the business community to political leaders, from church leaders to traditional leaders, and from Regional and Local Authority Councillors to individual citizens on many issues of national interest.

During the missions undertaken outside the country at the bilateral level, the President's main objective was to promote the economic interests of our country. He used such opportunities to attract investments to our country. With that background, I am happy to outline some of the specific activities that the President will be involved in as part of his day-to-day functions and duties during the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Like previous Financial Years, the current Financial Year will be a busy year for the President, mainly domestically but also internationally. This involves constant engagements with communities from all backgrounds; interact with our citizens in different Regions as a result of the ongoing natural calamities in the north and north-east, and the economic crisis in general. He will continue to familiarise himself with the prevailing socio-economic conditions in our country.

In addition, the President has standing invitations to a number of countries around the world. These visits will enable Namibia to, once again, cement good diplomatic relations with such countries and provide an opportunity to promote trade relations between our business community and their counterparts in such countries. Additionally, the President will host a number of Official and State Visits to Namibia by Heads of State and Government of other countries. As a member of the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, Commonwealth, African Union and SADC, the President is expected to attend some of the Summits of these organisations.

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA

Honourable Chairperson, I now turn to discussing specific programmes. There are five main programmes covered under Vote 01. The programme under 01 involves the **protection and defence of the Namibian Constitution**. This includes measures to:

- Uphold, protect and defend the Namibian Constitution;
- Ensure that the organs of State deliver on Government's overall objectives; and
- Ensure that threats to Namibia's national security, territorial integrity, political stability, military threats and economic sabotage are checked.

Therefore, the aim of this programme is to comply with Chapter 5 of the Namibian Constitution which deals with the President and other relevant provisions of the Constitution as well as to maintain peace, stability and good governance. The activities involved under this programme include hosting of ceremonial functions, official opening of statutory bodies, receiving and commissioning of Ambassadors and High Commissioners, undertaking of State and Official Visits to other countries in order to promote bilateral relations, commercial trade and investment, as well as to sign treaties, agreements and conventions with other countries or international organisations.

The programme will also enable the President to carry out functions vested in him and the Cabinet. It is aimed at strengthening and consolidating diplomatic relations with the international community, improve governance, enhance democracy and attract foreign investors to Namibia.

Honourable Chairperson, the Office Block of the New State House complex was inaugurated on the 21st of March last year. However, construction of the residence is still continuing. We look forward to the completion of this project before the end of this year. Furniture and other equipment have to be purchased for the residence. It should be pointed out that

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA**

within this programme an amount of N\$105,298,000 is provided for in the new Budget for development. This figure covers activities such as landscaping, furniture and equipment and purchase of land.

Honourable Chairperson, a total amount of N\$147,478,000 is requested under the programme.

Delivery of Services: As pointed out earlier, the President is the Chairperson of the Cabinet as well as the Cabinet Committee on Overall Policy and Priorities. In his capacity as Chairperson, the President ensures that the Executive Branch of Government acts in the national interest. Therefore, the President directs, monitors and evaluates the activities of Offices, Ministries and Agencies in the implementation of Government policies, promotion and maintenance of conducive environment for commercial trade and contribution to the promotion of international peace and security.

The activities of the programme will include assisting the President with executive policy matters through research, policy analysis, speech-writing and technical briefs in collaboration with various Offices, Ministries and Agencies. The overall objective of this programme is to improve public service delivery, regular review of policies and promotion of national unity and harmony in our country.

Honourable Chairperson, a total amount of N\$14,494,000 is requested under this programme.

Intelligence: As the Honourable Members are aware, our intelligence agency carries out its functions in terms of the Namibia Central Intelligence Service Act, 1997 (Act 10 of 1997). The main function of the Service is to contribute to the defence of the territorial integrity and Independence of Namibia. To this end, effective gathering of intelligence is vital in order to thwart threats to Namibia's constitutional and democratic order.

It is important to point out that the Service shares the accumulated

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA**

intelligence with law enforcement agencies in order to prevent and combat criminal activities. In broader terms, the Service contributes to the enjoyment of life by the Namibian people in a safe and secure environment, where they can pursue their activities without the threat of violence and crime. Namibia is part of the globalised world, therefore, events which affect peace and stability in one corner of the globe can easily have a spill-over effect in our country. I have in mind the threat of terrorist activities. It is for this reason that we need to render financial and material support to our intelligence. Allow me, therefore, to thank my senior Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Finance for her understanding in this regard

Honourable Members will agree with me that the nature of the work of this institution does not allow me to elaborate further. To do so will not be consistent with customary practice in any democratic State. I have always maintained that the security of our Nation is not negotiable. I still stand by this principle. Under this programme an amount of N\$152,560,000 is requested.

Office of the Founding President: The main purpose of this programme is to ensure that the Office of the Founding President is properly maintained and that efficient services are provided to the Founding President.

As Honourable Members are aware, the Founding President performs ceremonial functions as per invitation from the public and the private sector. He also attends official functions inside and outside Namibia. The Founding President carries out functions provided for under the Former Presidents' Pension and other Benefits Act, 2004 (Act 18 of 2004).

Honourable Chairperson, much has been written and said about the construction of the Office of the Founding President. Allow me to state in no uncertain terms, that in keeping with our democratic culture, our SWAPO Party Government will continue to address the welfare of our former Presidents, including our Founding President. We must nourish our democratic institutions so that our democracy can be durable. Namibia

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA**

should never be like many developing countries where the home of a living former Head of State is either Europe or North America, in most cases living on resources looted from the masses during the time when such former Head of State was in office prior to his forced removal.

Against this background, allow me to appreciate the new culture in some SADC countries, including Namibia, where a former Head of State is well protected and respected. These generations of our leaders gave much for their countries and the welfare of their people. This new culture promotes peace, stability and security of the Nation. Those who think that promoting peace, stability and security is expensive by according due recognition to our Founding President can try chaos and anarchy, but please not here in Namibia.

On our part, we will continue to live within the letter and spirit of the Former Presidents' Pension and Other Benefits Act of 2004, which requires the State to provide an office to former Presidents. To most of us Namibians, our Founding President Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma is a living hero of Namibia who deserves respect for the sake of peace, stability and security in our country. On this issue we will not compromise.

Honourable Chairperson, under this programme an amount of N\$33,675,000 has been requested. An amount of N\$26,843,000 has been earmarked for development purposes, including the construction of the Office of the Founding President.

Cabinet Secretariat: This programme carries out activities provided for under Chapter 6 of the Namibian Constitution, namely the Cabinet. It is common knowledge that the Cabinet Secretariat performs constitutional functions assigned to it by the President and the Cabinet. As such, Cabinet Secretariat serves as the repository of the records, minutes and related documents of the Cabinet. Under this programme an amount of N\$8,073,000 is requested.

In summary, an amount of N\$140,777,000 is requested for the Operational Budget, while N\$215,503,000 are requested for the Development Budget

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

under this Vote.

Honourable Chairperson, with these remarks, I respectfully urge all the Honourable Members of this august House to support and approve the total allocation of N\$356,280,000 in respect of Vote 01. I so move and I thank you for your attention.

Vote 02 – “PRIME MINISTER”, N\$293,477,000 put for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to motivate Vote 02.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, it is my distinct honour and privilege to present to the National Assembly the motivation for the budgetary allocation of Vote 02: Office of the Prime Minister, for the 2009/2010 Financial Year, as set out in the published Medium Term Plan which will end in March 2012.

Honourable Members, this Budget motivation follows the recent trend of setting out such a motivation on the basis of the Programme Budget Plan, which is published in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework book. I will, therefore, provide a brief overview of the Office of the Prime Minister’s activities according to the 3 core programmes to motivate the Budget allocation of N\$293,477,000 for the year 2009/2010 for the Office of the Prime Minister.

Honourable Members, my task is somewhat easier because substantial information on various projects of the Office of the Prime Minister, which comprise the major portion of our expenditure proposals, was submitted recently to this august House. I will, however, return to this aspect again briefly later in this motivation. Furthermore, our recently published Annual Report for 2007/2008 was also tabled and circulated for the

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

information of Honourable Members. This Report provided updated information on the programmes and projects of the Office of the Prime Minister. I wish to assure Honourable Members that the ongoing and continuation of funding for the new Financial Year for these projects submitted herewith form the basis of our funding request for 2009/2010. Therefore, it will not be necessary for me to repeat in great detail on the various projects on this occasion.

Honourable Chairperson, please allow me to give a brief overview of major activities which occupied the Office the past year.

The past Financial Year has indeed continued to be a very busy one for the Office of the Prime Minister. In fact, the activities of the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister continue to expand and are becoming more challenging. Our Constitution proclaims our democratic values, respect for the Rule of Law and justice for all. It is on this basis that we are required to execute our activities. Thus, we proceeded to interact with all stakeholders of all sectors and various communities across the country. Such interactions also required us to provide guidance and advice on the implementation of policies of the Government of the day and also to ensure that all spheres of our public domain remain healthy. As a result, the needs as expressed by our people continue to inform our process of policy-making and the implementation thereof.

We also kept abreast on international affairs affecting Namibia. In recognition of these developments, the Office of the Prime Minister issued three publications in 2008 to inform our stakeholders of our activities and achievements. These are the Annual Report of the Office of the Prime Minister for 2007/2008, the Report to the SWAPO Party Congress on the Work of Offices, Ministries and Agencies for the period 2002 to 2007, and two volumes comprising the Compendium of Discussion Papers and the Report on the Implementation of Recommendations of the 2005 Cabinet Retreat, for the follow-up Cabinet Retreat held in 2008. All publications will soon be available on the website of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Honourable Members, I will now deal with the programmes for the

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

execution of various activities provided for on Vote 02. I wish to emphasise that the projects under NDP3 form the core of our programme Budget. Additionally, our strategic plan for the period 2009 to 2013 and the Budget allocations over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework drive the execution of the projects to ensure that we will achieve the milestones of NDP3. Our Medium Term Plan, thus, indicates the extent to which we have aligned our resource allocations to achieve the outcomes of the National Development Plan. I also wish to point out that Honourable Members would have noted in the published Medium Term Plan documents that the Office of the Prime Minister made substantive changes to its performance and effectiveness management targets as one way of ensuring that we align the activities with its resource allocations to the expected outcomes of NDP3.

Honourable Members, the Office of the Prime Minister is to execute its Budget according to three main programmes and these are:

- Programme 1: Constitutional obligations of the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister;
- Programme 2: Public Service Management and Improvement; and
- Programme 3: Disaster recovery and emergency services.

I have already alluded to the fact that we are expected to execute these programmes with the requested appropriation of N\$293,4 million for 2009/2010. This amount is lower by more than N\$127 million compared to last year's Budget. I wish to caution that this comparison must be given its proper perspective. The reason for mentioning this is that in the case of this year, as was the case last year, our Budget is dwarfed by the special allocations made for drought and flood relief. Last year, the N\$260 million specially allocated for the Comprehensive Emergency Food Aid Scheme comprised 61% of the total allocation of N\$420,7 million on the Prime Minister's Vote. For the new Financial Year, an amount of N\$109,4 million is included in our Budget proposals and this comprises more than 37% of the total allocation.

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA**

On the basis of this short analysis the Office of the Prime Minister had an Operational Budget of N\$135,944,000 for 2008/2009 and on the basis of the same calculation, the Office of the Prime Minister will have for 2009/2010 an Operational Budget of N\$153,759,000. I am presenting to this august House an Operational Budget for the Vote 02 Accordingly, which shows an effective increase of 13% compared to last year.

If one takes into account the salary adjustments which have already been announced, as well as the effect of inflation on required services, the Office of the Prime Minister is expected to execute its programmes with only a marginal increase in real terms in the new Financial Year. This trend is then expected to continue in respect of allocations over the rest of the Medium Term Plan until 2011/2012.

Honourable Chairperson, I will now proceed to highlight the projects we have budgeted for in line with the aforementioned programmes.

Programme 1 – Constitutional obligations of the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister:

The allocation of this programme will enable the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister to continue with activities to properly assist and provide support to His Excellency the President, coordinate Cabinet-related business and to enable the Office to execute tasks related to its role as Leader of Government Business in Parliament

An amount of N\$33,7 million is to be availed under this programme. This is an increase of about N\$9,8 million compared to last year's allocation. The main reason for this increase is the inclusion of an amount of N\$8 million for next year's 20th Independence Celebrations which, of course, coincides with the swearing in of the new Government. The rest of the increase is due to salary adjustments on the staff establishments covering this programme. Included in the overall allocation is a continuation amount, albeit with slight increases compared to last year, of N\$4,2 million for the work of the secretariat of the **State-Owned Enterprises** Government Council and N\$2,1 million for the work of the Public Office

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA**

Bearers Remuneration Commission.

This august House has recently been briefed by the Right Honourable Prime Minister about the work being undertaken by the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council on proposals to set up remuneration standards for State-Owned Enterprises and to align their strategies with those of the national goals to achieve NDP3 outcomes and Vision 2030. With regard to **TESEF**, I wish to report that the expectation is that this remains an ambitious undertaking and the policy framework is now at a delicate stage of formulation. High level consultations are due very soon and funding provision has been made to take the policy to its execution level during the course of the next twelve months. As I also indicated in last year's motivation, the creation of this framework will ensure that future actions of broad-based empowerment in our economic and Social Sectors by the previously disadvantaged people take place in a fair, transparent and sustainable manner.

I have, similarly, provided Honourable Members with a comprehensive Report on developments related to the San Development Project. Suffice to say, the funding for this project continues to receive off-budget support, with last year's cash donations coming to N\$813,000. This has enabled us to begin with resettlement programmes and to a certain extent, to begin with the expansion of certain financially viable projects, the particulars of which I provided in the Report I have given you this afternoon. The continuation amount provided for in this year's Budget will continue as a stimulus to the activities on the project. Further significant projects are identified and are looked into and announcements in this regard will be made in due course.

Programme 2: Public Service Management and Improvement: This programme will require N\$121,331,000.

I again wish to highlight several projects aimed at enhancing Public Service performance and improving public confidence in the delivery of services by the Public Sector of Namibia.

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

Some of the ongoing initiatives of the Office of the Prime Minister towards the improvement of the Public Service will achieve this aim. Recently, the salary package for more than 87,000 funded staffing positions over the next two years was improved. However, the Bargaining Council Agreement reached between the Government and NAPWU and NANTU now also requires follow-up actions and for this, various Joint Technical Working Committees have been established. These aspects include a review of the Medical Aid Scheme, promotion norms and matters regarding incentives for scarce skills, as well as for hardship and remote areas deployment. Updates on progress regarding these matters will be made through the established channels.

The funds allocated on the programme will mainly be utilised to carry out a number of ongoing interventions already authorised by Cabinet to ensure that efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in the Public Service is achieved. Thus, over the next year we will roll out implementation of the Performance Management System on a pilot basis, continue the implementation of the job evaluation and grading system and begin with the implementation of business process re-engineering actions across the Public Service.

We are also working on the statutory framework for the **Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM)** and will continue and expand e-Government initiatives. With regard to the latter, progress has been recorded in the creation of on-line, or e-services, to be provided by Offices, Ministries and Agencies. A tender for the provision of e-Government services is in the process of being evaluated and the software for the electronic documents and records management project has already been delivered and is now due for testing at various pilot sites.

Furthermore, to ensure that Public Servants can adapt to this new environment, contracts have been signed with UNAM and the Polytechnic of Namibia to provide computer literacy training to Civil Servants. During the new Financial Year, an amount of more than N\$7 million will be committed to this joint venture on ICT training which is expected to benefit more than 4,500 staff members. The ultimate goal of these

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

projects is to provide support and increase access to Government services, enhance the professionalism of the Public Service and improve service delivery.

Some of the projects I have just mentioned have been previously motivated in this august House in more detail and, thus, need not be repeated here. It needs mentioning, however, that this programme also provides for the only capital project on the Vote. Thus, to continue with the building project for **NIPAM**, as a dedicated training facility for the Public Sector, an amount of N\$30,3 million is provided this year for the completion of its buildings and infrastructure here in Windhoek.

Programme 3: Disaster and Emergency Management:

Honourable Members, this is the last programme on the Office of the Prime Minister Budget. As I mentioned earlier, this programme carries the largest allocation on our Vote, namely N\$138,4 million. This figure includes the amount of N\$109,4 million to alleviate the effects on the flooded areas in northern and north-eastern Namibia, which was declared as emergency-stricken recently by His Excellency the President. The necessity for proper and effective disaster management at this time of floods and droughts was again recently highlighted when the Right Honourable Prime Minister tabled the Disaster Risk Management Policy and which this august House then adopted unanimously as a national policy. This policy will set us on a course to steer disaster management in Namibia in line with international norms and on the basis of a legal framework.

A new Report on the flooding in the north and north-east is in the process to be prepared and will be submitted so as to provide more information on the nature of this natural phenomenon which now has become a regular feature of our climatic trends. There is no doubt, Honourable Members, that we should all work together to mitigate the present emergency, but we will all soon be called upon to take major policy actions with regard to inevitable changes required to improve the future livelihoods of our brothers and sisters in the flood-ridden plains, to enable them to live with

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 04
HON DR AMATHILA**

dignity and for the provision of their need for food and to secure their homesteads whenever abnormal weather patterns return. I believe that with this allocation on the National Emergency and Disaster Fund, steps will be taken in this connection as well, in addition to the provision of emergency food, for primary health needs and for the provision of temporary dwelling assistance.

Therefore, Honourable Chairperson, in view of my motivation of Vote 02, I request this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$293,477,000 as set out in the schedule of the Appropriation Bill for 2009 for the Office of the Prime Minister. I thank you.

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

Vote 04 – “AUDITOR-GENERAL”, N\$35,749,000 put for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise once again to motivate Vote 04 – Auditor-General. The Auditor-General performs important constitutional functions as per Article 127(2) of the Namibian Constitution.

The Office of the Auditor-General contributes to the national objectives of our Government by helping the Nation to make the best use of public resources and the audited bodies to achieve proper accountability and transparency through compliance with regularity, propriety and accounting requirements.

In order to achieve the abovementioned objectives, the Office of the Auditor General has set itself a number of targets during the 2009 to 2012

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 04
HON DR AMATHILA**

Financial Years. The provided resources will be used to keep the standard of finalising three performance audit reports (value-for-money audit) and two follow-up reports annually as well as to carry out seventy-five asset inspections throughout the country per annum to ensure safeguarding of assets. The Office intends to finalise 188 Financial Audits (100 current and 88 on an anticipated backlog) during 2009/2010, 155 financial audits (125 current and 35 on an anticipated backlog) during 2010/2011 and 141 Financial Audits (129 current and 12 on an anticipated backlog) during 2011/2012. The anticipated backlog consists of reports which fall behind because clients are unable to submit their Financial Statements on time.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Office is forced to make use of private consultants to assist with the auditing of municipalities, boards, corporations and parastatal bodies. Private audit firms will, consistent with the principle of transparency, be appointed by way of tenders to keep the cost as low as possible

In the 2009/2010 Financial Year, the Office has set itself two main programmes. The first programme involves performance auditing and this component will strive to achieve the following goals:

- Finalise three performance audits and two follow-audits;
- Retain good quality recommendations which are 100 percent acceptable to clients;
- Assist the Public Accounts Committee to oversee the implementation of the recommendations made in performance Audit Reports;
- Choose less complex topics with good economical input which will lead to more reports being tabled during a Financial Year. The time frame of 150 weeks per audit is estimated;
- Continue in-house training for newly recruited performance audit staff as well as with quarterly workshops;

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 04
HON DR AMATHILA**

- Improve the quality of reports; and
- Maintain Audit satisfaction.

The second programme will involve Financial Auditing. To this end, the Office of the Auditor-General will:

- Strive to obtain outstanding financial statements from auditees which stood at 246 as at 1 April 2009 and to decrease this envisaged backlog by 28 reports during this year;
- Continue to ensure acceptance of audit recommendations and implementation by Offices, Ministries and Agencies;
- Arrange continuous and relevant training events to improve audit quality;
- Improve the controls implemented through audit recommendations;
- Ensure full acceptance of recommendations made on audit reports by the Public Accounts Committee;
- Carry out 75 Asset Inspections throughout the country per annum to ensure safeguarding of assets and finalise 188 Financial Audit Reports.

In order to enable the Office of the Auditor-General to achieve its goals, financial resources will be required. The Medium Term Expenditure Framework consists of a predetermined ceiling amount of N\$35,749,000 for the Office of the Auditor General, as set out in the Appropriation Bill. The amount requested is earmarked for the following activities:

Programme 1: Performance audit (value for money audit)

The amount of N\$6,319,000 is required to fund the following activities under this programme:

16 April 2009

**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 04
HON DR AMATHILA**

Conducting performance audits:	N\$3,533,000
Carry out follow-up audits on performance reports	N\$1,514,000
Administrative costs	N\$ 550,000
Construction of new office building	N\$ 722,000

Programme 1 will thus require N\$6,319,000.

Programme 2: Financial Audit.

An amount of N\$29,430,000 is required to fund the following activities under this programme:

Auditing of Municipalities	N\$1,305,000
Auditing of Town Councils	N\$ 950,000
Auditing of Statutory Bodies	N\$ 880,000
Auditing of Funds	N\$ 70,000
Auditing of Village Councils	N\$ 528,000
Auditing of Central Government & Regional Councils	N\$19,491,000
Administrative costs	N\$ 2,678,000
Construction of new office building	N\$ 3,528,000

The total allocation of N\$35,749,000 will enable the Office to finalise 193 Audit Reports and carry out asset inspections within the limits of the laws and to advise Government on best practices. The allocated funds will also be used to train staff to improve their knowledge in fighting corruption through special audits and investigations. The Office will also be able to complete a large part of the construction work to its new office building which is expected to be in full operation on 1 April 2011.

With these few remarks, I humbly request this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$35,749,000 in respect of the Office of the Auditor General. I thank you.

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 30
RT HON N ANGULA

Vote 30 – “ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION”, N\$26,983,000 put for Introduction.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole house Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, thank you for granting me this opportunity to introduce the Budget of the Anti-Corruption Commission for the 2009/2010 Financial Year in this august House.

As the Honourable Members can recall, the Anti-Corruption Commission has a separate Vote, which is in line with the statutory requirements that its operations should be independent. By virtue of being a Statutory Institution, the Anti-Corruption Commission’s functions are set out in its empowering statute, namely the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2003 (Act 8 of 2003). These functions are, therefore, also encapsulated in the two main objectives listed in the Medium Term Plan of Vote 30, which reads as follows:

- To ensure that allegations of corrupt practices are properly investigated
- and prevention of corruption.”

The Anti-Corruption Commission should thus, in the first instance, be placed in a position to effectively and efficiently investigate allegations of corruption. In order to achieve the second objective, the Commission would have to conduct public educational campaigns on corruption. By doing so, the Commission would enlist the public confidence and support to combat corruption in Namibia.

We are of the view that the funds earmarked for the Commission’s activities over the next **Medium Term Plan** period would go a long way towards achieving the aforementioned targets.

For the Medium Term 2009/2010 to 2011/2012, that is for the period of 3 years, a total amount of N\$91,104,000 is allocated to the Anti-Corruption Commission. As a young institution the Commission is still facing

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 30
RT HON N ANGULA

numerous challenges and needs the Government's support to effectively and efficiently fight the scourge of corruption. The increase of N\$31,232,000 over the last Financial Year's allocation clearly underlines the Government's will to fight corruption.

Actively utilising the last Financial Year's allocation, the Commission managed to effectively investigate a substantial number of the 974 reports of alleged corrupt practices received by the Commission. Also during this period the Commission referred 93 cases to the Prosecutor General with recommendation for prosecution under Chapter 7 of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003. In addition, numerous matters were referred to other relevant authorities for appropriate actions.

The allocation for 2009/2010 Financial Year will enable the Commission

- to proceed with the filling of additional investigating officers and support staff posts that were recently created on the Commission's revised staff establishment
- to provide for the specialised training for the new recruits so as to enable them to better discharge their statutory duties
- to conduct more specialised investigations through the appointment of experts in the field of forensic accounting
- to be more pro-active with corruption prevention and perform activities in particular with regard to the youth in an effort to effectively prevent the occurrence of corruption
- to proceed with the feasibility study with regard to the construction of a building that would cater for the special needs of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Honourable Members, the Anti-Corruption Commission is also recognised, both domestically and internationally, as the leading authority in the fight against corruption in Namibia. On the domestic front the Commission is a fully-fledged partner of the Namibia Institute for Democracy in Namibia's, the Namibia Zero Tolerance for corruption campaign, a campaign which His Excellency the President launched during March 2006.

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 30
RT HON N ANGULA

Furthermore, in compliance with the requirements in its empowering legislation that it should educate the public on corruption and on its functions, the Commission –

- had workshops in all the 13 Regions for among others regional, local and governmental institutions
- had youth integrity workshops aimed at engaging the youth in the fight against corruption.

With regard to the national and international support received during the 2008/2009 Financial Year, it is worthwhile mentioning that-

- one of the anti-corruption investigators of the Commission was sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), the Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) and the Office of Technical Assistance of the United States Treasury (OTA) to attend a financial investigating technique training course in Lusaka, Zambia.
- one of the anti-corruption investigators of the Commission attended the Bank of Namibia Financial Intelligence Centre's Capacity Enhancement Program on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Phase III "Train the Trainers" Workshop

Furthermore, on the international front invitations were extended to the Commission to attend;

- the Third Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) in Ukraine, Kiev. The key objective of the meeting was to focus on best practices in the field of criminalization of corruption and law enforcement and as a result ensure the more effective combating of corruption and the promotion of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption
- the Thirteenth International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in Athens, Greece. The title of the 13 th IACC was Global

16 April 2009

COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 30
RT HON N ANGULA

Transparency: Fighting corruption for a sustainable future, focusing particularly on critical issues such as human security, climate change, sustainable globalization and natural resource exploitation and management that define our common future

- the Ad-Hoc Experts Group Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda. The objective of the meeting was to review and enhance a research study on "Assessing the efficiency and impact of national anti-corruption institutions in Africa".

To conclude, ladies and gentlemen, there are two programmes in the **Medium Term Plan** of Vote 30, namely-

- investigation of allegations of corrupt practices
- and establish and implement measures to prevent corruption.

In respect of the first programme, an amount of N\$16,190,000 was allocated in respect of the 2009/2010 Financial Year and in respect of the second programme, an amount of N\$10,793,000 is allocated.

Honourable Members, in view of this motivation on Vote 30, I request this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$26,983,000 as set out in the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill for 2009/2010 in respect of the **Anti-Corruption Commission**. I thank you for your attention.

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

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

16 April 2009

**MOTION-FOOD SECURITY-ARV PEOPLE
HON DR AMATHILA**

**MOTION ON FOOD SECURITY FOR PEOPLE
ON ARV TREATMENT**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Food Security for People on ARV treatment Government health centres.

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 4th of March 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Dienda. The Deputy Prime Minister has the Floor.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: In the absence of the Minister and Deputy Minister, let me just say something very briefly on the issue feeding of people on **ARV** treatment.

This is an old story because people taking this drug need to eat. When we were there we asked the Regional Councils to treat these people as part of the drought relief scheme so that they are given food, but it was very difficult to know who is on **ARV**, because this is a secret sort of thing. Perhaps the best is to give the responsibility to the hospitals who know who are on the treatment, so that they can be given food. Really, many people cannot survive on those strong drugs without food items and it is very important that they get food and I think the hospitals should take responsibility because they know who are the people on the treatment. Otherwise, I support the Motion. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Christian.

HON CHRISTIAN: I would also like to make a small contribution. Honourable Speaker, each person who is on **ARV** treatment has supporters and even the supporters can also advise the Regional Offices. That will also be good.

16 April 2009

**MOTION-FOOD SECURITY-ARV PEOPLE
HON NUJOMA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I would also like to contribute to this Debate. I am particularly worried, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, because of the withdrawal of support to Namibia by the Global Fund. I do not know reasons why they said Namibia did not qualify. I think this is a very serious problem, because they have supported us to put people on **ARV** treatment and they know very well that these people require nutrition, they require additional supplementary food. They have helped us to put the people on **ARV** treatment and now they have withdrawn and that is a serious paradox and a serious contradiction.

We also know that the global drug companies would like to make money out of this and as a result they have supported us, we have put our people on these expensive drugs and now they have withdrawn. I do not know how they expect a small developing country like Namibia to be able to sustain the continuous treatment of our people who are on these very expensive drugs. I think these companies should also be held accountable, they cannot just withdraw like that while they have helped us to put the people on **ARV** and now they withdraw, citing reasons. It means it is like a carrot on a stick, *“we will give you money if you put your people on ARV treatment.”* (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Actually the Global Fund contributed N\$18,3 million to this treatment since 2007 up to the withdrawal. Do you know that once you have been put on **ARV** treatment, you cannot stop the treatment. The people would have coped better before they were put on that treatment and once you are on that treatment, you are permanently on it. There are serious repercussions if we have to cough up N\$18,3 million for this particular project.

16 April 2009

**MOTION-FOOD SECURITY-ARV PEOPLE
HON HAINGURA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I fully agree with you and that is my concern, because if the Global Fund has helped us to put these people on **ARV** and now they withdraw, leaving us to face the problem, this is my biggest concern. As you mentioned, if you are on this **ARV** treatment, you are permanently on it, you cannot withdraw because it will cause serious health hazards and it can even result in weakening of the human body and death. This is the problem we are facing and I think as a country we should in future be more careful of this carrot on the stick. They say they will help us to get there and then they withdraw.

If you have read this book, "*Economic Hitman*"....(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, I have read the book and I do not know whether you know better than I do, whether the door is shut or it is locked or whether there is a responsibility to re-engage them. Would that not be a better way to approach them?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I agree with you, but what I am driving at is to engage this important global institution so that we have a re-look at this situation, because at the present moment it is unsustainable and the Government of the Republic of Namibia, despite its good intentions and efforts, will not be able to sustain such a project. That is my small contribution, Comrade Speaker.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. The nutrition of people on **ARV** treatment is really a problem and I think it is a responsibility of all

16 April 2009

**MOTION-FOOD SECURITY-ARV PEOPLE
HON HAINGURA**

of us and I know Namibians are caring people. I really do not want people to throw rice in the dustbin while others are suffering without food. Let us keep our culture of sharing whatever we have. We are not talking about expensive food, even our local fruits and vegetables can also give energy to these people and also mahangu and maize-meal will provide carbohydrates.

We need to be food self-sufficient in this country and not only to rely on other people. We need to change this attitude of only buying food from the shops, we need to cultivate our own food so that we can support our people. Honourable Moongo, help other people around you, not with beer but with food. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? I want to know whether she is aware that without the help of Government or anybody, I cultivate with a tractor and I sow with the tractor. If the Government could train some of us, we will provide enough food and do you know how much money I earned from the maize? One hundred thousand! I am not only an expert on shebeens, I am also an expert on producing food.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Moongo, that is good, but how much did you give to those people from that hundred thousand? I know you are giving because you are a Headman. (Intervention)

HON NASHANDI: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? This morning I was approached by a young lady while walking in a local market. “*Can you please give me money to buy food for my children?*” Then I asked her, “*where is your husband?*” “*No, he chased*

16 April 2009

**MOTION-FOOD SECURITY-ARV PEOPLE
HON KAAPANDA**

us away from the house after we have been diagnosed as HIV-positive.”

Do we have a place where we could perhaps register some of those people?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Member, this is a form of discrimination which all of us need to tackle. We know how we can get HIV/AIDS and there is no need for us to chase people out of our houses. However, I think everybody on **ARV** treatment is recorded at the place where they are getting their medicine. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Regarding food security for **ARV** patients, there is a very exemplary project in Ruacana constituency where a group of a hundred HIV-positive patients came together and were allocated a huge track of land by the Regional Council where they are cultivating mahangu, vegetables and other crops. This is really a successful venture and if this could be replicated in many other areas where there is water, it could go a long way in providing nutrition to the patients. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Honourable Esau.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I am taking the Floor to participate in this Debate on food security for people on **ARV** treatment at Government health centres.

16 April 2009

**MOTION-FOOD SECURITY-ARV PEOPLE
HON BOOYS**

First of all, I want to applaud the SWAPO Party Government for rolling out the **ARV** treatment programme at all Government health centres. It is a fact that HIV/AIDS is a global crisis. What we have done as a SWAPO Party Government is to try and reduce the prevalence rate of HIV in the country. A lot of efforts have been made by the Public Sector, but I want to find out what the private sector has done in this regard. I think the private sector should also stand up and really complement the efforts of Government by providing the necessary food security for those who are suffering from HIV/AIDS.

I have also noted that the Trade Union movement has also embarked on programmes, but we want to see what the private sector has done. The international community, the Global Fund, as mentioned by Comrade Uutoni, have brought about a kind of dependency syndrome by giving us funds and not building the capacity for us to provide the necessary support systems. It is very vital for the private sector to come in and to help Government in providing food security for people who are on **ARV** treatment at Government health centres. With these few remarks, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Booy's.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, I also rise to make a small contribution to the Motion by Honourable Dienda on ARV treatment, but before I start I should inform this House that some five, six years ago I attended a workshop, not on AIDS, but on something else at Safari Hotel and when our workshop closed, I saw a lot of people moving in and out and I was told that workshop is about HIV. I met some people who came from all over Namibia, from the North, East and West, gathering at Safari Hotel and one of the civic organisations was responsible for that workshop.

I went in and listened for three hours and all that I was hearing was, "*the*

16 April 2009

**MOTION-FOOD SECURITY–ARV PEOPLE
HON BOOYS**

Government, the Government, the Government” and I was wondering because these people are sponsored by other Governments as NGOs to help those infected. My question to the Mover is, what is the role of these NGOs who are receiving money on behalf of these people? Should they only rely on the Government while we are aware that millions are coming into Namibia through these NGOs and civic organisations to help these people? What is their contribution towards these people?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Any further discussion?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I move, on behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Services, that the Debate be adjourned until Tuesday.

HON SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Fourth 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 Wednesday, 1 of April 2009, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Dr Ankama. Any further discussion? Dr Iyambo.

16 April 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR A IYAMBO**

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I also rise to support the Motion on the issue of unemployment in the country by Honourable Chief Ankama.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to start by asking who are the main providers of employment in the country, who are the key generators of employment in the country. They are mainly two, namely the State and the Private Sector, what we used to call the engine of economic growth. That question stands, whether the engine is still functioning or whether the engine needs lubrication or oil as it seems that the engine of economic growth has slowed down.

Comrade Speaker, with respect to the Government or the State, I think much is being done. If you look at employment in the country, starting from Civil Servants, one would see these are employed by Government. If you look at the nurses, so many of them, the teachers, the public office bearers, politicians, Parliamentarians, including Honourable Member Moongo, they are receiving payment from the State, a big employment creator.

If you look at all the roads and railways in the country, power and water infrastructure in terms of job creation and the funding, that comes from the Government or the State, a big employer. If you look at the Defence and Police Force, the Prisons, employment is created by the Government or the State and the same with the Judiciary, the Courts, etcetera. We are referring to the Government as the major employer and in terms of the safety nets and food production. If you look around it is Government or the State as well as the marriage of the Government to the State-Owned Enterprises. One would say that the State and Government is doing quite a lot in terms of ports, telecommunication, that is the State.

The question is, what remains then in terms of job creation if Government or the State is doing so much? Apart from that Government is creating a conducive environment for investors to join in and to create more jobs. Our laws are very good for job creation.

16 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR A IYAMBO

I am just arguing by saying that the State or Government is not sleeping, it is creating jobs but it needs its other partner, the private sector, to also do its job.

The question one would ask is why is unemployment in the country so high? Is it because Government has not created a conducive environment for the private sector to flourish? The answer is no, the Government has created a conducive environment, laws are in place, policies are in place, investors are encouraged, both local and foreign, to come to the country. Why is there still unemployment? Is it because there is no investment coming especially from the private sector? I would say that there is a lot of investment coming into the country, but what is the problem? The problem is that the investments we are receiving are investments mainly in capital-intensive areas. We do not have much of the labour-intensive investments and that is what we have to fight for, to get more of the labour-intensive investment in the country to be able to create more jobs.

We are asking, are there major investments? We are saying yes, if you look from 2005, there has been more than N\$54 billion direct investment in fixed investment in the country. Therefore, one would have expected more jobs to have been created, but because of more capital intensity and less labour-intensive, we have not been able to create more jobs.

The question again is, has Government created an excellent environment for the private sector to create jobs and I am still answering that yes, Government has created an excellent environment for the private sector to flourish. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, may I ask Honourable Iyambo a small question? Comrade Iyambo, you mentioned that Government has done everything possible to attract foreign direct investment and you have mentioned that unfortunately, Namibia because of the nature of its export market, we mainly concentrate on the highly mechanised industries and less labour-intensive kind of industries, but do you remember that the Government has attracted

16 April 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Ramatex five or six years ago and that was the main target, to increase the labour-intensive part of the market so that we could employ more people and what happened? The criticism started coming in mainly from the Opposition Parties, saying that SWAPO has invested in Ramatex just to attract voters and they have literally sabotaged the efforts of Government with regard to Ramatex. Honourable Iyambo, do you remember that and could you please elaborate on that? While Government is trying they are sabotaging the efforts of Government. As a result, almost a thousand people are without work.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Honourable Speaker, I thank my Colleague for the question. I am aware of bad things from the Colleagues from the Opposition, but I am also getting worried by what you are saying, that they are economic saboteurs. We should take that up later, but they are listening.

Honourable Speaker, I was saying that Namibia has an excellent environment and I was asking the question, do we not have an excellent environment and I answered myself that yes, we have, the Government has created an excellent environment. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Comrade Speaker, may I ask a small question? Mannetjie, you mentioned that the private sector is regarded as the engine of the economy. If you are now talking of unemployment, it means that the engine needs oil. The oil is supposed to be the workers, but now you find they retrench the workers.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Yes, I said the engine seems not to be functioning, maybe we need to add a bit more oil to the engine of economic growth for it to continue functioning.

16 April 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR A IYAMBO**

Comrade Speaker, I was saying that Namibia has one of the best investment environments and Namibia, for example, has the highest investment ratio to the GDP in the SADC Region. We sometimes do not appreciate the good things that we have as a country, but I am saying Namibia has the best investment ratio to the GDP in the SADC Region.

Let me mention what other people are saying about ourselves. Maybe if we say we are doing well, some people may think we are boasting, but let me state what others are saying, what friends and some enemies are saying about us and what is happening in Namibia.

The World Bank Business Index Report of 2009, covering 2007 and 2008, has rated Namibia as one of the top three countries in SADC and one of the top fifty in the world with a friendly investment regime for the private sector to operate and that is good. However, the question still remains, why do we not have much of these employment creating investments?

This rating is of 180 countries and Namibia is around fifty in the world and in SADC one of the top three. Therefore, our environment regime for investment is very good.

The other question is the issue of taxation. When investors come to the country, they look at the incentives. Do we have the right regime for investment to take place? Yes, Namibia has one of the most exceptional and favourable regimes in the world. Yes, corporate tax is a bit high, about 35 percent, but if you look at it very carefully, Namibia has more inbuilt exemptions, Namibia has more tax incentives than many of our neighbours, therefore our taxation is not too bad.

Namibia has one of the best regimes, with companies only effectively paying around 25% of their profits, compared to the sub-Saharan African paying around 65% and OCED around 45%. Therefore, our tax regime is encouraging.

Now we have good laws, good policies for investment and Government has done a lot, so what is the estimated unemployment in the country?

16 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR A IYAMBO

We are quoting many figures, but I want to reflect on the Labour Survey of 2004 that shows that about 27% of our population is unemployed. When the next survey takes place, I want for us as a country to take a re-look at this qualification. 65% of the unemployed are young people. The report indicates that this includes people from 15 to 19 years old, but I think in the future, because of constitutional provisions that the majority of these are supposed to go to school, that maybe those who are 15 and 16 should be encouraged to go to school and not to be seen as part of the unemployed. If we remove the 15 and 16 year old, we may come up with a different figure for the rate of unemployment. However, the reality remains that unemployment is very high in our country. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister just a tiny question? Honourable Minister, today you are doing extremely well, exceptionally well, you speak like NUDO. You are talking about statistics that include 15 years of age. You will remember that when I was making my contribution here, I was very concerned, just as you are concerned now, that the statistics being used include people who are self-employed, because if you have your own small business, you will be counted as if you are employed. I think the unemployment statistics that you are talking about may not reflect the true nature of unemployment in Namibia. Would you agree with me on that?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: I agree with those who are looking for solutions. If you are looking for a solution, I will agree with you, but if you have any ulterior motive I do not agree with you. However, if you are looking for solutions, I will agree with you.

Honourable Speaker, the question should also be asked, who are the unemployed and why are these people unemployed? Many of the unemployed are the dropouts from school, those particularly due to early pregnancy and some of those who drop out, expecting to get a job in the

16 April 2009

**MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR A IYAMBO**

market even though at an early stage. Now there is this issue of the disease which I call “*experience*.” There is a shortcoming both in Government and the private sector that we emphasis too much this issue of experience. It is good but it is not good enough. Our criteria both in Government and the private sector are not “young-people-friendly” for the first time jobseekers.

Young people, by virtue of their age, lack experience and we should agree with that and we should also take it that because of their age, they cannot manufacture experience. Employers insist too much on this unnecessary thing of experience. Fine, but that cannot be the only thing. Knowledge seems to be not an issue, neither energy to do things or talents.

If you look at the advertisements of the Government and the private sector, the experience being required is nine years, twelve years or fifteen years. The majority of these young people do not have that experience. Old people have been there and experienced all the mistakes we have done. If you accumulate that, that becomes experience. Therefore, it does not mean it is always good.

I am worried that if we continue saying we should just favour experience, then we should forget fighting unemployment of the young people in the country and that should change, so that the private sector and the Government consider the young people.

Before I conclude, on the issue of self-employment, we always say employ yourself. It is a good saying but it is not good in practice. I am happy that Government has done its bit, that we have created more than forty facilities around the country for small and medium enterprises where we are housing more than 500 business people. That is good from the Government.

We have business parks where we have created more than 7,000 jobs and more than 57% of those entrepreneurs are women. Therefore, Government is doing well in terms of encouraging jobs for Small and Medium Enterprises which are the key engine of economic growth.

16 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR A IYAMBO

The problem is that we have medium enterprises, but we do not support them to grow and to become big. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Mannetjie a small question on this issue of the engine? Do you know that once you graduate from a technical school, let us say in mechanical engineering and you have the theory of the engines, the pistons, the plugs and carburettor, you graduate, you have your diploma, you go and look for a job at a local garage and the owner gives you a car and says this car is stuck, do you know that it is very impossible to know where to start with the theory? However, you will find an old man from Katutura there who has been repairing engines in the back yard and he will not even look at the car, he will smell that the problem is with the points or spark plugs before he goes further. He is a bush mechanic. We must respect our bush mechanics, because sometimes we discriminate against them.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: I agree with you and that is the problem that we have. If we have a bush mechanic, an old person who is doing extremely well, we should appreciate that, we should honour that. We should also know that this bush mechanic started from somewhere, was given an opportunity to gain that experience. I am arguing that we should allow the young people an opportunity to be like the seasoned and sound bush mechanic. They should not be excluded permanently by virtue of their age. Being young does not mean being stupid, it means wanting to grow in and following that path of gaining experience. I am arguing that the young people should gain experiences and we should respect people who do not have degrees. We want people who can do things with their hands.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I am listening very carefully, may I ask a question? Somehow I had a small experience within the set-up of my community or family. I find that young people do not have the

16 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR A IYAMBO

passion to wait and work and get experience, they are very impatient. My cousins here and there say, “yes, *this Boer is saying this, I left the job.*” If you have that attitude of impatience instead of learning, you are running away to go and look for another job, what can we do with our young people to teach them that once you get a job, stay on the job because you have to crawl before you walk, you cannot just come and take over. Maybe we need some counselling for our young people when they get a job to stay on the job. Do you not agree with that?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: I fully agree with the Deputy Prime Minister. There needs to be an area of career guidance at our university or vocational training centres in Namibia. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Last year the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare issued a book on career guidance and we even have industrial psychologists who do that work. They always visit the schools and I only wanted to share this information with Comrade Mannetjie.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: That is a good development, I am aware of that and it is something Government has done that I applaud. However, if you look at specific industries, such as mining, tourism or fisheries, and you check with the university and the polytechnic, do you have a career guidance department? That programme needs to be encouraged, it is still germinating and I am happy that it is there.

Finally, I want to refer to the linkage of the formal and informal economies. (Intervention)

16 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR A IYAMBO

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: May I ask my namesake a question? Honourable Iyambo, I think it is true what you have said, that Government in many cases has been leading in employment creation. Do you not think that since our private sector seems not to be flexible enough to create an environment which will be conducive for the young people to get employment, that perhaps it is also time for Government to create a fund for skills development or training where those who graduate from institutions could be given internship for a year, a fund where Government and the private sector contribute money to, so that everybody who qualifies with skills is given training, so that the question of skills by the private sector should not arise any longer? We will say that one year practical training must be used as a benchmark for employment. Do you think that Government should in this case go a step further in order to help the Namibians where the private sector should then also come to join?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Speaker, I do believe that where the private sector is doing too slow or failing, the Government should intervene, despite the critics saying that it should be left to the private sector. I do believe when we know that it is to the benefit of the country, for employment, for socio-economic development, we should just take those decisions. Therefore, I agree with the Minister that maybe now the time has come to intervene. I do not think we have to wait any longer, Honourable Minister, I fully agree with you that maybe we should work on that. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Comrade Iyambo, the issue that you have referred to as experience being asked from the young students who are just leaving schools, where exactly are we going to take this case? I will be surprised to see in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources an advertisement asking for experience, which even the Minister himself would not qualify.

16 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON DR A IYAMBO

Where do we go in order to erase this thing especially in Government, so that we give young people the chance to start gaining experience by entering the job market and then the private sector can follow? Where in our Government can we do so?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

With respect to the discrimination against the young people entering the market, it is a reality. It happened to some of us. Had it not been for the SWAPO Party, I would not have been in the country now. I was a jobseeker at that point in time with my PhD, I was there after Independence and what I was told by those who were there, was insulting to tell the truth. The same with the Minister of Finance, she tried with her degree from Harvard University. What she was told when she was looking for a job is insulting. Maybe in time to come some of us can write our memoirs, how we have been treated immediately after Independence by those who were there before Independence of Namibia because of our age and because we were newly graduated.

To answer the question by Honourable Katali, I think we need placement for people to gain experience. Students should go to mining companies during holidays and work in different departments to get experience, earning a small amount of money and in the fishing industry as well. Now they are all going home during holidays. In other countries you go to these companies and gain experience. After your studies you have some experience. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Mannetjie a tiny question? Unemployment is a very serious problem in the country and also globally. I want to ask you on the allocation of fishing rights and quotas to companies who are coming with big promises, telling us that they would create so many new jobs for our people. Is it not maybe high time for us to look at how many jobs those Companies have created and how they have contributed to our noble

16 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON TWEYA

goal to ultimately eradicate poverty?

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: If you look very carefully at the fishing industry, if there is one industry which has young people and the truly previously disadvantaged or indigenous, it is the fishing industry. People downplay it, but the reality is that the fishing industry has truly empowered our people. The majority of the people in the fishing industry who are running our factories, who are our inspectors, observers or engineers are young people. That we have done.

If you look at our supermarkets, are they assisting the Small and Medium Enterprises to create jobs? Where are they getting their vegetables? Are they getting it from the Small and Medium Enterprises? There is no proper inter-linkage between the formal and informal sectors and that should be encouraged.

In conclusion, the unemployment rate in the country is high, but we should find solutions and the Government and the private sector should join hands and create mainly labour-intensive jobs fields. We have done so well in the capital intensive with N\$54 billion investment in the country. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Tweya.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I wanted to raise three issues on the unemployed Namibians. The first one is on the unemployed Namibians who have skills, be it from Grade 10, 12, diploma or degree obtained inside or outside the country and I will take a practical example which is a bit frustrating in the Government, as the main employer, but also in the private sector and I want to link it to the question

16 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON TWEYA

of Comrade Katali.

Certainly, I think and believe it is high time that, while we as a Government know where the problem is, we should really start acting. It is irritating to sing together as if we do not have the means to bring a solution. We as a Government must act and not tomorrow, but now! I will not beat around the bush, I do not have that time. For every position, an ordinary clerk position, a cleaner, we allow the Public Service Commission ...(Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. Since we are now about to have elections and SWAPO is not going to be the Ruling Party anymore, you want to start after 19 years.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: The action is required now and not tomorrow. I will start with the main employer, which is the Government and somebody must take ownership. A cleaner's position is being advertised, academic requirement Grade 10 or Grade 12 – cleaner, for God's sake! Experience minimum 5 years – oh come on! (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Tweya, a person working in a certain Ministry applies for a higher post advertised in the same Ministry and the person is told that, “you do not qualify because you have not yet reached this notch”, but that same person will get a higher position at another Ministry. Are you aware of this contradiction?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you very much for the question, this is why I said I will start with the Government and I do not want to join the singing as if we do not have the capacity to correct

16 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON TWEYA

it. As a responsible institution we must act now. Firstly, these requirements do not make sense. Secondly, I have it here as, “*no jumping ranks*.” I mean, it is so ridiculous. How long shall we continue talking about this? (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. I think the Deputy Minister is doing well, but there is something that I wanted to inform you about. If you go to any place, whether it is Shoprite or any restaurant in town, you can look around at the people employed there and you can easily tell who is the manager of that restaurant. You can tell that the manager of this restaurant is a Herero-speaking, a Damara-speaking or Oshiwambo-speaking. It is because of the fact that they have a licence to employ as they wish.

Secondly, go to the departments of finance in most of the Ministries, the people working there and in the personnel departments are the same, the most of them are Coloureds. Therefore, if you are looking at changing the situation, you must be very careful that do not open a Pandora’s box.

I want to address a national issue and that is the unemployed Namibians, not a tribal issue. The issue here is that when you open a newspaper on a daily basis, there are hundreds of vacancies. At the same time we keep occupying ourselves here, valuable time talking about unemployment as if there are no jobs for people.

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. It is a good thing that the Deputy Minister realises the mistakes, but the very strong evil is with the Councillors of SWAPO who discriminate. They decide who is to be employed and who not. That is why there are vacancies and people are not employed, because they want to favour SWAPO Members.

HON SPEAKER: Deputy Minister, you do not have much time, but I will give you a minute to conclude.

16 April 2009

MOTION ON UNEMPLOYED NAMIBIANS
HON TWEYA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, this issue is so important that I am afraid I will not close off in one minute, I want to contribute during the next session.

HON SPEAKER: On that point the House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 09:00

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2009.04.17 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
17 APRIL 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? Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- (1) Land Acquisition and Development Fund for the Financial Years ended March, 31, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006; and
 - (2) Performance Audit Study on Delay of Business Registration in the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the Financial Years ended 2005 to 2007.
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HON SPEAKER: Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Booyis.

17 April 2009

**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON BOOYS**

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Mr Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Vote 01, 02, 03, 04, 11, 28, 29 and 30 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not be interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30. I so Move, Mr Speaker.

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

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION
OF COMMITTEE STAGE**

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

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? Objection? Secondment. Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01, 02, 04 and 30 had been introduced.

Vote 03 – “NATIONAL ASSEMBLY”, N\$109,795,000 put for Introduction.

HON DR T-B GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is with pleasure that I present to you the Budget Estimates for Vote 03, National Assembly, for the Financial Year 2009/2010. I also want to congratulate and express appreciation to our able Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Finance and the entire staff of both the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission for a well-prepared and pragmatic Budget.

The Namibian Constitution enjoins the legislative power to the National Assembly for passing laws and arranging for the review of such laws by the National Council. The Budget process and Debate on appropriations in a democracy is one of the most important activities in our national life. By this process the Government of the day informs the electorate through the elected representatives on programmes, activities and also explains utilisation of resources.

Taking Parliament to the people is an important pillar of political outreach and these platforms are used to interact with and to educate the citizenry on important legislation, including Bills and Motions. The Presiding Officers also use these platforms to revisit service delivery by the Executive as part of our larger oversight function through the Parliamentary Standing Committees.

Parliament has also been visible at trade exhibitions and had visited numerous schools and tertiary educational institutions by invitation. The work of the Parliamentary Standing Committees in a multi-party democracy cannot be over-emphasised. In a non-partisan fashion the

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

Honourable Members continue to show commitment and dedication in the execution of their duties. In fulfilling their tasks, the various Committees have conducted more than 30 consultative meetings during the past year and we are glad to report that many thousands of citizens participated and contributed in their encounters. In this way the Committees enable the people's views to be considered and to be incorporated as integral part of the reports which were adopted by the National Assembly.

Namibians are scheduled to go to the polls later this year. Here I think in particular of the born-frees who will be voting for the first time in a bigger number. Some of the children and young adults have been offered opportunities in the Children's Parliament to tell the Nation their stories, their hopes, their aspirations and dreams in informed Debates in this very Chamber. They are leaders-in-making and their Debates were thought-provoking and have added an important dimension to the ongoing parliamentary dialogue.

Parliamentary Standing Committee Members have continued to attend relevant regional and international exchange programmes. We have also hosted a number parliamentary delegations from a number of countries, exchanging views on best parliamentary practices. The National Assembly is of the view that the Standing Committees' capacity and the way they conduct business is being recognised by other Parliamentarians as the SADC Regional and further afield. This point is based on the increased requests by other Parliaments to come here for mutual engagements.

For example, as a follow-up to an official visit by the Honourable Patrick Herminie, Speaker of Seychelles, and his delegation, the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee is planning to conduct a training course for their counterparts from that country.

In relation to regional and international parliamentary relationships, it is worth mentioning that our participation in the SADC Parliamentary Forum, Pan African Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Commonwealth

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

Parliamentary Association and ACP/EU has continued, and there are benefits for our country and our Parliament. The IPU elected our Speaker as its President. That represents a major advantage for Namibia and the SADC Region, to say the least.

During the past Financial Year, the National Assembly completed its work on schedule. Only 4 out of 79 sitting days were lost due to lack of quorum. The time may have come to review too high a quorum which will separate between legislative quorum and routine working business of the House.

During the same period the National Assembly has considered and passed 12 Bills. No Bills were referred to Parliamentary Standing Committees for scrutiny. In the same vein, no Bills stood over or lapsed. The National Assembly has ratified 5 agreements and conventions with other countries in furtherance of inter-parliamentary relations, public diplomacy and international cooperation.

Altogether 32 Motions have been tabled, of which 4 were adopted, 5 were referred to our portfolio Standing Committees, 1 was rejected, 4 were withdrawn and nineteen lapsed. 103 Questions were tabled, of which twenty-seven lapsed. This happens when deadlines are missed. An additional 6 oral questions were put that were replied to by the relevant Ministers or Deputy Ministers.

The National Assembly is focused on ensuring maintenance of effective ICT infrastructure. This is catered for under the Consolidation of Democracy Programme. First of these was the installation of an ICT network in the National Assembly Chamber, resulting in the Table Office staff being able to use the network for easy communication and timely processing of Minutes and Orders. Journalists now have direct access to their press room and can report on parliamentary proceedings from the National Assembly premises.

The next important development was the upgrading of service, resulting in Members of Parliament and the secretariat having access to electronic mail even when away from office on official business. The idea of this is

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

to ensure that there is no break in communication and this enables Members of Parliament to maintain meaningful outreach.

In the previous Budget motivation, the National Assembly reported that funding for the Parliament Website was requested and that the commissioning of the upgrade was in its final stages. It can now be reported that the Parliamentary Website was completely re-developed and now features a different look and feel. It is more user-friendly than the previous version of the Website. A launch of the new Website was undertaken in January 2009. The difference between the two versions is the autonomy accorded to Parliament to update the latest Website. This was a function that previously vested largely with the developers of the Website. While populating a website of this magnitude is not an easy task, the National Assembly is pleased with this autonomy as we can now add important documents, such as HANSARDS. Computer equipment allocated to Members of Parliament has also been completely upgraded.

I read this, Honourable Members, and I go by what my experts tell me, you are the users, you will confirm whether what I am saying is on the ball or not.

The achievements of the National Assembly cannot be measured in dollars and cents because it is impossible to place a monetary value on behavioural choices to support and mobilise for legislative process and programmes entirely. It is against this background that the National Assembly requested an amount of N\$109, 795,000 for this Financial Year. This amount represents N\$97,295,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$12, 500,000 for the Development Budget.

The National Assembly falls under three main divisions:

- Office of the Speaker – N\$11,072,000;
- Administration and Legislation – N\$94,624,000;
- Computer and Library Services – N\$4,088,000.

The Main Division Administration and Legislation consists of the following directorates:

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

- Office of the Secretary;
- General Services;
- Table Office;
- Community Services;
- Research, Information, Publications and Editorial Services.

The Budget of the National Assembly, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, consists of two programmes, namely:

- Enhancement of Parliamentary Process; and
- Consolidation of Democracy.

Programme 1: Enhancement of the Parliamentary Process for which an amount of N\$38,059,000 has been earmarked. The objectives of this programme are:

- To oversee and administer the House and to represent the National Assembly at national, regional and international levels; and
- To ensure the enactment of legislation, oversee the work of portfolio Parliamentary Committees;
- Promote consultation between Parliament and other branches of the State;
- Intensify Parliament's outreach throughout the country and beyond.

Main activities: The parliamentary process will be facilitated through capacity-building for Members of the National Assembly through workshops, seminars, bearing in mind best parliamentary practices; to streamline and review Standing Rules and Orders and how Committees conduct business, and their powers, the services of resource persons to share experiences in other Parliaments. An amount of N\$12,118,000 has been requested for these activities.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

Strengthening and Promotion of Cooperation between national Parliaments and regional and community outreach programmes to raise awareness on e-democracy and the role of Information and Communication Technology and development of civic education. The Mobile Training Unit will continue to be used to conduct training for communities in basic skills and competences of Information and Communication Technology to familiarise them with the Parliament Website and how they can interact with Members of Parliament through this facility. N\$9,700,000 have been requested for this.

Developing and implementing the National Assembly's communication strategy. Enhancement of the procurement of goods and services for the National Assembly in a fair and competitive process that will result in the best value for money, that is in respect of the HANSARD, printing of Bills, photocopy production of Committee minutes, etcetera. An amount of N\$12,867,000 has been requested for this purpose.

Overseeing the recruitment and training for staff to develop specific work-based skills in accordance with the Public Service Staff Rules. Expenditure has been requested at N\$3,374,000.

Programme 2: Consolidation of Democracy is allocated an amount of N\$71,736,000.

The overall goal of this programme is to facilitate the work of Members when they consider questions of national interest and security. This is primarily done by organising and coordinating activities relating to the parliamentary sessions of National Assembly and its Standing Committees and other special events, making sure that Members are well-informed of these activities and the amount requested is N\$4,608,000.

Facilitating deliberations and disseminating financial issues and ensuring effective financial management, including planning, reporting and internal control for the National Assembly. Funding for these activities would cost N\$6,208,000.

Implementing effective Human Resource Management policies to ensure the highest standard of efficiency, competence and integrity in the

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

secretariat; increasing employee productivity and contributing to the long-term career development of the National Assembly staff at the cost of N\$7,008,000;

Supervising and maintaining the Parliament Building, its grounds and managing the use of the conference facility; furthermore for providing fully functional office accommodation with appropriate furniture, equipment, supplies, with up-to-date communication facilities and Information Technology. This will also include the construction of several access runs within the courtyard for people with disabilities as well as providing access to the upper levels of the Parliament Building for them. An amount of N\$12,500,000 has been allocated for this purpose.

The provision of funding for Political Parties to improve the democratic process and oversight, an amount of N\$24,883,000 has been requested for this purpose.

Organising Parliamentary events for Children's Parliament, to promote awareness concerning the role of Parliament, to familiarise themselves with issues pertaining to all Regions and to attend parliamentary Debates, Committee hearings and to interact with Members of Parliament and other branches of State. N\$4,660,000 have been requested for this purpose.

To institute and maintain an effective ICT infrastructure and knowledge management that are user-friendly, an amount of N\$3,318,000 has been requested.

The National Assembly Secretariat will continue to provide the necessary expertise for the National Assembly to achieve its mission to increase the public understanding of our constitutional and democratic process and its checks and balances during this Financial Year. Among the priorities are the establishment of and support for the new Standing Committee on Information and Communication Technology. The installation of multi-media equipment in reading rooms, which will allow the National Assembly to offer professional reading venues to Portfolio Committees and/or Public Hearings. The installation of uninterrupted power supply systems in the server room to protect collected data, information and other

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

acquired assets. Increasing the security and overall updating of the Parliament Building. Resources will be expended towards the upgrading of the bandwidth in order to strengthen the ICT backbone at Parliament.

Honourable Chairperson, the physical facilities housing the Library and server room remain a big challenge. This, coupled with a lack of material for research in the Library, is a constraint that urgently calls for innovative thinking on the part of the Secretariat and other stakeholders. I accept this as a problem that the relevant Standing Committee should look into and resolve as soon as possible.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia's remuneration packages for qualified library and ICT staff is another enduring constraint. This in turn impacts negatively on the recruitment and retention efforts of the National Assembly Secretariat. That said, who is blaming whom? There is, I admit, deadwood who are paid for doing nothing. Not all, but some are fit to be blamed for this.

In conclusion, Honourable Members, I now call upon your sympathetic support to approve your own Vote for the Financial Year 2009/2010. I thank you and I beg for your generosity.

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

Vote 11 – “NATIONAL COUNCIL”, N\$45,005,000 put for Introduction.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am once again honoured and privileged, on behalf of the National Council, to table its Budget for 2009/2010 Financial Year.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 11**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

The National Council's work enhanced public participation, deepens our social transformation agenda, promotes cooperative governance and reaffirms a commitment to the promotion of good governance and a democratic society.

Allow me at the outset to highlight some of the major achievements of the National Council during the 2008/2009 Financial Year, which include:

- The review of ten Bills of which two were passed with Amendments;
- Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economy of the National Council started scrutinising the audited reports of the Regional Councils and Local Authorities; and
- The formulation of the National Council's 5 year Strategic Plan was finalised and approved by the Office of the Prime Minister.

I wish to commend the National Council for working within the framework of its planned programmes and keeping within its Budget allocation for the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

For the Financial Year 2009/2010, the National Council has requested in total an amount of N\$45,005,000.

N\$42,327,000 will be allocated for the Operational Budget, whilst N\$2,678,000 will be allocated to the Development Budget. The amount requested will mainly be utilised for the two programmes as follows:

Programme 1: Enhancing public participation in the lawmaking process:

The main purpose of this programme is to enhance public participation in the lawmaking process. In order to achieve this, the National Council is involving the public at large in its review function through the referral of Bills to the various Standing or select Commission of the House, which serves to obtain a clearer picture on the needs and aspirations of the

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 11**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

Namibian nation. For these activities an amount of N\$3,736,000 is being requested.

As part of the modernisation of the National Council's infrastructure, the council intends to install digital recording equipment and monitors in its Chamber, Boardrooms, Committee Rooms and Conference Rooms. For these purposes an amount of N\$2,976,000 is being requested.

The National Council strives to continuously conduct capacity and competency building training for its Members and staff. An amount of N\$2,180,000 is being requested for these activities.

As part of promoting wider public participation in the lawmaking process, the National Council will ensure that parliamentary debates and Committee activities are in sign language. HANSARD and other publications will also be printed in Braille and indigenous languages. An amount of N\$5,185,000 is requested.

The National Council, like all other organisation, is concerned with the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country, hence it will educate and embark on awareness programmes for its Members and employees. For this initiative to be realised, an amount of N\$356,000 is requested.

The National Council intends to make the current Chamber and the old Administration Building accessible to people living with disabilities. An amount of N\$2,678,000 is allocated for this purpose.

To carry out this programme successfully, the National Council requires an amount of N\$17,111,000 for the Financial Year.

Programme 2: Strengthening the review and oversight function of the National Council.

This programme focuses on conducting civic education programmes and disseminating information to promote the work of the National Council. In order to generate public awareness and interest in the National Council activities, an amount of N\$3,272,000 is requested.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 11**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

The National Council's Presiding Officers will enhance public awareness by conducting outreach programmes to further engage the public in the lawmaking process. For this activity to be fully realised, the National Council is requesting an amount of N\$3,392,000.

Furthermore, for the purposes of its review and oversight functions, the National Council's Standing or Select Committees conduct Public Hearings on issues affecting communities. An amount of N6,250,000 is requested.

In order to empower Members of the National Council in their review and oversight functions efficiently and effectively, the National Council shall continue to undertake exchange programmes at other Parliaments to enhance their review capacity. To carry out these very important activities, an amount of N\$3,450,000 is requested.

It is absolutely imperative that the Presiding Officers, Members of the House and staff meet their regional and international obligations at different fora, that is Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, APU, IPU, PAP, Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World. These platforms create opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences on best parliamentary practices. Hence, an amount of N\$6,520,000 is requested,

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, as we all are aware, information is the backbone of the legislative function of Parliament. In order to provide well-researched information as well as professional technical support to Members of the National Council and to ensure that review and oversight functions are exercised properly, the National Council endeavours to enrich the provision of such information in order to provide quality services to its Members. Therefore, an amount of N\$2,540,000 is requested.

The National Council will finalise a Draft Witness Guide that will assist persons or institutions to understand their role within the Public Hearing process. An amount of N\$2,505,000 is requested for this purpose.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 28**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

In order to carry out all the activities under this programme, an amount of N\$27,894,000 for the 2009/2010 Financial Year is requested.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, in order for the National Council to carry out its programmes, it is requesting an amount of N\$45,005,000 for Vote 11 for the 2009/2010 Financial Year and I thank the House on behalf of the National Council.

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

Vote 28 – “ELECTORAL COMMISSION”, N\$180,001,000 put for Introduction.

HON DR T-B GURIRAB: Thank you Chairperson, I am pleased to say that the Electoral Commission of Namibia has in the past year conducted successful elections, namely the election of Members for the Omuthiya Local Authority Council in the Oshikoto Region and the by-election held in Tobias Hainyeko Constituency of the Khomas Region.

The Electoral Commission is continuously making efforts to enhance cost effectiveness and operational efficiency through the training of staff members with specific emphasis on competency, professionalism, accountability and transparency. Due to the financial constraints and the austerity measures being implemented by Government, the Electoral Commission has submitted a rather conservative Budget to take it through its planned activities for the current Financial Year.

A total amount of N\$180,001,000 is being requested for consideration and approval by Parliament.

The two programmes under the Electoral Commission Budget: 1. **Holding of elections;** 2. **Voter Education**, include a portion for

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 28**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

administration, since this item is no longer regarded as a separate programme. The breakdown of the two programmes of the Electoral Commission is as follows:

Holding of elections:

The purpose of this programme is for holding of regular elections as per the Electoral Act, 1992 (Act 24 of 1992) as amended, to ensure good governance and the consolidation of democracy. Capacity-building in electoral activities is regarded as an important part of the Electoral Commission's activities and would receive attention during off-peak periods.

By-elections:

An amount of N\$3,300,000 is earmarked for by-elections in the event of resignation or death of a Member of a Regional Council. Such vacancy should be filled within 90 days of occurrence. A supplementary registration of voters is held prior to the election process in which a new candidate in that particular constituency is elected for the remainder of the 5 year period.

Continuous registration of voters:

In terms of the Electoral Act, 1992, continuous registration of voters should be carried out to include persons who have turned 18, changed their names and/or addresses due to relocation from one Constituency/Region to another on the national voter's register. This is done by engaging persons in every Constituency of a Region to issue any voter with a new or revised voter's registration card on the presentation of the required documentation and after verification, in case of change of address or name of such documentation. An amount of N\$1,400,000 has been allocated for this activity.

The Electoral Commission was able to conduct the Continuous Voters Registration exercise in the Erongo, Omaheke, Omusati and Kavango Regions between 13 October 2008 and 5 December 2008. This was later

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 28**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

followed by the recently concluded Continuous Voters Registration exercise in the Khomas, Otjozondjupa and Oshikoto Regions, respectively, from 12 February 2009 to 2 April 2009. Preparations are being made to carry out the same exercise in the two remaining Regions, namely Ohangwena and Oshana as from 5 May 2009 to 5 June 2009.

Supplementary Registration:

An amount of N\$35,000,000 is being requested for the supplementary registration of voters as provided for under Section 28 of the Electoral Act, 1992, as amended. The supplementary registration of voters is carried out to include persons who turned 18 years of age and also giving opportunities to persons who have changed addresses to register as voters in their new Constituencies of residence.

Update of voters register:

The cleaning and verification of the voters' register is a priority for the Electoral Commission as this is at the heart of each and every election. An amount of N\$1,205,000 has been allocated in order to, among other things, achieve the following:

- (a) Ensure that both National and Local Authority Voters' Registers are clean of "*ghost voters*" by removing the names of those who died and those that have taken up citizenship of other countries;
- (b) Continuously improve the voters' register including, but not limited to, the use of electronic voters register at polling stations; and
- (c) Continuously improve the functionality of the electronic voters register to provide all the necessary electoral data.

Computerisation of ECN Logistics:

An amount of N\$400,000 has been earmarked for the computerisation of the ECN logistics. The implementation of a computerised system for the

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 28**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

ECN Logistic Stores would not only put the Electoral Commission in a position to keep track of all election material, but would also give it an indication as to when and which items need replacement. Ongoing training of staff members is a priority and maintenance and updating of the system ensures optimum performance and utilisation of such system to the benefit of the institutions.

Local Authority Elections:

A number of towns and villages have been earmarked for proclamation by the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development in the year under discussion. It is the mandate of the Electoral Commission to facilitate the election of Local Authority Councillors in newly proclaimed towns and villages as provided for in the Electoral Act, as amended. This is in line with the Government's stated intention to develop urban communities through infrastructure development and improved service delivery. An amount of N\$3,450,000 has been allocated for this election.

Presidential and National Assembly Elections:

An amount of N\$65,000,000 has been allocated for the conducting of Presidential and National Assembly Elections. It is the mandate of the Electoral Commission to ensure that the said national elections are held within the legal timeframe as highlighted in Articles 29(5) and 57(2) of the Namibian Constitution.

ICT Result Centre:

An amount of N\$3,562,000 is being requested for the establishment of a Central Elections Result Centre that will serve not only as the focal point for results verification and announcement, but also as a meeting point for media outlets, Political Parties, local and international observers.

Construction of the ECN Headquarters:

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 28**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

The Electoral Commission is currently housed in the NDC building following its removal from the old Bank of Namibia Building during mid-2007, which was transferred to the Development Bank of Namibia. The Electoral Commission is facing a problem of severe office and storage space, which makes it difficult to achieve operational efficiency and maximum utilisation of human capital. An amount of N\$50,151,000 has been allocated for the construction of the ECN Headquarters.

Research, Human Resources and Infrastructure Development:

Since the formation of the Electoral Commission in 1992, foreign institutions having interest in our elections and the general public, the academic sector, local and foreign researchers, etcetera, have visited the Electoral Commission, seeking different kinds of information on electoral matters. The process requires a better organised and equipped Resource Centre with trained staff.

Data compilation, verification and production are obtained from various electoral sources. Apart from general and global electoral information, this includes votes cast per polling station, gender participation on polling day, analysis and review of the electoral data before and after elections in relation to planning, organisation, personnel and public opinion. In order to keep pace with current development, the Electoral Commission shall continue to review and improve the electoral law and practice by engaging legal and socio-cultural experts. In order to achieve this objective, an amount of N\$4,937,000 has been allocated to Research, Human Resource and Infrastructure Development.

Legal Challenges:

Legal actions in respect of electoral disputes or against electoral management bodies are commonplace and a fresh election or recount of votes may be the result of such legal actions. The Electoral Commission has faced post-election legal challenges arising from electoral disputes observed during past elections. For instance, the DTA and her allies, the Republican Party, CoD, SWANU and Namibia-MDC in 2004 launched a court application with the High Court and in 2005 the Republican Party's

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 28**
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

court case protesting against the 2004 National Assembly votes recount, which is still pending.

There is absolutely no guarantee that the ECN would not encounter similar challenges in the future. In the light of the above and in order to cater for such unforeseen eventualities, an amount of N\$200,000 have been allocated for possible legal challenges.

Mock Elections:

An amount of N\$100,000 has been allocated for a mock election. However, let me also inform you that the Electronic Voting Machine will not be used during this year's Presidential and National Assembly elections.

Voter Education:

An amount of N\$9,736,000 has been allocated for voter education. The purpose of conducting voter education and sharing of voter information is to increase citizens' level of understanding of electoral processes and ensure participation armed with better understanding. The Voter Education Function is thus geared towards increasing voters understanding of electoral processes and to avoid voter apathy. Voter education is further imperative in order to increase participation of eligible voters in elections. The conducting of countrywide voter education is in line with the SADC election requirements to which Namibia also subscribes.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of Parliament, this presentation makes a case for the activities and programmes that the Electoral Commission of Namibia wishes to undertake this year. I now wish to entreat this House to approve the Budget Estimates for the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. This is the heartfelt request of the Electoral Commission and the Honourable Members are kindly requested to oblige. I thank you.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank you very much.

Vote 29 – “INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY”, N\$234,808,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me to introduce Vote 29 for the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to this august House.

Last year I motivated the Budget of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology exactly 8 days after the creation of the Ministry under its current name. It was a huge challenge to use the allocated amount and also to cater for the communication technology part that was added to the Ministry’s mandate.

For Namibia to consider becoming part of the global information society is no longer an option, it is obligatory. As a Nation we have to embrace Information and Communication Technology to participate and benefit from the global economy which is driven by technology.

The 2003 and 2005 World Summits on the Information Society recognised that Information and Communication Technologies are the tools to stimulate growth, address health issues, reduce poverty and to attain the Millennium Development Goals.

The creation of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology was geared at bringing an end to the historic fragmentation of the ICT sector in the country. This paved the way for a focused approach to ICT development and the consolidation of ICT functions and responsibilities within Government.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

The new Ministry was given an expanded mandate to leapfrog Namibia into the new information society, guided by the principles enumerated in Vision 2030. The technology and information societies are developing very fast and we will become even more technology dependent in future. This development has its social and economic consequences; central to this are the digital divide and efforts to bridge the divide.

An appropriate starting point in ICT development and promotion was to undertake a complete review and update of the ICT policy framework, coupled with a detailed and costed implementation plan. The implementation of these policies and action frameworks will accelerate our development plans, stimulate growth and provide new opportunities in education, trade, on the job creation, which in turn will help Namibia to achieve a high stage of development and raise our standards of living.

Our policy review process resulted in progressive new policies in the areas of Information Technology, communications, a new licensing framework, postal services and broadcasting. All these policies are modelled on regional and international best practices and their implementation will give Namibia a competitive advantage in this sector.

In the Information Communication Bill that will transform the communication landscape, accelerate ICT rollout to address the urban/rural divide and create an autonomous regulator for the communication sector is scheduled to reach this august House any time soon.

In preparation for the implementation of this Act, the Namibian Communication Commission developed a new structure with accompanying key performance areas to cover the whole spectrum of its new responsibilities. This transformation process, together with the drafting of several regulations for the sector, will continue in the new Financial Year.

In our effort to address accessibility, affordability and the speed of data transmission, Namibia is participating in the West Africa Cable System (WACS), an undersea telecoms cable project that will bring a broadband

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

landing point to Swakopmund in Namibia. The undersea cable will run along the west coast of Africa from South Africa to London with branching off units that make landing points for participating countries along the coast possible.

The Ministry is in the process of transforming itself to address its communication and technology mandate. The current programmes of the Ministry adequately address our information gathering, processing and dissemination functions. However, new programmes need to be developed to address the communication and technology functions in line with NDP3 and Vision 2030 to ensure affordable and accessible ICT services, ICT training, infrastructure development and the liberalisation and deregulation of the communication markets.

The Ministry is also in an advanced state with the development of a new structure to allow it to effectively address its new functions. The Ministry has furthermore developed a strategic plan for the next 5 years that contains costed interventions, as well as management plans to ensure the development of the Information and Communication Technology sectors in Namibia.

In line with the decentralisation policy, the Ministry has identified its audiovisual and print media production functions for decentralisation to Regional Councils.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 10:30
HOUSE RESUMES AT 10:55 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, in line with the Ministry's programme to expand media accessibility, we supported seven multipurpose community centres in the Ohangwena,

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

Karas and Caprivi Regions in the previous Financial Year through its Education, Audiovisual Network, and Consolidation Development Programme. Communities from Endola, Okongo, Aroab, Aus, Ibbu, Sachona and Impalila Island, respectively, benefited from this programme.

In the current Financial Year support will be extended to multipurpose community centres in the Erongo, Oshikoto and Oshana Regions.

The Ministry, in collaboration with development partners, assisted with the establishment of and support to community radio stations in Keetmanshoop, Eenhana, Swakopmund, Rehoboth and Windhoek.

Eight editions of the Government mouthpiece, the *Government Information Bulletin*, were published in the previous Financial Year. A total of 50,000 per edition were distributed free of charge countrywide, as well as to our diplomatic missions abroad. This activity will continue in the current Financial Year.

More than 150 media releases were prepared and distributed on Cabinet decisions, for Government institutions and on behalf of the SADC Secretariat in Botswana.

During the review period, the NBC upgraded its transmitter networks at Bethanie, Klein Waterberg, Buitepos, Aranos, Tsumeb, Oranjemund and Aus, while work from the previous Financial Year on transmitter networks is ongoing at Okongo, Kamanjab, Oshakati, Maltahöhe, Omuthiya, Gross Herzog and Gam.

In the current Financial Year, prediction studies for the expansion of the NBC transmitter network will be done for Ruacana, Sesfontein, Omuthiya, Divundu, Ndoro, Mangetti dune, Tsumkwe, Eiseb Gate, Eiseb 2, Otjinene, Walvis Bay and Twee Rivieren.

With regards to the upgrading of its studios, the NBC completed the upgrading of its radio studios in Windhoek in the past Financial Year. 3 Outside Broadcast Vehicles for radio were also commissioned. Work that

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

started on studios at Tsumkwe, Otjiwarongo and Keetmanshoop in the previous Financial Year is scheduled for completion in July 2009.

In the current Financial Year, the NBC will embark on the upgrading of its television studios, while obsolete power supply systems at Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Otjiwarongo and Keetmanshoop will be replaced.

With respect to language coverage, the intention of the NBC is to broadcast in all the language services countrywide. However, the NBC inherited a system from the previous regime that impacts on language service coverage. To accommodate all language services, the combiner systems have to be replaced and the frequency allocation per language station has to be re-planned in conjunction with the Namibian Communication Commission.

To ensure that the National Council honours its mandate to educate, inform and entertain the public, the Board of Directors are committed to address issues at the NBC, including the much talked about phone-in programmes. As much as we value freedom of expression, it is incumbent upon the board and the management to ensure that these programmes are not abused. Therefore, measures are being put in place to ensure that these programmes contribute to nationbuilding, harmony and unity.

There is already a notable improvement in the phone-in programmes and the NBC needs to be congratulated for this.

Rapid technology changes and convergence of ICTs have led to a need to digitalise broadcasting services worldwide by 2010. It is, therefore, important for Namibia to be prepared so as not to remain behind. My Ministry and its agency, the Namibian Communication Commission is consulting international experts on digital switch-over issues to understand and develop a national digital broadcasting master plan and licensing framework.

This plan will determine set-top box standards, optimisation of a digital broadcasting frequency plan and the socio-economic impact of the switch-

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

over on Namibian households. Digitalisation will enable broadcasters to expand their services, including the introduction of more channels.

Honourable Members, under our responsibility to disseminate information on Government activities and policies, the Ministry has published five editions of *Namibia Review*. A total of 2,500 copies per edition were printed and distributed to subscribers and sold to interested persons at a cost of N\$5 each.

The Ministry also participated in 11 exhibitions, shows and trade fairs in Namibia to popularise the functions of the Ministry and Government. Several publications, such as the Namibian Constitution, books with the founding President's statements and photos of His Excellency the President Hifikepunye Pohamba were sold, while posters of Cabinet Ministers and our national symbols were distributed.

The Ministry produced videos for the Office of the Prime Minister for the commemoration of Africa Public Service Day and for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration on its Mobile Registration Vehicles. Videos on the excavation of the Oranjemund shipwreck and a profile on the Oshikoto Region were produced and are currently being edited.

Besides the production of videos, the Ministry also did video shows in all thirteen Regions of the country, showing development projects and programmes of the Government.

The Ministry's public address system was used at 16 events during the previous Financial Year. An amount of N\$209,498 was generated through renting out of the public address system for non-government events.

During the period under review, regional offices were established in the Ohangwena and Omusati Regions, which complete our presence in all 13 Regions.

The Ministry's "Information, Education and Communication for All Programme" is geared at creating knowledge on pertinent issues and stimulating social dialogue and debate on population and reproductive

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

health issues. These activities take place in collaboration with Government institutions and other stakeholders.

In December last year, the Ministry launched its National Pride and Nationhood Campaign aimed at encouraging Namibian citizens to love and be proud of their country. This campaign also addresses vandalism, hygiene and sanitation to instil a culture of healthy living, a cleaner environment and the protection of public property and infrastructure among Namibians.

The Ministry is, furthermore, collaborating with the Ministry of Safety and Security on a campaign on small arms and light weapons. This campaign is aimed at public awareness and education in terms of the danger and proliferation of small arms and light weapons. This campaign was launched in the previous Financial Year and will continue in the current Financial Year.

HIV/AIDS remains a scourge in the Namibian society, hence the continuation of the Take Control HIV/AIDS Campaign. Under the slogan, *Be There to Care*, the Campaign is aimed at educating the Namibian public on interventions on how to practise safe sex, how to care for infected and affected people and to break down the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

Honourable Members, to ensure that the media sector benefits the economy, the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act (Act 6 of 2004) is being amended to conform to the World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation's Internet Treaty, Trade Related Internet Protocol aspects and to include the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore in the amended legislation.

The Namibian Film Commission injected N\$4 million into the production of Namibia's first ever family drama series, *The Ties that Bind*. This drama is well received by the Namibian audience. The first 13 episodes have been completed and are currently screened on the NBC.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

The Namibia Film Commission is also sponsoring five students who are studying film-making at universities in South Africa as part of its drive to build capacity in the motion picture medium. Due to the exorbitant cost of funding studies in South Africa, the Namibia Film Commission is in the process of acquiring courses from the City Varsity in South Africa to be offered by the College of Arts in Windhoek. This will cut costs and allow more students to participate.

To develop a screen culture in Namibia, the Namibia Film Commission contributed N\$100,000 towards the Wild Film Festival in Windhoek. This festival serves as a platform where young film-makers can showcase their talents in film production to the public.

As part of the 2008 Heroes Day commemorations, the film, *Namibia, the Struggle for Liberation*, was screened in 23 towns in all 13 Regions.

The Namibia Film Commission is continuously engaged in a marketing drive of the film. The Commission needs to find a distributing agency to promote and market the film to allow the Government to recoup its investment in this production.

Furthermore, commissioners and staff members of the Namibia Film Commission attended international film fairs to market Namibia as a film-making location. In this regard, the Commission entered into a public-private partnership with the German Development Service to produce a promotional video to market Namibia as a film-making destination.

In the previous Financial Year, the New Era upgraded its Oshakati and Walvis Bay offices, while the same is to be done at Keetmanshoop in the current Financial Year.

New Era strengthened its presence in the country by adding Tses, Gibeon, Koës, Bethanie, Helmeringhausen, Oranjemund, Noordoewer, Grunau, Aussenkehr, Aranos, Stampriet, Leonardville, Maltahöhe, Ongha, Omafo, Ondobe, Engela, Eenhana, Outapi, Okahao, Opuwo, Kamanjab, Divundu, Nkurenkuru, Kombat, Okamatapati, Omitara and Aminuis to its distribution network.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

An exciting new project on which the newspaper is to embark upon this year is the introduction of new entertainment content and a youth section in its Friday edition. The necessary appointments to take care of these functions had already been done.

Although the New Era showed audited profits in 2007 and 2008, these profits had been reinvested in the newspaper to improve the product and to make it more competitive in the market. The profitability of the newspaper cannot be sustained until such time this reinvestment bears fruit.

For the Southern Times, the year under review resulted in a financial deficit. The allocated subsidy of N\$2 million was barely sufficient to achieve any growth plans or projects. The growth in the distribution efforts of NamZim Papers will continue to be affected by the escalating expenses for freelancers to cover elections in 6 countries in southern Africa, as well as projected increased fuel costs.

The Namibia Press Agency continues to contribute to national development by providing news and information products to virtually all the local media and international agencies, while it also serves as a source of information for political, economic and Financial Institutions.

The Agency plans to strengthen its traditional information gathering and dissemination functions in the next Financial Year, while investment in Human Capital development will also receive due attention.

Although Nampa is not yet a profit-making business, the Agency has embarked on IT projects and other business ventures in an effort to generate income and make it less reliant on Government contributions in future.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members to improve the use of Information and Communication and Technology, the Government encourages aggressive infrastructure roll-out programmes and advanced products and services by telecom operators to obtain cost effective and reliable broadband access within Namibia and to global ICT networks.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION: MOTIVATION VOTE 29
HON KAAPANDA

Telecom Namibia extended its national fibre networks to over 7,154 kilometres by completing the Kunene, Erongo and Velloorsdrif routes. The backbone network now covers the remote villages and settlements of Okamatapati, Okondjatu, Otjinene, Uis, Epupa and Soris-Soris.

Rural connectivity through the VSAT and WiiMAX systems had been improved with 35 WiiMAX base stations having been installed to date. During the past year, Ohaiua Village in the Kunene Region was provided with VSAT coverage. Telecom Namibia invested over N\$261 million in capital projects in 2008.

Fixed-line coverage and penetration levels are standing at 7,4% tele-density (7,4% per 100 population) and 39% coverage of households in the country. In terms of voice and data services, 100% of urban households and 54% of total urban population is covered, including schools and the business community.

Telecom Namibia, through the XNET Development Trust, ensured that about 117 schools in the country are connected to the Internet.

In terms of regional connectivity, connections through our national fibre networks have been established with Angola, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa and beyond. Telecom Namibia also positioned itself strategically within the region with joint venture business in Angola (45% shareholding in Mundo Startel Angola). Telecom Namibia also has a joint venture with Neotel Company of South Africa to leverage the best possible connectivity routes and prices for Namibian consumers.

Telecom Namibia is designated as the lead agent for Government in the construction and management of the planned N\$5,5 billion undersea cable development called the West African Cable System and signed the necessary contracts earlier this month to secure Namibia's participation in the project.

Telecom Namibia, in consultation with local stakeholders, MTC, Cell One, our Ministry and NPTH must now raise the necessary funds to the tune of N\$375 million for the WACS cable development. In terms of

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

terrestrial, connectivity with our neighbouring countries, Telecom Namibia plans to complete another connection to South Africa at Verloorsdrift/Onseepkans by May 2009, as well as a second connection route to Botswana through Ngoma. At Oshikango, Ruacana and Katwitwi, alternative connections will be established with Angola.

Mobile telecommunications have overtaken fixed-line communications by far in terms of connecting the Nation. One of the major milestones by MTC was that it reached the one million customer mark in 2008. Other milestones included the upgrade of MTC's core system at 21 new sites to include the remote villages and settlements of Gam, Eiseb and Okauwa as well as other localities.

MTC's 3G data and Internet services are available in ten of the 13 Regions with the biggest uptake in the Khomas and Erongo Regions. Kunene, Ohangwena and Omusati are still without 3G coverage and plans are underway for coverage in the future.

Through its N\$5 million Mobile Internet University Programme with the Polytechnic and UNAM, MTC is subsidising 1,152 laptops, while 3,033 students are using subsidised 3G data and Internet services.

Sustainable mobile operations are essential in this time of global economic crisis and it is encouraging to note that MTC recorded a 13% turnover increase from 2007 to 2008. Capital investments amounting to N\$288,4 million were made by MTC during 2008. MTC improved its mobile penetration levels from 47,7% to 62,3% during the year under review. The aggressive expansion programme in infrastructure resulted in MTC having rolled out 495 base stations throughout the country to date. The current mobile infrastructure coverage levels are 56% territorial and 91 to 94% population.

In continuing its social responsibilities programmes, MTC is the sole sponsor of the Namibia Premier League to the tune of N\$4.3 million per annum for the period 2008 to 2010. It also sponsors Namibian cricket, the Namibian Golf Association and Namibia Rugby with N\$2 million for each sport code.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

MTC will continue to address the need of coverage in Namibia by covering all tarred roads; connecting remote areas through satellite systems; and implement a roll-out programme for 100 new local coverage sites during the next 18 months.

In the postal services sector, NamPost continued to invest in modernising its operations by introducing state-of-the-art technologies. The Post Office network comprises 124 postal services outlets throughout the country. In the year under review, NamPost opened new Post Offices at Aminuis, Okuryangava, Prosperita, Goreangab, Windhoek Prison, Okongo and Berseba.

Quality of postal services remains an important consideration for NamPost. The Company participated in the Universal Postal Union's Quality of Service Certification exercise in 2008 for which it received a Silver Award in recognition of their high quality of services.

In terms of regional cooperation, NamPost and Botswana Post are in the process of concluding a Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral cooperation in postal services to establish direct postal links between the two countries.

To ensure that the postal sector in Namibia meaningfully contributes to national development, NamPost developed a 5 year strategic plan to expand the Post Office network from 124 to 145 Post Offices by 2014.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members to allow the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to continue with the implementation of its programmes, I am requesting an amount of N\$234,808,000 for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. This allocation will allow us to implement the following:

Programme 1: Media accessibility to ensure that the Namibian people have access to electronic, printed and other media to strengthen their participation in the country's development.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

For this programme, I request an allocation of N\$50,953,000 to mainly cover development projects of the Ministry that will ensure media accessibility to the Namibian people. Under this programme, the expansion of the NBC Transmitter Network, the upgrading of NBC studios, the support to multipurpose community centres and the roll-out of high-speed broadband access is covered, as well as the monthly publication and distribution of the *Government Information Bulletin*.

Under this programme, an amount of N\$1,5 million is also requested to commission a feasibility study for the building of Headquarters for the Ministry to allow the Ministry to conduct its operations from one central point. For this purpose, erf 120 in Love Street, Windhoek has been allocated to the Ministry. Currently the Ministry is scattered all over town, an issue that impacts negatively on effective communication and management.

Programme 2: Disseminating Government activities and policies to ensure that all Namibians understand Government priorities, policies and programmes.

For this programme I request an allocation of N\$40,935,000 to continue publishing and distributing the *Namibian Review*, reprint the Namibian Constitution, produce videos on national events, show videos throughout the country, prepare media statements and host media briefings and to prepare material for Namibia's 20th Independence anniversary, which falls in this Financial Year.

Programme 3: Information, education and communication for all, a programme that the Ministry executes in collaboration with other stakeholders.

The programme is aimed at equipping the Namibian society with diverse information to make informed decisions on population and reproductive health issues. The end-result of this programme is to reduce poverty and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, preventable diseases, crime and other social ills. This programme will also cover the campaign on nationhood and National Pride, Vandalism, Hygiene and Sanitation.

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

For this programme I request an allocation of N\$21,878,000 to allow the Ministry to continue with its campaigns on HIV/AIDS and other development issues. It will also allow us to render support and coordinate inter-ministerial media campaigns to stimulate social dialogue and debate on pertinent issues.

Lastly, it will enable us to develop print and electronic material on a Regional and Constituency level to ensure access to tailor-made information for different communities.

Programme 4: Media sector benefits the economy – a programme to enhance the ability of the media sector to contribute to the cultural and economic development of the country. This will further help to establish Namibia as a regional and international film location, to strengthen the local film industry and to address intellectual property rights.

For this programme, I request an allocation of N\$120,842,000 which amount includes the subsidies to the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation, the Namibia Press Agency, the New Era Publication Corporation, NamZim Newspapers and the film Development Fund of the Namibia Film Commission.

Programme 5: Increasing the use of Information Communication and Technology: This programme is aimed at establishing an ICT unit in the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to promote awareness of the rule and use of ICT in development.

For this programme, I request an allocation of N\$200,000 to allow my Ministry to start with the implementation of the revised and overarching ICT policies that have been developed in the previous Financial Year.

This programme will pave the way for Namibia to become part of the Information Society.

I also request an additional allocation of N\$8,7 million. This amount will be spent in the following way:

17 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 29**
HON KAAPANDA

- N\$6 million is requested to allow the NBC to cover the upcoming Presidential and National Elections, as well as the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations and World Cup Soccer tournaments.
- N\$900,000 is earmarked for human capacity building at the NBC;
- N\$100,000 is requested to host the meeting of SADC Ministers of ICT;
- N\$200,000 is earmarked to advertise national events in the local media;
- N\$1 million is needed to produce a high quality coffee table book on the New State House; and
- A further N\$500,000 is requested to finalise the revised information policy.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the august House, in the light of the above outlined programmes, I humbly submit Vote 29 for the total amount of N\$234,8080,000 for your endorsement and approval for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Let me remind the Honourable Members of Rule 26(5) and Rule 29(h) of the Standing Rules and Orders.

Vote 01 – “PRESIDENT” put for Discussion.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON T GURIRAB

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I shall be brief as per tradition. Let me start by making the observation that we note that most of the posts on the establishment are funded and that the Office of the President is doing its bit to stimulate demand in the present difficult economic circumstances. I have a few questions and the first question relates to the robust growth on Main Division 02 on page 26 regarding the National Intelligence Service.

Honourable Chairperson, whilst we have appreciation for the Minister's views on this Service, we must nevertheless make the observation that the growth of the National Intelligence Service Budget has shown a very robust growth in the last couple of years. In this Budget alone what is being requested represents a 32% growth over last year in absolute terms. I hope that this does not mean that there is a corresponding rise in threats to our security.

However, Honourable Chairperson, we also wish to state that despite what the Honourable Minister said during his presentation, that the oversight function on this particular aspect of the Vote remains weak at best or non-existent at all and this is not good for a democracy, given the inherent risk of abuse to which we must all be alive and not turn a blind eye to.

Honourable Chairperson, doing nothing is not an option, and there are models from other jurisdictions, both within and without our Region, and we need not reinvent the wheel, but doing nothing is not an option and we must extend the full reach of oversight to this particular function as well.

Honourable Chairperson, I note on page 29 of the Development Budget a provision which seems inadequate, of N\$5,000 which is being made available for maintenance. First we are being informed on this page that the Office of the President will be responsible for its maintenance and that this function has been transferred from the Ministry of Works to the Office of the President and that a sum of N\$5,000 has been availed for this purpose when looking at this figure, we thought the figure looked a little bit inadequate. If you look at page 29, we do not know what information is being communicated here. There are 5 columns, some incomplete and the ones which are complete are not enough for us to draw any

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON GORESEB

conclusions. I do not know whether the Minister of Presidential Affairs is the right person to ask or whether I should wait for the presentation of the Ministry of Finance's Vote to raise this question on the quality of the document.

We also note that the document states that the State House for the three Financial Years. That is the year that came to an end on the 31st of March, this Financial Year and the next Financial Year, the completion of the State House stands at 95%. Over three Financial Years there is no progress in completing the progress. That is one part. The second part is that the Minister has promised in this Honourable House that once the project is completed, he will give us a figure of the cost of the project, so that we all work from one figure. So that I do not work from one set of figures on this side of the House and the Honourable Minister has another figure which he hides in his drawer. I want to know whether we have reached that stage now in order for the Minister to share with this Honourable House the cost of this project.

With those two questions I will sit down now.

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

HON GORESEB: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Dr Albert Kawana, I listened to your motivation of Vote 01 – Office of the President with very keen interest. I support your plea for funding this highest office with the requested sum, however I have two questions regarding the Office of the Founding President.

Noting the public outcry for spending millions on the retired former Head of State and also conscious of your vows that *come heaven or earth or rising unemployment or lack of funds for funding ARV's, that programme will continue*, the completion of the said office will again fall close to when the current Head of State is due to retire in 2015, if Lady

17 April 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON KAIYAMO / IILONGA**

Luck is on his side and he is re-elected again. As such office is viewed to be State property, are the two retired Presidents going to share the same office for the intended ceremonial duties? Did the Founding President opt for an office instead of a house, as is customary in the SADC Region as you have alluded to? Thank you.

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

HON KAIYAMO: Comrade Chairperson, I also rise to support this important Vote. A problem that has been troubling me for some time now is that we have noticed in the past few years constant attacks on the Founding President, constant attacks on the current President, but nobody is standing up to defend these two personalities. I want to know whether it is done deliberately so that the people on the ground are frustrated or not.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, that is too general, it was not mentioned in the speech of the Minister. Confine yourself to the speech of the Minister or to the documents. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to give my unconditional support to Vote 01, starting with Programme 3: Intelligence. This is the programme which is the eyes and ears of every Nation and even Honourable Moongo is always safe because of this programme. Therefore, I support the funds allocated to this programme. If the economy would allow, they should have more resources. We need them to have sophisticated facilities. It does not mean that when we fund the Intelligence or the Forces, there is a threat, but we prepare for eventualities. In my vernacular there is a saying, "*do not wake a sleeping dog, pass by before it wakes up because it will bite you.*" Therefore, we

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON EKANDJO

must not wake that one and prepare while the dog sleeps. I support the allocation to Programme 3.

I also support Programme 4 – the Office of the Founding President.

I really do not understand, Comrade Chairperson, why people always query things while they have passed a law in this House. This is a big concern and we need to condemn it. When Honourable Kawana introduced this Vote, he mentioned that we are even going to open an office for the current President in future. On page 9 of his motivation he said: *“We must nourish our democratic institutions so that our democracy can be durable. Namibia should never be like many developing countries where the home of a living former Head of State is either in Europe or North America.”* That must not be allowed to happen in Namibia.

Therefore, I rest my case and I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Comrade Chair. I rise to support Vote 01. In fact, the N\$356 million is too little and I hope that next time the Office of the President will receive more than N\$1 billion, because the President as the Head of State receives his counterparts from all over the world. When Heads of State come here, they are taken care of by the President of the country. They travel in the country, they go to Walvis Bay and wherever on the Vote of the President. Therefore this is too little.

Secondly, coming to the Office of the Founding Fathers, the Honourable Members who are against that office at the same time came and said Government should take care of Traditional Authorities. They talk about

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON EKANDJO

pensions for Traditional Authorities, whereas the President...
(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Ekandjo, are you aware that the people who criticise the Founding President's home know that they are not going to be in that position and that is why they are fighting for the Traditional Authorities, because they are never going to be a former President of this country.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: You are right. The Traditional Authorities must be taken care of by their subjects. The Nation has to take care of former Presidents because the former Presidents were elected by the Namibian people. It is us who elected such a person. That is why we have passed a law here. There is no outcry by the Nation, you can read the newspapers, no outcry. Do not come and make propaganda here, there was no outcry outside. In fact, the majority of the people are not happy that the former President is not taken care of by the State, because we put him there.

Honourable Members, now you want this House to take care of the people who were elected by their subjects as traditional leaders. You want the Namibian taxpayers to take care of them and not the people the Nation elected. The Nation has to take care of former Presidents. We passed a law which declared him as the Father of the Namibian Nation and we passed a law for all former Presidents.

On the issue of saying there is an outcry, an outcry by whom? You can go to New York and you will find people sleeping in the street, in Paris and the world over you will find unemployed people. In my language there is a saying that the grapes are sour because you know you will never reach there. Now you are fighting for the traditional leaders because you may one day become a traditional leader. You are talking about the benefits,

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON MOONGO

not knowing that the traditional leaders have to work for their benefits. They are not remunerated, this is an allowance.

We support Vote 01 and next time we hope the Budget will be more than one billion.

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

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, I would only like to thank the President, His Excellency Pohamba, for the healthy relationship between Parties and his office and I really want to appreciate that. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Why should you respond to the speech of the President? Come to the speech of the Minister.

HON MOONGO: On page 1 the Minister spoke about the healthy relationship between the President and Political Parties in Namibia is so sound and I appeal to the Ministry also to follow the same. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask a question to the Honourable Member? *Tate Moongo, oshike to gumu obalukutu, to dhimulukitha aantu oyendji?* It means, why are you touching the armoury, reminding the warriors?

17 April 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE / HON DR KAWANA**

HON MOONGO: I was saying that all the Ministries in Namibia must follow the example of the President. The doors of the President is open and let all the Ministries be open to every Political Party. Invite us and let us have a healthy relationship.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have just one small question. On page 9 of the motivation speech the Honourable Minister Kawana says: *“Against this background, allow me to appreciate the new culture in some SADC countries, including Namibia, where a former Head of State is well protected and respected. This generation of our leaders gave much for their countries and the welfare of their people.”*

I just want to ask, the Founding President of South Africa, President Mandela, is extremely well taken care of and over and above that, his office has numerous projects where he gets involved in finding funding for orphans, vulnerable children, education, homeless people, etcetera. Former President Masire has started an organisation of leaders who prioritise HIV/AIDS in the region and I just wanted to ask the Honourable Minister, since it is not mentioned here, whether apart from structures and offices and houses, there are programmes of such nature where the Founding President with his international status does embark on programmes like that which could bring value to the poorest of Namibia.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? Honourable Minister Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me first of all thank the Honourable Members for showing interest in the Vote of the

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA

Office of the President. Let me appreciate the remarks of *Honourable Gurirab* of the CoD regarding the establishment. It is true that most of the establishment are funded.

Regarding the issue of our Intelligence and that oversight has been non-existent. I disagree vehemently with the Honourable Member on that point. May I remind the Honourable Member that currently we have an Act of Parliament, called Namibia Central Intelligence Service Act of 1997 (Act 10 of 1997). In terms of that Act, even interception of certain messages by the Intelligence requires formal approval by a Judge of the High Court. That means oversight, which the Honourable Member does not appreciate. That is in the law.

Indeed, I concur with the Honourable Members who said this Service plays a very important role in Namibia and you might have seen a while ago how bullets were flying around in our Central Business District in an attempted robbery and the able action of the men and women in uniform of the Ministry of Safety and Security. Honourable Member, some of that information comes from our Intelligence Service to make sure that we fight crime in this country, which means some of that information is shared with the other law enforcement agencies in order to maintain peace and stability, to keep peace of mind, to protect you personally, to protect your property and the property of other Namibian citizens. In this regard this agency plays a very important role. Do not forget the events of the 2nd of August 1999. Indeed, some of the Honourable Members in this House were even accusing our Government. How come this came about as a surprise, where were your Intelligence? When we want to rectify that situation you are complaining. That is why some of these Political Parties will never be in power in this country because they are not consistent. On the one hand you oppose, when we do our job, you oppose. I really do not understand what is wrong with some of our Opposition Parties.

The information I want to give is that we are living in a world where technology is always advancing. When that technology advances and when your equipment is no longer compatible with the equipment of other institutions and countries, you have to upgrade, otherwise you will be left

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA

behind. The effectiveness of Intelligence is to intercept before it occurs and this is what we are now doing. We are upgrading our equipment so that we are at least at par with other agencies not only in SADC, not only in Africa, but beyond Africa, so that we can be effective.

You must remember that we live in a world of international terrorism. You might say Namibia is very peaceful and stable, there is no need, but remember Honourable Member, we were together in exile during the eighties when Pope John II was shot and he was shot by a lone gunman and the Pope was not a threat. He shot the Pope in order to get publicity, he was protesting against world hunger and this can happen in order to get publicity and even if we do not have enemies as such, people can become mischievous in order to get free publicity. We need to be very careful about that.

On the cost of State House: It is correct that 95% has been completed. The residence will be completed by August, September this year and we look forward to that completion. As you may recall, I told this august House that the land on which the State House is situated belongs to the Municipality and with the current Budget we will be able to purchase that and complete the expropriation process because some of those plots are owned by individuals and we will be able to pay from that Budget in addition to landscaping, in addition to the purchase of furniture for the residence. I do not know whether I will still be in office as Minister of Presidential Affairs, but if it will be completed during my term, I promise I will tell this Honourable House and the Nation the cost of the State House to the last cent.

Honourable Goreseb, on the issue of Founding President, unemployment and ARV, let me repeat in no uncertain terms that we have to respect our former Presidents, not only the Founding President, our former Presidents. This is a culture that we have to adopt in order to maintain, peace and stability in this country. You will never find a former Head of State in other African countries. They get involved in corrupt activities, looting the resources of those countries, so that when they are not in power, they can live in Europe and America and have a good time at the expense of

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE
HON DR KAWANA

the Nation. We do not want that in Namibia.

The President of Namibia, whoever he is, not necessarily the Founding President, must rule us in terms of the letter and spirit of the Namibian Constitution. He must be a good President, he must be a democratic President so that when he or she retires, we will be able to afford the necessary respect, so that Namibia can continue to maintain peace and stability and that we can continue to be a shining example to other countries in terms of this stability. We will not compromise on this issue with anybody!

In addition, Honourable Goreseb, you are aware that we passed an Act of Parliament in this House, called Former Presidents' Pension and Other Benefits Act of 2004 (Act 18 of 2004). In terms of that Act the Government is required to provide an office to a former President and that is what we are doing and we are just complying with the laws of the Republic of Namibia passed by this august House. In terms of employment this is indeed a capital project which will create employment. Your assertion about ARVs is not true. It is political, because as you have heard in the motivation of the Honourable Minister of Finance, the budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Health has been increased. ARVs are now available at even the clinic level in all thirteen Regions of this country.

If you want to politicise this issue, fine, but let us meet outside and campaign and you can be rest assured, your Party will be defeated decisively.

Honourable Kaiyamo, I am sorry you were ruled Out of Order and I am unable to assist you in this regard.

Honourable Ilonga, thank you very much. My dear Comrade, I fully agree with you and thank you for your support of the Vote. Indeed, I must maybe add here that I do not really understand some of these things. When it happens in Africa, it is wrong; when it happens in Europe or America, it is glorified. Are you aware that no building in Washington

17 April 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA**

DC may be higher than that statue of George Washington? More than a hundred years after America's Independence,

they are respecting their first President of the United States of America and we have to do the same here. What is the difference? Even if you become a millionaire today and you want to erect a building in Washington, you will never be allowed by American law for that building to be higher than the statue of George Washington. Did you know that?

Thank you for your support, *Honourable Ekandjo*. Honourable Moongo, my senior traditional leader, thank you very much for your remark, but I must differ from you that it is only the doors of the Office of the President that are open to Political Parties. Offices, Ministries and Agencies are public offices which are open to each and every Namibian citizen, let alone a Member of Parliament and if you say that you have been denied access to any of my Colleagues here, I will dispute that because we have public offices and ours is a democratic Government which caters for each and every Namibian. This Government is for each and every Namibian regardless of political affiliation. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: When are they going to invite the Political Parties?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: They do not have to invite you, if you have an issue you can make an appointment and go and see them. Their doors are open.

Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase, thank you very much for the query. Indeed, we have the Sam Nujoma Foundation which is providing charitable relief to some of our senior citizens, scholarships, food, blankets and so forth and that Foundation is chaired by none other than the Right Honourable Prime Minister and I am also a member of the board of trustees and quite a number of the senior Ministers here are too. I think we are really doing a good job in that regard.

With these few remarks, Honourable Chairperson, I move that the

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON T GURIRAB

Honourable Members support Vote 01.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any further discussion?

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I am grateful to the Minister for his answer, but I have one small query and this has to do with the President's Economic Advisory Council. My question is whether this body still exists and whether the Minister wishes to report on its activities, because I have not seen it neither in the speech, nor in the documents provided. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That question is also general. You have answered yourself, it is not in the speech, it is not in any document. How can you raise issues which are not in the documents?

HON T GURIRAB: Is it a function which no longer exists?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Order Paper, we are still coming to that one if it is on the Order Paper.

HON T GURIRAB: The second observation I wanted to make, Honourable Chairperson, is with regard to the question I have raised and I am happy to agree to disagree with the Minister that the oversight function is done by the elected Members of the House. In this particular area, where I raised the question, our oversight function is non-existent, but I am happy to disagree with the Minister and I state thus for the Record.

As regards interceptions and those things, let it be on record that he was

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 01
HON DR KAWANA

telling this Honourable House today that because no Judge has authorised interception, that no interceptions are taking place in Namibia. I want to him to speak that into the Record. I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Chairperson, if the Honourable Member wants further control, he can propose an Amendment to the existing law, but as I said, we in the SWAPO Party say the security of our Nation is not negotiable with anybody and that is our bottom-line. In addition, we have what is called the Defence and Security Committee of this House and if that Committee can go and inspect our barracks and equipment in the Army, why not also make an appointment and be briefed by the Director General? I do not see any problem because you are a Member of Parliament and you will be welcome, in my view. Indeed, I am told by the Vice-President that they consult from time to time and their concerns can be addressed there. If you are not satisfied with the answers that you get from there, you can come to State House and see His Excellency the President.

We are operating within the letter and spirit of the law, we are operating within the letter and spirit of the Namibian Constitution which guarantees fundamental human rights and freedoms. If you have credible evidence that there is abuse, please come forward and we will look into those abuses. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Even though I do not have the Floor to comment, we have to clear some issues. I became a Member of Parliament in 1995 and that is why I always say that “*that very chair*”, I have a reason why I call it “*that very chair*”, it was Mwilima who was seated where Honourable Venaani is sitting. He was opposed to the creation of NDF in this country and what happened in Caprivi in 1992? He wanted to know what is the

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON KAIYAMO / HON DIENDA

point of creating an army when you are free. One may suspect that you have a hidden agenda and that is why you are questioning this. I was here, that is why I always say, "*that very chair*." I say we have to be vigilant, there is something coming up. Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 01? Vote 01 is agreed to.

Vote 02 – "PRIME MINISTER" put for Discussion.

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Chairperson, on page 6 of the speech of the Prime Minister I would like to appreciate the progress made on the e-governance. I would like to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, how are we going to be on the same page on e-governance, meaning that we all need to be well-trained on e-governance? I do not want to give my PIN code to my secretary to print things for me. I want us to be on the same page on this thing. How are we going to be on the same page on this one? I am happy that the Prime Minister's is targeting 60% of e-governance by 2010.

Then I want to know what is the progress on the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management because we want that body to start working. Thank you very much.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am on page 39 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The objectives of the Office of the Prime Minister is to ensure that Namibia has efficient, effective and accountable Public Service and I want to thank the Minister of Finance for the increment for

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DIENDA

our people working for the Government, we appreciate it.

Honourable Chairperson, there is an increasing demand for service delivery in the Public Service. Is there any way that the Public Service could be more accountable following the increment, despite our economic hardships experienced?

Honourable Chairperson, I would also like to go further, I was listening to the phone-in programme and somebody from the Ministry of Works phoned in and said that when they come to work on Monday, they sign in for the rest of the week in advance and then they are not at work.

Is this not being accountable for what we are doing? I can even give you the programme and the name of the person who said it, we have to look into it.

Secondly, Honourable Prime Minister, the Messenger of Court is visiting teachers and Public Servants during office hours to arrest them for moneys owed. If you talk about accountability of the Public Service, is it not an embarrassment for people, especially teachers in Lüderitz at the Diaz Primary School, to be collected and taken to Court while they were supposed to be teaching our children? Why can they not do it after hours, or why can they not visit the houses of these teachers?

Right Honourable Prime Minister, what happened to the programme called "*Prime Minister's Question Time*?" That programme fulfilled a need of the Nation. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Where is that one, the Prime Minister's Question Time?

HON DIENDA: Money is allocated for that programme to be on the radio. (Intervention)

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DIENDA

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Where does it appear? Can you help me?

HON DIENDA: Page 49 – accountable. Honourable Chairperson, page 49 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

Then on the funerals of heroes and heroines. Right Honourable Prime Minister, what is the amount set aside for the funerals of heroes and heroines *per person*? What is taken into consideration when contributions are made? Is the amount equal for everybody or what are the considerations? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: On a Point of Information. The motivation speech of the Deputy Prime Minister consists of seven pages and she never referred to this book.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I am sorry if the Deputy Minister did not read through this document. On page 41 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the constitutional obligation of the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, main activities: San Socio-Economic Development Programme. Scholarships for San learners. Honourable Chairperson, during our outreach programme of the Human Resources, Social and Community Development Committee we found that 100 percent of the San learners cannot afford the school development fund. In the report of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister on the San Development Programme of 2005 until 2009, only some learners have been covered. My question is, how can the rest of the San community benefit from this programme? Secondly, is this project known to all the San communities or is it still in the pilot stage?

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON MOONGO

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am still on page 41, the coffin manufacturing project which is also part of the San Economic Development Project. This project, Right Honourable Prime Minister, is to assist the San communities who cannot afford coffins, but what I also want to know, is it also to help them to become self-reliable, to carry out this project as a means of income and a profit-making scheme whereby they sell the coffins to funeral undertakers?

The San Feeding Programme on page 41: This programme is currently only available in certain areas while the San people are scattered all over the country from Ariamsvlei up to Katima. Is there any possibility to expand this programme to the rest of the country?

Honourable Chairperson, I rest my case. Thank you.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Some of my questions were taken and I only want to ask whether the San Community Development Project could be extended to also reach Oshivelo where there are many San people. Not only that, will money be allocated to reach the Himbas and the Zembas? I feel the N\$8 million allocated is very little.

Then I want to comment on the N\$8 million for Independence Celebrations which is also not enough, because what we need here is not only Independence Celebrations, what we need is National Independence Celebrations where all Parties are involved. This is not enough money, this is only for SWAPO Independence Celebrations and we need national celebrations whereby leaders of all Political Parties are going to deliver speeches. It is national, it is not a SWAPO thing! (Intervention)

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON MOONGO

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, were you prevented from attending the 19th Independence Celebrations? When were you chased away? You Honourable Members are afraid to come because you want to hide the history.

HON MOONGO: I appreciate the invitation by Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, I attended the Independence Celebrations in Oshakati. He is the only Minister who invited me. The Government did not invite us. I attended that celebration, but I only sat there listening as if I am in a foreign country. I wanted to address the Nation. I was uncomfortable listening only to SWAPO songs and SWAPO speeches, I also wanted to address my Nation because it was a national event. (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Moongo, did you also want to sing or did you only want to speak?

HON MOONGO: You know, we have many songs which are paving the way to unity and true democracy, but you do not broadcast it on radio. This is the problem with the Ruling Party, they are even dominating the NBC not to broadcast the songs of the Opposition. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Since we have a camera of NBC here, can you sing one of your songs?

HON MOONGO: Due to the time, I would prefer if the Minister of Information takes it to the NBC, so that we now start accepting the other

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON KASINGO

Parties. It is not only SWAPO who can sing, I am the one who taught SWAPO to sing.

I only appeal to the Government to have National Independence Celebrations and not only SWAPO Independence Celebrations.

My other point is on the last page of the Minister's speech whereby N\$109 million were allocated for the floods. I appreciate what the Government did to assist the people affected by the floods, but they are still talking about a policy while we want action. It has now been two years that the people are affected by the floods and in other areas more than three years, but the Government is still talking about a policy and finding means. (Interjection). Of course, I was educated by SWAPO to behave like that.

I appeal to the Government not always to assess and come up with policies of how to address the floods, we want the plots of the affected people to be levelled so that the same does not happen next year, but the Government is talking and talking without action. What we want is action. Thank you.

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

HON KASINGO: Thank you, for giving me the Floor, Honourable Chairperson. My comment is on page 4 of the Deputy Prime Minister's speech, the San Development Project, together with the report given here to us. I only want to congratulate the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, you are doing a very good job and we are very proud of you. Some of us who are serving on other continental bodies quote Namibia's household index and one of the projects we tell the other people in Africa about is the San Project. You are doing a very good job and I congratulate you. Well

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON MUHARUKUA / HON NAMBAHU

done! Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Muharukua.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to congratulate and thank the Office of the Prime Minister for the project on the San community and the Ovatue, Ovatjimba and Ovazemba. Some Honourable Members said this project does not reach Ovahimba and that is not true. The report on the project was here and in Ohaiua where Chief Kapika stayed, the people have their own garden. I want to thank the Deputy Prime Minister and the Office of the Prime Minister.

We know that this year we had floods in the north and the north-west received heavy rains, people did not cultivate, therefore we foresee a scarcity of food for those people. I only wanted to thank you and support Vote 02.

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

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much for giving me the Floor, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am also rising to express my support to Vote 02 and especially at page 5, paragraph 9 of the Deputy Prime Minister's motivation where it refers to the broad-based empowerment of the economic and social sector of the previously disadvantaged people to take place in a fair, transparent and sustainable

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON NAMBAHU

manner. Some of us would really like to see great efforts going into that and there is quite widespread support for that broad-based, fair approach to economic empowerment and in my opinion, everything should be done to see that that happens.

We should also do away with the thinking that if you do not come out of your closet and stand up to be included in this exercise. Tough luck. We know that our people did not have enough exposure to these things and you are encouraged to do everything possible to be all-inclusive and bring everybody into the fold.

Another point is on the Ministerial targets. The second-last Ministerial target point is “*30% increase in dividends payable by State-Owned Enterprises*” and the sentence continues. I am very pleased to see that the Ministry is working according to outputs and dates and targets, but I am a little bit cautious to applaud this, because it might be a dividend-raise syndrome, where a Company has to meet the dates or the targets and start declaring dividends while it is in the red, simply because it wants to be thanked and praised and be in the good books of the shareholder. Given the current economic situation in the world, this is something that we should look at cautiously. I have seen examples of **BEE** Companies going into joint ventures with trans-national Companies in our country and having this mentality of wanting dividends, they go into overdraft yet they are paying dividends, but these are actually dividends that the shareholders are supposed to pay. Then you are happy, however this is money that has to be paid back at some stage. I am just saying caution should be exercised. Mechanisms should be put in place and safety nets must be instituted in order to avoid the dividend raise syndrome. Thank you very much.

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

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR KAWANA / HON T GURIRAB

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I rise to support Vote 02. I would like to make one remark on the Recognition Agreement with the Unions, which resorts in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Comrade Deputy Prime Minister, one aspect that you would maybe like to address is the housing benefits of lowly paid Civil Servants. We really need to consider that because I know at the moment they are struggling to find housing. Especially in the big cities it is virtually impossible. In fact, I have established that for any house costing less than N\$300,000 the sellers are demanding cash payment. I was really surprised by that. Maybe we, together with the Unions, should find a mechanism whereby some of our lowly paid Civil Servants are put in certain Government housing schemes, such as Build-Together and National Housing Enterprise. Otherwise I support Vote 02.

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

HON T GURIRAB: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Firstly it is on the Main Division: 02 which deals with the work of the State-Owned Enterprises' Governance Council. I assume that this Council is functional and, therefore, I read from its functions. In the Act Clause 4(1)(a) reads: *"To establish generally accepted principles of corporate governance and good practice in governing State-Owned Enterprises."*

Honourable Chairperson, why I am reading this is because I am serving on one of the Committees of Parliament being the Public Accounts Committee and am concerned about governance at our State-Owned Enterprises. This relates particularly to whether or not they comply with the laws of the country, relating to issues such as PAYE, whether they file their returns with the Receiver of Revenue on time and matters like Value Added Tax. Many of the Reports which come to our Public Accounts Committee refer to violations of the laws of

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON KAVETUNA

the country and I would have thought that if the Minister of Finance does not ensure that there is compliance, that at least the body created under the State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act would ensure that the State-Owned Enterprises comply with the laws of the country. That is one issue that I am raising for you to comment on.

The second issue, Honourable Chairperson, is referred to in the document here as **BEE**. In the statement of the Deputy Prime Minister yesterday she talked about **TESEF**. My question concerning this is a brief one. My understanding is that what Government seeks to achieve in this area is, that in order to address the consequence of our history and in order to empower those who have been dis-empowered, one I would have thought that this is a key plan of Government's policy. Statements have been made for the last five years, the Prime Minister has made statements since 2005 on the urgency of this policy and to put this into place. We are now coming to the end of this Administration in November when we have elections and still we are talking about policy. I would have thought this would long be finalised.

I do not know whether I can ask whether there is a date on which we will see a policy in life and a date on which this should be put into practice? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I would like to guide the House before I call the next person, that if you are addressing an issue which is in this paper or in the books, just quote the page and paragraph so that we can follow. I call on Honourable Kavetuna.

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Chairperson, first of all I would like to extend my gratitude to the Office of the Prime Minister for the various programmes that they have implemented, especially the one on marginalised groups, specifically the San, Ovatue and others.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON KAVETUNA

Also the Disaster Management Unit really made efforts to execute their programme to its maximum with the floods in the north and north-east of Namibia.

My comments are specifically on page 5 of the presentation, Programme 2 – Public Service Management and Improvement. I believe that there should not be any differences in executing work in the Public Sector or the private sector. However, I have realised that the people in the public sector are taking everything for granted, maybe thinking there is no employer or I do not understand the reason. One hears comments like, *“things in Government take long.”* Even if you ask, *“can I speak to your supervisor”*, *“just wait”* and you will wait for 20 minutes and then you will be referred to somebody else. It is really frustrating and it is really demoralising for most people who experience this for the first time.

Also the supervision of staff also leaves much to be desired. You would find that mostly the lower paid, maybe because of the income that is very low, early in the morning, instead of cleaning, will sell *“fat cakes”* and the others are walking around with big bags, selling perfume and other things. That is not done in any other sector, but in the public sector it is being done. The supervision mechanisms we are using in the Government should make sure that people are doing what they were employed for and we are paying these people for what they are doing, not just because we want to create employment.

On the staff performance appraisal, I know that time when I was still at school I heard about a term of that nature. How is it being executed, how are we making sure that people are really being appraised for what they are supposed to do, or is it just that we have officers sitting in offices without doing anything and they want to be paid.

The next point is the issue of the coordination of the activities of the Government. I am a bit concerned, because duplication of activities is a waste of resources, more especially when there are no visible outcomes. How are the Ministries communicating with each other? One finds that one Ministry is doing the same thing the other Ministry is doing. There

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR GEINGOB

may be different target groups, but when the Ministry of Gender is giving money, the Ministry of Youth is giving money to the young women, then at the end of the day we do not have results. I feel that there need to coordination of activities, based in the Office of the Prime Minister, so that we can know what the other arm is doing. It is not about the Ministry delivering, it is about the Government delivering. Therefore, could we have coordination of those activities?

I take cognisance of the good initiative of the public administration and management that is on its way, but I would like to recommend that while we are waiting for its establishment and everything to be in place, that the in-service training of our staff be expanded so that our people will have the capacity of even answering a call. The customer care service and other things are really below average and we should have basic training for those people so that the Government can deliver better.

Lastly is the issue which was also mentioned in another Motion, the Public Service Commission and its requirements. We see that there are vacant posts in every Ministry and sometimes we see the posts are re-advertised because the people did not meet the requirement of ten years experience as a clerk. There needs to be re-grading and evaluation of positions in the Government so that even for a clerk we can request somebody with Grade 12 and not necessarily any experience, because a clerk does not really need that. I thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I rise to support this Vote because, as you know, I do not have any other choice. I am talking on page 9, Programme 1 of the speech and the entire document dealing with this Office.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR N IYAMBO

In view of what has been said by Honourable Moongo on national Independence days, I would like to say that the President of the Republic held the main event in Keetmanshoop and he was dressed in a suit, not SWAPO colours. Yours truly went to Rundu, in SWAPO hierarchy number two, I wore the same I am wearing today, no SWAPO colours. Then I saw the Secretary General addressing a meeting, she was wearing an African dress. The Deputy Secretary General was with the President, he was wearing a suit. However, you as leaders like to cry foul. Then you are asking to be allowed to go and address these national days, whereas you are distorting reality.

I listened to call-in programmes, they were saying, "*it is a SWAPO thing, only SWAPO colours are displayed.*" However, I gave you the example of the top four of SWAPO, all wore either suits or a national dress. Therefore, there is no need to cry foul. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Chairperson, I am on page 5, paragraph 10. It is about the programme of the San Development Project.

This is a very important programme because it is for our people that are probably the most depressed in the country. However, they are not the only ones, the Ovatus are equally the same and Honourable Deputy Prime Minister is looking after both groups and she is doing a wonderful job which we are all supposed to support.

I heard Honourable Moongo saying that there are also San people at Oshivelo...(Intervention)

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON MUDGE

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Iyambo, you may remember that the President of the DTA went to the Ovatue to condemn this programme. Now they are saying we are supposed to help each other. How are we going to help each other if the President of the Opposition Party is condemning this programme?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much. It seems the Honourable Member knows exactly what I was going to say. Honourable Moongo is saying there are the same people in other places that need to be assisted and I remember exactly what Honourable Kaura has said, that SWAPO has taken these Ovatue from the mountain and are keeping them hostage in those settlements to vote for SWAPO and not allowing them to go to the mountain. This is the hypocrisy we have in some of the Political Parties and for a leader of a Political Party to go so far as to say these people are being kept there for voting purposes is absurd. It is absurd, Honourable Moongo.

That is all I wanted to say. Otherwise I support this Vote wholeheartedly.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? Honourable Mudge.

HON MUDGE: Honourable Chairperson, I just want to make two comments. The one is on the Performance Management System that the Right Honourable Prime Minister talked about. I think this is long overdue and I really hope that it will be very effective.

I wanted to say in the beginning on the President's Vote that when one visits State House, you are very proud to see the way in which the personnel act. They are very responsible, they are very professional and it

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON MOONGO

makes a very good impression and I do commend them on that. I speak to them and I encourage them to keep up the good work, because it is important when you visit State enterprises that the people will be professional. I also think in general this is what we want in the Civil Service, we would like this to happen. Let them have the raise in salaries. That is good, but let them also give the service that the public would like them to give. Therefore, I hope that the Performance Management System by the Deputy Prime Minister will work and I will urge you to have that implemented as soon as possible.

On page 7 of the speech of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister regarding the floods, I see that a Report is coming. My Party would support any amount that the Government would like to use to solve this problem that we have in the North, because as I said before, I think the problem is more severe than we think and we may need more money and we will support whatever amount is necessary to rectify that problem. Thank you.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I just want to put the record straight, that Honourable Kaura supported the project and the development in the Kunene Region, but we need honest and genuine development and not to influence the people politically through Government projects. There must be a difference between SWAPO projects and Government projects. It must be an honest and a genuine one.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I call on Honourable Ipinge.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON IIPINGE / HON MUHARUKUA

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 02 and its three main programmes. I am speaking on page 3, the Disaster Recovery and Emergency Services.

I support this programme but according to information we are picking up on the Internet and elsewhere, the scientists seem to have agreed that climate change is going to be with us for quite a long time and southern Africa is affected. They are saying it is either going to have droughts, floods and rising sea levels and they are advising us to prepare for adaptation to climate change.

I feel that in future, perhaps already next year, we need to increase the amount on that programme. I support the programme but I feel we need to increase the amount to be allocated, so that we can prepare for climate change that is going to be with us for quite a long time. I support Vote 02.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Chairperson, I only want to give advice to the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister before she answers the questions. Honourable Kaura went to *Ohaiua*, demonstrating about the houses of the Ovatu, that they are sleeping in one room with their children and even using words which are not supposed to come from the President of an Opposition Party, talking about how the women are going to have sex with their husbands in the presence of their children. Kaura said this! Why are you saying Kaura is supporting the project? No, please do not even say that!

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

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

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I want everybody to calm down now and give me time to put my thoughts together.

Thank you very much to all the Members who took the Floor on this Vote, which is very important to all of us. I would like to thank those who supported the Vote, but I will start from the first speaker, *Honourable Kaiyamo*, and carry on and if the Prime Minister wants to pitch in later if I left out something, then he is also welcome to do so.

Honourable Kaiyamo, you talked about ICT training for politicians and everybody else. Of course, the programme will be open for some of us who are trying to learn. There is an ICT programme within the Office of the Prime Minister and I took part in those classes. The problem with us is that even if we attend the classes, the secretaries dominate us and at the end of the day you have forgotten even how to open your computer. This has happened to me, I attended two, three times, but by now I have forgotten how to start my computer because my secretary gets so involved and they take over everything. **NIPAM** section where we can be trained, because even when we retire we want to do our own thing and it is a very important point you raised and I agree with you.

Honourable Dienda went on about how Public Servants are neglecting their work. I agree with her, but it is not all Public Servants, as you heard from Honourable Mudge, that we are proud of some of the Public Servants. We have worked on this Public Service for a long time. We even have Public Service Days and Namibia hosted the Africa Public Service Day. When we had these Public Service Days we went around and made videos about how our Public Servants should behave and should not behave.

In the first video we made, the secretary was speaking on her telephone

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

and when somebody came, she said, “*next door, next door.*” After that things improved a bit and the only complaint was about the long queues at the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, I think there is improvement, we really work hard to improve our Public Servants.

We even went to the extent of inviting our Uniformed Forces to the Africa Public Service Day so that they know they are also Public Servants. We are dealing with human beings coming from different backgrounds. Some are coming from homes where they have learned how to behave with respect and I think we will continue to train our Public Servants.

However, I must admit that it is not only Public Servants. If you pick up a phone and want to speak to somebody at the Bank, the music starts playing and you actually never get through. It is even worse. We are also going to invite the private sector to send their people to this programme so that they behave as they should. It is something we need to talk about every day.

I can give you an example. I phoned the Kunene Region and there is no receptionist there. You stay on that phone and there is nobody. When I met the Governor I asked if he has a receptionist in his office. He said yes. I asked, “*does she go for shopping, because I never get through.*” He told me these girls go on shopping and sometimes you find the cleaners at Shoprite during working hours. I feel this is human nature and we need to educate and continue to educate. We are trying to do our best, but we need to have a professional Public Service and we also need professional people in the private sector who can help us and bit by bit one finds some offices where you are surprised by how polite people are and how they go out of their way to assist you. I think this is a personality problem, but the programme is there.

Then the Honourable Member mentioned funeral services. The coffin manufacturing programme for the San people is meant to assist the poor San to get coffins very cheaply plus selling it to the coffin vendors. I want to share something with the House. Whatever training you give to the San community, they lack management skills because they do not know how

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

to read and write. When we completed the first coffins for the Omaheke Region, they felt it is theirs, so they started selling them and giving them to people for free and by the time the Governor opened her eyes, they have sold the coffins and what happened to the money? Nothing. They do not know that they have to sell the coffin and keep something to purchase the material. This they do not understand and we have to move slowly because our people were left seriously behind. They think they will manufacture the coffins, sell them and the Government will continue to give them the materials. I keep on telling them they are supposed to make profit out of this and we are really trying hard to give them some management skills, but that will take some time.

What we are doing now is that we train the San people how to manage their programmes. The same happened with the bread-baking project at Uitkoms. They bake 20 breads, sell them and immediately share the money. They think I am again going to provide the bread-flour to them. It is a process and this coffin-making project is really for them to make profit, but they still have a long way to go to know that you share whatever you can, but you must keep money for buying the material.

As the Honourable Member said correctly, the San are scattered, north, south, everywhere and we cannot at one time be everywhere. Therefore, we have now received a farm for the San communities scattered between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo from one farm to the other. Once we got Farm Uitkoms, we relocated 306 people from different farms. Some we found in the swimming pool in Okahandja. They were called by some women. These women got so fat that they cannot even move their necks. They were called, "*we have a project here*" and they left their jobs they had and went to Okahandja and we found them in that swimming pool. There was an old swimming pool in Okahandja – no water of course – and this place became like a pigsty. It was absolutely horrible to see our people there and it was two women who called the San people for the project and it was to make money out of these poor people. They were saying yes, the President said *we must help ourselves, we want to make money*, I said, *not on the life of other people*. When I got the farm, I took the trucks and I collected all those from the swimming pool, from the farms and today you see them building their own houses.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

When I am on that farm and watch the sea of San children running home to go and eat their 10:00 porridge, there are so many of them. We have 62 children in Grade 1, we have 32 children in Grade 2 and then the kindergarten. I want that school to go to Grade 3. I stand there and I think, "*gosh, 10% of these children should become somebody one day.*" These kids were on the backs of their mothers there, walking around every day, now the mothers are chasing them out of the tents, "*go to school.*" Originally they never sent the children to school, that is why they are illiterate.

We got two farms in Outjo for the !Haikums and when the Uitkoms project has been finished by the end of May, I will go to !Haikums to start the same project.

We are also looking for farms at Oshivelo. Punju had a farm and he wanted to sell this farm, but he wants N\$10 million for it. I said, "*Amen Christus stay with your farm*", because we want to settle the Oshivelo San people. That is a disastrous area and I am working very hard together with Minister !Naruseb to get farms there.

One Afrikaner was saying to me his farm is so big, he has so much game and we have to pay N\$3 million for the game alone. I said to him, "*this is Namibian game, it is not yours.*" Of course, I did not curse him, but he died a month later. We are looking for farms and the important thing you can do for the San people is to give them a place and resettle them there. They are all over the place and that is why we are trying to get farms in different places. The next target is to get a farm in Omaheke for those San people who are all over Omaheke in squatter camps.

I have been working with the traditional leaders in Caprivi and they are organised at Chetto. They have made their own gardens, we gave them animals, there is a school, kindergarten and a clinic. We resettle there, we work there and then we move to another place.

The other one in Caprivi which I am going to take away are those ones in Caravans. It is a tragic situation. They are brought into these places where there is alcohol and some people said I must not remove them

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

because they may vote. The trend is that we are trying to look for a place for them to be settled and our motto for the school children is, "*back to school, stay in school*" because they are still nomadic, they like moving around and they take the children. At Uitkoms you are not going to take a child away during school days. I invite you all to the handing over of Uitkoms farm which will at the latest be the second week of June. Please come and see things for yourself. Also come and see the three villages for the Ovatue and the Ovatjimba and you will also be able to appreciate the roads I am travelling on to go and do the work.

About *Honourable Kaura's* story, I do not talk to Honourable Kaura because I am so angry with him. I had respect for Honourable Kaura, but nowadays I do not even say good morning to him. Do you know what he did? He went to those people in Ohaiua and told them that I am a *skelm vrou, hulle moet nie vir my luister nie*. He told the people, "*when you feel like going, go; sell your animals if you want to.*" This is what the DTA are doing.

He had a press conference there and he went and collected some young Ovatjimba he found on the street somewhere and these little kids were saying, "*if you are not SWAPO in Opuwo, you do not get food.*" I mean, that place is not a SWAPO stronghold, it was theirs and now he was telling these people, "*if you are not a SWAPO, you will not get food.*"

He made a lot of propaganda and what everybody knows is not to appreciate the assistance Government has given to these poor people. We did not call those people from the mountain, we found them starving and I went there, sleeping in a tent and I worked so hard. These people are now producing food. I went to rake their maize garden. They have clean water. All three villages have gardens and they are planting their food. When he came back here and tried to destroy that programme, I lost respect and I am going to say it in his face. I do not speak to Kaura now. Tell him, I do not speak to Kaura because of that. We can differ, that is politics, but let us recognise when some things are done which are assisting our people. I do not get a penny out of that suffering, you can look at those roads and wonder how I got there. Therefore, let us not be funny politicians.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

I think people were saying thank you for what is being done for the flood victims and *Honourable Mudge*, thank you very much for appreciating that. *Honourable Kasingo*, thank you for the congratulations and *Honourable Muharukua* has also answered some questions and I thank you very much, you and I have been working together on some of these things.

Honourable Kavetuna, we are still waiting for the Report. As I have been answering all the time, the flood is something very difficult and we are looking forward to being advised what to do, whether it would be better to construct a canal somewhere, build dams or what to do. The floods in the North are very difficult, there is a built-up area where the floods used to pass and now there are buildings. That is something the whole country must think about how to solve the problem. The same goes for the Caprivi because the rains from Zambia and Angola can raise the water level.

When the Government is dividing the Ministries, some programmes should be programmes and not with a Ministry. We are trying to coordinate the Ministries which are doing the same thing, but it is difficult because the Ministry of Gender Equality has to look after the women and children and then there is a Ministry dealing with pensions. Your point is well taken basically, there is a need for coordination. Maybe the Office of the Prime Minister could be given that responsibility to sit down and see which Ministry does what and to advise.

It was mentioned yesterday that the Public Service is taking a long time. When I was the Minister of Health it was very difficult to get the doctors when you need them. There was a lot of red tape, you had to wait and wait until the doctor goes back. I think we need to cut the red tape for any position we are creating, so that people can be appointed.

I am not so sure about this issue of a cleaner needing 5 years experience.

I usually appointed the cleaners because we do not go to the Public Service Commission for that. However, as human beings there is this thing that I have a sister and I want her to get the job. You know how we

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 02
HON DR AMATHILA

are. The job is there, you are interviewed, you know you have done well but it is given to somebody who was number five because of some reason.

Comrade Kawana, nowadays you cannot get a house under N\$300,000 because houses are very expensive and Government must look into that and see how to assist the lowly paid Public Servants who need housing. I think that is a very good point.

Honourable Iyambo mentioned the San development, thank you; the hypocrisy of Honourable Kaura, I told you.

Let me just give you an example about performance management. In the Ministry of Health we had a form where you graded a person. Then the person should also read what you have said and sign. We stopped it because we were accused that the sister in charge does not like me, I work hard, everybody is working hard, why me? Tribalism came in and we still need to perfect that form so that we do not have these loopholes. We used to have that but it needs to be perfected so that I know if I do not work hard, I lose the job. I have done that and I was all over the newspapers, that either you serve the office or you go somewhere else. We must make sure that you control your own office and see who is working and who not. Those who are loafing must be told to go and loaf elsewhere.

Honourable Ipinge, we know about the climate change and it is going to be there for a long time. We will always keep some amount available for that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 02, any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 04 – “AUDITOR GENERAL” put for Discussion.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 04
HON DIENDA / HON NAMBAHU

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I am on page 83 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Honourable Chairperson, the objective of the Auditor General: *“To ensure that public expenditure and accounting is legal and proper.”*

My first question: What does the Office of the Auditor General plan to do to implement the recommendations of the many Reports that were presented to this august House?

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, Financial Reports of various Villages, Municipalities, etcetera, are long overdue. This is mainly due to the fact that they do not have the necessary skilled people to compile financial reports and also due to a lack of money to pay Financial Institutions to compile these reports.

Therefore, my first question is: What does the Office of the Auditor General plan to do to ensure that public expenditure and accounting is legal and proper?

Secondly, is there any punishment for late reports so that people cannot be allowed to report on history, but on money spent annually?

My third question: Which Ministry or Institution audits the Office of the Auditor-General? Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: I also rise to support this Vote and given the work that is supposed to be done, I am not too sure that this money is enough, more so if we know that many of the existing problems in newly established Town Councils need in-service training for these

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 04
HON DR N IYAMBO

establishments to become up-to-date and I do not think the money is enough to make that to happen.

There is something I do not understand on page 4 of the speech on the goals. The last one is: "*To maintain auditee satisfaction.*" Is it a beauty contest, is it a popularity contest or what does it mean? If I am auditing you, I am auditing you. Is it you who should be satisfied or is it me who should be satisfied? What I am trying to get to, if my work is to audit you, I have to be professional, no fear or favour, this is what I found and this is what I am going to say. Therefore, I cannot see how this could be a goal.

Another point: Other agencies should emulate the job done by the Auditor-General and have in-house training for their clients in order to perform the job properly. Otherwise we are always going to do damage control when things have already been done. I am also in support of those who are calling for punishment for those entities reporting late, because why do you have people who are being paid for this and then you have a five-year's backlog? I do not understand that. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I shall be very brief. I support this Vote, but I want to make a comment on the Auditor-General's work. The point is that normally with S&T when you go on a mission, you fill in a form and when you come back, you have to fill in another form and if there is no synchronisation between those forms that you fill in, it will always appear as if you actually owe Government money.

In case of those services where people go on missions very often and there

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 04
HON MUDGE / HON DR AMATHILA

is no time to wait, I am referring to the Police, these forms are sometimes late and it will always be recorded that the Police owe S&T money to Government. I must tell you this is not true, it is simply because of the filling in of those forms and I want to recommend that before the Auditor General concludes his books and reports that this Ministry owes so much money in S&T, he should confirm with that Ministry. Otherwise it is the wrong information being provided.

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

HON MUDGE: Honourable Chairperson, I also rise to support this Vote. I think the Office of the Auditor General is doing a good job. We see it at the Public Accounts Committee where the annual financial statements are becoming more recent. However, I want to support what Honourable Dienda said, that there are still municipalities and institutions whose reports are very late and I think the Auditor General's Office should get some support from somewhere to force these municipalities to submit their reports in time. With that, I support this Vote. Thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I will answer the little I can and be assisted by Honourable Kawana if I left out something. Thank you very much for the comments which basically were about the late auditing and the auditee satisfaction. You have heard from the Minister of Safety and Security who said that the Auditor General does not come back to

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 04
HON DR KAWANA

them and it is said that they owe the Government while that is not really the case. That is the “*auditee satisfaction*”, the Ministry is not satisfied.

With regard to the late audit reports of Local Governments, particularly small villages, I do not think the problem lies with the Auditor General, but the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development must try and give training to the people who are dealing with the finances in the villages. Create a training project for them to be taught about the importance, first of all, and how to do it, because if you do not train your people, the Auditor-General will just report what he finds there. Therefore, in my opinion, it is for the Minister, Jerry Ekandjo, to try and train those people.

When we started the audit reports were very late and I must congratulate the present Auditor General that the reports are coming on time so that one can see how your Permanent Secretary has performed. It is improving and they are doing a great job. As he said, he had to borrow some people to deal with the backlog, because it was a heavy backlog when he took over.

I thank Mr Mudge, he is being good today. As to who audits the Office of the Auditor General, I think Honourable Kawana can answer.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson, let me first sincerely thank the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister for assisting me. She has covered virtually everything except maybe the remarks made by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security.

In terms of the State Finance Act, 1991 and Treasury Instructions a Public Servant undertaking an official mission is entitled to an advance and is required to fill in a form called reimbursement claim form within seven days. That will reconcile the advance given and the balance at the end of the mission. If that reconciliation is not done upon return, then in terms of

17 April 2009

**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

the law you owe that money to the Government and it remains like that. Therefore, it is very important for Honourable Members to make sure that after an official trip that information is provided so that the books can be closed.

As to who audits the Office of the Auditor-General, it is the private sector which is normally hired, because the Auditor-General cannot audit its own books. It is done in the interest of transparency and the report is normally submitted to State House and also in terms of the law submitted to Parliament via the Ministry of Finance.

Regarding the reports, most of the laws, such as the Regional Councils Act of 1992, the Local Authorities Act of 1992 and the State Finance Act of 1991 specify the period within which the Auditor-General must submit those reports and if that information is provided late, then the Auditor-General will be forced to submit that report without input from the clients, because even the Auditor General is working according to law and that is why it is very important that that law must be complied with. In fact, the law is very strict, it says if the Minister responsible for Finance is unable to submit those reports, the Auditor General is empowered to submit those reports directly to the Office of the Speaker who will in turn lay upon the Table those Reports, because those are our laws which we have to comply with. I support Vote 04 and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 04? Vote 04 is agreed to.

Vote 30 – “ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION” put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I rise to support this Vote, however I have a small query. My query is based on the Medium Term Expenditure Framework at page 813 and it

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON DIENDA

stems from the objectives of the Anti-Corruption Commission. It says: *“The Anti-Corruption Commission’s objective is to ensure that allegations of corruption or corrupt practices are properly investigated”* and my query is based on the word *“allegations.”*

Allegations, by their nature, can be true or false. Article 12 of the Namibian Constitution stipulates that every person is considered innocent until proven guilty. It has been noticed that whenever an allegation is made about a certain person in Namibia, the allegations are splashed all over the media, to the extent that even those that are involved in these investigations go out of their way to inform the public as to the charges and I just want to know from the Right Honourable Prime Minister whether this is correct? I am not questioning the mandate of the Commission to investigate all or any allegations, but is the splashing of the allegations and charges that the suspect will be faced with appropriate? If this is the way we will be dealing with citizens, we may find ourselves as Government being sued, because some of the allegations may be false. I just want to know from the Prime Minister whether the way the Anti-Corruption Commission has been going about it is correct. That is my question and I support the Vote.

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

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I am on page 830 and the senior Minister has just raised one of the objectives of the Anti-Corruption Commission. The second one is the prevention of corruption.

Honourable Chairperson, we are now aware of what is the difference between the powers of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the powers of the Anti-Corruption Commission, but I have a question: How will they ensure that this office is client-friendly for both the accused and the client

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON MOONGO

and not for it to be one-sided but for both people to feel it is client-friendly.

Secondly, where can the Nation report cases of corruption against the Anti-Corruption Commission?

Thirdly, what is the timeframe to investigate cases and to give feedback to the Nation? I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, I am on page 7. The amount of N\$91 million is not enough to educate the poor communities who use to say “*ohatu dhengele odhi peho*”. They say they are corrupt because they are not well taken care of by the Government. “*Therefore, we have to be corrupt.*” (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Do you understand what is anti-corruption? Do you understand what we are talking about? (Interjection)

HON MOONGO: Yes.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON MOONGO

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I do not think so.

HON MOONGO: It is that attitude of the poor communities who used to think that we are not well attended to, therefore we have no other option than to be corrupt. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: On a Point of Information. I think the Honourable Headman is now displaying his ignorance here, because our people who have been living under traditional rulers since time immemorial know what is wrong and what is right. They are not supposed to take other people's things at all. Now you want to say that because people are poor, therefore they steal and somebody else must tell them not to steal, it is wrong. Something is wrong with you.

HON MOONGO: I think he misunderstood me. The Anti-Corruption Commission has to educate people. I am against that attitude, maybe you misunderstood me. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. This Parliament may be misunderstood by the public out there, that we are saying those who are poor are the ones who are supposed to be educated by the Anti-Corruption Commission. Theft and what the Anti-Corruption Commission is supposed to do are two separate things. Theft is dealt with by the Police. Corruption is supposed to be dealt with by the Anti-Corruption Commission and in normal situations, those who do corrupt things are not the poor people, it is those who are in offices and instead of doing things the right way, they demand to be paid under the table. Poor people do not have tables under which they should be paid.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON MOONGO

HON MOONGO: I know the attitude of some of the very poor people who do not earn enough salary and therefore they are corrupt. I do not want that attitude. I am against that attitude and I think this money is not enough to educate those people.

My last comment is on the rich people. I want the Anti-Corruption Commission to start educating from the top to the bottom. (Intervention)

HON BOOYS: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Chairperson, a week ago Honourable Moongo told us in this House that he tapped water from the Government pipeline and he was giving people water in order for them to come and buy some liquor. Is it corruption or is it theft?

HON MOONGO: I did not get that.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Moongo, you told this House a week ago that you tap water from Government's pipeline and give people that water in order for them to come and buy liquor from Uumkumwe. I am asking whether that is corruption or theft.

HON MOONGO: I think you misunderstood me, it is one of the Colleagues on that side who was saying that. I did not say that, I said I brought the water from far away and we share the water with the community. That is not corruption.

Another point is that whenever there is an allegation of corruption against a leader, the Anti-Corruption Commission does not want to accept that.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON MOONGO

They demonstrate this attitude because their leader was accused of corruption and they prevent justice to be done because he is a leader and that attitude must cease. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Chairperson, may I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, when are you going to the Anti-Corruption Commission to tell them where you got the money to open Uumkumwe? How are you going to declare the slush funds publicly? Is that corruption or did you steal DTA money?

HON MOONGO: I regard corruption as a cancer, as a thorn in the flesh. I got my money in a rightful way and it is not the topic. I congratulate the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister. The Anti-Corruption Commission is doing well and I hope it will be doing its best in the future. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Chairperson, most of the officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission are former Police Officers. When they were Police Officers and they were investigating cases, they never released information to the press. Even if the press called, they said it is still being investigated and the person is innocent until proven guilty. However, now that they have joined the Anti-Corruption Commission, they start revealing just when they start investigating.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON MOONGO

For instance, in the case of National Housing Enterprise they put Hailulu in such a spotlight that even when he walked in the street, people said “*you are corrupt.*” At the end of the day the Court has to find that he is innocent.

At one time I also received a letter from the Anti-Corruption Commission, they said that I must investigate whether Hailulu, the CEO of National Housing Enterprise and Töttemeyer have a business which is not a conflict of interest. I responded to them that I am not an investigator. It is not my duty to prove who is guilty or not. I cannot go and judge Hailulu and investigate and tell the Anti-Corruption Commission that he is guilty. They should do their work instead of thinking that I should now go and investigate. I am not a Police investigator.

The problem is that they talk too much. Even the Director goes on television, “*you criminals, we will investigate.*” Why does the Inspector-General of the Police not go to the media and start talking? They do not, but every time there is a small thing, the Anti-Corruption Commission blows it out of proportion and everybody knows he is guilty. They must investigate and at the end of the investigation they must hand it over to the Police to further investigate and the Police must take it to the Prosecutor-General. The Prosecutor-General is the one who will decide whether the case should proceed to the Court or not, but they already condemn in the initial stage of the investigation. I really think something is wrong there. They should investigate quietly, not through the press. That is my contribution, Honourable Chairperson.

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

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

HON DR T-B GURIRAB: Right Honourable Prime Minister, believe it or not, I anticipated about two years ago when we were about to put the Anti-Corruption Commission in place that perhaps where we are now was likely going to happen.

I am speaking both as a national leader and a citizen. We must protect the integrity of the Anti-Corruption Commission within what the Constitution provides for, proper conduct of the criminal justice system and law enforcement. Just look at how we appear now as leaders. It is not the general public, the ordinary man and woman on the street, but we ourselves. I agreed with what the Minister of Justice said to begin with, I agree with the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, because we are questioning the very integrity of the Anti-Corruption Commission by conduct of the officials who were put in place.

What I was saying two years ago is that we have reached a point where the role of the Police, on the one hand, and that of the Anti-Corruption Commission cannot be clearly defined. The perception out there is not only the behaviour or boasting by those who are responsible for the Anti-Corruption Commission, the investigators and so on, but the appearance as if the Anti-Corruption Commission is not only taking over the normal Police work of going after criminals, but is separating between the big fish and the small fish. We do not want that. It is in our hands as the Executive and as Parliament to rescue the Anti-Corruption Commission. The perception out there is that it is not doing its work. Imagine, if we as the leaders are complaining, what about the ordinary people out there?

Therefore, let us not engage in accusations and counter-accusations, but let us rescue the integrity of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

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

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON DR A IYAMBO / HON NAMBAHU

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Honourable Chairperson, I only have one question but first I support the Vote. My question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister is that; when you are in the office, you want to take a specific decision and you want specific documents or records, but you are just informed that those documents were taken by some people who came there. If you ask who are they, “*no, they just said they are from the Anti-Corruption Commission.*” Then you want to take a decision to comply with the other laws, but now because the documents were taken, we are not functioning.

What I want to propose, Honourable Prime Minister, is it possible that when some of these key documents are taken, that at least the Director can say, “*we are going to take your documents*” so that one understands what is happening. Now they just come, the documents are with them, we do not know what it is. You do not even know who they are. If you call the Director, he does not seem to be in the picture himself, but some people are coming. Maybe it would be better if we could be informed so that the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Law does not infringe on the implementation of the other laws. I support the Vote.

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

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, in the first place I would like to endorse the comments by the Honourable Speaker. I wholeheartedly appreciate the difficult position in which the Anti-Corruption Commission officials are finding themselves in. We must assist them, because they are also new and the fanfair with which they were launched and also the expectations are quite challenging. (Intervention)

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON NAMBAHU

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Comrade Nambahu a question? Comrade Nambahu, I think the attempt by the Honourable Member to address the activities and announcements made by the Anti-Corruption Commission officials is trying to correct the situation. The example was given that the Police also do certain investigations and they do not announce and they even refuse to give a name. For the Anti-Corruption Commission to succeed, the best would be to first investigate an allegation and after they have found the allegation to be true, they can put you on the carpet and say you are guilty. We are not against the Anti-Corruption Commission, but they are exposing themselves by the way they are doing it now. Do you not think it is an attempt to alert them to change their strategies?

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Ilonga, I think you are correct, but the bottom-line is that when they are being criticised by the ordinary man in the street and when they are being criticised by us who have the opportunity to call them in and correct them where they are supposed to be corrected... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask a question? Most of these Investigators were Chief Inspectors and Deputy Commissioners in the Police Force, so they are not people from the street. When they were in the Police they never divulged any information. They were Deputy Commissioners and Chief Inspectors, they were not Constables. I do not think we can call a Chief Inspector or a Deputy Commissioner to tell him, he already knows the job.

HON NAMBAHU: I agree, but there was probably a code in the Police that regulated their behaviour. I am not sure whether we have already developed regulations and all these mechanisms as far as the Anti-

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON NAMBAHU

Corruption law is concerned.

If you do a bit of research, and this is where my point comes in, the objective of the Anti-Corruption Commission in other jurisdictions is the promotion of ethics, where their establishments are required to have charters as to what are the good practices and the ethical conduct that they should have. One of such objectives should feature as one of their functions and they would be in the know when they are doing the correctional activities, by going to arrest when something has happened, and the prevention approach that they put in place. I think we have not yet gone to that stage of elaborating in the law on these kinds of things. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: May I ask the Honourable Member a very small question as he is explaining? Comrade Nambahu, I appreciate your attempt to clarify this. I think what is being queried here is that these are experienced Police Officers, they are even being paid more than what they used to get when they were Police Officers. The issue being raised here is: Is it now a new code of conduct from experienced police officers, that as soon as you get involved in an investigation, and before you submit to the right office, the Prosecutor General, you have already availed this entire document to the media. I think this is the issue being raised, in terms of the credibility and the so-called independence of this institution that we want to protect. That is the issue. Here is clear evidence again of the institution reporting through the media instead of reporting to the rightful office, the Prosecutor-General, so that the law can take its course. That is the issue being queried.

HON NAMBAHU: Let me make my point as clear as I can. I am not trying to condone a behaviour, like when you arrest someone, you even tip off the media to come and witness that arrest. That is something that should not be condoned whatsoever. Obviously I am not attempting to do that, that is wrong and should not be done and I think it was proven in the Hailulu

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON MUDGE

case. It should be one of the authorities where we do damage control, and then we invite all kinds of problems.

What I am trying to say is that when you as a leader also point a finger to this person who is already being accused by the society, then you are bringing them into serious problems. There must be mechanisms to call these people in and explain. That is all I am trying to say. We should not be helping those who are against them and want to bring them down. Their mistakes should not be condoned and we are hundred percent together on that. Thank you, I support the Vote.

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

HON MUDGE: Honourable Chairperson, I want to start by confirming that I fully agree with what the Honourable Speaker said. I have one question and that is whether the amount allocated to the Anti-Corruption Commission was the amount they requested. The reason why I am asking this is because I am convinced that the Anti-Corruption Commission needs more money for them to be able to enlarge their capacity and to appoint more people. I am also convinced that we will have to look at the Anti-Corruption law and to amend that to give them more power.

With these few remarks, I fully support this Vote.

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

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON BOOYS

HON BOOYS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Sometimes we must call a spade a spade, truly speaking. A week ago I read about the Zuma case in South Africa and there was an issue of two Prosecuting Authorities discussing things on telephones which were tapped. The Anti-Corruption Commission investigating officers left the Government because they do not like us. They went around and they got employment in the same Government structure again. Nowhere in the world will you see a Police Officer on his way to arrest a person revealing it to the press. I read in the *Informate* last week where the Director is answering, and he is in the paper, “*we have not finished with him.*” If they are not finished, why do they not investigate?

There is something wrong with the people at the Anti-Corruption Commission and you, the Government, the Executive must avoid these things. It is serious when you see how people in South Africa were supposed to investigate talked about the issue on telephones. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: On a Point of Information. The Anti-Corruption Commission is our Commission, we do not have to go to South Africa to get equivalencies. The Anti-Corruption Commission is a Commission of the Government and we are the legislative body that should actually be protecting the Anti-Corruption Commission. Last week I made a contribution and I said we have to define what is corruption versus a Police case. We have not done that yet. We are the Government which should be protecting our Commission and we are spending two hours discussing a Commission we have set up as a Government and as a legislative body. We are not the ones as the Government to say this to the public on this Floor. I just feel that we should make it very clear that the Anti-Corruption Commission is our Commission. If it is not doing anything good, it is not for us who come to this Floor to say it, we must have a structure somewhere to make sure that the Anti-Corruption Commission is called to order. They are definitely not doing the right thing, but this is not the Floor at which we should come and say these things.

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON BOOYS

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am concerned by the language being used by saying, “*you, the Government.*” You always tell the Opposition here that it is the SWAPO-led Government. Who are those now? We should not exclude ourselves, we should say, “*we, the Government.*”

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, I am a backbencher in this House, I am not a member of the Executive. I have a role to play when it comes to oversight. My sister should just differentiate between being a backbencher and being in the Executive. It is their right to protect what they have put up, it is also my right as a backbencher to tell them what I am overseeing. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Comrade Chairperson, as a Government we have to talk about the wrongs. We have to protect the whole Namibian Nation. We are not here as SWAPO or Opposition backbenchers.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, as much as we represent or we have created the Anti-Corruption Commission, the same way we represent the Namibian people too and when the people of Namibia are not happy, we must express ourselves on that and you who have been put in the Executive to run the day-to-day administration, we have to tell you what we think is wrong.

The very same people who are there have resigned because they do not like us. They went around and they were employed on the other side. (Intervention)

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON BOOYS

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Is the Anti-Corruption Commission not a statutory body and is this Legislative House not a statutory body? When I am saying we are the Government, I am not necessarily of the Anti-Corruption Commission, I am saying that if we feel the Anti-Corruption Commission is wrong, it is us who put it there as a statutory body to perform a particular job. If it is not performing that job, is it from this Floor that we who put it up correctly, a statutory body that is supported by an Act of Parliament? Is it here that we come and say we have to now nullify the Anti-Corruption Commission? No, it is not here. I am not saying it is here, I am just saying that should...(Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: You should take the Floor and contribute. It is the question which you were putting earlier.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: What the Honourable Member is trying to tell me who is sitting here as a Member of Parliament and maybe I am different from him because he is not a Member of Parliament, or he is a Member of Parliament, but he is not a Minister, what difference are we making here across the board, I am saying the Anti-Corruption Commission is not doing the right thing. The question I ask is, is the Anti-Corruption Commission not a statutory body?

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, I am just exercising my right to say whatever I want to say in this House, whether it is good or bad and also to whom I want to say and I am saying it.

HON KASINGO: On a Point of Information. I think you would agree that all of us are not against the statutory body, but what we are saying is the manner in which they execute their function. You will remember their CVs were brought here and all of us as Members of Parliament, whether

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 30
HON BOOYS

you are a member of the Executive component or here, we are representing the view over there. What we are saying both here and there, the message is that we are not happy with the way in which they perform their duties and that should not be made a secret.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Kasingo, I agree with you. What I am saying is that last week in *Informanté* all of us read about TransNamib and the reaction of the Anti-Corruption Commission. Even this morning I read about Rehoboth Town Councillors. These are the things which they are supposed to investigate and take it to Court, not through the newspaper, because newspapers are investigators on their own, they will find you guilty. What we want in Namibia is the Rule of Law through the Courts, established statutory bodies. We want the body to investigate and take matters to the Court to decide.

How the name South Africa came in, I was taking an example of what is happening in the Zuma case. I did not compare the Anti-Corruption Commission with South Africa as statutory bodies, what I was saying is that a tape was produced in Court, a discussion between two prosecuting Authorities who were investigating that issue. That tape was produced and that is where the Court has found Zuma not guilty because of that evidence.

What I was saying is, are we really sure that these people are genuine? They lost the case against the National Housing Enterprise CEO. He can sue the Government and this is taxpayers' money, it is not Anti-Corruption Commission's money. The case was withdrawn, but they have hundreds of similar cases which are being postponed, postponed. What if all these people take the Anti-Corruption Commission to Court if they are acquitted like the National Housing Enterprise's CEO case? The credibility of the Government and the Ruling Party is also at stake by the mistakes they are making. (Intervention)

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE
HON IIVULA-ITHANA

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. I would only like to say that our Colleague speak the same language as us, therefore it is not even necessary to waste time. Let us call on them to behave better, they are going too far. I think he is correct, so let us not waste time.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, the time has been extended. What I am saying is that the Executive should look in this issue, because if you allow us to look into it, we can create problems and you will not be happy. All I am asking is, Executive look into this issue and call them to order where it is possible. I rest my case.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Chairperson, I thought I have said what I wanted to say, based on the experience that I found, based on the Constitution which stipulates that everybody is considered innocent until proven guilty and who is responsible to prove people guilty? The Court of Law.

What is happening? I did not want to elaborate, but as the Minister of Justice I am concerned, seriously concerned, because if Hailulu has challenged this Government, the Office of the Attorney-General could have provided a lawyer to defend the Anti-Corruption Commission and if Hailulu has won, this Government was going to pay. Why should we behave in such fashion?

I did not hear anybody saying the Anti-Corruption Commission should not investigate, that is not the issue at all. We created it specifically for the purpose of investigating allegations, but we cannot allow the rights of citizens to be tarnished in the media. We cannot allow officials of the

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE
RT HON N ANGULA

Anti-Corruption Commission to do what is not expected of them. They are men and women of integrity. Both the Director and the Deputy Director are lawyers who have practised in this country. I cannot say they do not know the law. Why do they discard all the rules all of a sudden and allocate to themselves the right to speak to the press and thereby exposing individuals to institutions that are not supposed to judge them? Why? No, that is wrong, it is wrong and I must say here, Honourable Deputy Minister of Education, no institution here is above the law, whether statutory or whatever. We have been talking about the Police here. Every institution was opened up and we criticised them left, right and centre because we are doing so with the purpose of correcting the wrongs. We are the representatives of the people and there is no way we can come here and say we cannot talk about that one because it is a statutory body. There is nothing like that and I do not think there is anybody here with the intention to tarnish the reputation of the Anti-Corruption Commission, but the Anti-Corruption Commission should also protect the integrity of individuals they are investigating. That is all we are saying.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to respond.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The issues raised are fine, some of them very problematic. Let me first answer the ones which are not problematic.

Honourable Moongo and Honourable Mudge said that the allocation is not sufficient. I introduced their Vote and the administration of the law is under the Office of the Prime Minister and they did not come to me to complain that the allocation is not sufficient. Therefore, I believe that they are happy with the allocation.

Who watches the Anti-Corruption Commission? I suppose the public is watching, including you and me, and above all, if somebody is being

17 April 2009

APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE
RT HON N ANGULA

aggrieved by them, this person can go to a Court of Law to get redress. That is my understanding and it is for that reason that when issues of vague definition of the powers of the Anti-Corruption Commission were raised here during the Amendment of the Constitution, I decided that we are going to look into that so that the powers are clearly stated so that there is no vagueness.

Fundamental issues were raised about the way the officers of the Anti-Corruption Commission are operating. I must say that fundamentally the issues are legitimate, but I also want to say that two wrongs do not make a right. It is true that you do not investigate somebody and make it public as if this somebody is already guilty. That is wrong. It is also not right for us as the House, it is just like standing here and start criticising a Court of law, we cannot do that. When we as the House see them doing wrong, let us find a way of calling them to order, but not from the Floor of the House where we have created this institution.

We are the people who are controlling things, so to say, who are directing the public affairs. If we are seen doing these things in the House where we are protected, people will think that we are in fact trying to stifle the activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission for our own benefit. That is unfortunate, we should not do that, we are sending the wrong message out there.

Therefore, I take it that the Anti-Corruption Commission should be called to order, that please, do your investigation, complete your investigation, hand over the cases to the Prosecutor-General and it is up to the Prosecutor-General and the Courts to decide on those issues. It is true that once your name is mentioned that you are being investigated, the public perception is that you are corrupt and it is very difficult to undo that.

The other important thing is that if this noble institution loses its credibility in the eyes of the public, it will be too bad. You know what has happened to the Scorpions in South Africa, they had to be scrapped. Therefore, it is in the interest of the Anti-Corruption Commission to do things in the right way, to protect their own integrity and also to protect the integrity of individuals who have been accused.

17 April 2009

ADJOURNMENT

On that note, I thank you for your support.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 30? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: On that note the House stands adjourned until Monday at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 14:50 UNTIL 2009.04.20 AT 14:30