

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 Tjihuiko *(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 Booy's *(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 CHAMBERS
20 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 Minister of Finance

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- Municipality of Swakopmund for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2008;
 - Municipality of Karasburg for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2008;
 - Oshikuku Village Council for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2006 and 2007; and
 - Village Council of Stampriet for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2006.
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COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister table the Reports? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Booyes.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYES: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 03, 05, 06, 07, 11, 14, 28 and 29 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 table the Motion? The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
COMMITTEE STAGE**

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

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes in to Committee? Any objection? Secondment. Agreed to.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 11
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE / HON DR IYAMBO**

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:**

The Whole House is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported on Friday, 17 April 2009, Votes 01, 02, 04 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 03, 11, 28 and 29 have been introduced. Honourable Members, I ask the concurrence of the House that instead of starting with the introduction of Votes 05, 06, 07 and 40, that we start with the discussion of Vote 11, National Council. After the discussion of Vote 11, we shall then revert to the introduction of the said Votes. The request for the change is due to the fact that the management of the National Council Secretariat are supposed to travel in the course of this afternoon out of Windhoek for an Organisation and Establishment Workshop. Can we, therefore, agree to start with the discussion of Vote 11 – National Council to enable them to travel thereafter? Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 11 – “NATIONAL COUNCIL” put for Discussion.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Vote 11 and I want to make specific reference to page 3, paragraphs 5 and 7, which basically addresses issues of great concern to all of us here and elsewhere out there. It says the Namibian Parliament is becoming accessible to all the people, which development is profoundly proving that Namibia is really adhering to the SWAPO Party Manifesto as well as to the international and national laws that we are ratifying. Thank you so much.

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Ncube. Any further discussion? Honourable Dr Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 11
HON MOONGO

much, Honourable Chairperson, I have a comment to make. First of all, I support this Vote. Secondly, I wanted to find out whether Members of the National Council cannot advise their Colleagues in the Regions, who do not have the privilege of sitting in the National Council, on what the Budget entails for Regions. I am saying this because more often than not one finds people in the Regions complaining that there is no development in my Region, yet the whole National Budget is being implemented in the Regions. Nothing is being implemented anywhere else but in the Regions. Even if it happens to be in Windhoek, it is in Khomas Region and when one looks at the Development Budget, all the Regions are covered. However, it seems that if people do not see that a project is being carried out in their particular village, then there is no development in that Region, which is misleading.

I would only like the message to go out strongly and clearly that Members of the National Council should educate their Colleagues and, of course, everybody else that the National Budget is being spent in the Regions and one should look at what the allocation for that particular Region is and not at a school in my village. It would be helpful if that information could be provided. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any discussion? Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I support the Vote but I would only like to enlighten the House that development plans originate in the villages and then processed through the Regional Councils to the Ministry, but then it is turned down by the Ministry. It is not true that they do not plan for development in the village. They know what problems they have, such as salty water, etcetera, but then it is turned down by the Ministry. I would like to put the record straight.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 11
HON DR KAWANA / HON TJIHUIKO

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Minister of Presidential Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 11. Honourable Chairperson, I do not want to put the Honourable Speaker on the spot, but I want to say something concerning the benefits of Honourable Members of the National Council.

Recently it came to my notice that their duty station is deemed to be Windhoek and, therefore, they are not entitled to certain allowances which would enable them to attend to matters in their constituencies. If that is really true, then I want to draw the attention of this Parliament to this particular aspect.

Unlike the National Assembly, the National Council representation comes from Regions and those Colleagues have responsibilities in their respective constituencies and that aspect must be taken into account, so that at least they get certain allowances which would enable them to go back to their respective constituencies and Regions to carry out some of those functions. I so plead and I support Vote 11.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Yes, indeed, we are discussing a very important Vote, Vote 11. This Vote is very important in the sense that if we are saying that the majority of our people are living in rural areas, it means that the structure we are talking about is the structure that is representing the majority of our people. Therefore, their effectiveness in planning implementation of

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HON TJIHUIKO

Government policies and programmes is crucial, because unless that structure is properly strengthened, properly oiled to deliver, the whole Government structure will have problems in getting Government programmes implemented. Therefore, when we are talking about the National Council, we are talking about the engine of administration and development.

Therefore, I think the point that the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security has made is very important. Are they really getting what they need? The reason why I decided to make a contribution is that when the issue of the regional development is being discussed, they are always the last ones to make an input. It would have been better if they had the opportunity to express themselves on what they want us to discuss. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Tjihiuko, speak on the details, you should not generalise in the Committee Stage. Secondly, during the Committee Stage you should not respond to each other's views. Just stick to the detail. If you do not, I will rule you Out of Order.

HON TJIHUIKO: If you had asked me what I am talking about, I could have told you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Tjihiuko, I am not supposed to ask you, I am telling you. Will you please continue and stick to the details?

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HON TJIHUIKO

HON TJIHUIKO: Page 2, the sentence that starts with N\$42,300,000. What I was saying is that this issue could have been properly motivated by the responsible people who are implementing these programmes in one way or another, either having an opportunity to express their views to the Members of the National Assembly, so that when we discuss this issue, we represent their opinion, whether through the Development Committee or any other structure where they will have an opportunity to express themselves before the National Assembly has decided and then pass it through to them to discuss. Then it will be a question of taking it or leaving it. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. I am detecting a very serious misconception through the Members of Parliament from the Opposition benches. I know that I will have my chance to respond, but I think that I will not do justice to the Debate on this Budget if this misconception is not cleared, because others may just argue along those wrong lines and then there will never be an opportunity for me to explain. Therefore, I seek your indulgence to just take two seconds to provide information.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister of Finance, you can take the Floor under a Point of Information. If you register for an intervention, stick to the detail and what has been said. Let us stick to the detail. Honourable Tjihuiko, you have the Floor.

HON TJIHUIKO: On the third page, Programme 2: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I support the strengthening of the review and oversight function of the National Council, but I believe that their activities should be visible in the Regions and they must be very much accessible. People should have access to their offices and get the necessary information that

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HON NUJOMA / HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

they are looking for. I am talking about experience, so take it from me. With this contribution, I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I rise to support Vote11 and I see that the total expenditure allocated for personnel is N\$23,938,000 I agree with that, but I just have a small query which I want the motivator to perhaps convey to the Chairperson of the National Council with regard to the Personnel Policy of recruitment.

I think the personnel recruitment at this institution leaves much to be desired. I am saying this because of some complaints that we as MPs have received, that the recruitment policy is totally biased in that almost 60 to 70% of the personnel recruited there are people from these new Parties and perhaps you may convey that to them for the Chairperson to look into that because it is really a concern to some of us. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister. Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I must sincerely apologise that I have to take the Floor again after I have responded, but like I said, the issue is so important, it came through the interventions of numerous Opposition MPs and that is the issue of participation by the Regions in the formulation of programmes that are funded under the Budget.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

One Honourable Member today said that the Regional Councils would usually make their submissions to the Line Ministry, but the Line Ministry would set aside those submissions and submit something else for funding. I think that is highly misleading. It must be explained that the budgeting system in Namibia is based on Medium Term Plans, which in turn are implementing a long-term strategic plan, Vision 2030. The projects that are submitted for funding under the Budget every year, are coming directly out of the second volume of the National Development Plan. That second volume is called, "Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP).

There is also a third volume to the National Development Plan that is called Regional Development Plans. All the Regions were accorded an opportunity to articulate their regional development needs in individual regional development plans that accompany the National Development Plan and, therefore, these regional development plans constitute, together with the national projects, the National Development Plan.

Therefore, the issue of Regions making submissions every year is not to say that projects are new every year, so that they can be ignored and the Budget can therefore be detached and irrelevant to the regional needs. That is actually untrue. I am explaining this to you and this is exactly why you are always Out of Order, because you never want to listen to the information being provided. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question, please?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: After I have finished explaining.

HON TJIHUIKO: If you are explaining I need to ask, because it is not motivation, it is political statements.

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HON MBAI

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: After the request to ask the Minister you should wait, why do you continue talking? Honourable Minister, will you kindly accept the request for a question?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will do so but only after I have finished making this point, because he is exactly one of those MPs that provide distorted information here.

It is far-fetched for any person to suggest that the Budget is divorced from the needs of the communities as expressed by the Regions. Thank you, I am through.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: She has rested her case. Honourable Members, let us go back to the Committee Stage and talk on the details of the Bill. I do not think I will allow any general discussions or even information. You need answers from the Speaker and you should put questions to get answers. What is he going to answer? Honourable Mbai.

HON MBAI: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I failed to pick up the proper coordination, healthy relationship between these two Houses that one would like to see, that would enhance the proper oversight function through the motivation of the Honourable Speaker of the National Council's Vote.

I really do not want to recall incidents where I thought this was truly conflict that needed to be addressed, but through the motivation speech of the Honourable Speaker one would like to see under which Vote the Speaker intends to address what I term as the not healthy relationship between the National Council and National Assembly. If the Honourable

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Speaker told me under which item this was provided for, I would have said we need to increase the amount, so that we come to the extent where there is a more coordination and strengthening and improvement of relationship of the two Houses. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Does the Honourable Speaker wish to respond to the queries?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson. Since the Members of the National Council do not belong in the National Assembly, an arrangement has been made and I came into that arrangement. It is the National Council, through its management and leadership, which prepares its own Budget taking into consideration everything else. The introduction that I made here was prepared word-by-word by them and I am just providing the service for the National Council in reading out what they are asking the Government to provide for their work. That concerns the last question.

Honourable Mbai, I really had no reason to suspect that the working relationship at the level of the Presiding Officers or at the level of the staff members of the two Houses leaves any room for questioning. I have not found that. The current Presiding Officers have a normal working relationship and meet occasionally to review matters of mutual concern between the two Houses and where we feel that we need some improvements, we task our respective staff members to look into whatever issues might come up from one House to the other. Unless you have something that you do not want to say out loudly in the House, I would invite you to let me know for me and the Chairman to look into. Other than that we have excellent relations.

Honourable Dr Iyambo, the Minister of Finance tried to clarify that the Development Budget is intended to address the needs of our people on the ground. The whole vision of decentralisation is intended to provide a better way

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HON DR T-B GURIRAB

through which we can do that. I think the Honourable Chairman of the National Council and the Members of the National Council are aware and based on what the Minister of Finance has said, the input comes from the ground up to the point that it reaches the National Assembly. It is perhaps after the adoption of the Budget of the National Council that Council Members should ensure that they report back that this is what we have requested, based on the consultations that we have conducted across the country, but this is what we finally got and some matters are outstanding. We will however keep the Government in the picture by reminding the relevant Ministers so that your requests are kept alive on the agenda of the Government. However, I will indeed mention to my colleague that this is a concern that has been expressed by one of the key Ministers.

I think the Minister of Finance has explained that there is no stonewalling on the part of the Ministries, that the requests come from the ground.

Honourable Kawana, you are so generous, you spoke about the benefits of the Members of the National Council, but as the leader of the National Assembly I would also say there is also a need for our benefits to be reviewed. This is something we cannot discuss in the abstract, we should perhaps look through the list of benefits for the Members of the National Council and identify those areas where we feel, for example in comparison to the Members of the National Assembly, the Members of the National Council are being treated as stepchildren. It is a general point, I take the point, but I do not exactly know what it is that you have in mind, Honourable Member.

Honourable Tjihuiko, the Honourable Minister of Finance did justice to your question. To the extent that you were not very specific, the question will perhaps stand over, but I am quite satisfied with the explanation provided by the Minister of Finance.

Deputy Minister of Justice, I am sceptical that there is bias in the recruitment policy of the National Council. What are we talking about? Not being in the know about the recruitment policy and I wonder how it will be different from the National Assembly, I cannot respond, but if it is

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HON NGHIDINWA

a matter that I should bring to the attention of the Chairman of the National Council, I will do so. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection? Agreed to. We now revert to the Introductions.

Vote 05 – “HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION”, N\$152,783,000
put for **Introduction.**

HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

First of all I would like to applaud the SWAPO Government through the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Deputy, Permanent Secretary and the staff members of her Ministry for the most comprehensive, best organised and pro-poor Budget tabled to this august House.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, , the year 2008/2009 was a mixed events year comprised of bad and good developments. The bad part of the events were characterised by the loss of our beloved comrades, husbands and friends, natural disasters which affected the North and north-eastern Regions, global economic crisis, climate changes and many other disasters facing our beloved planet, the Earth. The good news is the election of a first ever African-American President Barak Obama in the United States of America, the appointment of our Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly as the President of IPU, and the swearing-in of new members in this august House. All these memorable positive developments have strengthened the daily activities and performance of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the outstanding leadership of His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the SWAPO Party and the President of the Republic of Namibia, who has scored A-plus in his State of the Nation Address to the

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National Assembly, which was even acknowledged by the Opposition Members.

Since most Ministers, including myself, did not yet participate in the general discussion of this Budget, I wish to discuss three points with you, Honourable Members. My first point is to offer support to the very important contribution raised in the House by Honourable Dr Tjiriange in terms of Article 100 of the Namibian Constitution on the question of land. The concept of "*land reform*" is a complex construct that aims to redistribute land, to strengthen tenure and convert customary rights into statutory rights and build capacity of land. Although the concept of land reform aims at the distribution of land to the needy to strengthen and improve tenure, convert customary rights into statutory rights as building capacity for land institutions, according to my observation, land redistribution was heavily politicised more especially by Opposition Parties at the time of the formation of the Namibian Constitution. When you look at the last article there was a conflict of interest for those who owned land before. That is why in Africa in general one frequently finds the land question being the hardest targeted political manipulation and cause of conflict. Moreover, land titling programmes have proved extremely costly and time-consuming and do not account how the poor Namibians who fought for Independence of this country will own their own land. The land question remains unanswered and the solution to solve this crucial issue remains as remote as ever,

In contrast to the wishes of the vast majority of the Namibian people, landlords continue to acquire land in many dubious ways, such as through obtaining Permanent Resident Permits and through property rights. For example, a foreigner is allowed to buy a property in Namibia even while on holiday on the basis that if one has property in Namibia, one can eventually qualify to acquire Namibian citizenship. Using the Namibian citizenship status, one can acquire as much land he/she possibly can. In some cases even if the land was expropriated, these foreigners took the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement to Court and claim the land back into their possession. I therefore call upon the Ministries of Lands and Resettlement, Justice, Trade and Industry, Home Affairs and Immigration, to work more tightly together than ever before to prevent the misuse of

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property rights, selling land through close co-operations and issuing the Permanent Residence and citizenship based on property rights. I am strongly supporting the proposal of Honourable Dr Tjirange on the establishment of the Commission to re-visit at the land issue in the broad sense.

My second point, I wish to concentrate on the **Rural Water Supply in the Kavango, Caprivi and Kunene Regions**. According to my observation, people living along the river have no access to clean water because they fetch water directly from the river. Rural Water Supply should provide clean water to these communities in the same manner it is done in other parts of the country. Discussions between Namibia, Angola, Zambia and Botswana where these rivers pass through need to be accelerated to reach a common agreement on the utilisation of water from these rivers. Preparation of the Capital Budget in this regard should be put as one of the priorities in the next Medium Term Expenditure Framework in order to achieve objectives of Vision 2030, where it is clearly stipulated that clean water will be available to all Namibians.

The third point I wish to raise is on the **vastness of the Kavango Region and the large number of the population scattered around the Region**. It is time to think of that Region to be divided into two or three Regions. I am saying this because politically I am an assigned leader to the said Region, not because I am originally from there. The population is affected by abject poverty. The other main contributing factor to the shortcoming is that the said Region was long affected by the war waged by Unita bandits. Most of the Angolan communities from Cuando Cubango migrated to the Region. The population of this Region has become so heavily inflated, to the extent that it went beyond the official Government statistics and its needs by far surpasses the capacity of the Budget allocated for that purpose.

The burden (social responsibility) to accommodate all those communities with their children and provide them with amenities such as health facilities and schools, is a great burden to that Region and the Government at large. I know for sure most of them did not return back to their country of origin because of intermarriages, family ties and ethnicity. Similar

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situations prevails in Omusati, Ohangwena and Kunene Regions. The Government faces an enormous problem whereby people from the other side of the border cross into Namibia on a daily basis to acquire medical attention and their children attend education institutions up to tertiary level. These was testified by people who applied for residence permits and citizenship, claiming that they entered Namibia between 1974 – 1975, 1989 – 1999 and 2000.

Now I can go back to the Budget allocation for my Ministry.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I have listened with a great sense of pride to the State of the National Address by His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia on the progress with implementation of our Government programmes and plans in all sectors as outlined in the NDPs and the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto 2004. This has been achieved within the confines of limited resources and is therefore something that all of us as Namibians should identify ourselves with and applaud.

Furthermore, we are fully aware that the current Debate is taking place at a time of global economic turmoil and therefore we commend the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister and her staff for having been able to divide the national cake with the skills of a master craftsman.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, During this Medium Term Expenditure Framework the Ministry intends to take further bold steps to move towards the realisation of its sub-sector sub-vision of Vision 2030 which is:

“All Namibians to have national documents, and there is a smooth and efficient regulative and controlling mechanism for refugees and immigrants into Namibia as well as their residence in the country, supported by a well-developed criminal justice system”.

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Honourable Members, our programmes and all efforts are linked to achieving that vision. The following programmes for this Medium Term Expenditure Framework period as highlighted in NDP III, is the key to the achievement of that long term vision:

- Civil Registration (Maintenance of Population Register);
- Immigration Control (Smooth and efficient facilitation mechanism for migration);
- Refugee Administration (Protection and Caring of Refugees/Asylum seekers).

It is now my distinct honour and privilege to share with you the summary of achievements of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and introduce the requested allocations for each of the programmes under the Ministry's Vote:

Civil Registration

The mandate of the programme is the provision of national documents which include birth certificates, identity cards, marriage certificates, death certificates and the management of records thereof. The activities under this programme are aimed at ensuring that Government has the necessary demographic information it needs for planning purposes, identification of nationals and to facilitate the establishment of family basic unit.

In order to fast track the issuance of national documents, the Ministry has adopted a multi-pronged approach:

- Strive for further reduction in the waiting period;
- Take service closer to the people;
- Enhance security of the national documents; and
- Automate and integrate systems.

During the last Financial Year, the following Sub-Regional Offices were opened: Okongo in the Ohangwena Region, Ruacana in the Omusati

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Region, Kahenge and Mukwe in the Kavango Region, Grootfontein and Tsumkwe in the Otjozondjupa Region and Karasburg and Lüderitz in the Karas Region to reduce the long distances travelled by the people to reach our Regional Offices to acquire national documents.

Our plan is to expand these services to all corners of Namibia. In the next planning phase, we intend to open the following sub-regional offices: Aminius and Otjombinde in the Omaheke Region, Karibib and Omaruru in the Erongo Region, Kamanjab and Okanguati in the Kunene Region, Chetto in the Caprivi Region, Omungwelume in the Ohangwena Region, Okakarara in the Otjozondjupa Region and Okahao in the Omusati Region.

The expansion and construction programme of regional offices is ongoing and during the previous Financial Year, Mariental Regional Office was constructed while Opuwo, Gobabis and Otjiwarongo were expanded.

Namibia is a vast land and is sparsely populated. It will not be economically possible to erect sub-regional offices in every community or constituency; therefore it was found feasible to serve communities in the remote areas with mobile offices. I am pleased to inform this august House that those mobile registration offices are functioning well and many citizens have been registered with identity documents.

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

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

The mobile registration has taken place in all the Regions from the 4th of November 2008 – the 22nd of December 2008 and this is an ongoing programme. During the mobile registration process 37,098 identity document applications were processed and 18,219 birth certificates were

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issued. With regard to identity documents, we are disappointed to see that a large number of uncollected IDs are still piling up at our offices. Effort is however ongoing in cooperation with the Regional and Constituency Councillors to distribute uncollected IDs.

The process for the automation of birth, marriage and death records has started and data typists have been recruited. This project is expected to be concluded within the next two years with the expected outcome of enhancing the process of verifications.

Last year in September, the Ministries of Home Affairs and Immigration, Health and Social Services together with our developmental partner UNICEF, have launched a pilot project on the registration of new-born babies with birth certificates at the Katutura State Hospital and a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect has been entered into. I am equally glad to keep the Honourable Members and the entire Nation abreast that such a project is going on well and a total number of 3,205 babies were registered and issued with birth certificates. This pilot project will be expanded to ten other major hospitals in the country. I must use this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to UNICEF Office in Namibia for this noble gesture.

For the abovementioned programme to function well, I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of N\$73,695,000 for this programme.

Immigration Control (Entry/Exit) and Citizenship:

This programme ensures the efficient, smooth and regulated movement of persons entering and exiting the country. In this regard, the programme coordinates the operations of ports of entry/exit and the issuance of permits to facilitate investment flow for economic growth, human development, employment creation and to fill skills gaps whilst ensuring skills transfer.

Border Control:

The Division of Immigration and Border Control is responsible for the facilitation of entry/exit at all ports of entry. Other activities are to facilitate deportation of illegal immigrants, the provision of secretarial services to the Immigration Tribunal and transport. The division in the past Financial Year has significantly increased its surveillance activities and as a result thereof a total number of 677 illegal immigrants were deported.

Entry points to the country are the first reflection of any person visiting Namibia. They portray the image of the country's level of service delivery and serve as tourist attractions. It is on this basis that I see the need to strengthen and invest in computerisation of our entry points and capacity-building of our staff members at the border posts. Despite the effort and Budget allocation for the Ministry for the construction and renovation of infrastructure at some border posts, the need to urgently upgrade infrastructure is overwhelming.

In a bid to improve records of persons entering into and exiting from Namibia, we have replaced the old Border Control Management System with the new one which is capable to read electronic passports and respond to other security related threats. This system will be critical for the management of movement of persons especially during the upcoming 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and the African Cup of Nations to be held by South Africa and Angola respectively.

The Honourable Members are aware that the borders in the north and north-eastern Regions of our country are vast and densely populated. There are at the moment limited entry points and as a result it encourages illegal crossing. The Ministry is currently looking at opening new entry points in order to facilitate the movement of persons and goods and to curb the illegal crossings. To this effect we are in the process to open additional border posts at Kashamane in the Omusati Region, Okanguati in the Kunene Region, Nkurenkuru in the Kavango Region and in the Caprivi Region still to be agreed between Namibia and Zambia. The project of opening additional border posts is very important and is also in

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line with the SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons and Goods to which Namibia is a signatory.

It is gratifying to note that the concept of public-private partnership is gaining momentum. In this regard MTC and the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration have entered into a partnership providing for the printing of arrival/departure forms by MTC. This support is highly commendable.

The issue of migration has become more complex in the globalised world, therefore the Ministry has undertaken assessment of the Border Control and Migration Management in Namibia. We are currently reviewing the outcome.

Alien Control, Passports and Citizenships:

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration continues to play a central role in the facilitation of activities related to economic development. The automation process of permits and visas is underway.

During the year under review 7,506 employment permits, 5 permanent residence permits and 948 citizenships were granted.

Passports

Last year I announced in this august House that we were planning to procure a new and secure passport issuance system capable of personalising electronic passports. I am pleased to inform this august House that the system is in the final stage of implementation. This system will reduce the current waiting period for passports and will serve as the basis for Namibia to issue electronic passports in the future.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of N\$76,022,000 for this programme.

Programme Refugee Administration

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This programme is mandated to provide protection and care to refugees and asylum seekers. This programme derives its mandate from Article 97 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, the Refugees Recognition and Control Act, Act 2 of 1999, the 1951 Geneva Convention, its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 AU Convention relating to the status of refugees. The challenge with this programme is that it has no control over factors influencing the influx of refugees.

The allocation requested will be mainly used to defray personnel expenditure, transport, S & T and acquisition of office material. It is important to inform this august House that Namibia continues to host a total number of 8,252 refugees and asylum seekers at the Osire Settlement. Angolans constitute a big number of 62%, refugees followed by refugees from the Great Lakes Regions e.g. DRC 12%, Burundis 9% and Rwandese 5%.

The Namibian and Angolan Governments are working closely together to promote voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees. It is important to note that Namibia hosts refugees/asylum seekers from 15 African countries.

Since UNHCR is scaling down its activities in Namibia during the course of this year, the Ministry together with UNHCR and other stakeholders are working on a policy framework that will result in a durable solution for refugees in Namibia. Furthermore, the scaling down of UNHCR activities will pose a big challenge to my Ministry because UNHCR, together with its implementing partners, has been supporting a capacity building programme to Refugee Administration Directorate, which we greatly appreciate. This support includes: The registration and verification of asylum seekers, issuance of asylum seeker's certificates and refugee ID cards, financial and logistics support to the meetings of Namibia Refugee Committee and Namibia Appeal Board and secretariat services. Furthermore, UNHCR and Namibia Red Cross Society provide support in the facilitation of the return of the Namibian refugees from Botswana.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of N\$3,066,000 for this programme.

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Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I would like to draw the attention of this August House that the Ministry is buying virgin ID cards, birth, citizenship, marriage, death certificates from suppliers at high cost. These documents are, however, provided to Namibians free of charge. Despite this, the Ministry has surpassed its revenue projection for 2008/2009 which was N\$29,000,000 and the actual revenue generated during the current Financial Year is N\$43,071,536 as at February 2009.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my team, the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary, Management and the entire staff members for the hard work in implementing the programmes.

I now move that an amount of N\$1,52,783,000 be allocated for Vote 05 of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

May your usual support prevail and I thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

Vote 06 – “POLICE”, N\$1,427,542,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Chairperson, I take the Floor to introduce and request this august House to approve the Budget for the Ministry of Safety and Security’s Vote 06:

Namibian Police for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. The total Budget of the Vote is N\$1,427,542,000, comprising of N\$1,315,540,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$112,002,000 for the Development Budget.

The Budget is requested to allow the Namibian Police to fulfil its constitutional and operational mandate and functions, which include the following:

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- Preserving the internal security of Namibia;
- Maintaining law and order;
- Investigating any offence or alleged offence;
- Preventing crime; and
- Protecting life and property.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson; Honourable Members, as you will recall, I took over the Ministry of Safety and Security during the previous Budget session in this august House. I declined then to comment after my Budget submission, because I felt I needed time to visit some of the Police and Prison Institutions, to have first-hand information on the situation of the various components of the Ministry.

I am happy to report to this august House that I have visited all the Police Stations, Police posts, Police camps and Police border posts throughout the country except for five police posts which I could not visit because of the flood and I will do so as soon as the water subsides. I can now claim knowledge of issues and problems faced by our people on the ground. This has provided me with an opportunity to learn more about the work of both Departments (Police and Prisons) of the Ministry. Therefore, I can address this august House and the public at large with confidence on the state of affairs in the Ministry of Safety and Security.

What I have found on the ground is really heartbreaking: The reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, Security and International Relations and the that of the Ombudsman, *inter alia*, are a true reflection of the hardships and shortcomings our Police Force and Prison Service are facing on the ground. However, allow me to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy Minister and Staff, for allocating more financial resources to the Ministry of Safety and Security. The Government has started to address some of the shortcomings, especially the shortage of transport, communications equipment and uniforms, shoes etcetera. The lack of accommodation for Police remains the critical single biggest item of concern to me. This item needs the support of all of us as Honourable Members of this august House. As a matter of fact, during my visits I

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informed members of the Police Force that they have the undivided attention of some of you Honourable Members.

New vehicles have been bought and distributed to the various Directorates and Divisions in Windhoek and to all thirteen Police Regional Headquarters, for allocation to the various stations and units throughout the country.

The Force has also purchased an AS350 B3 “*Squirrel*” helicopter, for its new Air Wing, to supplement the ground units’ efforts in combating crime and in other operations aimed at ensuring the safety and security of our citizens and visitors to our country. The helicopter has been useful in the rescue of people during the flood and in transporting medical personnel to inaccessible clinics. The “*Squirrel*” is equipped with the latest vision technology and tools for policing from the air, to enable the airborne members to detect and/or track down target objects on the ground at any time of the day, even in the darkest of the nights, while maintaining contact with the units on the ground. This is indeed a boost to the operational capacity of the Force and I must thank the Minister of Finance and this august House for making funds available for the acquisition of the helicopter.

Our intention is to expand the number of aircrafts at the Namibian Police Force’s Air Wing to at least a squadron of four helicopters, so as to provide more adequate responses to the operational needs of the Force. I know that I can count on you, Honourable Members of this august House, in bringing this plan to fruition.

In its efforts to bring policing services closer to the people and in reaffirming its commitment to improving the working and living conditions of our uniformed personnel, my Ministry is requesting an amount of N\$112 million for the construction of six new police stations and the upgrading and renovation of some existing Police Stations and houses to accommodate members of the force. The new police stations will be constructed as follows: one each in the Caprivi, the Hardap, the Kavango and the Otjozondjupa Regions and two in the Omusati Region.

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As we all know, crime is a serious problem which affects not only individuals, but also the social fabric of our society. Let me just highlight some figures on crime that occurred in our country. During 2008, for instance, 93,438 crimes were recorded by the Namibian Police Force countrywide, compared to 87,729 cases during 2007. This represents an increase of 6.5%.

The most affected Regions are:

- Khomas 44.53%
- Oshana 9.76%
- Erongo 8.94%
- Karas 6.88%

The above-quoted statistics, Honourable Members, do not include cases that were brought forward from previous years and were also handled by the Police during 2008. The statistics, however, suggest the need for more resources and highly specialised training for members of the Namibian Police Force, which we intend to address with the Budget we are requesting here.

Honourable Members, I wish to inform this august House that the National Forensic Science Institute of Namibia was recently transferred from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to the Ministry of Safety and Security, Department of Police. The Institute is a highly-specialised multi-disciplinary scientific research facility. It applies all aspects of natural science in solving and finding scientific solutions to crimes. These, *inter alia*, range from human genetics, document examination, analytical chemistry, arson investigation, explosives analyses, blood stain pattern analysis, ballistic examinations, fraud and economic crimes investigations.

The transfer of this institute was done deliberately to improve or enhance the quality of crime investigations in the country. We have to enlist the required number of scientists to provide the essential services at the laboratory of the Institute. This obviously requires that Government

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should provide more funding and other resources, but that is a matter for the next Budget.

The Institute, *inter alia*, needs a custom-designed facility for its laboratory. I am pleased to inform that the Ministry of Works and Transport has already allocated a place so that in the near future we will have an appropriate house for this Institute. The Institute is currently operating from a basement which is normally flooded during the rainy season. I am sure you might have seen some of the pictures. We are in the process of relocating it to temporary premises, but it will require extensive remodelling to accommodate the requirements of the Institute's work.

There is also a need to re-visit the remuneration structure of the Institute personnel, as it recently lost three of its top scientists to the private sector to areas not even relevant to their qualifications, just because of the remuneration structure that is not compatible with the field of science. Altogether 67 scientists are required: Some of these 67 vacancies can be filled with scientists that are here in Namibia, but the salaries are not in line with the qualifications they have and they thus opted to work in the private sector.

There is, therefore, a serious and urgent need to attend to the remuneration structure of the Institute to keep pace with international standards and practice. We hope to engage the Office of the Prime Minister in this respect.

For the 2009/2010 Financial Year alone, there is an estimated shortfall of N\$11,400,000.00. This is not a complaint, Honourable Members, we know we have many competing needs, but as time goes, I have no doubt that the Honourable Minister of Finance and all the Honourable Members here will lend us your sympathetic ears.

I wish to register my Ministry's preparedness of maintaining law and order to ensure safety and security in the country during the presidential and general election this year. The Namibian Police is under instruction to ensure that lawlessness is effectively controlled during this period. All

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I need from you, Honourable Members, is your support to educate your electorate to behave within the limit of the law and democratic atmosphere during the campaign and election time.

The global economic crisis is also another challenge which has an effect on our local situation. There is a possibility of the escalation of criminal activities resulting from the global economic hardships. We have already seen how criminals have started some criminal “*innovations*” with the cloning of Visa Cards in our country.

The global economic meltdown and the impending FIFA and World Cups in Angola and South Africa respectively, will require that we, as a country, increase our preparedness with heightened law enforcement activities and commit more resources to this effort.

Honourable Members, the Budget we are requesting will allow the Department of the Police to conduct its operations through the following five programmes:

Programme	Amount (000)
Combating of Crime	904,236
Border Control	329,135
Protection Services	175,641
Traffic Control	14,300
Forensic Science	4,230
Total	1,427,542

More details about the use of the money on this Vote are spelt out in detail in the Budget books. Members should look into these books for more details.

Honourable Members, I am requesting this august House to approve the sum of N\$1,427,542,000.00 for Vote 06: Namibian Police, for the 2009/2010 Financial Year and I thank you.

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

Vote 07 – “FOREIGN AFFAIRS”, N\$388,610,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, once again I stand before you to motivate Vote 07 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Allow me to join the Honourable Members who spoke before me in congratulating the Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa–Amadhila, for her brilliant presentation of the National Budget, which substantially responds to the challenges posed by the current global economic and financial crisis.

The global economic crisis has had a devastating impact on most countries, including our own. We have experienced the severe consequences of rising fuel and food prices that have negatively affected the living conditions of many across the globe, especially the poor in developing countries. In Namibia, this situation has resulted in massive job losses particularly in the mining industry due to a low demand of our mineral products. The situation has been further compounded by severe floods and other calamities in many parts of the world, which could be ascribed to climate change. Our own country has so far suffered severe losses due to floods in the northern and north-eastern areas.

Those are some of the challenges we face, together with our development partners, as we seek to find lasting solutions. Indeed no country can tackle such challenges in isolation and it is only in a spirit of close cooperation with both bilateral and multilateral partners that Namibia can advance towards sustainable economic and social development.

In terms of Article 96 of our Constitution, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is entrusted with the mandate to safeguard and promote Namibia’s national interest globally, to maintain a policy of non-alignment and to

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promote international cooperation towards international peace and security.

In line with our Policy of Economic Diplomacy as stipulated in The White Paper on Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Management and Strategic Plan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continued to strengthen and consolidate international relations at both bilateral and multilateral fronts. In this regard, many bilateral and multilateral agreements were initiated and signed during the last Financial Year.

As part of our responsibility to maintain good neighbourliness and friendly relations with other nations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continued to coordinate and actively participate in various activities at regional and international levels.

During the past Financial Year our country was honoured to host a number of high-level visitors, among them the Heads of State of Liberia, South Africa, Botswana and the Governor-General of Australia as well as the Prime Minister of Tanzania. His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba paid Official Visits to Brazil, Cuba and Swaziland. These visits presented opportunities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between Namibia and these countries in many areas.

Economic cooperation with other countries is vital for the realisation of our National Development Plans, Vision 2030 and the Millennium Development Goals.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, Namibia remains committed to the maintenance of international peace and security through conflict prevention, management and resolution. As such, Namibia continues to contribute troops and Police to UN as well as AU Peacekeeping Missions. As Members will recall, Namibian military and civilian personnel are currently serving in the Darfur Region of the Sudan, Liberia, East Timor, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire.

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I am proud to inform this august House that Namibia is one of the Vice Presidents of the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly, and His Excellency, the President, chaired one of the Sessions during the General Debate last September. Namibia is also a member of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the period 2009 – 2011.

Our country is indeed honoured by the election of the Speaker of our National Assembly, Hon Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, to the High Office of the Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. I would once again like to convey my warm congratulations to him for this well-deserved achievement.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hon Dr Libertine Amathila, Deputy Prime Minister, for the able manner in which she recently presided over the work of the 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, Austria.

Within our Region, Namibia joined other SADC Member States in finding a peaceful solution to the situation in Zimbabwe. Our concerted efforts resulted in the signing and implementation of the Unity Government aimed at restoring political and economic stability in that sister country.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, at regional and continental level, Namibia continues to actively participate in SADC, SACU and the African Union's efforts aimed at achieving economic, political and social integration.

In this context, Namibia has also been actively involved in efforts aimed at strengthening AU Institutions in preparation for the gradual establishment of the African Union Government. As members will recall, Namibia continues to serve on the AU Committee of Ten on the Reform of the United Nations.

In July 2008, Namibia was elected as a member of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, a programme of the African Union tasked with accelerating continental integration through development of a basic infrastructure and agricultural sector.

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Namibia also continues to play an active role within the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 and China, the Commonwealth and other multilateral platforms as part of its international commitments. Namibia was elected to the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group.

Amongst many other international events, Namibia hosted the 3rd International Conference on Cooperation with Middle Income Countries from 4 to 6 August 2008. The Conference adopted the Windhoek Declaration, which forms the basic document for the resolution which was adopted by the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly in 2008. The resolution gave the UN the mandate to take up the plight of the Middle Income Countries. For Namibia this was indeed a very important achievement.

Comrade Deputy Chair, Honourable Members, in my capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs, I visited a number of countries during the period under review with the aim of promoting our bilateral cooperation. I paid Official Visits to the Federal Republic of Brazil, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Algeria. In Brazil and Algeria I signed Memoranda of Understanding on the Establishment of Mechanisms on Diplomatic Consultations.

I am happy to report that the Preparatory Meeting for the First Joint Commission of Cooperation with Algeria has already taken place here in Windhoek in February this year.

Honourable Lempy Lucas, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, paid an Official Visit to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. This visit culminated in the signing of three Agreements, namely the Agreement on the Abolition of Visas for Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports, Co-operation Agreement on Cultural Matters and the Co-operation Agreement on Educational Matters between Namibia and Venezuela. These three Agreements are expected to enhance co-operation between Namibia and Venezuela.

Our efforts to strengthen and consolidate cooperation between Namibia and its partners are carried out through the mechanism of Joint

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Commissions. During the year under review, Namibia held Joint Commissions and Bilateral consultation sessions with Angola, Botswana, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Finland, Germany, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Sweden. These Sessions have enabled Namibia to take stock of its ongoing cooperation with its bilateral partners, as well as map out new avenues for cooperation. In the current year Namibia will likewise participate in numerous Joint Commissions and Bilateral Consultations which will be hosted both at home and abroad. As I am speaking now, there is a Joint Commission chaired by our Deputy Minister and the Deputy Minister from Egypt which is taking place in Walvis Bay.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I wish to emphasise that, like in previous years, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to engage its international partners at both bilateral and multilateral levels with the view of advancing our national interests and promoting international cooperation in keeping with our mandate.

Comrade Deputy Chair, allow me now to take you through the Ministry's Budget request for the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

A total amount of N\$388,610,000 has been allocated, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. This allocation consists of N\$102,790,000 earmarked for the Development Budget and N\$285,820,000 for the operations of the Ministry and its Diplomatic Missions.

It is worth mentioning that 76% of the Ministry's Budget is spent in major foreign currencies such as the US\$, GBP and Euro. Three years ago when I presented my Ministry's Budget, the exchange rate to US\$ was N\$7, while at present the Namibia Dollar against the US\$ stands at an exchange rate of approximately 9.5. Further upward fluctuations remain a distinct possibility.

For example, if the running cost of a Mission per quarter was US\$100,000, then an amount of N\$700,000 was transferred two years ago,

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but since the Namibia Dollar has depreciated to 9.5 to the US dollar, we spend N\$950,000, an increase of N\$250,000. What I am trying to tell you is that the exchange rate volatility, which is beyond the Ministry's control, has negatively affected the Ministry's Budget through the years.

The portion allocated for the Development Budget will be utilized as follows:

- N\$77,848,000 will be used for the purchase and maintenance of our diplomatic premises abroad. That is in keeping with the policy I informed you about last year, that we want to move from leasing properties towards owning our own properties.
- N\$510,000 will be used for the maintenance and renovation of the Headquarters building, N\$ 2,500,000 for the replacement of lifts at Headquarters.
- N\$21,912,000 for the construction of a VIP lounge at Hosea Kutako International Airport.
- N\$20,000 for the installation of an access ramp at Headquarters.

The Chancery in Vienna is under renovation and will be completed during the 2009/2010 Financial Year, together with the renovation of Headquarters as well as the ongoing re-construction of the chancery at our Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, allow me to take you through the break-down of the amount requested by my Ministry for each program under the Operational Budget:

Programme 1: Bilateral Affairs

The priority of this program is to strengthen bilateral co-operation with all countries in a number of identified priority areas for mutual benefit.

An amount of N\$34,253,000 is allocated to this programme.

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The funds allocated to this programme will be utilised for the advancement of economic diplomacy through investment and trade promotion between Namibia and other countries on a bilateral level.

Programme 2: Multilateral Affairs

Bilateral and Multilateral diplomacy are intertwined. What might begin as a multilateral initiative can evolve into a bilateral undertaking and vice-versa. Therefore, the continued active participation in regional and international organisations such as SADC, AU, UN, EU, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China remain of paramount importance to my Ministry.

We continue to monitor new opportunities offered by the regional and international organisations and advise Government on how to utilise and benefit from their programmes.

Under this programme the Ministry also represents and co-ordinates the participation of Namibia in regional and international meetings and conferences, with the view to advance the country's interests, promote sustainable development, international peace and security.

In order to benefit from the regional and international organisations and to fulfil our mandate to advise Government on international affairs, the Ministry will participate in different statutory multilateral meetings.

An amount of N\$49,888,000 is earmarked for the activities of this programme.

Programme 3: Protocol and Consular Services

The Department Protocol Affairs coordinates activities between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and other foreign Governments, International and Regional Organisations through their representatives accredited to the Republic of Namibia.

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The Department plays a major role in the planning, organising, coordinating and executing both domestic and international engagements involving the Head of State, the Founding President, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chairman of the National Council, the Chief Justice, Cabinet Ministers, Parliamentarians and other dignitaries.

Protocol Officers are expected to accompany His Excellency the President, the Founding President and the Prime Minister on all their domestic and international engagements. During the current Financial Year, the Head of State is scheduled to attend the AU Ordinary Session, Non-Aligned Movement Summit, SADC Summit, 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and other State and Official visits.

Therefore, the amount of N\$22,679,000 allocated for this programme will be utilised for the provision of protocol courtesies to all the events enumerated.

Programme 4: Namibian Diplomatic Missions

The objectives of our Missions abroad are to protect the interests of the Republic of Namibia and its nationals within the limits permitted by international law, and to promote good relations with international organisations and the countries of their accreditation.

In pursuit of the policy of economic diplomacy, they promote trade and attract foreign direct investment through, amongst others, participation in international trade fairs, investment and business forums and exhibitions.

An amount of N\$281,790,000 has been allocated for the operational costs of our Missions abroad.

Funds appropriated for this programme will be utilised to enhance the functions of the twenty-four Namibian Diplomatic Missions, to buy/lease offices and staff accommodation, to pay allowances and salaries for home-

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based and locally recruited staff members, payment of school fees, medical costs and maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

That amount also covers the costs involved in the transportation of posted staff members and their families to and from the Missions.

It is worth mentioning that the Ministry is in the process to open two consulates in Ondjiva in Angola and Cape Town in South Africa during the course of 2009/2010.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, having presented to this Honourable House an overview of my Ministry's activities for the last Financial Year, as well as the planned programme of events for the current Financial Year, I now request with great appreciation your support and approval of the total amount of N\$388,610,000 earmarked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

I count on your usual support, Honourable Members. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Vote 14 – “LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE”, N\$1,036,222,000
put for **Introduction**.

HON. MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, I have the distinct honour and privilege to submit for the favourable consideration of this august House, the motivation of the appropriation request amounting to N\$1,036,220,000 for the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for your approval.

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Allow me at the onset to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Honourable Director General of the National Planning Commission, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance and their respective staff members for generating a good Budget under the most trying economic conditions both at home as well as abroad.

This Budget Debate comes at a time when the global economic crisis threatens Namibia's plans for social and economic development intended to achieve a decent standard of living for all our people. Perhaps the biggest problem facing our Nation is unemployment, which affects not only the jobless, but the future of their children and the well-being of the society as a whole. The unacceptably high overall rate of unemployment of 37%, measured before the onset of the crisis, is now increasing, with even much greater rates of unemployment among youth and women. Moreover, large numbers of employed Namibian workers remain in the ranks of the working poor, with dim prospects of working their way out of poverty. We are, therefore, challenged to work in new, bold and more effective ways to ensure that Namibia can achieve the lofty goals it has set for itself in Vision 2030. It is within this context that I will discuss the proposed Budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has amongst others the following responsibilities:

1. Promote harmonious labour relations through social dialogue and effective dispute resolution in order to ensure a labour environment which is conducive to investment and economic growth;
2. Regulate the labour market in order to promote justice at the workplace and to guarantee minimum conditions of employment and safe and healthy working conditions, especially for vulnerable and marginalised workers, in line with the objective of decent and productive work for all;
3. Provide services to support the labour market, such as statistical surveys; employ promotion and creation, vocational guidance and counselling, promotion of productivity and support for

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affirmative action through the Employment Equity Commission;

4. Promote adherence to international labour standards and multilateral cooperation in areas of labour and employment through participation in the International Labour Organisation, the African Union Commission on Labour and Social Affairs and SADC structures concerned with labour and employment;
5. Provide social safety nets through social grants to protect the elderly and the disabled. Needless to say, these social grants, as modest as they are, are a lifeline for many families and communities. From a budgetary perspective, this is the most costly function of the Ministry;
6. Oversee the work of the Social Security Commission, which provides important insurance benefits to vulnerable employees through the Maternity, Sickness and Death Benefits Fund, and supports training and employment schemes for socially-disadvantaged and unemployed persons through the Development Fund.

These functions of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, which are carried out throughout fifteen offices across Namibia, affect the everyday lives of the majority of our people. They take an added significance in this period of global economic crisis.

Allow me to highlight the main achievements of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare during the 2008-2009 Financial Year

Operationalisation of Labour Act, 2007:

I am proud to report that on 1 November 2008, the long-awaited new Labour Act came into operation, together with the regulations promulgated there-under. This comprehensive Labour Code, which substantially revises its predecessor, the Labour Act, 1992, provides the framework for a new era of labour relations in Namibia and strengthened

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protection of employees. The most significant new feature of the Act is the introduction of a new system of dispute prevention and resolution, with strengthened roles for key role players. During the last Financial Year the following were undertaken:

- The Ministry conducted a multi-media public education campaign to popularise the new Act, including publication of a series of “fact boxes” in local newspapers, the dissemination of 200,000 copies of an information brochures on the Act and radio broadcasts on local language services. The publications were supported by the ILO-sponsored “*Improving Labour Systems in Southern Africa Project (ILLSA)*”, which was funded by the United States Department of Labour.
- The Tri-partite Committee on Prevention and Resolution of Disputes (of the Labour Advisory Council) was established and commenced its work.
- -Rules on the conduct of conciliation and arbitration were promulgated and 23 full-time and 50 part-time conciliators/arbitrators were appointed to work in the new system.
- The registration of disputes for conciliation and arbitration under the auspices of the Labour Commissioner commenced on 1 November 2008. To date, the objective of providing the cheaper and speedier resolution of disputes has been met; approximately 800 disputes have been registered with the Labour Commissioner, of which 95% have been settled at the stage of conciliation, while the remaining 5% were sent to mandatory arbitration. All of arbitration awards were issued within the required thirty-day period. This is in marked contrast with the former system of dispute resolution through the district labour court which was characterised by extreme delays.
- Expanded maternity protection for female employees in terms of the new Act and the Social Security Act came into effect.

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This is to mention only a few of the developments under the new Labour Act.

Workplace inspection and dispute resolution:

During the past Financial Year, the inspectors of the Ministry:

- Conducted 1,188 labour inspections and 408 safety and health inspections at workplaces throughout the country;
- Registered 3,957 labour complaints, of which 3,346, or 78%, were resolved amicably, 86 were referred to the district labour court under the predecessor Labour Act, while 525 are pending;
- Held a total of 232 tripartite meetings across the country to promote sound labour relations;
- Recovered N\$684,297 from employers where monies were owing to employees.

New minimum wage agreements:

New minimum wage agreements were entered into between employer organisations and the trade unions in the construction, security and agriculture industries, in the latter two cases, with the assistance of Ministry staff members. The parties to each agreement have requested the Minister to exercise his statutory power to make the terms and conditions of the agreement applicable to all employers in their respective industries, and I have commenced with the statutory steps that are as prerequisite to extending these agreements as requested.

Expanded labour market services:

During the past Financial Year, the Ministry has provided the following services to the labour market throughout Namibia:

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- Employment officers of the Ministry registered 5,660 job-seekers, canvassed 599 employers in the thirteen Regions of employment opportunities and placed 564 jobseekers in employment in the retail, agricultural, Government and private sectors;
- Employment officers conducted career guidance activities at 46 Secondary Schools with 2,202 Grade 10-12 learners, and participated in 17 career fairs;
- Employment officers assisted employers by testing 2,890 prospective employees for selection and recruitment at the nominal fee of N\$25 per person for each assessment;
- Vocational counsellors, who are qualified psychologists, tested 3,583 clients for career guidance purposes, conducted 471 psychometric tests and rendered comprehensive counselling to 246 clients; and
- Ministry statisticians finalised the Namibia Occupational Skills Assessment Survey, 2006 and the Namibia Child Activity Survey 2005, which were approved for publication, and completed the data collection for a new Namibia Labour Force Survey.

Affirmative Action:

The implementation of the Affirmative Action Act has just completed its ninth year, but some hurdles towards achieving equity in the work place still exist, particularly employer resistance to change. I can report that during the past Financial Year;

- Measures have been implemented to secure compliance from ignorant and uncooperative employers, including regular advice and consultations, continuous training, site visits and inspections;
- The Inspector-General of NAMPOL has assigned a Police Officer to the Employment Equity Commission to conduct investigations

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on non-compliance with the law in order to speed up prosecution of defaulting relevant employers;

- Positive progress has been made in terms of the improved representation of persons in designated groups at management and supervisory levels, with the latest workforce profile figures showing that previously racially disadvantaged persons accounted for 61% of all Executive Directors and Managers; and
- There has been an increase in the number and quality of Affirmative Action reports filed by relevant employers.

Administration and payment of Social Welfare Grants

The Ministry is responsible for the administration and payment of basic State grants to the elderly, disability grants to people living with disabilities and funeral benefits in respect of the aforementioned recipients. The social grants are an important component of the Namibia's reduction strategy, and the Government reviews this programme on a continuous basis.

During the apartheid era, social grants to the elderly were based on race and ethnicity, with whites receiving the largest grants, and the black majority receiving the lowest. After Independence, the Government took steps to equalise the social grants for all Namibians. This was achieved by 1994. Since 1994, the Government has steadily and systematically increased the social grants every two years, in amounts permitted by the overall Budget.

During the past Financial Year:

- The amount of the monthly grant increased from N\$370 to N\$450;
- By year end, 151,470 grantees were registered, of whom 131,052 were elderly persons and 20,438 were persons living with disabilities. Newly-registered grantees numbered 8,268 for the Financial Year;

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- The Ministry implemented a programme for better customer service, including visits to Governors and Regional Councillors, supervisory visits were undertaken to Welfare Offices in the Regions and a Customer Service Workshop in Keetmanshoop; and
- The Ministry carried out audit verifications exercises at Usakos, Walvis Bay, Khorixas, Outjo and Opuwo offices and inspection visits at the Karasburg, Lüderitz, Keetmanshoop, Mariental, Aranos, Gobabis, Rundu, Nyangana, Nankudu and Oshikuku Social Welfare Offices in the Regions.

Programme to Eliminate Child Labour:

The year 2008 marked the end of the first phase of Namibia's Project to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour, which was funded by the United States Department of Labour. The first phase consisted of information-gathering on the incidence of child labour, analysis of legislation and policies, and broad consultation among stakeholders in Government and civil society. It culminated in the adoption of a National Action Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. Phase 2 will commence this month.

Development Projects:

The following has been accomplished during the past Financial Year:

- The Ministry inaugurated the Opuwo and the Outapi Regional Offices on the 23rd of May 2008 and 27th of February 2009, respectively;
- Construction of the Rundu and Gobabis Regional Offices was completed and the Ministry intends to inaugurate these offices during the course of this year;
- The feasibility study for the construction of a satellite office in Rehoboth was completed.

Productivity Unit:

The following progress has been made with respect to the establishment of the National Productivity Unit:

- A situational analysis on attitudes toward productivity in Namibia has been conducted; and
- A National Consultative Conference leading to the establishment of the centre will take place during the current Financial Year.

Legislative Initiatives:

The Employment Services Bill was finalised after submission to the Labour Advisory Council for comment, and it has been sent to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation with a view to tabling the Bill this year. This Bill will strengthen the Ministry's capacity to assist jobseekers to find suitable employment and employment-related opportunities through a national electronic Integrated Employment Information System database. This system will be accessible throughout the country and will provide information on jobseekers, employment vacancies, enterprise profiles, bursary and training opportunities and specialised skills possessed by Namibian and non-Namibian employees. The proposed legislation will require all private employment agencies to report employment vacancies to the bureau, for inclusion in the national database as they arise.

We are now hard at work on another crucial Bill relating to employment to establish a National Employment Creation Commission. The Employment Creation Commission will perform a coordinating and facilitating role to maximise national efforts in both the public and private sector to create employment.

Having listed the main achievements for the Ministry, it merits to draw your attention to the fact that the Ministry, despite various shortcomings and setbacks, could manage to live up to the Ministry's Performance and Effectiveness Management Program (PEMP) targets in almost all the instances.

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Allow me to take time to mention a few of the challenges the Ministry faced during the period under review:

Inadequate structure and office facilities to fulfil the Ministry's mandate

- The Ministry's establishment at present provides for only 56 labour and factory inspectors to cover approximately 14,000 workplaces throughout our vast country. This is representative of similar shortages of posts in other components of the Ministry.
- The Ministry also experiences a lack of technical expertise in both support services for both labour dispute resolution and data analysis which hampers swift finalisation of disputes and the timely dissemination of survey reports.
- A revised structure has been proposed, not only to ensure that existing functions can be fulfilled, but also to cater to new responsibilities in the areas of employment creation and productivity. Unfortunately, delays in the approval process of the revised structure hamper the Ministry's efforts to fulfil its mission, particularly in the area of law enforcement. and
- The Ministry also lacks venues in many parts of the country to conduct testing and assessment.

Persistence of child labour:

The persistence of child labour, often hidden from Government authorities, is a challenge to the Ministry to enforce the strong legal protections of children as provided for in the Labour Act. A related challenge is the lack of facilities to cater for children who are underdeveloped in their educational development because they have been deprived the opportunity to go to school.

The need for improved service in the provision of social grants:

Given the number of grant recipients and the vastness of our country, the Ministry is challenged by the need to bring pay points closer to the people, some of whom must travel inordinately long distances to obtain their grants, and to provide more efficient and cost-effective service. Another serious challenge is posed by the activities of unscrupulous business people who prey on the elderly in particular on “*pay day*” through liquor sales and extension of credit without proper documentation. We will try together with the Government and Regional Councillors to see whether something can be done about this problem, which turns out to be a big problem and it renders this help ineffective that is being granted to the old-aged people.

Obstacles to employment equity:

The Ministry experienced a lack of cooperation from some relevant employers, to the extent that some have devised ingenious subcontracting schemes to evade the coverage of the Affirmative Action Act. This has slowed down the pace of transformation contemplated by the Act, which is intended to be a term measure to rectify the legacy of apartheid and gender discrimination in employment, as well as discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Lack of employer cooperation in job placement:

The Ministry has difficulty in placing job seekers, as many employers are unwilling to reveal vacancies in their companies or institutions. This often prevents the broader complement of unemployed persons from competing for employment. The Employment Service Bill, which will require employers to list employment vacancies with the Ministry, will address this problem.

Programmes of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2009/2010

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Within the aforementioned framework, the Ministry administers programs to address the problems of poverty, unemployment, discrimination and volatile labour relations.

Allow me Honourable Deputy Chair, to outline the programmes for which the Ministry seeks funds for the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Our request for 2009/2010 amounts to N\$1,036,220,000 as provided for in the Budget book.

Operational Budget:

Programme Social Welfare:

Providing Social Assistance to the Most Vulnerable

To this end, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare undertakes as one of its functions the payment of social grants to all Namibian citizens and holders of permanent residence permits who have attained the age of 60 years and disability grants to disabled persons older than sixteen years as attested to by State medical practitioners. In addition, the Ministry provides a benefit for a dignified funeral to both beneficiary groups as outlined above.

The need for the establishment of pay point committees has become imperative, as the timely dissemination of information has been noted as a major role player in the cash payment of benefits. Notably so, efforts are underway to cooperate with Governors, Regional Councillors and Traditional Authorities to work towards the further establishment of these committees to serve as contact base to which information could be transmitted in order to inform the beneficiaries well in advance of any eventuality in respect of breakdowns or new requirements that may be imposed on the current system.

The Ministry has noted with concern that the services in respect of Basic State Grants and allowances, and the funeral benefits programme is not widely known to the community. As a result many qualifying people do not access these programmes. In order to ensure greater coverage, the

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Ministry will embark upon an awareness campaign to ensure that the targets in the PEMP are reached.

The mandate accorded to the Ministry obligates the provision of supervisory and supportive services to the regional offices. In order to ensure professional service delivery, a database is hosted at the Office of the Prime Minister. The administration and maintenance of the database requires financial resources as the development pace of technological equipment demands the substitution of the hardware and software on a regular basis.

Coupled with the above, the Division Social Welfare in accordance with the enabling legislation is required to provide audit verification services to files of beneficiaries kept at the regional offices. Moreover, the Ministry contemplates to undertake an audit verification exercise for the beneficiaries who receive their benefit at the post offices. In order to meet the total needs of the Division of Social Welfare as elaborated above an amount of N\$961,305,000 is required.

Programme Labour Market Information:

Achieving Higher Levels of Employment, Equity at the Workplace and Contributing to Poverty Reduction

The main operations of this program is to facilitate employment policy review by providing qualitative and scientific information through conducting surveys and researches on the Labour market in the Country; to address market disparities and inequalities which exist in the field of socio-economic dimension; to provide occupational and vocational guidance services; to register job seekers and assist them to find suitable employment and prospective employers to get suitable workers as well as to implement development projects for the Ministry and promote productivity in Namibia.

The Ministry contemplates, as I said earlier, to establish the National Productivity Centre and to achieve all this in this specific programme, the total request for this programme amounts to N\$36,198,000.

Programme Labour Services:

This programme, falling under the Directorate: Labour Services, addresses both the Ministry's enforcement of both labour rights and occupational safety and health standards at the workplace. The Labour Inspectors as well as Factory Inspectors play an integral role in ensuring industrial peace by implementing the New Labour Act.

The Inspectors are the persons who serve as a first line of defence in the process of ensuring industrial peace and social justice as we know it. They are on a daily basis absorbing unhappiness of both employers and employees while attending to curbing injustice within the labour market and aiming to ensure stability within the sector. The importance of the role that these persons play is occasionally overlooked due to a lack of understanding. Stability within the labour market has a direct impact on areas such as foreign investment and economical development. The Inspectors are ensuring stability in the Labour Market by performing general and follow up inspections.

In order to implement the activities under the Directorate of Labour Market Services and amount of N\$24,350,000.00 is required.

Programme Promoting Harmonious Industrial Relations: Support for the Office of the Labour Commissioner

This office is facing a reorganisation challenge in view of the new Labour Act that has been promulgated and was implemented in November 2008.

The heavy responsibility of conciliation and arbitration, *inter alia*, which has now been placed on this Office means that all labour disputes have to be registered and acted upon by the Office. This responsibility in fact underlines the importance of labour relations in the country.

For all we are doing in this office, we are requesting an amount of N\$13,367,000.00.

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For the Development Budget my Ministry is requesting an amount of N\$11,975,000. That would be covering the Manpower Survey and Labour Market Information. This service is operational in nature but is covered under the Development Budget. The other work in the Development Budget for which we request money would be the construction of Regional Offices in Swakopmund and Eenhana.

In the view of the above, the Ministry is hoping that there will be no delays in the tendering process and that minor technical challenges in the tender documentation and handing over of sites to the contractors by the Department of Works that could affect the implementation of our development projects.

In conclusion, it would only be proper, Comrade Deputy Chairperson, to take the liberty to extend on a very personal note accolades to my principals for the honour and trust bestowed upon me, to my Colleagues and Comrades who demonstrated their full cooperation and have been supportive to me all the time.

Allow me to also seize this opportunity to register my unconditional appreciation to the staff members of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for their tireless efforts in executing the objectives the Ministry set during the previous Financial Year.

To this end, I humbly present to this august House the expenditure of N\$1,036,220,000 for its kind consideration and approval. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.

Vote 03 – “NATIONAL ASSEMBLY” put for Discussion.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 03
HON DR AMWEELO / HON DIENDA

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, I will come straight to the point, as usual. Firstly, I support Vote 03, but my concern is with the equipment in the National Assembly building. As technology is changing we also need to consider the equipment in our Parliament. If you go to other countries, such as Mozambique, the equipment is up to date and we really need to consider seriously to upgrade the system in our Parliament here.

Secondly, our building here has been designed a long time ago and maybe we need to extend it. There is not enough space and maybe we need to extend it a little bit.

Thirdly I would like to know whether it is possible for the backbencher Members of Parliament to get S&T for official days. They are invited to the Regions for official days, but they are not getting S&T. Otherwise I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, next year we will have new MPs coming into this House. I am speaking from my experience of the induction programme given to new MPs. Maybe the new Speaker, or maybe it will be you, should make more time available for the induction programme so that the new MPs could be on the same page with the other MPs. We only recovered from the shock after 3 years and then it is too late.

I want to mention computer literacy programmes for Members of Parliament. Some of us thought it is a microwave, we did not know how to use a computer and it would be good if you could give us in-service training on computers.

On page 43 of the Revenue and Expenditure Estimates I saw an amount of N\$279,000 for furniture for the political office-bearers' offices.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 03
HON DIENDA

Honourable Speaker, if you visit my office now, I have to stop you at the door and ask you not to sit on any chair because they are all broken. As Members of Parliament we are receiving visitors and this needs to be looked into. (Interjection). I found it like that.

The recruitment of staff here at Parliament: We are losing skilled people and at the end of the day those vacancies are still not filled. What is the problem regarding this matter?

Library Service: Honourable Speaker, information is not always available there. We cannot even get copies of Acts. What is the problem with improving our Library Service?

No quorum because MPs are not here: Honourable Speaker, accountability is very important. As Members of Parliament ... (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Where are your members?

HON DIENDA: That is why I refer to it, because I will call a spade a spade. I think it is time for us to get a sitting allowance. If Members of Parliament do not attend the Sessions, why must we all receive the same salaries? According to me that is not right.

Translations: I think everybody in this House wants to contribute, but if you express yourself in English and you just make one mistake, everybody wants to correct you, everybody is now an expert in English. One would like to have the opportunity to express yourself in the language in which you feel comfortable.

Honourable Speaker, I am still on page 44 of the Revenue and Expenditure Estimates, the money that we gave to SADC Parliamentary Forum, N\$815,000. For three consecutive years it is the same amount. However, despite these contributions by us, the standard of the SADC Parliament Forum has deteriorated since last year. I do not know what the

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 03
HON IIVULA-ITHANA / HON DR GEINGOB

problem is. When I came here the election observer missions consisted of six to eight people, but since last year everything just went down. I want to know what the problem is, since every country is contributing towards SADC Parliamentary Forum. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am not going to refer to any document, but as the oldest Member of this Parliament and founding mother... (Interjection). I have the right to claim what is mine, you can claim in your own right. Comrade Chairperson, I definitely support our Vote without any reservation, however I want to raise an issue which Honourable Dienda also mentioned as a by-the-way issue. For me it is the issue.

There used to be a programme here during the era of late Dr Tjitendero as Speaker, a training programme in computer literacy for MPs. Some Members for the first time learned how to use a computer through that programme. My question is, what happened to that programme? Is it budgeted for and if it is budgeted for, why are we not receiving those invitations we used to receive before? That is my only singular concern and I pose my question. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I first have a comment regarding page 17 of the Development Budget.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 03
HON GORESEB

In my new capacity as the Minister of Trade and Industry we are looking at infrastructure development and in the discussions I had with the pension funds and so on, that they could maybe finance development of Governmental infrastructure, the Ministry of Trade and Industry is going to build new headquarters and then the State House of the Executive is ready, beautiful, the Supreme Court is supreme, the only State organ functioning in this historic, old, inadequate building is the Parliament Honourable Speaker, is it not the time now, now that we have a new State House for the Executive, a new Supreme Court, that we also need an adequate, appropriate Parliament, because I am told money is available. Thank you.

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

HON GORESEB: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I have only a little comment to make on page 7 of the Honourable Speaker's motivation speech.

The physical facilities housing the Library and the server room remains a challenge. We have raised that issue of the Library time and again in this august House but it remains a challenge. How long is that going to remain a challenge? We lack the necessary research materials in our Library. One cannot even compare our library with the libraries at the various high schools in the country. Our Library lacks the necessary research materials and it is very time-consuming to look around for research material. Therefore, I would like that challenge to be addressed. How long will it remain a challenge?

Another issue which has been identified by the Honourable Speaker relates to the remuneration package of qualified ICT staff members. Those are very skilled people and they are really in demand when it comes to the private sector. I would like to suggest that they should be given a

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market-related or competitive salary, otherwise the private sector will always absorb these people and we are going to remain without these very skilled people. It is not only the salary, but we can even give them very attractive fringe benefits so that they remain in our institution. I would like to suggest that the Office of the Prime Minister and the Public Service Commission must be approached in order to look into the salary package of these people as well as the Ministry of Finance for financial support. I would like to suggest that our Secretariat must come up with positive, concrete action to iron out these identified problems once and for ever. I thank you and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Member Moongo.

HON MOONGO: First of all, I support the Vote and I only have a question on the pensions. Since many people are now going to leave Parliament and some are young and the Rules of the Parliament stipulate that if you are under fifty, you do not qualify to receive your pension, I feel that Rule has to be changed. Not only that, you are only allowed to use your pension to build a house and sometimes you want to do something else. Why should these Rules command the MPs how to use their money?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Moongo. Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson. *Dr Amweelo* mentioned upgrading of ICT equipment to raise the level of performance of not only the staff members but also ourselves as MPs. I made mention of this in my introduction, namely that we are now in the process of setting up a dedicated Standing Committee in cooperation with the Line Ministry to help us to address these challenges so that we are all

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ICT conversant and that this would help us in our work. Give us time to get to that.

As you were speaking, Honourable Member, I was going to say something along the lines that *Honourable Geingob* addressed this issue. Actually, the fact that we are able to make use of this building, created in 1913 as the Office of the Governor, in 2009 is because some renovations have been made. However, it is utterly inadequate, it was not intended to be a Parliament Building, but it was what was available at the time when we became independent. Maybe when I come to saying something about what Dr Geingob said, I will further elaborate on that.

The other is the aspect of S&T. My people have made notes for me. They sit outside here and they send you notes and they were not diplomatic with this one. (Laughter). *“This can be discussed at another platform.”* (Laughter). Since the question has financial implications, we will address this in one of the Committees that the Speaker presides over.

On the series of questions posed by *Honourable Dienda* they say, *“the points are well taken.”* As to the question on the furniture, I really do not know how frequently inspections are done to ensure that the furniture provided to Honourable Members needs to be replaced. The furniture is a practical matter and I cannot right off my head say when you got your last furniture or that it needs upgrading, but they are listening to the questions and they cannot come in here to answer, but I will report back to you through your representative in the Standing Committee on Rules and Orders. However, it is good number of questions that you have put.

The question on the Library has been an ongoing concern expressed by Honourable Members and *Honourable Goreseb* also made reference to it. What they are telling me is that it is not an issue only for the MPs, it is also an issue relating to my own Office as Speaker. People want information about the Speaker’s Office and what is available leaves much to be desired. They assure me that they are seriously looking into this matter and I trust that, like Honourable Kaura said, I will come back as Speaker after elections and we should keep this uppermost in our minds. A library should not consist solely of HANSARDS, our speeches we make

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here, but should have a variety of reading materials, research materials, that Honourable Members can get information from and make productive contributions.

Translations will have financial implications. It is provided for that one can rise here and speak in any of our national languages, but at the present time you would need to provide your own interpreter. The South Africans are able to speak in the eleven languages that they speak in South Africa. I think the ones we have identified as national languages are fewer than what the South Africans are able to make use of. Therefore, it is a valid point, it has been discussed in various ways. The fact that perhaps some Members are not actively participating in our work might partly be due to the fact that they do not feel confident enough to express themselves in the English language. If only for that consideration, it is a matter that we would perhaps need to look into more seriously and make a start somewhere with perhaps two or three languages that are commonly understood outside the English language and experiment with them and to see how far that would take us and build on from that point onwards.

I did not quite get the point about the SADC Parliamentary Forum, that its performance, in your view Honourable Member, has deteriorated. Is it perhaps that when the Honourable Members are sent on election observation missions you are not provided with the service that you expect from SADC Parliamentary Forum? (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: What I was actually saying is that since I came into Parliament, the SADC Parliamentary Forum had a number of programmes, including observer missions for elections in other countries, but the standard of all these things has deteriorated, it is not the same anymore, there have been changes, but we are contributing N\$850,000.

HON SPEAKER: Actually, what I hear is to the contrary, that the SADC Parliamentary Forum is doing well to the satisfaction of the mother body, SADC with which it cooperates closely and it is also doing work for Member Parliaments. They send people to the headquarters of the SADC

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Parliamentary Forum to do attachment work to strengthen their capabilities in those areas that the Parliament has identified that they need support. If I know what exactly it is that you are complaining about, I will raise it with the Secretary General.

Minister of Justice said that there used to be a training programme in computer literacy and the question was whether it is budgeted for. It might not be explicitly budgeted for under the heading, Computer Training Programme, but I take it that it is budgeted for under Capacity Building for MPs and Staff Members.

Dr Geingob, we discussed this issue at great length. I was quite enthusiastic about it when I became the Speaker and I have found that there is money available. It is part of the Development Budget and perhaps we have to fast-track the policy and make a decision at an appropriate level as National Assembly that we build a proper National Parliament that will stand the test of time. It is issue to which I am totally committed, I have talked to some people and I can confirm that there is money available to start that process.

However, there is something else and I want to put my view on record. It would be good when – not if – when we build such a National Parliament that it would be a One Chamber Parliament. I would not want us to go and find a place and build a beautiful National Assembly and we would have two Houses of Parliament at different places. We should perhaps exercise our minds on that as well. If my dream comes true, I would imagine a Parliament that would be somewhere a little bit outside of Windhoek and in which case that National Assembly building would be there for the National Council who will continue to sit there. We must think about that. We should also think about maybe making some Amendment to our Constitution to create a One Chamber Parliament. We can do it in such a way that both Houses would be housed in that one chamber. I have the same information that money can be made available, but since it is a national project, we can find ways to pay back.

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We need expertise in ICT and we are working on that. I agree that maybe there are some people who are sitting here and have money to poach them. Unless we protect them we will lose them.

Honourable Moongo, I have heard that rumour too and actually some of the Honourable Members from the Opposition side have felt that there is discrimination against younger Members of Parliament in terms of accessing pension funds or that when they leave, they may not get the same consideration as those who are older than fifty. Since I am younger than fifty, I am sympathetic to this concern.

Since this is our Vote, unlike National Council and the Electoral Commission, there should be a way after this Vote was presented and discussed, that we have a check list of those issues of concern to all of us, so that we can get the responsible people to address them and give us answers, so that when we come back next time some of these issues would have been addressed and that we all know what the status is. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection? Vote 03 is agreed to.

Vote 28 – “ELECTORAL COMMISSION” put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote28 – Electoral Commission.

Honourable Speaker, I have two requests and I know that you are only the facilitator and in fact, I sympathise with you, but because of the insistence by the Opposition that the Electoral Commission must be independent and only answerable to heaven, let me convey to the Electoral Commission through you, Honourable Speaker, two issues.

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One is with regard to the national voters register. I hope that the Electoral Commission, once the registration has been completed, will be in a position to come up with a credible, verifiable voters register, especially as we are reading in the newspapers that the coming elections will be based on counting of votes at polling stations. To me this is very important.

Secondly and more importantly is the need – and in fact, there is an inordinate delay in this regard – for the Electoral Commission to urgently, speedily and without delay submit the Electoral Amendment Bill to the Government through the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. Honourable Speaker, time is running out and indeed, I must also register my disappointment because I discovered that these Colleagues are now in India while they are supposed to be here in the country, preparing for the elections. The procedure is still very, very long. Once the Ministry receives the Bill, it has to go through Cabinet, from Cabinet it has to go to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation, from there to the drafters before it even comes here for debate and passing. Now India is more important to them than their national duties. I am very disappointed by that and especially some of us who are in a very awkward situation. We are supposed to be in a position to advise His Excellency the President in terms of the schedule for the elections.

As you know, Honourable Speaker, there are certain proclamations that the President must authorise in terms of the law, which currently does not exist and it puts some of us who have to advise in a very awkward situation. To me this is a very, very urgent request and at the moment I can even say the electoral legislation of Namibia is in a terrible mess, and I am sorry to say so. You may recall that the principal Act was passed in 1992, called the Electoral Act of 1992. Since that time it has been amended seven times, which means that in order to understand the electoral law of Namibia, you need that principal Act plus seven Amendments. Now we are even waiting for another Amendment, which will mean eight Amendments plus the principal Act. Even for an experienced lawyer that is an uphill battle and I look forward to a situation where this legislation would be consolidated so that even the common

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man in the street will be able to understand. We need open, transparent, credible elections so that we democratically defeat the Opposition.

Honourable Speaker, I hope you will convey my concerns to the Electoral Commission. I support Vote 28.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Since democracy is a very expensive exercise, smaller Parties do not have enough money when taking in consideration the number of polling stations in the country during elections. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I want to ask Honourable Moongo a question. Honourable Moongo, you are talking about smaller Parties. If you think you are small, why do you even want to participate in elections?

HON MOONGO: When the Colleague on the other side was saying they want to defeat us democratically, I did not panic, but I want smaller Parties to be able to have people at every polling station and it needs money. Therefore, I want the Electoral Commission to be given enough money so that the polling agents of all other Parties can cover the whole country. Otherwise the majority Party is the only one covering the whole country and they can end up rigging the elections.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Dienda.

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HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I support the Vote and I am on page 768 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework: Supplementary registration.

Honourable Chairperson, the registration points were targeting churches, primary schools and a few secondary schools. The born-frees who must vote are hanging out around at malls, shebeens and supermarkets. I cannot understand why there are no registration points at the malls and at the shopping centres. This is where the born-frees are roaming around. I hope that we will have another look at this issue, come September when there will be additional registration.

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson, I would also like the Electoral Commission to look into special voting days for the following people: pregnant women, the elderly, people living with disabilities, so that they do not have to queue at the same time as the ordinary citizens. (Interjection).

Question number three: How will the re-registration of people who have already registered in the previous elections but are now studying outside the country be done?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: I have studied Vote 28 intensively and I am generally satisfied with it and I support the Vote. However, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have a question to the Honourable Speaker regarding the voting booths which is really a matter of concern for people with disabilities, not those who live with it as with a husband or whatever. It is a matter of concern, because those using wheelchairs must sometimes ask somebody to assist them. I will tell you that I want to vote for the Mannetjie and then you vote for something strange that I do not know. That is a big concern for people with disabilities.

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As we know, the born-frees are now going to vote and they include those with disabilities and we are concerned about the size of the booth and the height. Maybe that could be taken into consideration and be rectified. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Ncube. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Another point is on local elections in newly proclaimed towns. The Parties need additional money because there are too many elections in a year. Our system is that because many voters voted SWAPO, they receive millions. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo, you have to address the Vote for the Speaker to respond to what you are addressing. You are generalising now and I do not think he can respond to that.

HON MOONGO: The by-elections are too many in a year and the smaller Parties cannot afford it. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson, I am sorry to disrupt the Honourable Member, the Vice-President of DTA and a traditional Councillor. I think he is speaking of the funding of Political Parties which is in Vote 03, which we have already dealt with.

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HON MOONGO: Here is mentioned the elections in newly proclaimed towns and therefore, it is under this Vote. Therefore, people voted for SWAPO and they took all the money and the smaller Parties cannot afford to participate in five or seven additional elections. I appeal that this be changed because the smaller Parties do not benefit.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have two questions based on the motivation speech of the Speaker.

On page 3, continuous registration of voters: We have the experience, based on the current registration that is taking place, that if you go to the villages right now where the continuous registration is taking place, especially in Omaheke, most of the people did not know that the registration is going to take place. There was a total lack of information.

Honourable Speaker, I just want to know what was actually the problem why proper information was not given, for instance to go to this place on this day.

The second question is again on the same information. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. That is why we have our Councillors in the Regions. What are your Councillors doing there?

HON TJIHUIKO: I was coming from the North yesterday and I saw a lot of SWAPO flags.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Tjihuiko, once you respond to those Points of Orders which have nothing to do with the Committee Stage, you are going astray. Can you please come back to the Committee Stage and direct whatever you are saying to the Mover? Honourable Tjihuiko, are you listening to me?

HON TJIHUIKO: You should treat the others the way you are treating me.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Tjihuiko, are you listening to what I am advising you?

HON TJIHUIKO: You allow the others to do the same, but when it comes to me you are now explaining that.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am advising them the same way. I am advising you not to respond to Points of Order.

HON TJIHUIKO: They were doing the same thing, but when it comes to some, it is different.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Tjihuiko, I am advising you not to respond to Points of Order and stick to the Committee Stage. I am advising you because you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson, I am really terribly sorry to rise, but in an attempt to assist in what is happening now, which is not allowed, for a Member and the Chair to argue with each other, I think it might be helpful if the Points of Order made can be ruled Out of Order as this would disallow the Member to react to a Point of Order that has been ruled Out of Order. If they are not ruled Out of Order, this automatically allows the Member to also respond to those.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, let me continue with what I was saying. On page 5, point 1.8, the Central Election Result Centre, an amount of N\$3,5 million has been budgeted for this centre. Can the Honourable Speaker explain what would be the role of this centre?

The second-last, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, is on page 6, point 1.11. We are fully aware of the fact that in 2004 a certain Political Party took the Electoral Commission to Court. Five years down the line these cases are still pending. We are now getting into elections, an amount of N\$200,000 has been budgeted in the event that they are going to be challenged. It is very clear to us that challenging the results will take more than five years, do we really need to budget money in the amount of N\$200,000 for this purpose and what will happen in the event that after these elections those Political Parties who took the Electoral Commission to Court win the case? In the unlikely event where the case is not successful, what will happen to us? The case is still pending, which means this issue can go to Court tomorrow or a day before the elections or shortly after elections. What will happen to what has taken place up to now? I support the Vote.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I also rise to register my support for this very important Vote, but I only have one small query and it is related to the issue of the independence or subordination of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

When you speak to some of the colleagues working at this organisation, you find that there is some unhappiness about how things are being done there. When the motivation is done by the Honourable Speaker, I do not know whether Parliament does exercise the day-to-day supervision as to how things happen there or we only exercise that function when it comes to the motivation of the Budget. Who oversees the daily administrative work of the Electoral Commission? Those who proposed the independence should really look into this, because sometimes when we take hurried decisions, we probably looked at the situation obtaining at that point in time without looking at the pros and cons of the whole situation in a holistic manner.

I was looking at the staff turnover of the Electoral Commission which has been zero, zero all the years. Is it not time for us to pause and ask questions on the work of this organisation and find someone to supervise and really answerable. If anything goes wrong, the Colleagues will be quick to come to SWAPO. I want us to start thinking about this seriously.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I call on the Speaker to respond to queries.

HON SPEAKER: Starting from the bottom, Parliament is not responsible for the Electoral Commission. It is an organ which is being looked after by a different agency of Government. Some Ministries have something to do with it, the Office of the Prime Minister has something to

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do with it, the Ministry of Finance has something to do with it and the National Assembly is responsible for finding money for it to continue to do their job. That is the only function we have.

Dr Kawana, I will certainly bring these comments and concerns you have expressed to the attention of the Electoral Commission. The way you have emphasised the points makes it a big concern not only for you, but there are so much that needs to be done before we get to the point of amending the Constitution, way ahead of the elections. I will faithfully bring these concerns to the attention of the leadership, the Chairman, the Director and others.

Honourable Moongo is concerned about the funds to Political Parties and that the smaller Parties should also be given money to campaign. This has nothing to do with the Electoral Commission, we should discuss it here as MPs. That is our responsibility here in the House and not that of the Electoral Commission, but the Honourable Member is concerned that the small Parties are not getting enough money.

Honourable Dienda mentioned supplementary registration and the venues. We should look around for venues that are suitable, where we know some of the candidates who will participate in the elections are hanging around. We should target born-frees and perhaps others as well. The objective is to make sure that everybody who must be registered is registered. It is our responsibility as national leaders to see to it that everybody is registered to participate, but it is equally the responsibility of the potential voters to make it their business to be able to cast their vote.

You also made a point about special voting days for needy people. Again this too is a matter that I will bring to the attention of the Electoral Commission. I do not know whether during our 19 years of Independence and voting we had such a special arrangement. I know we have not done it, but other countries do it and I do not know how practical it might be for us to consider that now. However, there is no harm in raising this issue to sensitise us that there might actually be people that would need to be catered for specifically.

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You particularly mentioned, and this is a relevant point, those who are outside the country, how would they be able to benefit from supplementary registration. I do not have the answer here with me, but to the extent that we have people who are voting abroad, I can readily think about those who are attached to our embassies, those who are working for international organisations, those whom we know where they are outside. This too is a question that I will bring to the attention of the Commission.

Honourable Ncube, I think you made a very valid point in respect of people with disabilities, the size and height of the voting booth, that special consideration should be given to that. This is a very important consideration and I will certainly sensitise the Commission to it.

Honourable Moongo said there are too many by-elections. The new towns will in time catch up with the process and where there are no facilities and infrastructure provided for now, as they grow these things are going to come there as well.

Honourable Tjihuiko, continuous registration of voters: You noted shortcomings and I think you mentioned one place, but I do not have the answer to that. I will certainly let the people responsible know about it.

Money budgeted for in the likely event that there might be a Court case, let us hope there will be no Court case, in which case the money will be there and there is a way in which that money can be productively utilised. It is always good to have some money set aside in the event that there is a Court case to deal with.

Honourable Nambahu, this is an outstanding question. At one time the Electoral Commission was housed in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Opposition Parties felt that it was under the thumb of the SWAPO Party and its Government and there was no transparency and accountability, so it ended up being here, not so much in a way that is accountable to the National Assembly, but we are facilitating their needs to the extent that the Members of Parliament would consider and take action on that what we are doing, including introducing and explaining their Vote. Therefore, if we want to have an Independent Electoral

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Commission, it may invite the need for us to provide it with capacity and make accountability arrangements. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection? Vote 28 is agreed to.

Vote 29 – “INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY” put for Discussion.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much. I rise to support Vote 29, Information and Communication Technology, but I have only two questions to Comrade Kaapanda.

A few years ago Cabinet decided and gave a direction with regard to fibre optics. It was decided that Telecom should have twenty while NamPower should have four and there must be cooperation and coordination between them, although Telecom would be responsible for maintaining and controlling, etcetera. I want to know from my Colleague how far this decision has been implemented.

I also welcome the investment in the undersea cable, but still Telecom is supposed to be responsible, because this investment is supposed to be under Telecom. We need to empower our Government State-Owned Enterprises so that they can create either jobs and create more income.

Secondly, I am happy to hear that the situation with regard to transport and equipment at the NBC has improved, but the infrastructure should urgently and immediately be considered. I think my Colleague will do that.

Lastly, when will the ICT Bill be tabled in Parliament?

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I fully support this Vote and I have only two points to raise.

One is on Page 2, Paragraph 2, about this underground cable, the West African Cable System. I would like to congratulate you and others at Telecom that finally this cable is becoming a reality and I only want to know whether we have already signed everything, because I saw in the paper that you were in South Africa but I did not read properly. Is it now final, have we signed and when is it going to happen? Congratulations on that.

Then on page 3, paragraph 5, on languages. I am asking the questions because for many years now I have been struggling with the Tsumkwe NBC, because the San community in Caprivi do not get any news from Tsumkwe as it is too far. Last time I was asking whether we should not include the Khoi language in Caprivi NBC so that it is broadcast there. People at those places complain that they do not know what is happening, they did not even hear that we are coming because they do not understand the local language and they would like to have the Khoi language on Radio Caprivi. However, I see you are re-planning on the question of languages and I hope you will take into account the Khoi community in Caprivi so that the news is also broadcast on Radio Caprivi in their own language.

With those few remarks, I support your Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

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HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. We have a law on equality in Namibia, that each and every person or institution should have equal opportunities, but I see on page 9 N\$6 million were earmarked for the campaign of the forthcoming elections. Will NBC now change their attitude of only broadcasting SWAPO activities on television all the time, every week, every afternoon, every morning and the other Political Parties do not have a chance?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. When there were election campaigns at Omuthiya, I watched television and it was very embarrassing to see the key speakers of the DTA talking to themselves. Where are you going to find people to screen? NBC is saving you from embarrassment.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I thought I saw your beautiful daughter there as a main speaker and yourself and there were about ten people there and you were covered.

HON MOONGO: The situation at Omuthiya was tense and, therefore, it was not a free election and the outcome there was not free and fair and some people were even killed. We do not need that attitude and atmosphere in Namibia. Of course, my daughters are of the blood of a true nationalist and they will continue in the same spirit.

I was saying that the funds appropriated are only for the one Party, it will not serve all Parties in the forthcoming elections or will there be a change? The whole atmosphere now is only to fight against RDP, but RDP is a Party of Namibia, why do you fight against it? You will never win RDP! (Intervention)

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HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, on a serious Point of Order. We cannot allow noise pollution to go on in this House. The Honourable Member is making serious allegations, that elections in Omuthiya were tense, were not free. There are mechanisms in place, that if people really feel that something was not right with elections, they

should have gone to the Court of Law. However, for the Honourable Member to make these utterances in front of a camera, a message that may be wrongly interpreted in the country and internationally, I take very strong exception to such allegation and I think the Honourable Member must withdraw.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member Moongo, the Vote which we are discussing is Information and Communication and Technology. Mentioning NBC was fine, but I have problems with the rest. Once you are stopped, you become angry and then you say all kinds of things. You also know what Committee Stage is. It was fine to mention the NBC, but now you are mentioning the elections.

HON MOONGO: I was on the N\$6 million allocated to NBC for Presidential and National Assembly elections. I am not supporting the idea of allocating money for only one Party, because they are showing only one Party on television and I condemn that. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member said the SWAPO Party's preoccupation is to fight RDP and this is on record. I think I am also obliged to respond to that. Honourable Moongo, for your information, even within the leadership of that Party they do not know who is their leader. They are impostors, some of them think they are President of SWAPO, that is an

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insult given to our own President and we have the right and the duty to protect our President and to protect our Party because they are even using our slogans. Are you aware of that? Who has the most vision between them and SWAPO?

HON MOONGO: When somebody is in that situation of monopoly, you can get confused whether you are RDP or SWAPO. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. Some of these things cannot be left unanswered. We have a system of proportional representation in this country and that system has consequences. That is how we get our seats in the Parliament. For your information, the bigger Parties are even losing their votes to the smaller ones under that system and you are subsidised by the big ones to be around, but when it comes to the allocation of resources, you are also proportionally allocated according to that system. To stand up here and say the money is only going to SWAPO is not fair, because you are given your proportion according to the system that we have adopted in this House. Please, let us not tell untruths to the world.

HON MOONGO: Finally, I would like to appeal to the Government to stop the monopoly of only broadcasting SWAPO activities on NBC Television. This is a national broadcaster, let SWAPO create its own radio and its own television. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I rise in support of Vote 29, Information and

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Communication Technology.

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has already supported the West Africa Cable System, the undersea telecoms cable project that will bring a

broadband landing point to Namibia and while I am also supporting that, I would like to ask whether the Minister will consider some other options, because to my understanding, the Peoples Republic of Angola already has this system. We are budgeting almost N\$19 million and I want the Minister to consider communicating with the Peoples Republic of Angola. Why should we again finance another one from South Africa to London? Maybe we do not even need to spend that amount of money if we talk to our next-door neighbours. I want us to look at that option.

Another remark is with regard to New Era. SWAPO had a killer rally yesterday and honestly speaking, we should be objective, Honourable Minister, and report objectively. Why do you show Kaujeua dancing with somebody and Uutoni sitting with Kawana? We want the masses to see what was happening. Honourable Minister, maybe you will speak to your people.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. My first question is: What measures does the Minister have in place to ensure that everybody pays television licences and that no amnesty has again to be given after ten years.

My second question is on page 5 of the speech of the Minister. Why has the name of the film been changed and now called, *“Namibia: The Struggle for Liberation?”*

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My third question: When the Executive requested N\$16 million for the making of the film, the then Minister assured us that it will make a huge profit. How much profit has been made thus far?

My following question: What is the arrangement now with the outstanding PAYE to the Minister of Finance and who will take responsibility to pay over that money?

On page 377 – Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, the N\$2 million for NamZim have now been doubled to N\$4,300,000. Where are the financial reports of NamZim since they are receiving this money annually and despite the subsidy that we as the Government are giving to NamZim, they still owe New Era N\$6 million. What are the arrangements for the repayment of this loan by NamZim to New Era?

My last question: Why does New Era, who is subsidised by Government and who, according to its financial statements that we have received, not have regional offices in the Karas Region, Hardap Region, Omaheke, Kavango and the Kunene Regions?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, firstly, I want to give my support to Vote 29. Secondly, I have a few questions and I will start with the Medium Term Expenditure Framework on page 785.

The first one is the objective and I will not confine myself to the private media, but to the public media which is funded by us. The first objective I want to quote is bullet two under, “*the Ministry’s improved understanding of Government of the Republic of Namibia activities and policies.*” It is their objective and it is a mandate and this is why we are giving them

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public money. I will elaborate on that in terms of the statement of the Minister.

The second one on the same page is a simple question under ministerial targets. Is there any reason why bullet three says: *“Ministerial target is to ensure that 30% of the population understand the GRN policies and programmes by 2011/2012.”* I mean, really, after eighteen years and by 2011 we will be twenty-one years, is there a reason why public money is given to this media annually and we still say it is for 30% to understand the Government which they put in power? Where are we now? For 19 years we have been pumping money into this media and I am not sure whether I understand this target.

Having said that, Comrade Deputy Chairperson, on page 3 of the Minister’s statement and I will focus on the NBC as the main media through television and radio and I will read the from page 3:

“To ensure that the NBC honours its mandate to educate, inform and entertain the public.” I will stop there. My intervention is on the education part in terms of the Government programmes which the public have put in office. When there are any comments to be made in this House there, there is a Ruling Party called SWAPO Party of Namibia, which is heading the Government, and then we have Opposition Parties and I want to be fair here. The Official Opposition is the CoD, with the other minority Parties there, UDF, DTA, NUDO and RP and the others. My question is: If there is any common thought of everything that is happening in the country, very, very disappointingly, first we go to the splinter groups that have no representatives in this House and they are given that recognition. Why? (Interjections). Page 3, in terms of education. Honourable Member, you must read your statement. I need to understand why the NBC deviates from its mandate and promotes splinter groups that have no legitimate representation instead of those who are recognised here and who have been elected. This must come to an end.

Secondly, on page 9 there is a provision for an amount of N\$900,000 for NBC training and maybe the time has come that we should not have journalists that are only politicians or just clerks that do not understand

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what is going on in the country. Provision is made for it. We are engaged in an economic struggle, can they for a change send the journalists to be trained in economic issues? The Minister of Finance presented a National Budget here for pro-poor, pro-growth, the Debate goes on, the Minister responded and addressed the economic issues in terms of the tax incentives, how the liability of citizens are made easier through all the tax incentives, but what do they report? The Minister defends the State-Owned Enterprises and the Founding Father's Office. Nothing about the economy! I mean, how can we build this country if we have institutions into which we are pumping money, but they do not address the mandate for which they have been established?

When you listen tonight, they would read the news and then follows the economic indicators. What happens? They themselves do not even understand what these economic indicators are all about. Can they please start understanding what they are screening because it is their mandate to educate. Why must they screen matters which they do not understand themselves? Comrade Minister, please send them so that they go for economic training or appoint journalists with economic training, so that they can raise economic issues.

We proposed tax incentives. They do not understand what tax incentives are. When they interview you, the questions are so low, below the belt.

Honourable Members, my intervention is to educate. We need journalists in especially the public institutions who also have economic knowledge, who can critically, fairly and accurately inform the public on the economic progress this country has made under the SWAPO Party Government. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOHOUSE COMMITTEES: I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance. Honourable Basson.

HON BASSON: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I have two concerns on the

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Communication and Information part of the Ministry. I have already discussed this concern during the previous Budget discussion in this House.

Comrade Minister, I am really disappointed that after 19 years of Independence some of our people are still excluded from radio services. I am not talking about television. To me television is a luxury, but let us start with radio, just listening to the radio while sitting alone on a farm and getting information from the Government on HIV/AIDS and whatever. Some of the people are totally excluded and I want to be specific, I am now speaking on behalf of my Region, Hardap, and especially Rehoboth rural constituencies, such as Kalkrand, Schlip, Klein-Aub, Rietoog. Kalkrand and Klein-Aub at least have NBC although it is not clear.

I have already consulted the officials of the Ministry last year and I took this issue up with them. They have promised the people from this constituency that they will try to cover us through upgrading the services in Maltahöhe to cover Nawaseb and then they will just upgrade the tower at Windhoek to cover the rest of the constituency, but up to now there are no radio services in these places.

On page 3, paragraph 3 of the Minister's motivation speech he mentioned places and I want to hear about Schlip. They are not mentioned. I went to the Development Programme, page 560, where they are talking about project activities. On page 559 there is mention of Hardap, but it is not clear which part of Hardap. On page 560 under project activities I saw upgrading of Maltahöhe to a high-power station and I hope we are included in that part.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, we are here to represent people and you know this is campaign time and when you go back to the people, you at least want to say that something has been budgeted for them. I have gone through all these documents and I have not seen these places, but I am happy to hear about Tsumkwe, Keetmanshoop, Otjiwarongo and all these places. It is fine, it is part of Namibia.

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I was travelling through the country with my Committee. I was in the south and north-east and most of the Police Stations do not have a photo of the current President and some of the people here were aggrieved. It has been almost five years and I want to request the Minister to do something about that, because especially at the border it is the first image of the country. At most of the Police Stations I was proud to see the Founding Father's photo, but the photo of the current President should also be there. With these few remarks, I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Basson. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will be brief.

Let me start by congratulating the Ministry of Information on the number of very informative and educative programmes on radio and television especially on agriculture. I do not know whether it is also in the other languages, but on the Otjiherero Service there are number of good agricultural programmes which are very educative. I think there you have done well and you need to be congratulated for that. This also applies to health and, of course, a number of good live football programmes that are being shown on NBC Television. That is commendable and I think there you have done well. Congratulations, keep it up and do more. When we are at the village we want to watch football.

One issue that you need to improve on is the local games. Of course, I am a supporter African Stars, I would have liked to see them being shown on television every weekend, but I think it would be good to have a quite fair representation of showing the games. They should not be limited to the so-called Big Five which we see every weekend. You need to bring in

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second divisions as well, so that people can also see them at local level, rather than just at national level.

On the second page of the Minister's motivation there is something that I want to find out. *"To ensure that the NBC honours its mandate to educate, inform and entertain the public, the Board of Directors are committed to address the issue at the NBC."* That is a commitment that I want a bit more information on. Honourable Minister, I want to know, who decided or at what level was this decision taken to ban the phone-in programmes? I just want to know who has taken that decision, at what level was the decision taken and what were actually the reasons for the decision to be taken? (Interjection). I am asking the Minister, if you are the Minister then you can answer.

I also want to find out from the Honourable Minister that after the dismissal of Bob Kandetu as the Director-General, it was reported that Mr Karipi was appointed as the Acting Director-General and after a couple of hours we were again informed that Mr Kanime has been appointed. I want to know what criteria were used to identify somebody who is working for another institution to become the Acting Director General of the NBC. Was it qualifications, experience or what was the basis for the appointment? I do not have a problem with the person, I just want to know the reasons why he, but not the assistant for all those years, has been appointed.

According to the NBC Act, for how long is the Acting Director-General allowed to act? Can the current Acting Director-General of NBC act until after elections or is there any time limit? It seems that he might have been brought in for a purpose. Is there a time limit?

On page 5, the second paragraph from the bottom: "For the Southern Times the year under review resulted in a financial deficit." We have been informed for the last three years that our contribution to this project was N\$2 million. I want to know, have there been any financial reports on this project? Secondly, I also want to know who owns this project? What was the objective of this project, to the extent that New Era has to put money into this project. What is the purpose of this project? Who is

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benefiting from this project? What is the contribution of the other partner to this joint venture? Is there any partner in this joint venture and until when are we going to contribute to this project? This year we are spending N\$4 million on this project. Tell the Namibian people. (Interjection). You are trying to show your SWAPO colours but I do not think that you are going to come back. This is going to be your last, last time. (Intervention)

DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Order. Viva SWAPO!

HON TJIHUIKO: On page 7, second paragraph from the top: “*Other milestones included the upgrade of MTC’s core system in remote villages and settlements.*” I just wanted to congratulate the Minister that settlements like Gam, Eiseb and Okauwa have also been included in this programme. Congratulations for that through you to the NBC.

On page, media accessibility. Honourable Minister, we all know that it is election year...(Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Dr. Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: First and foremost, I support the Vote and I have one question. There is something very irritating with the NBC. I have been a broadcaster and one of the principles is that your news time must always be reliable and predictable. Now you have news at 7 o’clock, some of us are still at the office and then at 10 o’clock Manchester United and others are playing and there is no news. Sometimes you rush from somewhere to go and watch the news and it is not there. It is unpredictable, it is not reliable and something needs to be done. News time is news time. You can suspend what you

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are showing, so that the people know that at this particular time there is news. One does not know whether there will be news or not and I think there is something wrong and I have never seen a television station working like that in my life. That is the only question I wanted to ask.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Dr Tjiriange. Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: I would also like to support the Vote and looking at this document, I am in agreement with Comrade Tweya that there is really a need for improvement to understand the policies of Government, especially a lot of policies which are collecting dust in our respective institutions.

Secondly, on the issue of information, I think there is a need for us to use Air Namibia from Frankfurt and London to give more information on the planes, so that people coming to Namibia are in the know concerning the republic.

Lastly on the issue of AIDS. AIDS has become a commodity these days and I think the division of labour should be clearly indicated. AIDS should be an issue for the Ministry of Health. Why are we concerned about AIDS at the Ministry of Information and not with Government policies? I thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Kaiyamo. Honourable Katali.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I thank the NBC for what they are doing, however there is something that I would like to bring to the attention of the NBC through the Honourable Minister.

The professionalism in taking photos when covering events, one would like to know what is really the purpose of filming us, because you find that you are sitting with Honourable Muharukua at a meeting and it is only Katali who is shown and when it is shown on the television, Katali is shown three times but Muharukua does not even appear. What is the purpose of filming us? I thought you wanted to show the people who were in the Assembly or at a meeting. You do not even see Honourable !Naruseb, it goes there three times and that is it. It is just advice that we need to be professional in showing the meetings.

Sometimes you are with your Minister at a Ministerial meeting and nobody will see that you were there. People might think that Katali is not even working or Ilonga is not working, but you are there, doing the job. Maybe it is a question of editing.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Information. Do you know that when we had a very successful gala dinner in the Parliament Gardens where the top four of SWAPO Party attended, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General were there and they only focused on the President? Are you aware of that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Yes, I am. My last remark is on New Era. I think it is good that as we are contributing here as elected Members and we have a New Era journalist there, they should not write who said what, let them report what was said and the public must judge that this was rubbish,

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etcetera. Sometimes you contribute to a Debate, but when you read the newspaper, there is nothing. Honourable Iyambo felt that he made a contribution that was supposed to be reported to the public, but it was not. Please let them try to be objective and cover everybody equally. Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, many of my points have been taken, but I will make my few remarks.

The NBC and New Era need to imitate their fellow journalists in CNN and BBC. They are just journalists like them. They defend their countries. No matter what the British Government does, the BBC supports them. No matter how many Iraqis are killed, the CNN supports, but in Namibia where there we have peace and democracy you will find that a Deputy Minister read his Excellency's message to the people, although they say they have to educate people and disseminate information.

Oshakati and Onamutayi are not even 30 kilometres apart and honestly speaking, they did not go, but whenever the Opposition goes, they go. These are splinter groups, people who are not even in this Parliament and they are the ones getting headlines. In today's New Era they are telling us there were over 100 000 people at Ellis Park in Johannesburg who attended the ANC meeting, but the picture they showed was that of COPE which is a splinter group in South Africa and this gives a bad image of Namibia. Why are we doing this?

Yesterday we had between 16,000 and 20,000 people and they did not even come. Is that democracy? Then at the gala dinner, Comrade Kawana and I were sitting together and Honourable Ui/o/oo and they

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crossed us out completely and they only showed Comrade Royal as if he was alone at the table. What is this? I am always telling you that selective morality cannot harm our popularity. Let we have this public broadcaster and public newspaper defend us. We are the machinery, we are the conveyer belt of Government and these policies they are disseminating are our policies.

Therefore, I hope the new blood being injected into the NBC will bring a change so that we see objective reporting to inform our people, not only to cover Honourable Tjihuiko who asked who stopped the phone-in programme. He was happy when we were insulted and now that we are no longer insulted, he is no longer happy. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. May the Honourable Deputy Minister tell Honourable Tjihuiko that the biological mother of democracy is SWAPO Party and its members who fought for this country, to let him know.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Minister, I wanted to find out...(Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. I just wanted to inform the Honourable Deputy Minister and the public out there that I am not condoning any insult on the radio or television and I do not condone and support the legal action to be taken to justify an individual. The question that I put to the Honourable Minister, is for the Honourable Minister to be able to inform those who are not properly informed about the action and he is the only person who is capable of doing that. I do not have any grudge against SWAPO, as the Honourable Deputy Minister was saying, but I believe that my contribution is always and will also remain positive and relevant to this House.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Chairperson, I am concluding my contribution with the issue of ICT. I know the Ministry is still busy and I am not expecting much from the Comrade Minister especially when it comes to the Switch cellular type. Telecom Namibia is our company, a company which is facing competition and we really need to look at this issue of Switch, so that the other communicators must go through Telecom. There is no country where each one has the right to have his own line. It cannot work like that. Telecom must be the one to distribute. They talk of competition in capitalism, but when competition comes, they do not want to touch. Switch is the lifetime of Telecom in future, because in three or four years to come, you will never have a baseline. Do we want Telecom to remain in existence or do we want it to be disbanded because they have no other function, it has been taken by MTC and Cell One?

With that I support Vote 29 and in conclusion I want to say to our journalists that what we are saying here is to educate you to be patriotic. We want to implant, inculcate patriotism in you. Thank you very much.

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

HON NAMBAHU: I thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote and I have only two points I want to make.

I support the strategy of rolling out ICT and I want us to do so, but there are two words that I would like the Honourable Minister to add. This roll-out should be massive, it must also be cheap so that our people could really have a massive and cheap ICT that they can get access to. Whether we have to import second-hand or subsidise them, whatever we do, the strategy should be designed to bring about that. It will not be helpful for a

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kid to come from the rural area and for the first time to see a laptop at UNAM and to play with a person who has been playing with this thing since infancy and then you conclude that this kid is not coping. I cannot say it clearly enough, cheap, massive, affordable ICT. I salute you for that.

I also salute the Ministry for that nationhood campaign to inculcate that pride, but first and foremost, the person has to be a good citizen, they have to be taught how to be good citizens. There must be an ideal Namibian, a model Namibian, a patriotic Namibian and, therefore, that is the person to whom our kids and adolescents should model themselves and measure themselves against that ideal person that we have in mind.

Therefore, I would want us to also have inputs from the general public in that campaign, for people to say yes, we criticise ourselves, this is what a good Namibian should not be doing and this is what a good Namibian should be doing. Whoever has inputs must be given those avenues to enrich that campaign. I encourage you to go out there, even to the Regions, to get inputs from people to enrich that campaign so that the results are really visible.

Someone was saying we do not want our guests to be killed or to be maltreated by the thugs in the street. We would want to cartel and steer our kids from whatever age and NGOs and whoever take them from that point and roll it further. With those remarks I really wholeheartedly support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Nambahu. Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I am sympathetic to my Colleague here.

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Honourable Chairperson, I have only one question to ask, but before I ask that question, I am looking at the number of empty seats and I hope the NBC will do justice in educating the public, that when we discuss the Budget here, the Opposition goes to sleep.

Honourable Deputy Chair, my question is with respect to page 9 of the Minister's statement, the point that was raised by Comrade Tweya about capacity-building. Comrade Chair, as Members of Parliament, as Ministers and Deputy Ministers we are always blamed and sometimes compared with politicians in other parts of the country that we are useless. When you go there, *they just read to you a speech, they do not speak off-the-cuff*, but I have a problem that if you do not have a speech for our journalists, then you are going to create problems.

Our journalists, being the NBC, being the Namibian, being the Republikein, all of them, if you do not have a speech and say something off-the-cuff and maybe they do not have shorthand writing, Honourable Minister, is that shorthand writing still being encouraged or not? We are condemned if we are just reading as useless, but if you just speak off-the-cuff, they would ask you, "*do you have a speech?*" Then I say, "*you were there, why did you not take notes?*" Is it possible to inculcate this shorthand, so that when you speak to the journalist, look into his or her eyes, you know the person understands and is going to write what you are saying, because we are not going to have all the speeches wherever we are going. Can we encourage shorthand writing for us not to be blamed for not having speeches? I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Comrade Minister of Mines and Energy.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: I support Vote 29, but I have two issues I wish to raise. I have seen in other countries in the world where people are having actual cameras, whereby the developments which

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are happening in Regions are being shown on a daily basis. We have 13 Regions and we are supposed to have actual cameras which would let you see what is happening in Karas, in Hardap, in Caprivi, what the people are doing there and then we know that something is happening in that one or nothing is happening in that one. Leaders or business people are interviewed and you can see that there are some activities going on. Even schools, even business or anything Governmental. All you see of ours are some demonstrations and nothing developmental for you to see that our people are doing something. Even small businesses are very important and they can be filmed for us to see. Other countries have actual cameras and for almost for one hour you will see that Region and the other one and then you have a picture of the whole Namibia and what is happening in Namibia.

My other point is on the vernacular languages on NBC-TV. Honestly speaking, my grandmother or father who cannot listen to other languages whatsoever, the vernaculars are hidden somewhere, because that time my grandmother did not even wake up in the morning. When you are bathing, busy doing something, how can you see the programme? Why hide them, for what good reason? Put it in somewhere else where the people can see, even in the afternoon or even at six in the evening for them to see and to follow what is happening.

The last one is on international news. If you do not have multi-channels, I am telling you, you would not know what exactly is happening in the world. It is only a little bit here and there, *finito*. You do not know about major issues happening unless it is the Iraq war or Afghanistan. There are things happening in the world one needs to know about. When it comes to mining, nothing is shown, and this is the sector earning money for this country, one of the contributors to the GDP. Nothing! Nobody sees people working and they say, "*oh, this is Namibia.*" Only demonstrations and that meeting of plenty registered Parties.

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

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you Deputy Chairperson. I want to raise two issues. First of all I want to congratulate the NBC. They have done a great job especially in terms of the national languages, because I am a person who understands quite a number of them and many people are happy and I like the way you sometimes on the Herero Radio brings an Ovambo to speak. It is always good for that kind of integration. I think you are doing a good job and you are keeping a lot of people in far-away villages very busy and entertained.

The second thing I also want to congratulate is because I have been privileged to have gone to all the 13 Regions and NBC covered quite a lot of my visits to very remote villages where there are no roads. I want to thank you for that. I am sure that you would have done it for other people, but I want to give you some hints on how you can help yourself to make money for those kinds of coverage that you do, how you can make some videos of nation-building and documentaries, because the people who have gone to these Regions are maybe the Minister of Veteran Affairs and they would want to know something about what they have done and they can actually buy these videos.

The last thing I want to talk about is on page 8. It is the issue that Honourable Katali just touched on and I want to give you hints on how to cover that. I remember when we went to Okamushonga in Kavango, the President stood there in front of this community and wanted to show that quite a lot of Ministers accompanied him to this project. Many people travelled all the way to be with their President and somehow, when he is talking, it is like he is a very lonely President who has no support. Not even would you flash the faces of the Ministers that accompanied him to this very major community project, you would just focus on him standing alone. I remember that he made the people to stand that *“they see the people are accompanying me, I am taking this project very seriously and I want the communities to see that I have the support of the people when I travel.”*

Very often I have been given an opportunity to be with the First Lady because the First Lady is not supposed to be alone at a function and I remember we were sitting there, we were together, but I remember that the

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First Lady was a lonely First Lady who was addressing the audience, nobody who was there with her was shown that she is supported. Please, it is not that you do not like the faces of the people who are with them, that is not the issue, it is to show that these people have the support of the people and are with them all the time.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Deputy Minister, you are to supposed to address the audience.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I will withdraw that one. Finally I want to say that objectivity is the essence of professional news delivery to the public. I had been trained as a journalist. Journalistic ethics make the news, it makes the people to want to listen to what you are saying. Leave the judgment to the people to judge the news, do not disseminate it, put it as it is so that the people will know. They have their own intelligence, they can take one statement, many people can take different meanings. Do not interpret it one way, because it restricts the covering of the news.

Finally, the languages, and I think the Deputy Prime Minister covered that and I do not know how the NBC will do that. Maybe it is the policy of the Government on language, but when you go to a community in Khoedam, for example in Kavango, and everybody there either speaks Tibukushu or Khoi and I as an instrument of the Government have to go and speak English to these people. Maybe the teacher and the principal of the school may understand. We really have to find a way of mixing our Namibian languages, especially in the context where they are relevant, with English. Let the news be delivered in the language that the majority of the people understand, then there will be a translation into English. You speak to one thousand people, two of them understand English and then you have to stand there and speak English to these people and then the translation is made for the other people. Please, let us also encourage that to take root in our society and let us see the NBC representing the

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national interest of this country for one to know that this is an instrument of the Government. We are not saying close your eyes and be pro-Government, but please represent the Nation. If you go to Kenya or Zimbabwe, when you come there, you know you are in Zimbabwe. Why is it that we do not know, when we are watching NBC, that we are in Namibia? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: May I ask the Honourable Member a very tiny question? Honourable Member, would you agree that the purpose of the national languages – and this happened to most of us, including myself, that as you rightly put it, we do speak in local languages or national languages when we go out, but even when that national language is broadcast, they again translate it for you, instead of allowing your voice in that original national language and I experienced it. Is that what you are addressing now, Honourable Member?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Yes, that super-imposing, your picture is there, you are speaking in that language, that language is Namibian, maybe it is not very important, English is the one. You actually speak a certain language and it is your voice and somebody else is being shown because your face is not wanted in that case. I mean, it is such a terrible representation of interest. Show the people and see people like Honourable Kasingo who is very impressed with the way I speak and she is clapping for me, but you put Esau's face. It is confusing, why would you represent something like that? Let us clear this confusion. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister. Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I sympathise with my Colleagues, but I

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have no choice but to contribute to this Vote. I support the Vote.

On the issue of education of our people, I am really concerned. I think this aspect has been neglected for too long, especially the history of our armed liberation struggle. Just yesterday we celebrated the 49th anniversary of our Party. We came a long way, a difficult road, but nothing as a way of background information and this is very disappointing to me. You only see clips here and there when maybe it is 26 August, it is Cassinga Day, but we need to educate our people where we came from. That is why the Opposition are scared even to attend some of these events, because these events were made possible by the SWAPO Party.

I would even like to go back to the days of Samuel Maharero, to the days of Nehale Lya Mpingana, to the days of Hendrik Witbooi, Mandume Ndemufayo. We need to know that history, visualise that on television, how those massacres and genocides were committed against our people, but now there is nothing. What I normally see is just a bunch of reactionaries and even on radio. I was listening to one of them live on television, which to me is really intellectual fraud, trying to insult our own leaders, even saying that when the SWAPO Party Members go to rallies, they put on their colours and scarves and they are just really belittling our leaders and the SWAPO Party. Those are lies on the radio. To me that is too much! We are fed-up with these reactionaries on television and on radio.

Some of us and even our children need to see those visuals. They have them in Germany about the genocide against the Hereros and the Namas. Nothing, absolutely nothing! Let us educate our people, let us educate our Nation about that history so that we know where we came from, where we are and where we are going. That to me is the most important. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I call on the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology to reply.

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HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:

Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am glad that you have eventually brought these marathon questions to an end to enable me to answer a few of them, because they are too many. However, I would like to thank the Honourable Members for having interest in the activities of NBC. Their comments and questions are very educative and they will definitely help us to improve. I do not see any questions, it's just mere criticism, but we see them as a way of assisting us to improve.

Let me start with the first question by *Honourable Amweelo*. He was asking about the issue of optic fibre owned by NamPower. The core function of NamPower is not communication, it is energy and power supply, so Cabinet felt that since optic fibre is crucial for communication, those fibres not in use but still owned by NamPower should immediately be given to Telecom Namibia and the two entities were instructed to discuss this issue and eventually to have those fibres transferred to Telecom, but unfortunately this did not happen until today.

Another issue is the undersea cable that will provide Namibia with adequate capacity of bandwidth. Telecom Namibia has been delegated by Cabinet, first of all, to investigate and engage any possible project that could provide Namibia with the capacity, preferably the cable that would provide us with a landing point at Swakopmund. There are quite a number of them and, of course, at one time we discussed with Angola which has a cable project which connects Angola to Portugal. We negotiated with Angola to extend that cable project to Swakopmund and we were now negotiating the terms how we would manage and how we would cooperate in terms of having a share in that project and also have a say. Unfortunately this did not work out, our friends were only prepared to extend the cable to Walvis Bay and allow us to have capacity which is not under our own control. Those terms were not accepted by us and we shifted to South Africa.

The first cable we signed up with South Africa was actually called INFRACO where the Deputy Prime Minister was the leading personality in the discussions between Namibia and South Africa and also

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encouraging Telecom to participate and eventually Telecom took up the leading role as having been motivated by the Deputy Prime Minister. Thank you, Comrade Deputy Minister, for the role you played in this regard.

Unfortunately the first South African cable project did not take off because the major funders to this project, which were Telcom South Africa, MTN and others, withdrew and initiated a rival project called West Africa Cable System and then Namibia was invited to join that project and Telecom, with the blessing of Cabinet, joined that cable project. Two weeks ago a contract was signed for Namibia to join and Cabinet also approved to give Telecom a guarantee to join this cable project. In other words, eventually Namibia will be part of an undersea cable network that will provide Namibia a landing point at Swakopmund and also connect Namibia to the international telecommunication connectivity through London. I think that is very good news for Namibia.

Then the problem of slow Internet connectivity will be a thing of the past.

Honourable Amweelo also talked about the need for the NBC to improve its infrastructure. As you would remember the content of my speech, allocations were made to improve NBC studios and transmitters. There is definitely a need to bring the infrastructure of NBC up to date.

On the status of the Communications Bill and when it will be presented to the Parliament, in this regard we are making good progress and the Bill has reached the Parliamentary Secretariat, but I understand it has been sent to the printers and it could come back to Parliament any time.

The *Deputy Prime Minister* raised the problem of Khoi language which cannot be accommodated at Tsumkwe and this can be done through Caprivi. Comrade Deputy Prime Minister, I have no idea, nobody even briefed to assist me on this matter and maybe, but however we can look into that issue. It is a very valid project because we cannot continue isolating our people. We will definitely look into this.

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Honourable Moongo was complaining and I think at one point he was Out of Order, he was making wild allegations and I do not need to go into this.

Honourable Nujoma supports the liked Vote and I thank him very much. He wanted to know whether we have another option and discussing with Angola regarding the sub-marine cable project and that has been answered. I am happy with the way the NBC covered the rally on Saturday and of course, many Honourable Members share the same view that the coverage was not properly done in terms of the reality on the ground.

Honourable Dienda wanted to know why the name of the film was changed. According to the answer here, there was a lot of negative publicity and in order to market the film, we had to give it another name that would be appealing to the film industry so that we could find buyers of our film and that was the purpose of giving a new name.

Regarding the profit that we might have made, Honourable Member, the film is still being marketed and after that, we will be able to tell you how much we have made.

She asked for the reason why the film has not been released. I do not think it is a good idea to release a film while we are still marketing it. It is still being marketed. I do not know whether you meant to be released here in our domestic market while we are marketing it outside, but eventually the film will be released.

The Honourable Member asked whether there have been any financial reports on NamZim. It is a very important and pertinent question. The issue of submitting financial reports will be taken up with the board of NamZim.

The *Deputy Minister of Finance* put forward a mix of comments and questions and the direction was becoming blurred, but he questioned about the 30% that we are trying to achieve. The 30% is an additional milestone we would like to achieve on top of what we have achieved already in

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terms of distributing and disseminating Government information at different levels. Apart from the Government documents, we are also publishing Government bulletins and the Namibia Review. All these documents are designed to communicate information to the public, so that the public can be aware of Government activities, programmes and policies. It is a combination of the pamphlets on different Ministries or Cabinet, New Era and also Nampa add to this to disseminate information.

The other concern was on the NBC journalists who are not up to standard in reporting on economic matters. To remedy that, we have budgeted N\$900,000 for capacity-building. Those critical areas such as economics and ICT will definitely be given due attention to expose our journalists to be trained in these particular areas as well to have them trained in “*short-hand*”.

Honourable Basson was complaining about Rehoboth Rural not having access to radio. We have been looking at upgrading the Maltahöhe tower as well as what we call Gross Herzog tower that will cover Kalkrand and Schlip. The Budget has been provided and we are addressing the problem.

Honourable Tjihuiko, you were trying to complicate things and I think you have been corrected. Thank you very much for congratulating the Ministry and also appreciating some of our programmes, such as the agricultural programmes aired by NBC and you mentioned places like Okauwa and Gam. NBC transmissions are now received in those areas, which is a very good thing.

However, you were critical to who took the decision to ban phone-in programmes on NBC, which is incorrect. It is clearly stated in my speech that the NBC Board and management saw fit to bring these measures. This programme is not banned. The programme was definitely grossly abused and the public were infuriated and as a result measures were introduced which, of course, are yielding results and I think you can also appreciate the improvement.

Honourable Tjiriange supports the Vote. However, there are certain things that really irritates him and I think many Honourable Members

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share his views on the unpredictability of the news slot which keeps on changing.

We take note of this, Honourable Minister, we will see how we can bring about predictability in terms of the time slot when the news is on. We must give priority to news. Football cannot replace the timeslot of the news.

Honourable Kaiyamo, thank you for supporting the Vote. I also appreciate that you support our efforts to try to make the public understand Government policies through information dissemination as we are doing it with the Information Bulletin and Namibia Review. You said we should also put information on Air Namibia so that this can also be disseminated outside Namibia for those prospective visitors to be informed before they arrive in our country. This is, indeed, a good proposal and we take note.

You asked why our Ministry should be involved in the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign as this is supposed to be solely an activity of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Honourable Member, HIV/AIDS is a cross-cutting issue and our Ministry is the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and we are assisting the Ministry of Health and Social Services. We are not intruding on their turf, but we are doing it in conjunction with MHSS and this programme was launched jointly. It was started by my predecessor and it was launched jointly by our Ministry and the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

Honourable Katali, like many other Honourable Members, were concerned about the covering of events or the filming of the Parliamentary Sessions by the NBC. Instead of capturing the face of each Honourable Member, the NBC seems to be doing that selectively. The Honourable Member asked why this is being done, whether it is due to technical reasons. I think we need to look into this to make sure that we adequately cover each and every Member of Parliament and when we are filming events, we must make sure that we cover the entire event. However, we take note and we will definitely work on this.

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The *Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour* just gave us a hint to emulate CNN, BBC, and Sky News because those news agencies are just like NBC and New Era, which are Government-owned. Why do they not defend Government activities, why are they not publicising and propagating Government successes, efforts and projects? We definitely take note and we will do just that.

Thank you, *Honourable Nambahu*. I really understand what you mean, that the roll-out must be massive and must be affordable. We will do just that. Thank you for this advice.

Honourable Abraham Iyambo, thank you very much for your support and your kind advice and we take note of that.

Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy, thank you for supporting Vote 29. I think you made very valuable comments on considering regional development issues that should be shown on our television. We take note of that.

Comrade Deputy Minister of Education, thank you very much for your support and useful comments you made. We take note. You particularly made reference to the opening of the Fishing Institute. If we can recall those footages, we can convert them into documentaries which we can sell to the respective Ministries and raise money. The Honourable Member was very disappointed when His Excellency, the President was interviewed and no other faces were showed. It seemed as if the President visited the place alone and no Ministers accompanied him. I think this is a valid point and we shall definitely look into this in the future.

My dear brother, *Honourable Kawana*, we started doing that last year. When we come to the 26th of August, we will have activities where we show footages of the liberation struggle. It was done last year.

That was the last question and I thank you very much.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:15 UNTIL 2009.04.21 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
21 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? Honourable Kasingo.

**TABLING: REPORT ON ANNUAL FORUM OF
PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION**

HON KASINGO: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table of this august House for information and note-taking, the Report of the Delegation of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs who attended the 30th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action from the 30th to the 31st of October 2008 held in Santa Dominica in the Dominican Republic.

Honourable Speaker, for quick information purpose, the Parliamentarians for Global Action is an international organisation which covers more than 1,300 lawmakers in more than 100 democratic elected Parliaments globally. Its aims and objectives are, *inter alia*, promoting peace, democracy, the Rule of Law, human rights, sustainable development as well as population issues by informing, convening and mobilising Parliaments to realise the aforesaid goals. Normally the annual forum is the focal point of the PGA's annual activity to address global issues which cannot be tackled by a single country or a Region.

The 30th Annual Forum deliberations centred around the Rule of Law and democratic institutions, with specific reference to the Roman Statute which establishes the International Criminal Court.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON NAMBAHU**

I humbly request the Honourable Members to look through the Report and specifically the concluding recommendation. Our Committee will however deal with the recommendations. I now wish to table the Report, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report?
Honourable Nambahu.

**TABLING: REPORT ON WORKSHOP: COMMITTEE
ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I lay upon the Table of this august House for information and note-taking, the Report of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on its workshop held from 16 to 18 November 2008 at Midgard Country Estate and allow me, Honourable Speaker, to just highlight some of the recommendations contained in the Report.

That a tailor made certificate course for Parliamentarians be implemented for Members of the Standing Committee and thereafter that the course be extended to Parliamentarians of other Committees.

I am pleased to inform the House that the Certificate course of Parliamentarians on Parliamentary Practice, Conduct and Professionalism has started in March at UNAM and Members will be able to receive their certificates during June this year. Not only Members of this Standing Committee are attending this course, but also Members of other Standing Committees and the invitation is extended to all Members of the House take interest in this course and perhaps enrol and further their studies and deepen their skills in constitutionalism and parliamentary practice.

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Contained in this Report are also some urgent Bills that are to be passed by this Parliament, especially the Electoral Act, and the Act on Community Courts. These are some of the recommendations contained in the Report. I am simply whetting the appetite of the Members to peruse the Report.

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

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 05, 06, 07, 10, 14 and 17 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 table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? 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*.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06
HON EKANDJO / HON KASINGO

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes in to Committee? Any objection? Secondment. Agreed to.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The Whole House is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported yesterday, 20 April 2009, Votes 01, 02, 04, 11, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 05, 06, 07 and 14 have been introduced. Honourable Members, I ask your indulgence, I have been requested by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security for the House to consider his Vote for discussion before the introduction of Votes 10 and 17. Thereafter we will revert to the introduction of the two Votes. Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 06 – “POLICE” put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Deputy Chair, the Police are doing very well. Therefore move that the House just approves the Vote now.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kasingo.

HON KASINGO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I agree with my senior Minister that we can just support the Vote, however I am just going to say a few words in supporting the Vote.

I want to put emphasis on what the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security said about the intentions of the Institution for Forensic Science.

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HON IILONGA

It is now the third time I put emphasis on the importance of this institution. On previous occasions I said that this institution really needs support in terms of equipment, in terms of the salaries of these people because this is the backbone in the investigation of criminal cases. I would also like to suggest that the salaries of the top management cadre should be equivalent to that of Investigating Officers in the Anti-Corruption Commission, not only because they are doing very important work, but they also spent a lot of years acquiring qualifications in this field.

I also know at the Polytechnic there are also students studying in this field and these new students must also be recruited and they must be motivated with reasonable salaries. I would like to humbly request my Honourable Colleague, Honourable Lucia Basson, the Chairperson of the Committee on Defence and Security to visit this institution because it is very important.

The same applies to the top and middle management cadres of the Police Force. Their salaries must be increased and I would like to propose that the salaries of the top management must be equal to the investigators in Anti-Corruption Commission because it is unfortunate when you have a lot of institutions which deal with criminal activities, that some are better remunerated.

With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Kasingo. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 06 – Police.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06
HON CHRISTIAN

I will start with Protection Services on page 113. First I want to thank my namesake for a job well done. One of my questions has been answered on the promotion of ministerial guards. We really want to thank the Ministry that something has been done. Those driving the Minister, the Founding and the current President were just constables, however now the majority of them are sergeants.

My other point is on the issue of S&T. I just want to find out whether S&T has now been decentralised to the Ministries where the activities are planned. In the case when it was centralised and it was difficult for the Ministry to even control the Budget, because you will agree with me that you cannot plan for something which you do not control. I just want to find out from the Minister whether S&T has been decentralised, so that when you are going on a mission, the S&T is carried by the Ministry. With that I support Vote 06 from the bottom of my heart.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour. Honourable Christians.

HON CHRISTIAN: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support this very important Vote for us as a country. My question is on page 6 of the Minister's motivation.

The Honourable Minister stated that: *"The global economic meltdown and the impending FIFA and World Cups in Angola and South Africa will require that we as a country increase our preparedness for heightened law enforcement activities and commit more resources for this effort."*

My question is: What is the level of our country's specific preparations at our border posts to control the influx of elements, other than visitors, with criminal intentions before, during and after the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola and 2010 World Cup in South Africa and what is the level of cooperation in sub-regional cross-border crime prevention strategies? To

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06

HON BASSON

what extent does the Namibian Police embrace the communities in crime prevention? I thank you and I support the Vote, Honourable Minister.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank Honourable Christian. Honourable Basson.

HON BASSON: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Vote 06 is my Vote, it is a Vote of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security and I am really happy about this allocation to the Vote.

Comrade Minister, allow me to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance through you for the allocation of this amount although it is not enough. I also want to thank the Minister of Finance that the Police now has transport, although still not enough. I travelled in Namibia with the Committee and I know the shortcomings at our Police Stations and I am very happy about the amount allocated.

Nevertheless, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, allow me to mention something in this House, because last year I was crying in this House about a Police Station which was closed and moved to a white farm in the district of Klein-Aub. I want to report to this House that the Police Station was reopened and I was invited by the Inspector-General of Police to be there. It was opened on the 27th of March and everybody in the community is happy. I want to thank the Minister of Safety and Security and the Minister of Finance for what they have granted these people. In a very short time the Police Station was renovated and opened.

Comrades, what I want to say is that it is not easy to work under the circumstances in which the Police are operating. At some places it is heartbreaking and I hope after this allocation some of the things will change. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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HON NAMBAHU

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Basson. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I also rise to add my humble voice in support of this very important Vote and there are two main points that attracted my support.

One of them is on page 111 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and it says: *“To plan and formulate a national crime prevention strategy.”* On the following page, the community policing and on the same page, crime detection and intelligence. These are the three main areas on which I want to speak.

I think that it is really time that we embark upon the design and formulation of this national crime prevention strategy and I wish to see that once that exercise is embarked upon, that we will really consider all the stakeholders that have a role to play in crime prevention. I would like this country to have systems that are talking to each other. I would not want to continue having a situation where the Courts are being blamed for not convicting, the Courts are blaming the Police for not having brought evidence or having made mistakes here and there and as a result of that you end up having innocent people in prisons and guilty people acquitted, simply of mistakes here and there. We are working as one system and I would wish to have systems that are talking to each other and correct the mistakes in order to make ourselves effective. As soon as you acquit a criminal that the Police have worked so hard to apprehend, just to have that person released the second day, is really demoralising. If people were talking to each other and corresponding to one proper strategy, I think that would go a long way in order to help the country.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I want to know whether it is allowed for an Honourable Member to speak loudly on a cell phone.

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HON DR TJIRIANGE

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: All Members know it is not allowed but they are doing it. You are not even allowed to generalise in the Committee Stage, but you generalise things. We are saying Committee Stage is for the details of the Vote, but you give general speeches. All these things are not allowed but you are doing it. What can the Deputy Chairperson do?

HON NAMBAHU: In conclusion, we also look forward to the formulation of this national crime prevention strategy and I can actually not emphasise more on the importance of the community policing mentioned on page 112. All the ingredients of community policing are in there and I look forward to see this strategy being implemented.

Detection and intelligence is almost the same thing. When you have people leaving prison, I saw one article in the newspaper saying they are graduates of the college and if this issue of detection and intelligence is not underlined, we will not be able to tame these graduates, because they know more and they are actually lawyers by themselves. Unless we have proper intelligence as to how they behave as from there, we will not be able to do much. However, as all elements of intelligence cannot be mentioned publicly, I only wish that the Comrade Minister takes note of this and embark on the implementation of these programmes. With all these remarks, I thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Dr Tjiriange.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Surely credit must go where it is due. The Colleague is doing very well in terms of strengthening our Force. If you are a person who does not appreciate, you pretend not to see that. I have only one question.

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With all these efforts there is still something which needs to be addressed very seriously and this is the protection of the houses of those who are entitled to such kind of protection by the Force. It is just like a joke. A person is dropped in the morning, when you come back for lunch he is not there and sometimes for two, three days you see nobody there. You never know when these people are there or not there. Even when you intend going away, you are not sure whether there is somebody at home or not. What is going on? I am not alerting the thieves, but I am just trying to improve the situation. Maybe I should not have said it loudly, but it is a fact which worries me. Comrade Minister, what are you going to do? We must have these people and we must know that they are there. Please try to do something about that.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister of Veteran Affairs. Honourable Nashandi.

HON NASHANDI: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 06, but I wish to cite an example on border control. I had a specific experience at the International Airport Hosea Kutako. I was arriving after assisting a certain gentleman to fill in the immigration forms, he could not express himself in English, he was speaking French and Arabic. I noticed that this gentleman had a business visa, he was met at the airport by somebody having an access pass from the Namibia Airports Company. Later on I realised that this gentleman was also of the same nationality as the person arriving. Later on I learned that this gentleman had to be deported.

A certain incident again at the airport, I could see an immigration officer literally running after a culprit who was running away. My question here is: The other day Honourable Dr Kawana informed us about the collaboration of the law enforcement, including the Intelligence. At various airports it is not so easy to go through the various agencies. What I would like to see are these invisible law enforcement agents so that they can at least detect some of these people coming into our country.

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Last night after leaving here I saw on television of somebody who escaped from the Court and about a year or two ago a similar incident happened at the International Airport of somebody dealing in drugs. Maybe we have to find a way how to deal with some of these cases. With those few words, I support Vote 06.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Nashandi. Honourable Dr Amutenya.

HON AMUTENYA: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. As a new Member, I am asking the Minister of Safety and Security on page 7. I have been trying to look at the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to see what proportion of the Budget is going for correctional services. I could not get that as it is reported there under the Department of Police. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: It is a separate Vote.

HON AMUTENYA: Then I rest my case.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we from the CoD appreciate what the Minister is doing. Thank you so much. We from the CoD support the Vote, Honourable Minister of Finance, but not the allocation. The money is not enough. The Police need more money. Just to start with the salaries of the Police Officers, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, that is already not acceptable. The Police are resigning. The police are looking for greener pastures because they get the same salaries as security guards and this is unacceptable. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

May I ask Honourable Dienda a question? Honourable former comrade, last night we listened to your current President saying that the Budget is very bad and now you are saying the Budget is very good. Where do you stand as the CoD with your President? Is your President wrong, Honourable Dienda?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, this is general, I will not answer him.

The Minister on page 2 of his speech talked about the new vehicles that were bought for the Police. Honourable Minister, Government cars are not insured, so we are buying all these expensive cars which will be involved in accidents and they will be parked in the backyards for twenty years until we again buy new cars. Somewhere, somehow you have to look into this matter. Too many cars are being parked because they were involved in accidents. There is no insurance and we have wasted so much money on buying these cars. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? You said the Police are resigning. Do you invite them to your CoD office?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, she is again Out of Order.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, telephone allowances for the Police: When you come there, they are telling you they have no credit. They get N\$300 telephone allowance per month and it means the poor victim who comes there for assistance is being told, "*I have no credit, I cannot make a phone call, where is your cell phone?*" I must give my cell phone so that they can call for assistance. This is unacceptable. This is a service that must be delivered and we cannot have a certain amount of credit available for the Police to use. I know sometimes people can misuse the facilities,

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but I think we have to put other arrangements in place so that the public are not punished because of that.

My next question is on the Women and Child Protection Unit at the Katutura Hospital. (Interjection). Yes, I am from Katutura, I cannot ignore it. I am confused, Honourable Minister, I am not sure about the responsibilities there. You are sent to a social worker and you do not know from which Ministry that social worker is and you are sent from one room to the other and there is not even any privacy at that Unit. When you phone them after hours, they are not available and at the end of the day you must phone the City Police for domestic violence cases. I was there just last week to report a case and I had to call the City Police to come and assist because the Women and Child Protection Unit was not available.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, my next question is about the National Forensic Science Institute. The Minister was right when he said we need skilled people there. So many of our cases are postponed, because of evidence not being available and I know this is one of our problems. I have withdrawn a case after five years because I said I am wasting my time.

At the Single Quarters they are making use of a mobile Police Station and when we came there, there was no paper on which to write our cases, no materials, only two Police Officers were there and you know how busy that area of the Single Quarters is. There is a need for us to station more men or women there.

My next question, and I do not want people to get heart attacks, Honourable Minister, what measures did you put in place to prevent sodomy in the prisons? People are being raped, the cells at Wanaheda Police Station are overcrowded and a lot of things are happening there. What measures did you put in place? Thank you very much.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am a member of the Standing Committee on Defence and Security and we saw a lot of problems in the Police and the Minister is the first Minister I have seen among the other Minister who tells the truth, that there are problems in the Police and I am happy with that. What is wrong with that? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member said that the Ministers never tell the truth and there is only one amongst us who does. I think that is not parliamentary and the Member should withdraw.

HON MOONGO: I mean if a Minister tells us what is wrong in his Ministry, what is wrong with that? He is the first one who ever did that in this Honourable House, that is why his Ministry is improving. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. We have many Ministers here, does the Honourable Member mean that all of us here do not speak the truth? Is that what he means?

HON MOONGO: No, I mean the Minister did not hide anything. Some of the Ministers are always hiding the problems, saying the Ministries are doing well. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Is it true that the Honourable Member who is accusing us of not being truthful is now also not being truthful himself?

HON MOONGO: I withdraw that because I need to make progress.
(Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, we are discussing the Budget, we throw stones left and right and during the Committee Stage we are supposed to concentrate on the details and that means to direct whatever you have to that Minister who moved the Vote and then wait for a response from that Minister. What we are doing now is just to throw stones in Committee Stage. Why are we doing that? I know we did not have an induction course for the past four years, but the veteran MPs in this Parliament are the ones who are doing that and throwing stones. Let us go for the detail in the Committee Stage.

HON MOONGO: I am saying this because nobody has used those words since we started the Parliament here. Somebody is telling the truth and that is why there is improvement.

Let me go straight to page 1, preventing crime and protection of life and property. Our Police are at the roadblocks preventing crime, but they are still standing in the sun, there is no shade and toilet facilities. I want to know from the Minister whether this Budget can also address that problem countrywide.

On page 5 there is mention of a lot of vacancies at the Forensic Institute. There is always an outcry by the community Police in Oshana and maybe the Minister could address this problem in this Budget. There are vacancies and I know they are technical posts, but the people need to be trained. Why do we not train them so that we solve the problem?

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According to the Police they work Sundays and public holidays and what does the Labour law say? It says if somebody works on holidays he must receive double-pay. Are they receiving double-pay or does the Police have a different Labour law? I think this must come to an end, we must pay them according to the Labour Law. (Intervention)

HON DR AMWEELO: On a Point of Information. The Police are not covered by the Labour Act.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The House is called to order. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I have more or less concluded. I hope the Honourable Ministers got my message and in the next Budget they will inform us about everything that is wrong in their Ministries so that we can understand them, instead of saying everything is fine.

Lastly, with regard to the Labour Act, a law must be of general application and not for selected people.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I share information with Honourable Moongo? I heard Honourable Moongo referring to the Labour Act and claiming that the Police are not being treated according to the Labour Act. I think this is not the first time that I share this information with him, but I must repeat today that in terms of the Labour Act, the Defence and the Police are excluded from the Labour Act. I hope I do not have to repeat it a third time.

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HON MOONGO: Thank you for the information, but I know that. However, I will support it if you could adjust the salaries of the Police to cover those public holidays. Otherwise, if a law subjects some people to be overworked without proper salaries and benefits, I cannot support that. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Nujoma.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 06 and I fully support the efforts of the Police in combating crime in our country. They have done a tremendous job despite the limited resources at their disposal.

My small comment is on Main Division – Combating of Crime and the Minister mentioned in his speech the construction of new Police Stations for which he requested an amount of N\$112 million and I fully support it. However, I am concerned about the overcrowding in the Police cells and some Honourable Members have also alluded to that. We are signatories to the various human rights instruments and so many others, but the problem with us is that we are ready to sign and then we remain with the backlog of living up to those instruments. I feel it is very important that we should also look at the issue of overcrowding in our Police cells which remains a serious shortcoming which does not reflect very well on our country. I would urge that in future budgeting, we should allocate more money to really address the issue of overcrowding, because the Standing Committee on Security have visited the prisons. The reports by the Ombudsman are there and they do not paint a very good picture. We have so many inmates who are bricklayers.

The Katutura cells are so overcrowded and when I went to my own village, Okahao, it was terrible. We should really come up with some innovative ways and I urge the Honourable Minister to build more holding

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cells to alleviate this problem experienced all over the country and it is a serious concern. With these few remarks, I support the Vote and I fully support the Police and their living conditions must be improved and I thank the Government for making N\$1 billion available to the Police, the SWAPO Party Government. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I also rise to support Vote 06 and to commend my senior Colleague for a job well done with the Police. I am happy to see that something is done to upgrade the living quarters of the Police, especially along our borders, as I reported in this House some time back about the conditions in some of those areas. However, I look forward to the improvement of the living quarters especially here in Khomas Region. We know that most of our Police Officers here live in squalid conditions in informal settlements, particularly in the Greenwell Matongo and Brakwater area and our men and women in uniform definitely deserve much better living conditions. I look forward to the accelerated construction of living quarters. Otherwise, I support Vote 06. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Haingura.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 06 and I commend the Minister for a job well done, the Minister from the SWAPO Party-led Government.

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Continue with the good job. I have only one question because the other two have already been mentioned, the promotional post of men and women in uniform.

I only want to ask one question to the Minister: How many women have been promoted?

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

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. First of all, I want to thank the Honourable Minister for the answer that he gave in my absence on the question that I asked earlier in the year.

I am very concerned when I talk about crime in Namibia and I see that the Honourable Minister, maybe quite correctly, compare us with the countries surrounding us and saying that we are basically in a very good situation. To me that is not a very good argument, because if there are potholes in Windhoek, we close them because we are proud of the City of Windhoek because it is our capital city. Similarly, if there are potholes in our crime system we should close them. We should not say that there are potholes in Malawi on the road to Lake Malawi. That is not an argument. We must close those potholes in the crime system, Honourable Minister.

If you look at the statistics that the Minister made available, during November, December 2008 and January 2009, the total crimes reported in November were 1 483 cases for that month. That means it is 45 cases per day, every day of the month, 45! In December it was 44 cases of crime reported per day for the whole of December and in January this year it shot up to 64 crime cases reported per day in Windhoek alone. There is a serious problem with crime in Namibia and we must face this problem.

Honourable Speaker, I think that the police are doing a fantastic job. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL

WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable De Waal, first I will ask a very small question: How many children do you have? As you sit here in the Honourable House, do you know what your children are doing or the children of your neighbour? We have a saying in my vernacular which says; “*shamkweni oshipu nokupopya, shoye mwene tosikile eteta,*” it means that that if you are not the one to do something, you will always think it is not difficult, but when it

comes to your side, it is something different. The Police are trying their utmost best. Comrade Nambahu said these three pillars must speak to each other, let us not condemn and cry. The Police are doing their work. I just want to educate the Honourable Member that the question is not how many crimes, but they reported on it because they acted on it.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I actually agree with the Honourable Deputy Minister and if you recall, the other day I made a statement here on the same issue and I said exactly the same that day.

Honourable Deputy Minister, my problem with the Government on that side of the House is that you have given up, my friends. You have given up. (Interjections). It is a fact, you have given up, you are no longer prepared to fight! It is true, that is why you say, “*let us leave the potholes because we did not make them. We cannot talk about the people that make the potholes, so let us just leave them.*” That is what you are saying. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Honourable De Waal, we are receiving many applications from your country of origin, saying that we want to stay in Namibia because it is a peaceful country, the crime situation here is better than where we are coming from.

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HON DE WAAL: I am from this country, but you know, Minister, it is interesting that you say that. I came from New Zealand last night and in a city called Wellington we met a Namibian who has been a nurse for the last 9 years. Also yesterday late afternoon we were in Johannesburg, the country that you were just referring to, and we found three young boys there speaking on the telephone and I could hear that they were speaking Damara-language so I talked to them. We were in another place the other day where we found a Namibian, so why are these Namibians running away? People are moving around today, there is no criteria, Namibians go somewhere, South Africans come here, Germans will come and go, British, Portuguese, that is not an argument.

However, Honourable Chairperson, I have previously said in this House and not long ago, that I have the greatest of sympathy with the Police Force because I have spoken to them at a crime scene at 2 o'clock in the morning while we were waiting for the City Police or some other person to come. We were sitting there on the ground, talking to one another and they were telling me about their frustrations and I have said in this House and I repeat it today: The Police are frustrated because they are catching the criminals, just to see them on the street the next morning. There is a communication problem between the law enforcement and the Judiciary, the Ministry of Justice. That is why I said the other day that we should talk to one another and sort out the problems, because really, we will reach a stage where the Police will see the criminals breaking in and they will turn their heads the other way and say to themselves, "*why should I put my life on the line just so that this guy can be out of jail tomorrow morning?*" That is the point that I am trying to make.

I do not have a problem with the Police, I met one of the very senior persons the other day at the airport when they caught this guy that shot the farmer on the farm. I congratulated them, I know they are working hard. They do not always have all the means, but what we are saying is that there is a problem with crime and the statistics are telling us that the roads in Namibia, as far as crime is concerned, is so full of potholes that you must drive next to the road and not on the road. What we want to do is, we want to close the potholes in crime and all of us must work together. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. Honourable De Waal, nobody condones crime in this country, but you should be aware that the society we have opted to follow, that is the capitalist system in itself, breeds crime. There is nepotism in our society, a situation where 10% of the population are rich and 90% of the people are poor. How do you think you can solve the problem? When we talk about socialism here, some of you get allergic and then you call SWAPO all sorts of names, but we want to create a just society for our people and it can only be achieved if we have levelled the playing field, when we have redistributed the wealth. When we talk about the farms here... (Interjection). In Cuba there is no such crimes. The society is inherently unequal and that is the problem and we need to address those issues. It does not help to condemn the Police here while you have people who are sleeping on empty stomachs and the others are throwing it away. That is the real question we need to address.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

COMMITTEE: You see, when the Chair wants to control you, you attack the Chair. You are the ones who derail the process of the Committee Stage. Even the points of order derail the process of the Committee Stage and it is not allowed. I can rule you Out of Order. I will allow you but I will rule you Out of Order. We want the Minister to hear and to respond. Deputy Ministers, you are the ones who break the rules and then the Chair is attacked. So, the Chair will keep quiet and you can continue. Time is extended, no problem. Honourable De Waal, continue.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I will be brief. Just to put the record straight, I never condemned the Police. Do not lay words in my mouth, please. You can do many things but do not tell me what I did not say. I have never condemned the Police and I am not condemning the Police today.

Honourable Chairperson, I am requesting the Honourable Minister and I want to ask him a question: Some years back we passed a law in this

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House about second-hand dealers in gems, in guns, in cars, in furniture and all these things and as far as I know, that law allows the Police to do inspections, because when a second-hand dealer buys a rifle from somebody, he must record it in a register and he must have the ID-number and everything from whom he bought that. My question is, are the Police still doing these inspections, because somehow, somewhere there is a problem and I will come back to what the Honourable Deputy Minister said about socialism.

Honourable Deputy Minister, I am not talking about a person who is stealing a loaf of bread because he is hungry or stealing a jacket because he also wants to be dressed nicely. Our problem in Namibia is that we have organised gangs that are deliberately stealing rifles, pistols, revolvers, gems, jewellery and computers. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time up, Honourable Speaker De Waal. Honourable Kavetuna.

HON KAVETUNA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to add my voice to the other Colleagues who have already congratulated the Honourable Minister for the work well done. One can see that something is being done to enforce the law. I rise to support Vote 06 and I have a few comments and questions before I sit down.

First of all, at page 4 of the Minister's speech there are some statistics that show statistics of crime reported in 2008, which are about 5,000 more than the crimes of 2007. Two days ago I heard on the news that 2,100 cases of housebreaking were reported in one month and all these people are incarcerated in one cell somewhere in Windhoek. I want to know what is the possibility of having community services for petty criminals so that they can do some hard work in the community?

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The other issue is on page 114 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. It is mentioned there that the Ministry has entered into an agreement with the National Youth Service in order for the trainees from the National Youth Service to be recruited in the Police Force. What is the possibility of doing the same with the police reservists, because these people are unemployed and sometimes they are doing police work for up to five years and when recruitment is done, they are not considered? What is the possibility of also entering into an agreement with them, that after five years they will also be recruited?

Another point is on the drivers. We see a lot of Police vehicles which were involved in accidents and I know that there are specific drivers for ambulances, so what is the possibility to also have trained drivers in the Police? Most of the accidents happen when the Police are chasing behind criminals. I know of an instance where a Police Officer got his driver's licence a month ago and the next month he is driving a car. What experience does he really have to drive that car and even to chase after a criminal?

At this juncture I would like to express my support for this Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Kavetuna. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am going to be very brief. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity. Let me start my contribution with a few comments.

Honourable Minister, last year when we were dealing with your Ministry, you told us that you are going to learn as to what is really going on in the Ministry and then you will be in a position to know what exactly is going on. What I have seen, Honourable Minister, is that you have now started providing leadership in the Ministry. We have seen that you have

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travelled through the whole country to see the conditions under which the boys and girls in uniform are living for yourself. You are congratulated by NUDO and myself on that. That is what we call leadership, you are leading by example.

Coming to the Budget itself, page 112 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework: Main Activities. Honourable Minister, you have raised a number of issues and you mentioned the issue of illegal arms. I remember that some time ago you made a statement to the effect that over 100,000 firearm licences have been issued and you were concerned about that. Honourable Minister, you have our support and I believe that you are going to be able to do something about it. The more firearms we have on the streets, the more dangerous the situation would become, because sometimes these weapons fall into the wrong hands and being used wrongly. I appreciate the fact that you are going to do something about it and knowing you, I think you will be able to do something about it.

The second point is on serious crime. Honourable Minister, I think the issue of serious crime cannot be solved by the Police Officers alone. I think we need to join hands and try to fight this issue. I have read in the papers two, three weeks ago about the incident that happened in Independence Avenue. If my memory serves me right, one or two of the colleagues who were shot in that incident...(Interjections). I say "*colleagues*" because I think according to our Constitution nobody can be classified as a criminal before it has been proven in a Court of Law and unfortunately, they did not have an opportunity to be tried and to be found guilty. Therefore, they are colleagues.

It was reported that one or two of these people who were shot dead there had cases before and one of them went through the safety net and went back to the streets and committed the same crime. That was a mistake and I think we need to close those loopholes. I think it is the issue of allowing people to go out on bail, the question of the overcrowding in the cells that put people in a position to think about something, getting some of them out of the system. I think we need to do something about this thing because otherwise we may let those who are not supposed to be on the streets, out into the streets because of a lack of space. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuiiko, you are on course but I just want to know something. You mentioned, when you were talking about “colleagues”, that any person is innocent until he is so proven by a Court of Law. Do you not think that is an extension of that thinking that brings about bail, because the person is innocent until he is found guilty by a Court of Law and he is innocent even if he is arrested and he has the right to stay outside until his trial if he can afford to do so, because he is innocent in that sense and that is why he is granted bail? Until the Court says that, “*you ought not to be outside, come in*”, is it not an extension of the same thing that you have been talking about?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, you are right, but what I am saying is that let us look at the law, let us try to bring improvement to the laws that we have passed through this House. It has not been cast in stone. Our challenge as lawmakers is that we have seen the problem, the

problem has been identified and it is for the responsible Ministries to bring in Amendments so that we can close those loopholes. That is the point I am trying to make.

Coming back to the third point, the question of prevention of crime. I believe the detection and prevention of crime is where we as the community come in. We should not allow our Police Officers to work in isolation, we as communities should be partners in supporting the Police officers to be able to do their job. If we know that there is somebody who has committed crime and we allow that person to get away with it ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am becoming puzzled. We are back at the General Debate and that is because people are making these interjections because the Honourable Members are not asking clarity from the Honourable Minister, they are just speaking in general. I think if the Chair allows that, we are

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going to be here the whole night. Control that, if the person is speaking in general, stop the person and then the next person can ask questions and then the Minister can respond.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, my question is that we need to develop a system...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, on a Point of Order. If we say that the Minister did well, all of us have to agree to that. Sometimes bail is not acceptable and I have to congratulate the Minister concerned because he acted fairly. I do not want someone to say that we are wasting time, we do not want bail at all, to kill a person and the next morning you are out and the family of the one killed are not happy to see this person on the street. Eventually they are going to take the law into their own hands.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, to prevent this we need to intensify information-sharing and training within the communities and the Police so that they can assist one another. It is the best way to address the issue of preventing crime and to educate our people not to buy stolen goods.

Lastly, Honourable Minister, on page 4 of your motivation where you have highlighted the statistics, I just want to say that the Ministry should not be discouraged by these statistics and I think you have addressed that issue on page 6 in the last programme where you mentioned that economic conditions are becoming harder and the FIFA World Cup and the African Cup of Nations in Angola will also contribute....(Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time up. Honourable Ithana.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06
HON IIVULA-ITHANA

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. The Ministry of Safety and Security and that of Justice are two blades of the same scissors and therefore, I appreciate every effort that this Ministry is making in equipping the Police Force to do its work. It is complementary to what we do at Justice.

Comrade Chairman, I would just like to mention a few things, because for some time we have been hammering the Police, particularly those who are guarding premises of the Government and Ministers' home for the manner in which they used to conduct themselves. I must congratulate the police that at least those Officers nowadays are up to the task. They dress like Police Officers, they act like Police Officers. Keep it up.

The other issue I would like to mention is the fact that for too long our Police have been turning cheeks to the criminals. This society must take note that by touching a Police Officer, you are looking for trouble. Police officers are entities that are empowered to enforce law and order and for them to be beaten around by the criminals is really degenerating this society. Therefore, what happened in Independence Avenue the other day is taken note of with appreciation.

Lastly, Regions have what is called regional commanders and we follow the reports as to how they perform and sometimes we wonder whether it is the ineptness of the NBC or it is something coming from the Police. Only certain Regions are covered. You hear that this regional commander has done this or the other and you ask yourself, "*does Caprivi have a regional commander, why do we not hear about what they do there?*" Can it be arranged that the public should at least regularly hear what each regional commander is doing? Otherwise we are getting the impression that either there is favouritism for certain persons to be covered more than others or other commanders are not doing anything. Why are they not covered? Generally I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister of Justice.
Honourable Dr Amweelo.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 06
HON DR AMWEELO / HON DE WAAL

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am also rising to support Vote 06 of the Police. Nowadays when you pick up the phone and call the Police, they will respond immediately, which is very good. My humble request to the Minister is that in order to do a more fantastic job, especially in the area of Onankali, Okatope, those Police Officers and women covering areas such as Elambo, Onyuulaye, Epembe and surrounding areas need to be equipped with communication facilities. That is my only humble request to the Minister.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I was saying that I do not have a problem with those people who steal a tyre and a loaf of bread. Our problem is organised crime and I am talking about serious organised crime, because what happened over this last Christmas and January, those were not people that were hungry. Those are people who have made crime their business and let me tell you, they are stinking rich. If we find the bosses one day, you will see how rich they are. The problem at the moment is that the Police are not successful in catching the bosses, we are only catching the workers and those are the workers that were shot in Independence Avenue.

Honourable Chairperson, let me not continue, I just want to make two more comments. The first one is that we have adopted in this House the Stock Theft Act. If somebody steals a goat, the punishment is very, very serious. You will remember what the penalties were. Why can we not do the same for housebreaking and robberies? I mean, I would rather have somebody stealing my goat on the farm than raping my daughter in Kaiser Street or in some other street. The penalty for the goat is very high, but for robbery and housebreaking the guys get away with one or two years.

My request to the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security and to the Minister of Justice is that please, can the two of you not come together

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HON RIRUAKO

and sort out this problem as far as the law is concerned, so that people are not caught tonight and released tomorrow morning. That is the first problem.

Secondly, if somebody is found guilty of housebreaking or robbery, give him the same sentence as is given to the people stealing goats. That is my request to the Honourable Minister.

I would humbly request the Honourable Chairperson of the Committee responsible for Police to call a meeting in camera between the Members of Parliament and the management of the Police Force, so that we can listen to the management of the Police Force about their problems, so that we can try and help them as far as we can, and do not invite only the Members of your Committee, invite all the Members of Parliament and make it in camera, no press, so that we can talk openly to them and find out from their side what are their problems, why are these things going on.

Honourable Chairperson, in conclusion, let us not say because there are potholes in Malawi, we will allow potholes in Namibia. People will tell you prevention is better than cure. Let us prevent this thing from getting more serious than it already is. Let us kill it in the bud where it is now. Do not let this thing grow up, because once it is big and you try to kill it, the thing will kill you. Let us kill it while it is still small. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Let us face it, nobody but nobody accuses the Minister of Police, but if you stand here, I can argue with you. This gentleman proved himself that he is capable to do the job. There is no doubt about that. A person who is doing a good job must not be criticised.

While we are talking about the issue, some of them are joking and if this criminal offends you, you would like the public to listen to you. We are

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HON DR N IYAMBO

talking about dangerous issues and the people expect the gentleman to be one of those people who can prove themselves as being capable. That is not fair.

Honourable Chairperson, someone, somewhere said “*Epango*”, I am sorry to say I did not leave Epango and I communicate with the Police. One of them here mentioned that, but I do not behave like you, just talking and talking. The Police know about it, I do not even talk about that. We must also learn how to protect others. If you are well protected, let other people be protected like you. We cannot keep on joking, this is a House of logic, this is a House of joy. From now onwards we have to give firm support to the Minister concerned, without any joking. There is no joke to being killed. That is not the way how to do it, let us prevent that to happen.

We are the House of logic, not the House of entertainment. We must know it as such. I thank you, Minister concerned and we can say anything about you sometimes, but it does not help, you have proved yourself to everybody and it is up to them to do their job properly. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: In the absence of any other speaker, I revert the Floor to the Minister of Safety and Security.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I had a feeling that this is our Vote, because all the Colleagues who have spoken and those who did not speak, I am sure they are supporting this Vote.

Honourable Chairperson, I wanted to speak a long time but unfortunately I have tonsillitis, so I only want to promise you, Honourable Members, that all the things that you have commented on and those that you have asked will be attended to. Suffice, therefore, for me to thank you in general terms and I am going to do exactly what you had asked for. I have

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competent staff, men and women in uniform and they are doing their best and they will not let the Nation down. With your support we will do what is expected of us.

I do not know if you want me to touch on a few of the things. If not, Honourable Members, I want to thank you very sincerely.

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

Vote 17 – “REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT”, N\$796,976,000 put for Introduction.

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

The world finds itself in one of the most difficult and uncertain times in living memory. An economic recession appears to be at our doorsteps, the Governor of the Bank of Namibia warned last week.

As we introduce our Budget Votes in this august House for consideration, discussion and approval, the instability in financial markets and commodity prices continue to put enormous pressure on economies throughout the world. Here at home, some of the sectors like diamond mining and tourism have not been spared from the global economic downturn.

It is for this reason that my Ministry is happy to associate itself with congratulations already extended to Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and members of her team for having again been able to put forward a Budget that attempts to deal with this most unfavourable set of

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circumstances, especially the protection of those who are most vulnerable in our country.

Comrade Chairperson, the total allocation for my Ministry in this Financial Year is N\$796,976,000.00. This is an increase of 34%. This Budget will be divided amongst the six programmes in the Ministry:

- **Programme 1:** Infrastructure Development and Housing Delivery: N\$343,564,000;
- **Programme 2:** Regional and Local Government: N\$355,201,000;
- **Programme 3:** Traditional Authorities Coordination: N\$37,699,000;
- **Programme 4:** Decentralisation: N\$7,743,000;
- **Programme 5:** Rural Development: N\$19,566,000;
- **Programme 6:** Regional Development Equity Trust Fund: N\$33,202,554.

PROGRAMME ONE:
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING
DELIVERY,

HOUSING DELIVERY

A house is perhaps the most important and most lasting investment an individual can make in the course of his/her working life. At the same time, housing development becomes a major constituent element of urban planning and infrastructural development by ensuring that all houses, whether in the low income or higher income areas, are fairly well serviced in terms of infrastructural facilities of water, electricity, roads, waste management and social amenities such as schools, health centres, recreational facilities and so on. Mindful of its role and responsibilities in this critical area, the Government has continued to invest significantly in the housing sector since Independence.

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Housing remains one of the principal sectors that have great potential to revitalize economic growth of a country. However, lack of access to finance and land, inadequate building technology and infrastructure are some of the constraints encountered by the housing sector.

In order to address this, a Ministerial Strategic Plan was formulated during the reporting 2008/2009 Financial Year to identify and formulate strategies that will work towards the realization of NDP3, MDG's and VISION 2030.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, I wish to put it on record that the Government of the Republic of Namibia remains more committed to the provision of affordable shelter for low income groups.

In the case of Build Together Programme (BTP), a total number of 1,176 houses were built under its three sub-programmes namely Urban/Rural Housing Loans, Single Quarters Transformation and Social Housing in all 12 Regions with the exception of the Kavango Region. Kavango did not have any available serviced plots, which is one of the requirements for one to qualify for a housing loan. It is also necessary to complete the construction of houses funded during 2007/2008 Financial Year which were not started on time.

Training workshops were conducted for both Regional Councils and Local Authorities political office bearers and officials to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the Build-Together Programmes in particular and the housing sector in general. During the same period an evaluation of the Build Together Programme was carried and its findings have been incorporated in the reviewed housing policy, which will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and approval soon. The training process will continue during the next Financial Year with the aim to address shortcomings identified in the evaluation report.

The Ministry continues to annually fund the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN). During 2008/2009 Financial Year, N\$1 million were donated to the Shack Dwellers Federation and 50 houses were constructed. All indications are that with more funding from the state and

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development partners, the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia will be in a position to provide more houses for its members and to boost economic activities in the construction industry.

As previously stated, a lack of building technology is one of the aspects that impede the construction process. To address this shortcoming, the Ministry has established a Habitat Research and Development Centre (HRDC). The objective of the Centre is to carry out research on alternative building techniques and to develop local building materials.

During 2008/2009, two conference halls and four workshops were constructed. A laboratory to test the alternative local building materials must still be built, thus, funding to the amount of N\$4 million is required for the 2009/2010 Financial Year for both operational and building purposes.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, we must remind ourselves that physical planning, surveying and construction of municipal services are important ingredients for ensuring efficient housing delivery. As such, Divundu proper, Okalongo proper, Kalkrand, Aranos Extension 4, Gochas and Bethanie were surveyed during 2008/2009, while the surveying of Koës, Aroab, Leonardville, Aranos Extension 5, Okalongo Extension 1 and Fransfontein will be carried out during 2009/2010. The Ministry is working hard to ensure that Otjinene will be proclaimed as soon as practically possible.

As reported last year, I wish to reiterate that water and sanitation are essential housing related components. The latest study on these two aspects revealed that sanitation is lagging behind both in urban and in rural areas. A programme to replace the bucket system throughout Namibia is already underway in Stampriet, Kalkrand, Aroab and Kamanjab.

In order to effectively and efficiently implement the Cabinet's directives on the provision of basic sanitation in rural areas and to further eradicate

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the bucket system, the Ministry will require a Budget of N\$264,212,000 on top of the Ministry's ceiling of N\$162,462,000 as received from the Ministry of Finance.

The infrastructure development is an ongoing process and the construction of services such as water, sewerage and roads networks is underway in the following areas:

- Bukalo, Henties Bay, Rehoboth, Aussenkehr, Divundu, Katima Mulilo, Nkurenkuru, Otjinene, Otuzemba in Opuwo and Omuthiyagwiipundi.

The Ministry will further continue to:

- Provide professional and technical support and advice to sub-national Governments on the appointment of consultants and contractors;
- Carry out inspection for quality control; and
- Monitor and conduct on-the-job-training.

The Ministry wish to report that the Oshikoto Regional Headquarter office complex has been completed. Eleven Constituency Offices are still under construction and are expected to be completed in the near future.

By the end of 2009, 105 out of 107 Constituency Offices throughout Namibia will be completed. The remaining 2 offices in Kavango and Omusati will be constructed during the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

PROGRAMME TWO:
REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION
AND DEVELOPMENT

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, in our concerted efforts to fulfil the Ministry's mandate and to contribute to the attainment of the objectives of NDP3 and Vision 2030, the Programme Regional and Local Government continues to facilitate the establishment and development of

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effective and sustainable Regional and Local Government and Traditional Authorities that bring Government closer to the people and that is capable of delivering services to the satisfaction of all our communities.

The following are the main strategic goals for the programme:

- To complete the creation of enabling, regulatory and legal environment in which all sub-national levels of Government will be able to maximize their governing, development and service delivery mandates.
- To improve the delivery capacity of Regional, Local and Traditional Authorities and improve client-service relationship and commitment to greater levels.

In achieving the strategic goals mentioned above, the activities under programme 2 include the proclamation of new Local Authorities. The Proclamation of new Local Authorities is essential in order to reduce inequalities in access to municipal services throughout the country. It remains a very important function of the Ministry. This is particularly aimed at the fulfilment of the Cabinet requirement to have a second Local Authority in those Regions where there is only one Local Authority, like in the Caprivi Region.

Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region has been proclaimed as a Town. Elections for the new Local Authority Council for Omuthiya took place in September 2008 and a functional Council is now in place.

There have been delays in the proclamation of Otjinene in the Omaheke Region as a Local Authority due to technical matters, such as the re-surveying of the township and provision of servitudes for NamWater and Telecom Namibia. It is however, envisaged that this proclamation process will be finalized soon.

I can report that the proclamation of Oranjemund in the Karas Region and Divundu in the the Kavango Region are progressing well. The planning and surveying of Oranjemund Township have been finalised and the

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Ministry envisages finalising the proclamation of the towns in the near future.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, the second activity under this programme is the enhancement of the Local Government administration and the regional and local economy.

The majority of our Local Authorities, especially Village Councils and some Towns and Part 2 Municipalities are still faced with the problem of inadequate financial resources, primarily due to widespread poverty, high unemployment levels, and low economic growth. In this regard, the Ministry continues to implement an Intervention Plan adopted by Cabinet in 2007, which is aimed at broadening the revenue base and generation capacity, efficient management of resources, revamping of dilapidated and/or aging municipal service infrastructure, and capacity building through training. Through this intervention plan, the following has already been achieved:

- Professional staff such as Accountants and Artisan have been recruited and deployed at 11 Village Councils;
- Ageing vehicle fleets have been replaced with new ones;
- Water and electricity supply infrastructure were repaired or replaced;
- Outstanding third party accounts were settled;
- The Ministry is paying for overhead charges by NamPower on a monthly basis on behalf of some Village Councils; and
- There is continuous capacity building of staff through training.

The Local and Regional Economic Development (LRED) White Paper for Namibia, which was formulated under my Ministry's sector goals under the NDP2 has now been finalised. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is assisting the Ministry with the implementation of

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the White Paper as part of the Namibia/Germany bilateral Programme Partnership for Economic Growth (PEG).

The Ministry has made progress under this programme. A significant number of staff members responsible for Local Economic Development in Local Authorities as well as staff from this Ministry have been trained in Local Economic Development concepts and tools. There are many activities planned to scale up the project and the Steering Committee will implement a prototype project in one Local Authority to demonstrate the application of the concepts and tools I mentioned above.

The Reform of the Local Authority Sector remains a priority of the Ministry. In this respect, we have approached the Commonwealth Secretariat for assistance on the best options of reform. A Consultant is now in the process of being appointed by the Commonwealth Secretariat to assist in this process.

The implementation of the Fire Brigade Services Act of 2006 is another challenge facing this Ministry, especially in terms of the huge financial resources required to implement it. The 2009/2010 Financial Year is the target to implement the said Act, with the following objectives:

- Improve the capacity of Local Authorities to deal with and prevent fires and other emergencies, thereby protecting lives and reducing loss of or damages to property,
- Increase investors' confidence to invest in our Local Authorities' areas.

During the year under review, the Ministry provided an amount of N\$500 000 to the Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) in order to assist it in capacity building and advocating initiatives to the benefit of local authorities in the country.

ENHANCEMENT OF REGIONAL COUNCILS'
ADMINISTRATION:

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This Ministry continues to play a crucial role in capacitating Regional Councils to perform their mandates through training of both the elected leaders and administrative staff. These capacity building interventions focuses on, among others, financial management, local and regional economic development, human resources management, legal framework and leadership.

The implementation of the consolidated structures of Regional Councils is progressing very well and is performing to the satisfaction of the Ministry. Under the consolidated structure, skilled personnel in the field of engineering, financial management, human resources management and information and communication technology are being recruited for all Regional Councils. The provision of services at declared Settlement Areas has also improved as a result of the recruitment of essential staff that is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the settlement areas.

PROGRAMME THREE:
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES COORDINATION

COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, the role of Traditional Leaders in overseeing and monitoring Government service has proven to be very crucial. Most of the Honourable Members might have observed over the years with much appreciation, the role played by Traditional Leaders in ensuring broader community participation around critical challenges facing the Government such as HIV/AIDS and disaster management emergencies. For now, it is clear that the service delivery system of Government can be enhanced through contributions and support from Traditional Authorities.

In recognition of this important role, the Ministry will continue to render Secretariat services to the Council of Traditional Leaders. The Council meets once a year to discuss issues affecting traditional communities and to interact with national leaders. The Council successfully held its Annual Meeting in November 2008. With the recognition of five more Traditional Authorities in the 2008/2009 Financial Year, the number of Council

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members has increased from 84 to 94. More funds will be required to fund the Annual Meeting of the Council of Traditional Leaders in 2009/2010.

ALLOWANCES AND FUNDING OF TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES' OPERATIONS:

The Ministry gives monthly allowances to the 47 recognised Traditional Authorities. Fourteen individuals per Traditional Authority receive monthly allowances.

During the 2009/2010 Financial Year all 47 secretaries from the recognised Traditional Authorities will be trained in office administration and traditional leaders from the newly recognised Traditional Authorities will be trained on the provisions of the Traditional Authorities Act and other relevant laws. Funds are required to fund these training interventions.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION AND TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES' INVESTIGATIONS:

During the year under review, the following applications for recognition were approved:

- Kakurukouje Traditional Authority in Kunene Region
- OvaHerero Traditional Authority in Omaheke Region

The applications for the recognition for Mureti and Hoveka Royal Houses have been referred to the Council of Traditional Leaders for investigation.

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES' REFORM:

In trying to achieve the Traditional Authorities reform, I wish to point out that the unending applications for recognition and fragmentation of traditional communities pose a great challenge to the Government. The following reasons necessitate the need to reform the sector:

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- There is a need to introduce mechanisms that will minimise further recognition of new traditional communities, thereby minimising further fragmentation of Namibian communities;
- The bloated size of the Council makes it increasingly difficult to hold regular meetings;

For this purpose a Reform Committee has been established to spearhead the reform process.

PROGRAMME FOUR:
DECENTRALISATION COORDINATION

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, decentralisation is a Government reform which was adopted by our SWAPO led Government. Some of the Honourable Members may recall that even before Independence, “*the 1986 SWAPO Blueprint on Governance in Namibia After Independence*” launched the concept of decentralisation as a means to achieve local democracy and participation at the grassroots level in Government affairs.

In a unitary state like Namibia, the decentralisation principle implies a new division of roles and responsibilities between central Government and sub-national Governments. Overall national legislation, policies and priorities as set out in Vision 2030 and national development plans will continue to provide the framework within which sub-national Governments’ planning and priorities must take place.

All citizens of Namibia should have vested interest in the successful implementation of this noble reform.

Here I wish to share with the Honourable Members some of the achievements during the past Financial Year:

First of all, my Ministry has identified the importance of political mobilisation behind the implementation process. To that end, I have already initiated a number of meetings at which we, among other things,

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discuss the status with respect to preparatory work, possible assistance from my Ministry and action plans on the way forward. So far, I have held meetings with the Minister of Works and Transport, the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the Minister of Mines and Energy, the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, the Minister of Youth, National Service, Culture and Sport, the Minister of Health and Social Services, and the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.

Secondly, my Ministry has been working with Line Ministries to prepare them for the delegation of identified functions. Substantial progress has been made to ensure the readiness of Line Ministries to delegate functions. The functions of maintenance and primary and secondary education have been delegated to the 13 Regional Councils with effect from the 1 April 2009. The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has indicated their readiness to delegate identified and agreed functions during this Financial Year.

My Ministry has also launched a country wide public participation campaign with the aim of explaining to institutional stakeholders, NGOs and the public at large what the benefits of decentralisation are, what the roles of the Regional Councils are and how we all can contribute to its successful implementation.

My Ministry has been continuously building Regional Councils and Local Authorities' management capacity in terms of financial management, assets management, human resources management, strategic planning, operational planning and performance management, and implementation of new integrated planning, budgeting and reporting procedures to accommodate both the phases of delegation and devolution. As part of our capacity building efforts for Councillors, we have finalised and rolled out the Councillors Booklet, which is aimed at helping them understand their powers and responsibilities.

The fifth achievement addresses the challenge of office accommodation in view of decentralisation. The Ministry concluded a study on office needs, which will be the basis for soliciting funds for the construction of Regional Government offices for the coming Financial Years.

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The sixth achievement deals with fiscal decentralisation and the development of an inter-governmental transfer system.

The achievements made would not have been fulfilled without the technical and financial support of our development partners, mainly the Finnish and French support to decentralisation. For that development support, we are indeed very grateful.

During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, the following programmes and activities are intended:

- Continued support to Line Ministries to develop and implement their Decentralisation Action Plans;
- Continued capacity building and support to Regional Councils and Local Authorities to maintain a state of readiness for decentralisation and improve their performance;
- Finalising of the draft policy on Inter-governmental transfer system and formulae for all the applicable grants;
- Finalising of Amendments to main pieces of legislation related to decentralisation;
- Building of professional competence within Line Ministries. Staff must be willing and capacitated to play new roles in the delegation and devolution process. They must also be prepared to accept reorganisation of their structures to align these with the new role they are expected to perform; and
- Strengthening of the functioning of Regional Development Coordinating Committees and Constituency Development Committees;

May I conclude my remarks under this programme by reiterating that decentralisation has the potential to be a powerful means to contribute to empowerment of the grassroots in development planning, and to achieve

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the overall objectives as set out in Vision 2030 and the National Development Plan.

PROGRAMME FIVE:
RURAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Ministry has embarked on the process of realigning the current rural development focus. The restructuring process of Rural Development has been completed and approved by the Public Service Commission Secretariat, with the key result or focus areas being Rural Industrialisation, Natural Resource Management, Social Infrastructure Development, Food Security, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Statistics and Research.

The process of re-focusing the rural development approach in order to address the cross-sectoral, multi-faced and holistic nature of rural development, in line with the Ministry's coordination mandate, has been addressed through the creation of additional relevant divisions and units to implement the identified activities.

The institutional framework for the rural development function and staff compliment has also been agreed upon with the Public Service Commission Secretariat.

The Ministry, in conjunction with the National Planning Commission, is also currently busy with the formulation of the Rural Development Policy. The consulting team, which is assisting the Ministry in the formulation of the policy, has already been appointed. Therefore, it is expected that the draft will be ready before the end of June 2009 for consideration by Cabinet.

CURRENT SUB-PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT ARE:

- Food and Cash For Work;
- Food Security and Nutrition - Empowerment of the San Community; for Household Food Security; and
- Upgrading of Rural Development Centres.

FOOD AND CASH FOR WORK PROGRAMME:

During the period under review, Food and Cash for Work Programme was implemented across the country, covering productive activities such as feeder roads, water pipeline digging, construction of teachers houses and class rooms, earth dams, Construction of Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine (VIP) toilets, community halls , clinics, etc.

The rural people, in particular, able-bodied people participated in the programme by providing labour, thus giving effect to the philosophy of participatory democracy and grassroots participation in mainstream economic development activities.

The programme components are:

- Purchase food and non-food items or materials
- Warehouse rentals and security guards
- Training and short-term consultancies to capacitate the beneficiaries.

All 13 Regions will benefit from the programme.

It is important to note that the programmes do not intend nor are they envisaged to provide cash grants to the beneficiaries. Instead, the programmes pay a wage to beneficiaries for providing labour input and

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make building materials, means of production, training and supervision available.

The programme funding is to cover various expenses for the materials and equipment for the projects and various sectoral and regional training and capacity building, as well as consultative workshops and meetings.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: EMPOWERMENT OF THE
SAN COMMUNITY FOR HOUSEHOLD**

FOOD SECURITY:

The objective of this programme is to mobilise the San community members to engage in productive activities, with the aim of improving the food production potential of resettled San communities through their participation in community-based self-help projects.

The project focuses on developing an integrated farming system to improve the quality of the household food consumption, through the introduction of diversified crop production and livestock development.

**PROJECTS FINALISED/IMPLEMENTED DURING THE REVIEW
PERIOD:**

- The community gardens at Chetto, Omega III and Bagani have been fenced and solar water pumps were installed;
- A borehole and the fencing of the community garden at Oshanashiwa in the Ohangwena Region have been completed;
- A San bread-making project (bakery) at Oshivelo in Oshikoto Region has been completed and is providing bread to San children at subsidized prices and selling to other community members;
- Construction of low-cost houses for San households at Okatuuo in the Omaheke Region has been completed and dwellings handed over to

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the beneficiary households by the Right Honourable Deputy Prime Minister;

- Currently, community revolving small livestock projects are ongoing at Tsumkwe, Bagani, Chetto and Omega III through the Otjozondjupa, Kavango and Caprivi Regional Councils;
- A Craft kiosk was established at Omega III to sell San souvenirs, taking advantage of the tourists using the road;
- A kindergarten has been built at Chetto for the San community children.

OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION:

- The 13 Region Specific Action Plans for Food Security and Nutrition, which addresses cross-cutting issues of food security and poverty, have been edited, printed and launched in December 2008;
- The National Food Security and Nutrition Assessment Report for 2005 was produced and launched in December 2008;
- The Status of Food Insecurity in Namibia report for 2005 was produced and launched in December 2008;
- All the identified Regions inhabited by the San communities are to benefit from the ‘Empowerment of the San Community for Household Food security’ project. The San community programme has been transferred to the Office of the Prime Minister as from 1 March 2009.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES:

The Ministry is currently developing the capacity of the three Rural Development Centres at Ben-Hur/Tsjaka, Ongwediva and Okashana, which have been outsourced to local Non-Governmental Organisations.

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These centres provide the rural small farmers with appropriate technologies and skills that are relevant to their profession.

CHALLENGES FACED:

- There is a lack of office accommodation for the additional staff to be recruited;
- There is insufficient funding for regional community-based self-help projects;
- New upcoming black empowerment businesses were awarded tenders for the Food-for-Work Programme, but are lacking the capacity to supply materials to regional projects;
- There is a lack of institutional and human capacity at regional level; and
- There is a need to engage more able-bodied people in the Food and Cash for Work projects, who are currently receiving food aid through the Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme.

PROGRAMME SIX:
TRUST FUND FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EQUITY
PROVISION

The Regional Development Equity Trust Fund was established by the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision Act (Act No. 22 of 2000). It is managed by the Board of Trustees who are appointed by the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. The beneficiaries of the fund are Regional Councils and Local Authorities.

During the period under review, the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision implemented three major projects for upgrading of the sewerage networks in Karibib, Ruacana and Rundu. The Ruacana project is completed while the Karibib and Rundu projects are in the final

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stages of the project circle. A detailed list of activities undertaken by the Fund will be circulated.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, in conclusion, allow me to express a special word of thanks to all our local and international development partners involved in Regional and Local Government, housing delivery, decentralisation and rural development sectors.

A word of thanks also goes to the officials of my Ministry for their continued dedication and commitment in the fulfilment of the Ministry's mandate.

It is with honour and great humility that I now request this august House to support and approve the total Budget of N\$796,976,000.

Vote 10 – “EDUCATION”, N\$5,374,871,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I have the honour to motivate the budgetary allocation to Vote 10, Ministry of Education for the 2009/2010 Financial Year as well giving a brief account of the previous Financial Year's allocation.

The Ministry of Education's theme for this year is – ***“Planning for a Knowledge-based Society”***. By a knowledge-based society is meant:

“A society characterised by a high level of information intensity in the everyday life of its citizens, in most organisations and workplaces by the use of common or compatible technology for a wide personal, social, educational, and business activities and by the ability to transmit, receive and exchange data rapidly between places irrespective of distance: - The IBM Community Development Foundation, 1997.”

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Owing to this, the Namibian Education System has been undergoing major educational reforms, more accelerated since 2006 with the adoption of Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP). The SWAPO Party Government's commitment towards ensuring high quality education and training outcomes cannot be questioned by anybody in this Honourable House. It is our Ministry's resolve to ensure that we build a strong foundation that would substantially contribute towards redressing Namibia's developmental challenges and prepare our citizens towards the challenges of the future and thereby enabling them to meet the overall developmental goals as set out in Vision 2030.

Further, it is important to stress that the National Development Plan 3 (NDP3) provides the frame within which our education and training sector is juxtaposed.

The Education Management Information System (EMIS) Report of 2008 captures the fact that the Vote that I am about to motivate will affect the present and future of more than 577,290 learners with 407 446 in Primary; 163,879 in Secondary and 5,965 in Special Schools. More than 20,830 teachers are employed at the 1,637 State and State-aided schools. More than a quarter of our population are under this Ministry.

The Ministry of Education, being the biggest Ministry of the Government, is currently employing an additional 16,467 people.

We in the Education and Training Sector are fully cognisant of the current financial crunch sweeping across the globe, and Namibia is not an exception. We are also fully aware of the impact of the current financial crisis on our economy and how it will eventually impact on our Government revenue.

The total Operational and Development Budget allocated to Vote 10 amounts to N\$5,374,871,000 for the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Within the current allocation of N\$5.3 billion for 2009/2010 Financial Year, the Operational Budget of the Ministry increased by 4% from 4.5 billion in 2008/2009 to N\$4.9 billion in 2009/2010. The Operational

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Budget represents a 91.2% of the total allocation to the education and training sector. The Development Budget for 2009/2010 amounts to N\$313.9 million which is about 5.8% of the total allocation and the Development Partners contribution amounts to N\$156.8 million, which is about 3% of the total allocation. The latter does not include the contribution of our Development Partners outside State Revenue Fund, which amounts to N\$234.7 million. The Ministry of Education acknowledges and is grateful for the contribution of the various Development Partners and individual Namibian citizens.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, before I motivate for Vote 10 allow me to sincerely thank the SWAPO Party Government for making Education a priority above priorities and for His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, for entrusting me and my Deputy with the responsibility to be the ones at the helm of this large and difficult, but important portfolio. In the same vein and with the sincerest of my gratitude, allow me to thank my Colleague, the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for allocating to the Ministry of Education the largest chunk of the National Budget. I thank you, my former student and I am happy to say, no one in this august House dare even to imagine that they could have produced a better Budget than the one you have tabled, motivated and defended and I thank you.

I shall first briefly outline our achievements and challenges over the past Financial Year. During the past 2008/2009 Financial Year, the allocation to the education and training sector amounted to N\$4.7 billion, which was the biggest allocation of the Government expenditure; representing 21.4% of the total Government expenditure.

An additional N\$340 million to cater for programme expansion and to accommodate Grade 10 learners who needed to repeat was included therein. The funds allocated for this purpose were utilised to benefit 16,740 learners. In a nutshell, the additional funds have enabled the Ministry to alleviate the problem as follows:

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- 7,195 learners were re-admitted into the formal system across the country to repeat Grade 10 as full time candidates.
- 8,841 learners were enrolled at the Namibia College of Open Learning (NAMCOL). The additional financial resources were made available, and as a result NAMCOL was able to increase its contact hours per subject from 2 hours to 5 hours a week with a daily Radio Programme run by the College, supplementing the face-to-face contact sessions.
- 704 trainees were enrolled in vocational training institutions that include Community Skills Development Centres (COSDECs) to undergo a 9 months skills-based certificate training programme.
- The Ministry of Education opened up two new Vocational Training Centres under the auspices of the Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT), one in Tsumeb and another one in Keetmanshoop.
- From the additional N\$340 million, an amount of N\$190 million was set aside to provide physical facilities in all Regions. More than 400 classrooms were built across the Regions. All regional education offices worked together with their respective Regional Councils to ensure a speedy implementation of construction projects of additional classrooms.
- Six new schools were built.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I shall now move to the second part of my task, that of motivating the allocation to Vote 10 for the 2009/2010 Financial Year, and as outlined in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2009/2010 – 2011/2012 according to ETSIP. The detailed activities under each sub-programme are outlined in the MTEF document availed to all members of the House.

GENERAL EDUCATION:

Allocation to General Education sub-programme is the biggest with an amount of N\$4.1 billion among all of our sub-programmes. This amount represents 77.4% of the total allocation. This is a 4.6% decrease from the 82% allocated to it in the previous Financial Year.

General Education caters for a range of ETSIP implementation and other related activities, such as the provision of Early Childhood Development (ECD), Pre-Primary Education (PPE), Primary and Secondary Education. It includes National Examinations and Assessment (NEA), National Institute for Education Development (NIED), Planning and Development (PAD) and Programme Quality Assurance (PQA).

The National School Feeding Programme is part of General Education and for 2008/2009 was provided with an additional amount of N\$8 million and altogether the N\$18.7 million fed a total of 195,221 learners. Furthermore, the number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children, including the most vulnerable groups, such as the San and Himba communities coupled with the children affected by floods, necessitated an increase in the allocation to School Feeding Programme.

During the current Financial Year the National School Feeding Programme is expanded to feed about 220,738 learners at a cost of N\$20,7 million.

The 2008 national examinations saw notable increases in the number of candidates. The number of fulltime and part-time candidates who wrote the Junior Secondary Certificate (JSC) examination at the end of Grade 10 increased with 3,4%, or 1,494 candidates from 44,206 to 45,701.

The Grade 10 results of both the fulltime and part-time candidates improved if compared to 2007 but the improvement of the part-time candidates was more significant than for the fulltime candidates. The performance of the fulltime candidates was 95,2% of the subject entries that was graded, compared to 90,2% of the subject entries for part-time candidates.

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The Ministry of Education has also been able to meet the ETSIP targets set for 2008 and improvement has been registered in English, Mathematics and Science in both grades 10 and 12.

The Pre-primary phase of education has been integrated into formal education with 200 schools having piloted these classes in 2007/2008 and 2008/2009, while a total roll-out is envisaged for 2010.

A substantial number of textbooks have been procured in the key subjects of Mathematics, Science and English across all grades, marking the ratio 1:1 at the senior secondary level and 1:3 in these subjects in grades 1 to 10.

Professional development for teachers has been provided to enable them handle the new curriculum better; and teach the new school subjects of Design and Technology; Entrepreneurship Education; Computer Practice etcetera.

A per capita funding formula has been adopted enabling the Ministry to realign its budgeting and resources allocation according to population as well as taking into account other mitigating factors such as enrolment, the poverty profile and the level of social marginalisation.

I should further inform this Honourable House that all our efforts within ETSIP are geared towards improving the quality of educational outcome at all levels nationally. In this regard we have introduced and continue to implement the National Standards in all schools.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET):

Recognising the importance of skilled labour in relation to the achievement of the goals of Vision 2030, the Vocational Education and Training Act, (Act 1 of 2008) was passed and was gazetted on the 2nd of June, 2008. The National Training Authority (NTA) was established whose underlying function would be to:

- Increase access, and

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- Improve equity and quality of our vocational education and training through engagement with business, trade unions, training providers and industry to ensure that the Namibian Vocational Education and Training system meets the current and emerging needs of industry, business and the broader community.

Under the stewardship of the Namibia Qualifications Authority the NTA has developed 57 qualifications and 501 unit standards which have been registered on the Namibia Qualifications Framework. An additional 109 unit standards are being reviewed by the NQA for registration and another 61 are in the final process of being submitted.

An amount of N\$164.7 million is allocated to Vocational Education and Training. This amount represents 3.% of the total allocation to education compared to 2.1% of the previous year. It is envisaged that this sub-programme will expand in future to enable even more school-leavers to access the job market with sufficient entry level skills or return to the formal training system. 1,295 Trainees are scheduled to come on board, bringing the total in vocational education and training institutions to 1,999 trainees. The programme is aligned with the dynamic demands of the Namibian labour market.

I, therefore, strongly urge stakeholders in Namibia's industry and business sectors to proactively take advantage of this opportunity to utilise their expertise to guide the Vocational Education and Training transformation process.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

An amount of N\$736,2 million was allocated for this sub-programme, which represents 15.3% of the total allocation to the sector. The main objective of this sub-programme includes among others, the provision of skilled professionals to meet the much needed skills in the country, enhancing the capacity of tertiary institutions, such as training of much needed skills such as teachers – of course I have to start with teachers – doctors – because I fear them – engineers – because I respect them – agriculturalists – because I need food – managers of all types because we

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need our system to be properly managed.. The sub-programme is expanding rapidly to meet the requirements of human resources needs in the country. Both institutions of Higher Learning, the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the Polytechnic of Namibia have expanded both in terms of net enrolment and infrastructure.

Enrolment at the University of Namibia has increased to 10 141 students during 2009 academic year compared to 8,362 in the previous year. At the Polytechnic of Namibia, the number of students increased from 9,410 in 2008 to 10,913 during the 2009 academic year.

During the Financial Year under review the budgetary allocation to these institutions has increased to N\$55,6 million for UNAM and N\$26,6 million for the Polytechnic of Namibia.

The construction of the Faculty of Engineering at Ongwediva commenced during the 2008/2009 Financial Year and its first intake is already on board. The first building with four lecture halls was inaugurated by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba on 17 April 2009 and the first student hostel block was inaugurated by His Excellency. Dr. Sam Nujoma, the Founding President.

This sub-programme also caters for the effective functioning of the secretariat of the National Council on Higher Education and Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Training. Among key functions for the Councils is to oversee the implementation of the funding formula for higher education institutions, quality assurance framework as well as to oversee teacher education reform programme.

The National Council of Higher Education has started with the teacher education reform process. Among the tasks of this Council is to propose the funding formula for Higher Education Institutions in the country, developing quality assurance framework. We hope to have this finalised and implemented during this Financial Year.

The Namibia Students Financial Assistant Fund has received additional funds to enhance Human Resource and Capacity Building. The number of

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loans for studies at tertiary institutions within Namibia, SADC Region and elsewhere has thus increased. The additional allocation of N\$157,513,000 to the Fund has afforded more study opportunities for needy Namibians in various fields of study, ranging from high priority to general fields. A total number of 3,562 loan awards were made during 2008 academic year in comparison to 1,311 in the previous Financial Year, which represents an increase of 36.8%. Compared to previous years, more female students benefited, which is a remarkable achievement towards equity. The distribution of the funds resulted in 1,894 female allocations, compared to 1,668 male.

An amount of N\$923 million is allocated to the Tertiary Education and Training sub-programme. This allocation represents 17.7% of the total allocation to the sector, which is an increase of 1.9% from 15.3% in the previous Financial Year. The 1.9% increase to this sub-programme is for the expansion of tertiary institutions, such as the Engineering Faculty, at the University of Namibia Northern Campus and the proposed Medical School at main campus, coupled with the expansion of Polytechnic of Namibia to meet Namibia's developmental needs in terms of provision of skilled professionals.

The sub-programme also caters for the National Commission for UNESCO. Detailed activities under this programme are illustrated in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document.

KNOWLEDGE CREATION AND INNOVATION:

In 2008, the Ministry specifically worked towards the implementation of the Research, Science and Technology Act, (Act no 23 of 2004). The overall aim of the Knowledge Creation and Innovation programme is to spearhead the development strategies for the enhancement of research, science and technology and innovation for economic development. The sub-programme was allocated an amount of N\$11,186,000.

An amount of N\$11.1 million is allocated to this sub-programme, which represents 2.1% of the total allocation to the sector. The main objective of this sub-programme is to accelerate the implementation of the Research,

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Science and Technology Act. It is aimed at facilitating the development of a national system for Science, Technology and Innovation through implementing programmes such as:

- Promotion and creating a public understanding of Science, Technology and Innovation through the National Science Technology and Engineering week;
- Develop capacity to manage and coordinate Biotechnology in Namibia;
- Develop National Indicators for Research and Development as well as Innovation Indicators;
- Manage and integrate Indigenous Knowledge systems through collection, packaging and usage of this valuable knowledge;
- Develop policies on Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Knowledge Creation and Innovation and Research and Development;
- Establish international networks to enhance Namibia's Science Technology and Innovation capacity.

INFORMATION, ADULT AND LIFELONG LEARNING:

In total, 27,460 adult learners enrolled in the three stages of National Literacy Programme in Namibia and Adult Upper Primary Education, taught by 1,670 literacy Promoters/Facilitators. There were 130 Family Literacy centres offering Family Literacy Programmes across the country (that is 10 per Region) during this period. In addition, 144 potential entrepreneurs were trained in business management skills.

In November 2008, the National Archives organised a celebration of the Hendrik Witbooi's papers inscription on the UNESCO Memory of the World list. It is the first document produced by a Namibian which is registered with UNESCO and kept by UNESCO as a document worthy of world heritage. This event was officiated on by the Right Honourable

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Prime Minister, Honourable Nahas Angula, while the keynote address was delivered by Reverend Hendrik Witbooi.

For the 2008/2009 Financial Year an initial subsidy of N\$31.6 million, constituting 65% of the cost of providing secondary education through the conventional school system, was allocated to the Namibian College of Open Learning (NAMCOL). An additional subsidy of N\$12.6 million was allocated to enable the College to intensify its learner support services for the Grade 10 repeaters.

Amongst others, the tuition hours for Grade 10 learners were increased from two hours per week per subject to five hours. Overall, a total subsidy of N\$44,285,355 was allocated to service 28,371 learners enrolled with the College during the 2008 Academic Year. Due to the NAMCOL successes, many students shall in the future be encouraged to enrol with NAMCOL.

The sub-programme is allocated an amount of N\$158 million, which represents 2.9% of the total allocation. The programme caters for the provision of National Library Services, Archives, and Adult Learning, including NAMCOL. There has been substantial increase in the allocation to improve library services and the expansion of NAMCOL to accommodate more students.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN EDUCATION:

A total Budget of 24 million was allocated for this programme. During 2008/2009, the sub-programme aimed to mainstream Information and Communication Technologies into the Education system. Highlights of this ambitious programme includes roll-out to 120 schools with secondary grades, ICDL for training of 600 teachers and providing ICT access to 3,600 teachers and 103,000 learners, of which 36% of these learners are vulnerable.

For the integration and utilisation of ICTs in education and training programme, an amount of N\$19 million has been allocated to cater for the

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activities for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. This represents a reduction of 1,26% from the previous allocation.

Whilst Namibia has played a pioneering and visionary role in Africa in the area of ICTs in Education, this sub-programme offers innovative options on affordable and sustainable access to ICTs.

In addition to a visionary ICT for Education Policy, the Namibian Government should also take the lead in committing a dedicated Budget for this programme to perform and achieve its targets.

HIV AND AIDS MANAGEMENT UNIT (HAMU):

This sub-programme aims at raising awareness and empowerment; mainstreaming HIV/AIDS; strengthening the regulatory framework; meeting the HIV/AIDS response and mitigating the social economic impact of HIV/AIDS in the education sector. The sub-programme was allocated N\$6, 4 million for this purpose, which represents 0.1% of the total allocation to the education sector. We value our teachers and we want them to live long lives.

Progress was recorded in our quest of addressing HIV/AIDS pandemic in the education sector. A total of 7,663 teachers were trained in 2008/2009 in campaigning against HIV/AIDS. 5,606 Of the total of 7,663 were further trained in providing counselling services. As a result, a total of 76,240 learners in 1,093 schools were reached by this programme. It has been substantially supported by Global Fund; USAID and UNICEF, and the Ministry of Education acknowledges this support.

Activities under this sub-programme includes awareness creation, strengthening of the regulatory framework, mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS prevention, managing of HIV and AIDS response, and meeting the needs of the Orphan and Vulnerable Children as illustrated in the MTEF document. An amount of N\$5.4 million is provided to the sub-programme aimed at effectively mitigating the social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS on our education system. The allocation represents a 0.1% of the total allocation to the sector. There is need to redress the gap created

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by the abrupt and impromptu withdrawal of the US\$18 million Global Fund assistance of Anti Retro Viral (ARV) drugs.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:

Actions to build sustainable supply of skilled labour have started with strengthening the foundation for good quality education, training and skills development. Delivery capacity will be strengthened through direct training, skills transfer, and on-the-job training of key ETSIP sub-programme management teams.

Proposal on the incentive system to attract teachers with scarce qualifications to underserved areas and retain good performers was successfully negotiated with NANTU and submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister for approval.

A total allocation of N\$66,964,160 includes the provision of administrative support services, transport, logistics, material and equipment and other auxiliary services.

In order to provide an efficient and effective transport service to the Ministry, a total number of 300 vehicles will be leased, hence the allocation of N\$31,777,527 under Vote 023 for 2009/2010.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, The N\$5.061 billion of the Operational Budget which includes the Development Partners contribution and excludes the Development Budget and is distributed as follows:

- The personnel expenditure amount to N\$3,351,030,000
- Other goods and services amount to N\$802,656,000.
- Subsidies and other transfers amount to N\$892,144,000
- Acquisition of capital expenditure (including furniture) amounts to N\$15,280,000

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- Allocation of scholarships and loans under Namibia Student Financial Assistant Fund amounts to N\$213,772,000.

The total Development Budget amounts to N\$313,761,000 for 2009/2010 and it is allocated as follows:

- N\$37.9 million is allocated for adding new classrooms, libraries, laboratories, offices, sanitation facilities.
- N\$68.5 million will be spent on the construction of new primary and secondary schools.
- N\$32.1 million will be spent on renovations of educational institutions.
- N\$14.5 million will be spent on the expansion of Vocational Education and Training institutions.
- N\$157.2 millions will be spent on capital projects for Institutions of Higher Learning (UNAM, PON, and Colleges of Education).
- N\$2.5 millions will be spent on the expansion of national libraries and adult learning centres; and
- N\$1 million will be spent on the projects of Science and Research Centres.

Honourable Members, allow me to take this opportunity to thank our Development Partners for their continued support and I urge them to keep on rendering the much needed support to see us through in our quest to build this young Nation.

The severe floods have affected our programmes especially at schools in the Northern and North Eastern Regions. Some schools had to close due to these floods. We are however prepared to clean them up, renovate them or transfer them to higher grounds.

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HON DR TJIRIANGE**

Having highlighted the achievements and challenges, the Ministry is fully aware of the public concerns on the pace of development in the education and training sector. I should however, assure the House that our Ministry is doing all it can to speedily implement ETSIP to bring about the needed improvement in the sector.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all Members of Parliament for the support and continued participation in all educational matters. It is my sincere hope that together we can rise above the challenges. We, therefore, welcome constructive criticisms that will inevitably help us rise above the challenges of education and training which are many but not insurmountable.

With this motivation, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, I in advance thank all Honourable Members for your support and eventual approval of Vote 10. I thank You

Vote 05 – “HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION” put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, first of all I would like to really congratulate the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration for having done a lot in improving the services of her Ministry to the masses. They have done well in issuing passports and other documents such as birth certificates and identity documents in a much speedier way. I also appreciate the upgrading of our passports from the handwritten ones, which are being used by the crooks, to electronic passports. Those are achievements and it is a job well done. However, I have only one question.

I think I am correct to say that when foreigners come to this country – and maybe I am known for saying these things but I am going to say them all the time – when foreigners come to this country and claim that they are

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HON BASSON

going to invest in this country, there are some conditions that they have to meet. In order to get a visa and permanent residence in this country, they must come with tangible and viable plans for investments that we can see. This has been applying to many foreigners. What surprises me, even with this policy in place, is that the Chinese come here and open *cuca* shops and bakeries. How do they convince the Ministry that this is an investment? By all standards, I do not think a *cuca* shop is an investment that would convince the Ministry to give permission to come here. Just go to Oshikango to see what I am saying. These small shops of our people have been driven out of business by these people who come and sell *vetkoekies* here from China. What kind of investment is that and how do these people get these documents? Is it a failure, is it a loophole, is it corruption, how do they get these documents? I still do not know. I am not anti-Chinese but I do not think that we can compromise on these things. I was there and many of our people were actually swallowed by these Chinese. How do we explain this, Honourable Minister? Who gives them these documents? I could understand if they maybe sneaked from a nearby country, but I am sure China is not nearby. How did they manage to come here in those numbers and where did they enter? This is the only question I have.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Minister of Veterans Affairs. Honourable Basson.

HON BASSON: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me to congratulate the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration for always trying her best to inform and update this august House on her Ministry's programmes. I have only one question.

My question is on page 8 of the Minister's motivation speech, bullet 3. Can the Minister tell us how many refugees are at Osire refugee camp and from which countries they are? I know that there are also refugees from Angola, our sister country. With great respect, I know what the Angolans

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HON DIENDA

did for us during the liberation struggle and I have great respect for our Angolan friends, but Comrade Minister, is it not now the time to start facilitating the repatriation process for the refugees from Angola to their country? We all know that there is peace and stability in Angola.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I was one of the SADC observers last year who observed the National Assembly elections in Angola and the process was peaceful, very free and transparent. Therefore, I think the Government should now start repatriating our beloved sisters and brothers of Angola to their beautiful country. I thank you and I support my Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Basson. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Allow me to congratulate the Minister for taking service to the people. We appreciate it. Yes, the birth certificates being issued at the Katutura Hospital is well done.

My first question: What proof does somebody need when applying for a passport when travelling with your own car? When I am travelling with my own car, what proof must I submit to obtain a passport? Passports are only being issued when you are travelling. You must prove that you intend travelling by means of an air ticket or bus ticket, but when I am travelling with my own car, what proof must I give that I am travelling?

Secondly, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, can people who travel frequently not use their existing passports which have expired as proof? The proof is there that this person is travelling, it is not an empty passport, Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry.

Thirdly, it takes a while for passports to be issued. Must people, therefore, wait until they decide to travel and have proof that they intend travelling to be able to get a passport, or at the end of the day when they

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HON SHIFETA**

have to travel, time is running out and they have to apply for an emergency travel document at additional cost. Your office always advise people to apply in advance to avoid disappointment.

My fourth and last question is on the computerised systems at the border posts which will save time and it is mentioned on page 15 of your speech. At which border posts and when has this been implemented or is this still something in the pipeline. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Dienda. Honourable Shifeta.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First let me say that I fully support Vote 05 and that I congratulate the Ministry with the general improvements that are service-driven.

My question is on page 12 of the Minister's speech where it is mentioned that there are a number of uncollected IDs. Time and again when criminals are caught, they are found with a bunch of IDs. How sure are we that these IDs are always kept safe so that criminals do not get access to these IDs in collusion with staff members? How sure are we that at the end of the day these IDs are not ending up in the hands of criminals who might use them for fraudulent activities? When they commit fraud, they use IDs that they get from somewhere.

Secondly, does the Ministry envisage creating a synergy between the Ministry and especially the financial service providers, so that when a person goes to a bank with an ID, wanting to commit fraud, it can be easily detected with that system? Are we envisaging such kind of a system? In this very technological world that would be vital to combat fraudulent activities, especially since some the criminals are caught with different IDs with one face on them but different names. That can be the work of some syndicate and officials, but if you have a system which

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could immediately read that the identity document is not in the system, then it would flash and it could read that a lost ID has been blacklisted, then that person can be effectively dealt with.

Those are my questions and I rest my case and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister. Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: We must be fair, this is the Government's House and we must be honest here. It is not somebody's property and I call a spade a spade. The fact is that the Chinese came here through grants and we as a Government have to think about it. Eventually after ten years they are going to outvote the whole Namibian Government. Who here is going to be safe? Even the gentleman who stood up and is walking out. There must be a limit.

Wherever you go in the north, there are cuca shops from this corner to that corner. I have said this before, they have taken over everything from the poor people. I have said that several years before and now we have to face it. We cannot afford to take care of the people who used to take care of themselves all the years. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: What about free market?

HON RIRUAKO: Free market can take place, but if a foreigner has sixteen Uumkumwes, what about the man in the corner who does not have any work at all? (Interjections). I am not here to talk about Uumkumwe, if you are a citizen of this country you are allowed to have sixteen Uumkumwes, but what about somebody from somewhere else? That is not fair. We can give away the land and everything we have because we have been taken care of by other people. Yes, read your history. That is

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what happened. How far can we go? That is my point. They came on a grant, we gave it to a portion of them, but now there must be a limit.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, if we have to run away from this country after it has been taken over, do not cry, accept what you have created. In the north we could buy from corner to corner from our own people, but what happened? It is not fair and I am sorry about that. (Interjections).

Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, I am not worried about the Angolans, they are not here in their millions like the Chinese. They are part of us whether we want it or not, but that is something else we can deal with. I am not against them, but they are too many for us. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask a question? Since they are our old friends of the liberation struggle and I did not pay anything when I was in the bush, but now that we have gained Independence, what message can you give us?

HON RIRUAKO: I have been travelling through China from corner to corner, the whole country is empty. If you can counter what I am saying, do it. The whole country is empty, they are only in the towns. From here to Oshikango there is nobody living there and you wonder why are they here? (Interjection). Do not talk after your death, before the coffin is going to be closed you have to talk and then you are six feet underneath. Let us put our heads together and find a way how to take care of this. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Time up!

HON RIRUAKO: You can say “*time up*”, that time you will pack and go. It happened in Madagascar, it happened in Fiji before they have taken

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over. They were just quiet, folded their hands. Be careful what you talk about. Do not keep on talking year after year. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I, through you, most humbly appeal to the Honourable Chief to assist the Chair in the discussion of the Committee Stage of this Vote on Home Affairs and come to the detail. What the Chief is discussing is very important, but at this stage it may not be helpful for the Committee Stage of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. If the Chief could please assist the Chair. Thank you.

HON RIRUAKO: I am not going to repeat this in the Second Reading, I hope that we will deal with this as fast as we can. Therefore, we have to mention certain things that the Minister can take note of. (Interjections). Next year we do the same thing, there must be a limit to jokes. You can joke while you are playing, but when things start getting hot, you are going to run away and those left behind are going to suffer. If you talk about this issue you have to think aloud.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time up. Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: First let me say that I wholeheartedly support Vote 05 and I will fail in my duty if I do not stand up and give you my support, because when you started, Honourable Minister, you did work very hard to register the San communities for pensions. When I was in Kavango Region I was told that there are some San people who are not registered and maybe we should look into why

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they are not registered. Maybe you can take your team there and go and check again, so that we register all of those who need to be registered.

On page 10 it is mentioned, “*strive for further reduction in the waiting period.*” The other day when I was about to go to Vienna, I discovered that my passport was about to expire, so I could not travel and I rushed there to find out whether I could not get a new passport because I needed to travel within a few days. If your passport will expire within three months or so, you cannot travel to foreign countries, it must be at least six months. Honourable Minister, that document came within a day. I was asked to bring my birth certificate and I said I do not know where it is, but they dug it out at Home Affairs, they made a copy and brought my passport within twelve hours. Congratulations, Honourable Minister.

“*Taking service closer to the people.*” It is amazing how they had these mobile vans, they arrived at Uitkoms, they arrived at other places and people were registered there, photographs taken and after ten days they came back with the IDs of everybody who was registered. Congratulations with that fantastic service.

On the question of Osire refugees, please follow up on page 18 that you are in contact with the Angolan Government to work on the repatriation of our Angolan refugees, because I think that country is now at peace. Here it is said that the Governments of Namibia and Angola are working closely together to promote voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees.

Talking about the Angolan refugees, I am rather disappointed with these people who were arrested the other day, these drug lords. These people are now using this place of ours, passing through. I know they have two restaurants here and when you go to eat something there, you find these funny looking people perhaps doing those things. I think the Angolan Government should be strict. Why do we not transfer these people to their own country so that they can be charged there? Now our prisons are full to capacity and we have now six other Angolans coming because of drugs. I do not know how long they will be there, but this thing must be discussed with the Government of Angola. We cannot continue with this and we are losing trust in our Angolan comrades who are here, because it

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seems they are just here to destroy our country. I know that these drugs would be going to Katutura if we do not arrest all of them and as brothers and sisters we cannot live under such conditions where neighbours come and try to kill our young people with the drugs. This is not your Vote, but we have to take care of this. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 05 Home Affairs and I want to stick to the principles of the Committee Stage.

Comrade Minister, border control is very important in any country. Comrade Minister, you have been in the Ministry of Labour. When we do inspections on the farms, we come across very dangerous things. A person committed a crime in Germany, a kid of fifteen, but brought to Namibia and this person enters Namibia as a refugee or a prisoner or what is the status of this person in Namibia? On page 9 we are talking about the population register and immigration management. Where are these foreigners entered, because we also have to know about them? Honestly speaking, they are there, we have all the information, the names and the farms, but I just want to find out whether this is known by the Government. We have these foreigners on farms in Namibia and they bring their own children and maybe tomorrow he is your boss, but this person committed crime in Germany and came to hide here. We have them here. Some came to Namibia while only fifteen years old. Does the Ministry which receives foreigners in this country know about this programme?

Secondly, this service provider which used to go parallel with the Ministry to provide passports, is it still in existence or is that a thing of the past? The Minister knows what I am talking about.

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Last year, Comrade Minister, I asked a question on the expiry of passports. It expires while one still has many pages not used. Can such a passport not be reactivated so that is still valid until the empty pages have been used? I really think it is waste of resources. The passport still has a lot of pages but it is just thrown away. Are we not at that level of technology that we can make use of that passport until all pages have been used? I support Vote 05.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister. Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: I also want to thank the Honourable Minister for a job well done. What the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has said is true. Here we are being told to travel even tomorrow and when we realise that our passports are about to expire, we are really getting very good service from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

My second point is on page 16, the issue of visas. Comrade Minister, I think there might be a need to now start looking into reciprocating on visas, especially with those countries who require visas. I think there is a need to start asking visas so that they can pay. We need the money and we need job creation. Does the Minister not think there is a need to start reciprocating on visas with those countries which are asking us for visas? I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank Honourable Kaiyamo. Honourable Moongo.

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HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am speaking on page 13, immigration and border control. At Oshikango the people come and go and I wonder how many of you have been there. You do not know who is going to Angola, who is coming to Namibia, who is doing *kapana*. It is a mess. The Angolan side has already established themselves, but on our side there is confusion. I feel maybe those businesses nearby should be vacated so that you create proper and efficient offices. The immigration officials are working under very difficult conditions. This is serious, there is confusion, you cannot arrest anybody there, if you shoot at one you will shoot twenty or thirty people. If somebody causes trouble there, you will kill many people.

I feel that either you should establish another gate far away from the town or vacate some businesses around there so that you create a proper office.

Lastly, we usually forget the immigration officers and nobody considers their salaries and benefits. It seems we are neglecting them. Let us improve their salaries so that they will not be corrupted by the foreigners. The situation at Oshikango cannot be tolerated. Let us either have a gate far away or cause the businesses to vacate and establish a proper Namibian immigration office.

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

HON RIRUAKO: We should have two kilometres between the border posts, that is the only way we would know whether the person is coming from Namibia or from Angola. They must be two kilometres away from the border. They cross the street to the other side, they cross the street from the other side and you do not know who is who.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Chief. Honourable Kamwi.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to support Vote 05 and, indeed, to join the Colleagues who spoke before me, especially my senior mentor, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, in commending you, your Permanent Secretary and your staff for expanding the services. We are seeing expansion of immigration officers and, indeed, the provision of birth certificates, that you are collaborating with the health sector.

However, I have a small question on page 13, number 2, immigration control and particularly the work permits. We have spoken, Honourable Minister, the health sector relies heavily on expatriates, especially doctors. We apply for the work permits which are renewable after two years. When you have this medical doctor from Kenya or elsewhere, you are still looking forward for the service and the next thing you hear he is resigning as the private sector is opening a clinic. There are several private clinics mushrooming in this country now, manned by foreign expatriate doctors. How can we control this, Comrade Minister?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister. I revert the Floor to the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will start with *Honourable Dr Tjiriange*. Thank you for your support.

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Regarding the foreigners, the Immigration Selection Board are really trying their utmost best to get good investors in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry where the applications come from to our Ministry. On the Chinese issue, I do not really want to deny that there are cuca shops, but last year and even early this year I visited Oshikango and what I have seen there is a China Town as we have it in the Northern Industrial Area with small shops selling blankets and whatever, but so far I have not seen cuca shops. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: They are there.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

However, we have approached the Governors, the Town Councillors to work together with our immigration officers to again look at this matter and report back to us.

Honourable Basson, thank you very much. Yesterday in my statement I have already given the number of refugees at Osire and their countries of origin – Angola, DRC, Burundi and Rwanda.

On the issue of the Angolans being repatriated to their countries of origin is under discussion with the Angolan Government. However, there are those who up to now do not want to go back. We are thinking of an integration programme and this programme will be discussed with their Government and the UNHCR and then we will come up with a solution.

Honourable Dienda, I did not really understand your question, because the official requirements for clients are there. You can bring your birth certificate and I do not think they want more than that. If you are travelling with your car, just mention where you are going, so that they make sure that you are leaving the country and to check whether you are going to cross into another country.

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The electronic passport is in the pipeline and it is at an advanced stage, as per my Ministerial Statement I gave last week. Presently we have the machine-readable passport. Whenever you get to immigration, they just put it through the machine and they recognise the features in that machine-readable passport and then you go. The handwritten ones came to an end because of security reasons. People are arrested whenever they try to forge those passports. Some of them are arrested at the airport or in other countries. We are also trying to get the security feature on the birth certificates. The problem is only that with children under sixteen it is difficult to have that security feature, because they are growing every day, but the technical people will advise us on what to do, so that our birth certificates can also have the security features. We have that loophole that the Namibian people can even sell their birth certificates and then a foreigner can use that birth certificate to apply for an identity document. We have confiscated some of those birth certificates used by foreigners, but luckily enough, when they are passing through the borders, they cannot speak the local Namibian languages and that is how we arrested them.

Honourable Riruako, do not panic. Since I came to that Ministry, I have never approved a Chinese application for citizenship. They are just coming with work permits and going back to their country of origin.

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, thank you very much for your usual support. I took note and we will send a team as per your request. I have already given information on the refugees, however I do agree with you because some of the refugees in Osire were employed on the surrounding farms and we are appealing to those farmers to come out and report those refugees to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration so that they either be returned or be issued with the same documents as their colleagues in Osire camp.

Honourable Ilonga, I am humbly requesting you to come and report such cases to our office, because we do not have such information. We need to follow up on that case.

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We still have those agencies, but we are trying to phase them out, because with the new electronic passports we want to interview the individual applicants. They are really causing us problems, they just bring the applications of people we do not know while we now want to be strict and interview the individuals who are applying for passports and other permits.

Machine-readable passport: We are working under an international instrument, as I elaborated last week in my Ministerial Statement. ICAO do not allow us to renew that machine-readable passport for security reasons, because they want a passport to be issued for ten years. Things may happen in those ten years, but we are trying to see how we are going to overcome that problem.

Honourable Kaiyamo, reciprocity is an acceptable foreign principle, however we always have to weigh various factors, including our own economic interest and all factors incidental thereto.

Honourable Dr Tjiriange in a follow-up question asked how the Chinese are getting resident permits. They are applying through the Immigration Selection Board, but really, the Immigration Selection Board are always reporting to my office that they are strict in giving resident permits and work permits.

Honourable Moongo, the Oshikango Border Post is under discussion between the Foreign Ministry, Safety and Security, Works and Transport, Finance and Home Affairs and Immigration. We visited that border post this year to try to find out where to establish a crossing for heavy transport and one for humans to cross the border. We are soon going to solve that problem, but it will be difficult to move the people because we will have to pay them for the existing infrastructure along the border.

Honourable Kamwi, thank you very much. The issue of the doctors and the private clinics is the same as traditional healers. We are soon going to discuss with the Ministry of Health to see how we can solve this problem together, because we thought they were approved by the Ministry of

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Health and now you are questioning the way we are doing it. Otherwise, thank you so much for your support.

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

Vote 07 – “FOREIGN AFFAIRS”, put for Discussion.

HON P MUSHELENGA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have a few questions to ask the Honourable Minister.

First let me start from the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, page 86 to 89. When one looks at the allocation on page 86 at our subscriptions to membership of international organisations, there is inconsistencies between the figures for the previous, current and next Financial Year. If I look at Item 041, Commonwealth, the estimate for last year was N\$1,5 million and this year almost half, N\$800,000. Why is there such a big difference? Are we no longer interested to provide to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Operation?

Again, when you look at the UN Master Plan, last year it was N\$1,2 million, this year it has shot up to N\$7,6 million. What led to such a high increment in the allocation?

When one looks at our contribution to the OAU, which is supposed to be AU and I think the Honourable Minister should tell the staff members to move with the times, last year we paid N\$230,000 and this year we are only going to pay N\$150,000. Is that a general deduction or is it us who are reducing our contribution and if we are reducing our contribution, are we going to end up with debts?

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When you look at the UN Regular Budget on page 87, again last year we paid N\$1,5 million, this year it is N\$100,000. Why are we reducing our contribution to the UN? Were we told that because we are a middle-income country we should reduce our contribution because of the economic crisis or are we reducing our contribution and end up having debts? I would want to know from the Honourable Minister.

On page 89, our Missions: Honourable Minister, it seems we do not have a grading policy for our Missions. Grading means you create a particular Mission on the basis of its importance, either a bilateral Mission with a very strategic function or a multilateral Mission. Why I am saying so is because if this year you travel to this Mission, you find there is a Head of Mission, a Councillor, two secretaries, next time you come there, there is no Councillor, only two secretaries. A case in point is our Mission in Vienna which is a multilateral Mission. There is only a Head of Mission and two secretaries. Why do we not start grading our Missions especially strategic bilateral Missions and multilateral Missions, so that there will be a standard, that in this particular Mission we need these types of officers, so that we do not have haphazard allocation of positions in Missions.

There are also seasonal multilateral Missions because of a particular position that country may hold in a multilateral organisation. For example, last year Cuba was chairing the Non-Aligned Movement, then it became a seasonal multilateral Mission. We need to have a standard establishment of positions in Missions.

Going to the speech of the Minister, the Minister spoke about having concluded agreements with a number of countries. It is a very important crucial issue and if you listen, you will know why I am saying it is crucial. Our record-keeping on the Ministry leaves much to be desired. We have a number of agreements that could not be traced. I am saying this because I have been conducting academic research and there are a number of agreements that Namibia has signed with other countries and they are recorded that we have signed these agreements, but if you try to retrieve these agreements, they are not there and these are important agreements.

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In 1991, the Foreign Minister Gurirab stood in this Parliament and said, “*we have signed in our first year 137 agreements.*” If one goes to Foreign Affairs less than a hundred agreements are traceable. This is very bad, because we do not have records and we may end up having repetitions of some of the agreements or we may end up defaulting on some of these agreements because we do not even have their texts. I really want the record-keeping of the agreements to be looked at.

I also see in the speech of the Honourable Minister an amount of N\$77 million which will be used for the purchase and maintenance of our diplomatic premises abroad. Honourable Minister, I was also looking at the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period and there are figures. Next time I want to be told how these figures are going to be distributed. If you are going to purchase or renovate Missions, what are these Missions, because we approve a blanket amount here and then you find that only some of the Missions are being renovated and others not, such as the Mission in Zimbabwe for example. What was happening there is very bad, Honourable Minister, you do not want to hear, residences of diplomats and even the Chancery, you do not want to know, the equipment that they need but there are no funds. Here we approve, things are fine, but the way things are allocated in the Ministry, some Missions receive enough funds for renovation and purchase of equipment, others are left out. With these few words, I rest my case. I support the Vote and ask everybody to do so.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank Honourable Mushelenga. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I support the Vote, I always feel at home when we are visiting our Missions abroad.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, page 15, Namibian Diplomatic Missions and I will read: “*They promote trade and attract foreign direct*

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investments.” Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, we are still getting our cars from South Africa and when they reach Namibia, those cars are so expensive. I would really like to know what is the possibility for our people abroad to negotiate directly with these people so that they can send the cars via Walvis Bay and not through South Africa. I do not think South Africa must remain the middleman.

Secondly, I agree with what Honourable Mushelenga was saying about these agreements that have been signed by our Executive. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask a question? Honourable Member, are you talking about the Trade Attaché under the Ministry of Trade who must negotiate on the importation of cars or what do you mean by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Minister, I mean networking. Our people at our Missions have the contacts of those people and they can cut South Africa out. We have a Diplomatic Mission in America and they can, through our Ministry of Trade and Industry, connect us with those dealers and not via South Africa anymore.

Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, we do not want to be surprised through the agreements that we were signed. Can you please inform this House about the content of those agreements that were signed and I am referring to page 8 of your speech, Agreement on Educational Matters between Namibia and Venezuela.

Thirdly, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I want to talk about family separations. I know that this is a problem in all our Ministries, that spouses are being sent abroad or from one Ministry to the other Ministry without accommodating the other spouse and that is what we call, “*and lead us not into temptation.*”

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Honourable Deputy Chairperson, my fourth question: How many tickets are available for posted staff members and their families to Namibia from the Missions annually? I thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank Honourable Dienda. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Foreign Minister, we have an agreement between us and the agreement which is in the possession of the Foreign Minister and this House is left without communication. We want to know what is going on here. The Parliamentarians do not know what is going on, the individual Ministers do not know what is going on and I hope that at some stage you will address us here in this House and tell us where we are heading to, where we are now and how we can communicate with you. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Chief. Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: Comrade Minister, last year in this House I was talking about allowances for the spouses of the Diplomats and I was told that they got something and I want to thank you for your understanding.

On page 11, the purchase of premises. Comrade Minister, I think this money is really not enough. If it is converted to Euros, it is only enough for one building.

Lastly I want to commend you on the new Mission in Berlin which is excellent. If that is the standard, Namibia will always be on the map. Thank you very much and I support the Vote.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Kaiyamo. Honourable Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I stand up to support Vote 07 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I have only one concern.

In your motivation speech Honourable Minister, you informed this House, rightly so, that Namibia is a member of different international organisations or bodies. Comrade Minister, we have been debating a Motion on unemployed qualified Namibians in this House, I want to find out whether Namibia has filled all her quotas in these international organisations and if not, whether there is a procedure whereby the public can be informed of such vacancies. To enable some of the unemployed qualified Namibians to try their luck and apply for such positions, whereby they may even get some experiences to be employed in other high positions either in the country or elsewhere. Otherwise, Comrade Minister, I support Vote 07 and I thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Chair. I am definitely rising to support the Vote. I think we must really understand that our foreign policy must be a true reflection of our national policy, how we want our country to develop and so on. We must also realise that there is no way you can have an Ambassador or a High Commissioner travelling like a king when you come from a Republic. That is just not possible. There is no way you can have all the Ambassadors living in wonderful places. Look at your hospitals, look at

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your roads, look at your schools and then you know where you stand. Therefore, we should not pretend when we are abroad.

Ambassadors are doing a lot of things, sending us agreements, letters, requests and we do not respond. Our internal system here at home is slow. In every Ministry everything is slow. By the time it gets to the most powerful Permanent Secretary, to the poor Minister, a week or two weeks have passed. These people refer it to headquarters in the national capital and if the national capital is not up to standard and it does not give guidelines, we should not expect our Embassies to do all the things without support from headquarters. You have my support and your people are doing the best job they can with the resources they have. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister of Education. Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you for the opportunity, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me thank the Honourable Members for the contributions they made and for their support.

Honourable Mushelenga has asked very pertinent questions, specifically on the contributions for membership of international multilateral organisation to which we belong. I will take one specific example why the amounts differ.

For the last few years the OAU introduced a programme to *pay according to your capacity* and paying according to your capacity brought reduction to some of the countries' payments of membership fees. It also brought an increase to some member states. In our case we were lucky enough to fall under the category of those countries whose membership fees were reduced. However, we ran into a problem of a very big outstanding

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amount that had to be paid. We approved the system of paying according to capacity, but countries have to willingly and freely declare itself ready to pay more than what others are paying. South Africa, Libya, Nigeria and others felt they can pay the outstanding amount that could not be accommodated according to that decision and pay more than others were paying in addition to their annual contributions. Of course, the system brought disparity in terms of treating all members equally. For us who are not paying that extra amount to feel safe and equally treated, should look at sharing the outstanding amount in order for us to be able to be on the same level of treatment.

Comrade Chair, with regard to the Commonwealth and the UN, I will provide information, because the answer I got here has missed the point.

Honourable Mushelenga, I fully agree with you on the grading of Missions, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has to work step-by-step on a number of issues and we believe that our operations are not really up to the standard that we would like it to be. However, coming to the placement of staff members, although we had it on the programme, we could not take it as priority number one, simply because the place that my dear sister has talked about and *Comrade Kaiyamo* has talked about, in terms of creating a conducive environment of work, we have to address those as priorities, specifically the benefits. We thought about grading, we thought about learning from other systems and increasing our Missions abroad, but at the same time reducing the staff members at those Missions and, indeed, reducing the amount of money that will be used. However, we feel that this should come after we have addressed the complaints and concerns on the benefits of the staff members that we have concluded for the time-being.

I have sent my Deputy Minister to Tanzania, they studied the system in Tanzania. I sent her to South Africa, they studied the system in South Africa. We are looking at the effective system Cuba is using. They have many Missions with just a few staff members but very, very effective and we will select from these studies which system will be beneficial to all of us.

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Record-keeping: You will recall that the other time when I came here with the ratification of an agreement we have signed, everybody was complaining that we did not know whether we have that. I went back to the Ministry and we were able to trace that. Most of the agreements, after being signed, are not kept only in the Ministry, they are sent to the Archives. If you go there, you will find them. Of course, I agree that there is a need to scrutinise our record-keeping not only at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but throughout the whole Government, because there are times when we have individual Ministries keeping some of the agreements they have signed, whereas we are supposed to have a centralised system where to keep all these agreements before they are sent to the archives.

You were talking about the maintenance of Missions and the purchasing and leasing of properties. I am sure you will realise that sometimes our Heads of Missions do not always tell the truth, because when you are drawing up a Budget, you do so based on the requirements and the needs. When you have indicated to the headquarters that you would like to upgrade your Mission or buy a Chancery, there is no way this money will be transferred to another Mission without consultation. We have started in Angola, we have completed the construction of the Chancery and we move to certain Missions to look at specifically what we should do at those Missions. Therefore, the complaints are there and sometimes when I investigate, I find out that they did not even indicate that they want to buy a Chancery. Therefore, I am happy that we are utilising these funds for the purpose they were meant.

When I go to certain Missions I look at their programmes specifically for purchasing properties and we go as far as looking at those properties before we purchase them, but then you find that they start thinking about purchasing properties after the Budget has passed and they want to purchase a property with funds that have been allocated to others for that Financial Year. Of course, it is always important that you supervise those activities.

Honourable Dienda, Trade and Industry will react on that one when it comes to their Vote. However, we should also appreciate that we are in the lucky position to have South Africa as a neighbour which has the

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capacity to manufacture these cars. I agree with you that we should endeavour to find out where we can get some of these vehicles at a reasonable price into our country. We must not forget that a few years ago we had a fight here between the decision of Government to bring in second-hand cars and those who have the monopoly to sell cars. In actual fact, that was a fight which led to some of these cars not being sold as ordered, but I agree with you that we should work on that.

The other issue you mentioned is the content of the agreements. Comrade Kawana, the Minister of Presidential Affairs, has indicated that it is not possible. Let me just explain what procedures are followed before an agreement is signed. Rest assured that no agreement in this Government is signed without following the procedure that I am going to explain.

First you work on the agreement and how you feel it should look like and I will call it a layman's draft, but then it has to go the Office of the Attorney-General. You cannot sign that agreement, even if you are in Cuba, if it has not cleared by the Office of the Attorney-General. That applies to all the agreements, including the agreement I referred to specifically that we will have diplomatic consultations at international fora. Be assured that we are always on the right side and we will not make mistakes.

On the question of **separation of spouses**, as I have said to Comrade Mushelenga, this is not true. Honestly speaking, this is not true. Spouses are not separated, you are supposed to go with your spouse, but if you decide you are going alone, then you go alone and we cannot force you. In actual fact, to prove to you that this Government is doing more on that score, we have introduced a system where those who are going with their spouses who are not employed by Government are paid an allowance. If Madam Dienda goes as an Ambassador today, then the husband will be paid an allowance and it is quite a substantive amount of money that you get. If we wanted to separate the spouses, why did we introduce a system of paying allowances? Again here our people who are involved are not telling the truth.

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I received a letter recently after introducing the spouses' allowance for those accompanying their partners. Somebody came very creatively and said this allowance should also apply to people who are leaving their spouses. I mean, things do not work like that, we encourage them to be together.

You also asked about how many air tickets they receive annually. I think the Honourable Member here has really tried to explain the situation. You know, Africans like living beyond their means and that causes us financial problems in many cases. I think Namibia is on the right track, we should learn to live within the means of what our Government can provide and we should not demand what we know we cannot afford tomorrow. There are many Governments on this continent who cannot balance their Budgets and I tell you, when they are in international meetings, they do not speak because you cannot question somebody whom you know is going to balance your Budget tomorrow. We are in a lucky position, we are one of the few who can balance our own Budget and, therefore, we can explain our position on international fora the way we feel our policy demands at home, as my cousin has said.

There are provision for these people to travel, but we are not making it a habit that people can travel up and down and that Government should pay. We are not going to do that. However, I can tell you that when they go, they are all transported, your spouse, your children and moreover, we also pay school fees for their children.

Honourable Riruako, we have reminded us of one of the important discussions that took place in this National Assembly on the genocide of 1904 and this National Assembly decided to transmit this message to the Government of Germany. I also know that a group of Parliamentarians went to Germany and they met their counterparts. From the Government's side Cabinet met on the discussions which you have referred to and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was requested to communicate the decision of the National Assembly to the German Government and we did so immediately after the decision of Cabinet.

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Of course, we think the discussions between our Parliamentarians and the German Parliamentarians should continue. It is gaining momentum. It is providing information to the German community and they understand what exactly has happened and what is the feeling of the Namibian people and the Parliamentarians and the Government. I think if we go on like that, pressure will increase within the German community to talk to their Government to address the issue. However, we are in close contact with them. They sent a response that they have received our communication and we again sent a message that it will be good if they just send us a response that would acknowledge receipt of the letter we have sent. That is how far we are and things are moving to a point where discussions could be conducted. That is where we are, Honourable Chief.

Comrade Kawana said the money is not enough. My dear brother, money is never enough but I agree with you. As I have explained last year and yesterday, the programme of acquiring properties abroad should be a long-term programme and we have agreed in the Ministry and also indicated to our Colleagues in the Ministry of Finance, which they support, that every year as we go on we will have an amount of money dedicated to the purchasing of properties abroad. This is important because at the moment we cannot afford to buy properties in some countries such as India. Leasing a property is so expensive, therefore we think we should continue with this programme from year to year and I am sure that by the time Comrade Mushelenga becomes the Foreign Minister, he will have a lot of properties abroad under the control of our Government. That is the long-term plan.

Comrade Ndaitwah asked about the Namibians employed in the multilateral organisations to which we belong, such as the UN, AU and SADC. The situation has improved since we were discussing this issue here, but I have to remind you again that it looks like our pay structures at home seem to be much better than those structures. I have talked to Colleagues who have been at the UN and others and it seems to be much better now.

When these people apply and get the outline of benefits and salaries, you have less Namibians interested. What we have done since we have

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discussed it here, procedurally we are supposed to send all the advertisements to the Prime Minister's Office and they then disseminate the information to the different offices. Just properly check in your Ministry, your Permanent Secretary is supposed to receive this information and disseminate it among the staff members. That is the existing procedure.

In my office we have a list of people who come to ask for information. We are listing them and their qualifications and the area they are interested in and we inform them when there are advertisements at the UN, at the AU and SADC and, of course, there are those who apply and there are those who do not accept it.

I must conclude by saying there is an improvement, quite a significant improvement. We are nearing fulfilling our quota in SADC at the present moment. Unfortunately we have lost this young man Nokokure and that has brought us down a little bit, but we are one of the countries that are in the high brackets of representation in SADC and at the AU we also have quite a substantial number representing us there. Thank you very much, I appreciate that we definitely have to live within the means of our capacity. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 07? Agreed to.

Vote 14 – “LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE” put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I take the Floor to support Vote 14. From the motivation and from the Budget documents I could see that the Ministry is doing a lot and is doing it well. I have only one question or concern and it is based on page 13 and 4 of the motivation speech.

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On page 4 of the motivation speech the Minister has informed this House about the labour complaints and I think the Ministry has to be congratulated that 78% were resolved.

On page 13 the Ministry is addressing the issues of industrial relations and I think we are all familiar with so many strikes in Namibia. I want to find out whether there is any consideration for us to introduce a system whereby in every industrial enterprise there should be an industrial psychologist. I am saying this because we are coming from a traumatised background because of our political history and, as a result of that, a lot of counselling will be needed, especially at workplaces. It is not always easy to do group counselling, but when people are in a specific institution, you will be able to identify the problems and provide such counselling one on one. I feel having industrial psychologists could help the Nation in the long run. I support Vote 14, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

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

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I support the Vote. I have only one concern and I have no solution to offer. On page 9, paragraph 3: Honourable Minister, everybody is talking about increasing the pensions, yet when we pay out these pensions to our elderly, it seems we are putting this money into a bottomless pit. I am sure you have seen on television how our people got this pension and went straight to the cuca shop. The purpose of giving pensions to our old people was to help them to live a better life, to buy food and I do not think they are using these pensions for what it was intended. I have no solution, I do not know what we can do, but I think this is a very scandalous situation which I saw on television. I know business is business, but I do not agree with businesses which kill other people. Therefore, I have no solution but it bothers me to see how the Government is struggling to assist the elderly and what the elderly are doing with their money.

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In places such as Omaheke, you find that the cuca shop owners even take the cards of the elderly San and then go and collect the money on their behalf. The people do not know how to read and write and they do not know how to count the money and that is why I am struggling to have the old people educated to the extent they would at least know what a N\$10 look like. They keep these cards and tell an old man who cannot even walk, who had maybe one glass, that he owes them N\$300 or the whole pension sometimes. Therefore, our old people are being misused deliberately. I do not know what to do, my grandmother was not part of this cuca thing. What solution do we have as Government, this situation cannot be left that way. This is my only concern, but I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

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

HON BOHITILE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have more or less the same concern as the Deputy Prime Minister. Research has been done elsewhere which suggests that the social pensions and child support, no matter how small it is, are generally very effective because this is a practical way of enhancing the social status of the marginalised communities.

It is a pity that the shebeen kings and queens are literally robbing the aged and the disabled from their social grants through the sale of alcohol on credit and I was wondering, Honourable Minister of Labour, whether there is a way that these sharks can be forbidden to be at the payout points by using either the Police or the Defence Force.

On pages 72 and 73 the Accountability Report shows that the coverage for disability grants was only 18,7%, while the forecast for 2009/2010 is that it would be around 20%. It is because the definition of “disability” in the census differs from that of the National Pension Act. What is the possibility for the Ministry to combine both definitions to ensure that we

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maximise the coverage of our people living with a disability? I have assisted people in Gobabis to apply and it was just not possible. It took so long and there were so many demands and eventually that child died at the age of 18 without getting any disability grant because of the different definitions.

Thirdly, I am very much encouraged by the 88% coverage of the old-aged. It is also anticipated that the coverage for old-age pensions will increase to 90% by this Financial Year. On page 75 of the same document there is proof that the social assistance Budget had a saving of N\$21 million and this is because the anticipated registration of new pensioners did not materialise. My question is, how long does it really take from the time of application up to approval, because it seems that in this process a year passes before people get their pension. I am saying this, knowing what big difference these social grants are doing in the lives of the elderly. What does the Ministry intend to do to ensure that the old people who are turning 60 are registered and that they eventually receive the pensions instead of making a saving of N\$21 million while there are people out there who really need this money for survival? Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Bohitile. Honourable Kaapanda.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 14 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The Ministry is doing quite a good job and we are all appreciative, but I have only a few comments to make on page 10 of the Minister's Budget Speech under Programme 1, paragraphs 2 and 3.

The Ministry has realised that there are quite a number of elderly people who have reached the qualifying age, but they are not receiving the social

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grant. I have also come across some elderly people who are not receiving the social grant and some of the reasons given by those are supposed to register these people is that some of those people have reached the age but they have children who are either teachers or working somewhere, therefore they do not deserve to receive the social grant. I feel this needs to be clarified and I am glad to see that the Ministry intends setting up pay-point committees in the various localities who would communicate to those communities the days of payment. I feel these committees could also be used to give valuable information regarding the qualifying age and also to eliminate existing discrepancies whereby some people are being left out. I support the Vote.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. As a former trade unionist I must support the Vote and I will support it.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, on page 3 of the Minister's speech it is stated: *"To oversee the work of the Social Security Commission."* Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Social Security has become a baseless home. Half of the population are contributing, with only a few benefits available to us. Some of us have expired and we are no longer entitled to some of the benefits, such as the maternity benefit. The only benefit available to men is when they die. Some women and men have contributed for the past twelve or more years, but they never benefit from Social Security. How can Social Security become more user-friendly and not wait for us to die?

Sick leave as a benefit from Social Security is only when all your sick leave at work has been exhausted and that does not happen very often.

Secondly, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, what benefits are available for unemployed persons as mentioned on page 3?

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HON MEMBER: None.

HON DIENDA: If it is none, why do we refer to things which do not exist? We do not want things for decoration and that is why I am saying Social Security must become user-friendly.

Thirdly, what happened to the case against the former CEO of Social Security? What was the outcome of the allegations? This lady was humiliated, but it seems as if the case has died a natural death. We as the public were informed about her wrongdoings in the newspapers. Can we also now be informed about the outcome of these allegations?

On page 4 of the Minister's speech, "*workplace inspections and dispute resolutions.*" How many inspections have been done on Chinese companies and how many of them have increased the salaries of their workers and working conditions and is there any minimum wage agreement signed with these companies?

On page 6 of the speech, Affirmative Action. Previously racially disadvantaged persons accounted for 61% of all executive directors and managers. What percentage of these are occupied by women?

I want to quote from page 6 of the Minister's speech because yesterday I was informed that I did not use the right words: "*The Ministry is responsible for the administration and payment of basic State grants to the elderly, disability grants to people living with disabilities and funeral benefits.*" People who are sick, say for instance, HIV/AIDS positive, those who cannot work but who are not physically disabled, do they fall under this category? Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Dienda. Honourable Kasingo.

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HON KASINGO: Thank you for giving me the Floor, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Most of my concerns were covered by previous speakers, however I only want to ask two questions in supporting Vote 14.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister and Deputy Minister for doing their level best to ensure that there is peace and stability in the labour force and for assisting the most vulnerable groups of our society. I agree with you, Honourable Minister, when you stated on page 3 that one of the most important pieces of work is the new Labour Act. You said it has been operational from the 1st of November 2008 and my question is, what will now happen to the labour hire? Am I correct to say that Court case is still proceeding and if it is true that it still proceeding, what will now happen to the component of labour hire?

I know that when these things were detected a lot of people started blaming you, but you are not the only one to blame, it is actually all of us who passed this law who are supposed to be blamed because we could have foreseen that possibility but we failed.

I would like to support what the Honourable Deputy Minister and Honourable Bohitile have said concerning the sale of liquor on the day of pay-outs to our elderly. I think we should outlaw the sale of liquor at these pay-points. We are not going to interfere with anyone's right and I want the Minister to work together with the Governor and the Councillors and more in particular, with the Traditional Authorities.

Parallel with that one, I would also like the Minister to come up, if possible, with a mechanism to monitor the use of this money by the elderly. Is it really benefiting the target group? I know together with your capable officials you will come up with a mechanism, maybe that social workers, Councillors or Traditional Authorities visit the houses of the elderly and then come up with a different policy to ensure that the target group is benefiting. With this I support Vote 14.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My question is on page 4, paragraph 2, bullet 1, with regard to the 1,188 labour inspections conducted while the safety and health inspectors conducted 408. Mine is maybe not a question, but a concern. Why have the factory inspectors conducted only 400 inspections while their colleagues did more? Is it as a result of a shortage of factory inspectors? If so, why can the Ministry not consider to increase the factory inspectors so that they could do more inspections at workplaces?

Secondly, Comrade Minister, there was a provision in the Labour Act of 1992 which was not implemented. That provision was with regard to the Diving Council which was never established. Now that we have a new Labour Act, the Ministry may consider the establishment of the Diving Council. Thank you very much and I support Vote 14.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, I give my support to Honourable Ndaitwah who said we need psychologists and not only for the labour department, but also for ourselves. In big countries they study the environment before opening a business, they study the area and the topography to see what kind of business is suitable to this area. It is not fair that you open a business according to what you want, but you do not look at the people. Secondly they study what kind of factory they want and that is how the business operates. (Interjections). You cannot talk about unemployment, this is in the speech of the Honourable Minister, he

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talked about how these people are supposed to be taken care of, but the business world does not think that way. The Honourable Minister said we have to look for psychologists. You should have psychologists first before you open your business to determine how the young people behave, what they want to wear, what kind of social set-up do they have in mind, how do they operate and then you take care of that according to their desire.

What we do is sometimes wrong. The young people want what they want, but we do not care about this kind of research first before you do the job. It is not that they dislike the job, it is a matter of the habit they desire. (Interjection). If you do not want it, please go back and ask them, they will tell you.

Sometimes the young people are not willing to work, they have their way of doing things. You have to come up with your support in different ways. Sometimes they are in their puberty. That is where the wrong things come.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Chief, did I hear you correctly that we in this House also need psychologists?

HON RIRUAKO: We are crying about the young people, I go to them and talk to them. Talking about the young people, we do not create a conducive atmosphere of work and the companies have to hear from us, not to come over here and create what they want. If you do not know about this, please come to my office.

I appreciate what you are saying, at least you started somewhere. Look at the House, some of them understand what you said, someone will go out from here without knowing what happened, but we learn a lot out of it. The only man who said something is me, all of you were quiet here. I said something against them and after that they were not against me. I am

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coming from the North, I met them. We were together in the same house but the discipline they had is quite different. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask the Honourable Chief a small question? Just for clarity, under what Vote are you talking now?

HON RIRUAKO: You talk about a Vote and you mention the Vote number and you come up with something else which is not suitable. What is that?

I want us to create a kind of atmosphere for the young people, let us give them the opportunity to have the will to work. That is the way how to do it and I have to really appreciate their behaviour. Why? I met those young guys who were saying a lot of things here, I met them and we were friends after that.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Chief. Honourable Hausiku.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Deputy Chair, I am rising to support Vote 14 and to make two comments. One is on page 7 of the Minister's speech. I am happy to see that there is progress on the creation of the National Productivity Unit. Comrade Minister, this is very, very important because I believe that the prosperity of any country depends on the productivity of its workforce and that is one issue that we have to be concerned about in Namibia. We are not orientated to be productive and maybe this Unit will change the attitude of our workforce.

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Secondly, Comrade Minister, I have been wondering about this issue of unemployment. I am not disputing the percentage but I have seen that in many countries, specifically developing countries, where you have a low percentage of unemployment, there are issues they are doing that we are not doing. If you take Mauritius as an example, they are registering people who have small businesses, who are self-employed and these people are registered as people who have employed themselves and, therefore, what Government does is to assist these people financially to increase their income and they are considered to be employed people.

Our perception of unemployment is very different. Many business people have told me they are unemployed, people who are really making more money than some of us in this Parliament but they consider themselves as unemployed. Maybe it is important that we re-evaluate our definition of unemployment and change the attitude, that if you have a reasonable income, you are employed, you have employed yourself. Maybe this would help us to reduce the fear of this very, very high percentage of unemployment. Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE; Thank you, Comrade Minister. Minister of Veterans Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I support the Vote and I have only two small comments.

I think the Minister said there is a lot of labour inspectors, about fifty plus so far. It is absolutely necessary that he increases this number of labour inspectors and safety and health inspectors in order for us to protect the rights of the workers of this country. If you compare with the Ministry of Agriculture, and I am confining myself to farms, they have inspectors, people from the Veterinary Service, and they literally go to every farm once a year to see how you are treating your animals, what have you done. Why can the labour inspectors not have the same access to the farms as

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the veterinary people? You already know that this year, start January, a health inspector will come to the farm and it applies to all the farms. The same should apply to the labour inspectors so that the farm owners know that if they mistreat their workers or put them in conditions that are not acceptable, the labour inspectors will come.

For example, I was told a very sad story not very long ago, that at one farm the labourers are drinking water from the reservoir where the owner of the farm and his family are swimming. If the Ministry of Agriculture can afford to send the health inspectors for the animals, we can do that for the people too.

On the question of pension, I agree entirely with those who were talking about the misuse of this pension of the elderly people, but can we find a way to criminalise some of these things, particularly what the Deputy Prime Minister has said? (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. Some of people who pay pensions at my homestead created a method. They chased all the young people away from the old people, they gave them their money and watched them until they disappear from the scene. Then only the young people have to move around in that area, because they used to grab the money from the old people. Also some cuca shops used to charge them N\$300 for things they did not use. For that matter, the money has to go to the owner first. We have to increase the Police among those who are paying pensions because they do a good job with only one Police Officer.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I think it has already been said that something has to be done about the shebeens and the selling of liquor. The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister said that some people even take the cards of these old people and get the money on behalf of these people in order to subtract whatever they think is due to them. I feel that kind of activity should be criminalised because we are dealing with

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State money that we are giving to a certain category of people. If you access that money in such a way, it is easy to criminalise such kind of activity and we can do that.

Comrade Kaapanda said something on the same issue which I did not understand. Is it true that we are not giving money to some elderly people because their children are either teachers or something like that? I think that is illegal and I do not know about a law which stipulates that. It is not your income, it is your child's income and how can you deprive that person of access to that money because someone else is a teacher? They may not even be living together. If it is true, then I think it is against the law. With this, I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs. Honourable Katali.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to raise only one concern with the Minister. Last week I was listening on the radio to somebody explaining the report of a research study that they have conducted on leave for employees, salaries as well as the issue of permanent versus temporary employment and it was said the Chinese companies did not employ any permanent worker and when somebody goes on leave and returns, somebody else is already employed.

Comrade Minister, if that is the situation, what does the Ministry have in place to ensure that the companies and the employers adhere to the Labour Act? It is really shocking to hear some of these things while we have the Ministry of Labour looking after the interests of the employees.

Before I sit down, I think what Honourable Kaapanda referred to was not the pension, but the drought relief and some other benefits. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Chairperson, I have concrete evidence on this. If it is illegal, it is illegal, but I have evidence.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: If you are a teacher, your mother will not receive those benefits. It is true, Comrade Minister, I have evidence. It is true that some people are denied drought relief.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Comrade Katali, I am disputing the evidence, I am saying, as an African child, do not go around calling other people, “*your mother, your mother.*” Say it is somebody’s mother. Do not speak like that.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Chair, I also have evidence that sometimes when they come to you and you are fat, they say, “*no, you do not need drought relief because your body is heavy.*” (Laughter)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Minister, when I am saying “your mother”, I am saying it as a person, not referring to a specific person, but I take the advice. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I understand the background from which Comrade Mbumba has spoken, but in Otjiherero it is exactly what you are saying, *Itja Nyoko*, which is your mother. You cannot say *mama uoje*.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: With that, Comrade Chairperson, I support Vote 14.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Ekandjo.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Chairperson, I only want to add to what the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has said. Nowadays at the pension pay-points you find people selling cakes, bread or liquor. Can the Minister make a condition that for a person to register, especially the young ones who are now coming in, you have to provide a bank or post office account so that no more money must be given by hand but through the banks? We have more teachers in the country than old-aged people and the teachers in the rural areas do not get cash, they get payslips and their salaries are paid into the banks or Post Office. Why can this not be done so that only in cases where the villages are very far from the Post Offices can cash be given? However, from now on in the urban areas or settlements, people are told to have a bank or post office account when registering. This will reduce this thing of *botsotsos* grabbing the money of the old people.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Are you aware that on the day of pension payouts some people are following that car to the pay-point and while the car is still parking, they are already unloading the liquor and whatever, waiting for the elderly citizens to get their money and then start selling to them. They are following the car even to those remote villages.

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

I think the only thing to do is that a decision is taken that from such a date the people must have accounts. I remember at one time President Pohamba, when he was still the Minister of Home Affairs, when the Government introduced these new number plates, some people especially from the white community who were resisting, they just wanted South West Africa and Windhoek cars, not this registration and he made a decision that from such a date, the tyres of any car which does not have this new registration must not touch the ground, it has to be jacked up. That became a law and the next day all of them changed to the new registration. You must just say, on such a day no more cash payouts, go to the Post Office or bank. (Intervention)

HON KASINGO: May I ask a question? Do you know why Honourable Moongo is just keeping quiet when we say that alcohol must be prohibited during payday?

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT;** Honourable Deputy Chair, I have my point. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question for clarity? Do you not think, Comrade Ekandjo, by doing what you are saying, we are trying to solve a problem but we are creating another one? Those old people may not be able to go to these banks and Post Offices themselves and they will again resort to the practice of sending other people to go and get the money from the Post Office because they are unable to reach there. Even if they are able to reach there, they will now be forced to use some of this money to take a taxi there and back, thereby reducing the amount of money due to them. Your argument is good but you are also creating another problem, because they will be tempted to send other people to the post office because they cannot reach there themselves.

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HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: At the post office you have a fingerprint, nobody can withdraw. You get a Smart Card with your fingerprint. If the amount is N\$470 and you use N\$20 or N\$30 for a taxi, it is better...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Minister, I think you are really making a good proposal, but I just want to find out how many post offices are within reach of the pensioners who are beneficiaries of these grants?

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: If the amount is N\$470, it is better to use N\$20 or N\$30 for a taxi rather than spending the whole amount. If you go to the pay-points in the villages, they are being paid 09:00, 10:00 in the morning and when you come there at 19:00, you find the old people are playing and some are sleeping and they go home empty-handed. It is better to spend the N\$70 on a taxi and get N\$400 to go home. If they get this through the post office, they will not withdraw all of it, they will today draw N\$100 and tomorrow N\$50. It will be better to save than to spend on alcohol.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time up. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee...(Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: What are you doing? All the cuca shops belong to you all. Where did that money go? What is happening? These things

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must be said. You are expecting your mother to take care of your son. What is that?

HON NAMBAHU: I want to bring a different dimension to this under Labour Market Survey and Research. We have a problem coming in clandestinely, doing business and sometimes you fail to understand whether the country is getting any benefits. This is actually in connection with your labour inspectorate. Are we not missing something somewhere? You find this person is coming into the country, he is investing and now he is in the retail business. I comes in with his products, dumping it into the country and while you think he is creating employment, he is selling it himself. Where is the employment creation?

To make things worse, you buy a mattress or whatever it is, there is no provision for VAT on that receipt and now you ask yourself, is it tax that he is bringing, is it employment that he is creating or what is it that he is doing, because he is also killing the local man who was already in the business at that stage and he is not paying tax. Now you ask yourself, is the labour inspectorate empowered to really inspect and evaluate even the benefits that the country is actually accruing?

The issue is, what are we going to do? Honourable Katali was talking about research and this Labour Research Centre came out with good findings. Does the Ministry also have its own research centre that goes out there and research and do a survey on all these kinds of things or do we rely on the existing centre? These are the things that I think are escaping our attention.

With regard to the pay-points, obviously a lot of education must take place, because I also have evidence that the elderly refuse to go to pay-points that are very far away from cuca shops. Therefore, education must go both ways. (Interjections). Yes, it is evidence, we all travel around and we listen to these things. (Intervention)

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

May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Sometimes a business person from outside Africa, Asia, comes here to put up a business and then we complain, but we forget that what the local retailers here sell is not produced here. Either you buy something from China and it is dumped here or you buy something from Pep Store and Shoprite and these are also dumped here from South Africa.

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Minister, that is actually the point I am at driving at. If you draw a line and only say Chinese or whoever, and I did not mention any name, it is actually all the other people in the retail industry that we have to ask ourselves the question. Nowadays when you want to tender you are asked how much local participation you have, but what about those who have been here since Independence? How much of local participation do they have in there? If we are to create employment, if we are to reduce poverty, we have to look at these people and actually demand local participation and evaluate what are the benefits to us. If you go to Katutura, where are all those Meroros and Elagos and all those things that were there? Gone! If you are empowering the blacks on the one side, what about those that were resisting? Killed! Finished!

The centre which could evaluate and actually look at that is not only limited to the Chinese, it is for whoever is in that industry.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL

WELFARE: May I ask a question? Comrade Nambahu, those shops you mentioned, the Elagos and whatever, were these shops killed by only the Chinese shops or killed by shops whose names we do not want to mention, that are not Namibian?

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HON NAMBAHU: I was not the one mentioning names. It is obvious that if Shoprite opens up in Katutura and it has shops in Malawi and all over, then it is obvious that this local person cannot compete with this giant. Unless you put conditions and say that Honourable Basson who is already operating here should own 30% shares, I do not see us making any headway and I am the last person who would want to discriminate against the Chinese or anyone, I want everyone to be treated equally, but those who were there must also be protected. Thank you very much.

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

HON MBAI: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My contribution is similar to the one which was conveyed to the House by Honourable Dr Tjirange. That was my biggest concern and this is the number of labour inspectors, namely 36 labour inspectors and 9 factory inspectors. Really, they are not enough for the whole country. This is on page 12 of your Operational Budget, on Programme: Labour Services.

Honourable Minister, if we are trying to attend to the demands of labourers and those who are unemployed to get employment, let us be committed to make sure that those who are employed are really enjoying the benefits of being employed. This is really on the farms, the number of our people who are employed but who are not really enjoying the benefits they should.

Labour inspectors are only coming to the farms when there is a dispute laid at the Labour Office. People lack training and information on their rights as farm labourers and they need to be visited frequently, but this number of labour inspectors are not enough.

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Therefore, Honourable Minister, I know it will be difficult to employ more labour inspectors, but what is the possibility to group farms together, maybe five farms in one district and create a kind of discussion forum, consisting of labourers and employers under the supervision of a labour inspector, for these people to discuss the conditions at their working places instead of employing more labour inspectors which would be costly and also impossible. The people are employed on the farms but they are not enjoying the fruits of Independence as the other Namibians.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much for the Floor. First of all I would like to congratulate the Ministry for the efforts they are putting into the issues of the Ministry.

I would like to make a comment on page 5 of the Minister's motivation speech with regard to Affirmative Action, whereby employers resist to change and to submit their Affirmative Action implementation report to the Equity Commission which proves that they are adhering to the policy of Affirmative Action. Honourable Minister, although I take cognisance of the measures that the Ministry has implemented, this may still not be enough and, therefore, I would call on the Ministry to really apply more punitive measures against those institutions so as to ensure that they adhere to the provisions of the Act.

Then I would like to come to a question, Honourable Minister. I actually seek clarity in the event where a person with disability, who is receiving a disability grant, reaches the age of 60 which makes him or her eligible to apply for an old-age pension, can this person receive both grants because they are caught up in both situations? I am not asking because I want to be given that one day when I turn sixty.

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Last but not least, Honourable Minister, I am referring to page 6 of your motivation where you referred to people with disabilities as “*people living with disability*.” With all due respect, I would just like to give information, because sitting here as a person with a disability myself, I would be indebted if I do not give the right and the correct information to this House. I will one day be asked what I have been doing here if my Colleagues are still using the wrong terminology. Since you are the Minister dealing with social welfare, which also indicates that you are responsible for people with disabilities, who rely on the social grant, I would like to give you my humble advice. It is only proper for you, Honourable Minister, if you could really be consistent and be exemplary in your terminology on people with disabilities, because as per our national policy as well as other national and international legal instruments, the acceptable term to refer to is either “*physically challenged people/persons*” or “*people with disabilities*.” In countries such as South Africa and Zimbabwe they are referring to “*disabled people*”, because when you are talking about people, you definitely have to talk about people and not only “the disabled”, because that sounds more like an object.

What we have adopted in Namibia is “*people with disabilities*” and this does not only apply to the Honourable Minister, but it applies to all of us in this Honourable House to be consistent and exemplary to the public out there, because we are the people who are passing the laws. The Deputy Prime Minister has tabled a Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and it was ratified in this House. All of us have read it and it does not refer to “*people living with disabilities*.” I do not know where that term has been invented.

We have a handbook on Parliamentarians which was launched by the Right Honourable Prime Minister and we were all supposed to have it and it is also on the web and this can give us the right information even on terminology. Honourable Minister, I support the Vote.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Ncube. Honourable Esau.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. Let me first of all join the previous Honourable Members who have spoken before me.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Being a doctor, I want to remind the House that we are sitting as if we are flying to Paris. We are not very young, there is a question of developing blood clots. It is serious, it has happened to a lady I travelled with. So, please, let us move a little bit now and then or else we must control ourselves, this is not very happy. We are sitting in Cabinet until 14:30, come here directly and we are over sixty. Really, it is getting out of hand now.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I take note of what was said, but let me, first of all, also register my congratulations to the Minister, the Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary and their entire staff on Vote 14.

Comrades, my contribution will be confined within the context of the global financial meltdown, with special reference to the employment services legislation as well as the social welfare grants.

Comrade Chair, on the question of employment services legislation I complement the Minister and his staff, but what we are facing is an employment crisis, we are losing jobs in the primary sector of our economy. We need to take action in terms of the conditions of service within the context of the Labour Act. (Intervention)

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HON MEMBER: As questions.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: I was listening when you were speaking, now I want to speak as well. I need protection On the question of employment services legislation, with special reference to the Labour Act, the conditions of service, working hours. It is stipulated that you are to work nine hours per day and if the work cannot be completed within nine hours, then workers are asked to do overtime work and here we are also asked to sit overtime. Maybe the Ministry should look into banning overtime in order to employ more people from the streets, because if there is more work, more people must be employed. I want the Ministry to look into the banning of overtime in order to create more jobs.

On the question of occupational health and safety inspectors, we are facing a winding up of primary factories. What is happening here is that sometimes you have environmental problems left behind and I want to know what action is taken, especially within the context of this situation we find ourselves in, the situation of global financial meltdown and the impact on our economy. What are we doing in terms of occupational health and safety, what are the inspectors doing then?

The other issue is on the Social Security Fund. Savings, I was taught generates investments, so maybe we should start encouraging our Social Security Funds and savings to unlock productive investments in the country and address the challenge of unemployment which we are faced with.

Lastly, is the question of the social pension grants. These grants are distributed from a central point. Can we not look at the possibility of decentralising the distributions of funds in order that jobs are created at regional level.

Finally, I support Vote 14.

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

HON MOONGO: I did not want to participate but I was provoked. I was listening attentively to all of you, but I realised very few of you know how a poor man lives – a very few of you. If I could take all your car keys now to make you poor, you would understand how a poor man lives. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Deputy Chair, I am just wondering whether we have a psychologist here for people who need psychological treatment.

HON MOONGO: I was saying ...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. I do not think it is correct for someone to talk on behalf of people that he does not know. Many, if not all of us in this House, have been born by poor mothers and fathers. Some of us did not even know shoes, we did not know what is breakfast. Some of us wore shorts which were torn at the buttocks. Now for someone to come and talk about us, who does not know the background of our parents, is maybe talking for himself.

HON MOONGO: Somebody who experienced poverty cannot speak like you spoke tonight, because you came up with an Affirmative Action law ...

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HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Comrade Deputy Chairperson, just for information. The Honourable Member is making not only wild allegations but serious ones because all of us as we are seated here shared poverty with our families. Do not make such an allegation, please.

HON MOONGO: If you came from a poor background, you are not supposed to put conditions for poor things. I will just mention three or four points. When the people fell trees to sell the wood, you put conditions to punish them not to sell wood. When vendors are selling in order to earn something on the street, you put conditions and you cause them to suffer again. When they catch fish, you put conditions so that the poor people can suffer. I did not want to participate, but I listened attentively and realised there are only two of three of you who want to assist the poor people who are trying. Those who go to the pay-points are selling their mahangu, their maize-meal, their pumpkins and now you want to put conditions. You are making them poor. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: On a Point of Order. Can the Honourable Colleague be advised to refer to the page number so that we can follow.

HON MOONGO: It is the Affirmative Action programme. I thought you were serious with this programme to assist those who do not have anything, but if you put conditions to everything and regulate everything...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. Let the Honourable Member call things by their name. I think the Honourable Member is accusing us because he is irritated by the fact that

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we say he must not go and sell liquor at these places and those who are selling that liquor are not necessarily poor, including yourself.

HON MOONGO: Ministers and many others of you have shebeens.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo, your time is up. Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I want to thank all the Members who have made a contribution. I think almost the whole House has made a contribution on this. It shows that this is really an issue which concerns all of us and it is the people's Vote. Let me start by responding to the first question by *Honourable Ndaitwah* who requested information about how many strikes have taken place during the Financial Year under consideration. I have advised my neighbour here that I will be providing the exact information to her tomorrow morning.

The next question was by the *Deputy Prime Minister* and I must thank her for the work she has undertaken especially in relation to the issue of social welfare issues in the Government. She has laid the foundation securing proper welfare services to our people.

On the question of shebeens and selling of liquor as well as other commodities at the pay-points on paydays by hawkers, this shows that these old-age grants are really a lifeline for the economies in some of the rural areas. However, if liquor is being sold there it is not very helpful. That is aim for which the Government decided to grant this little bit to our old people, that is something that needs to be looked into. It is not only the selling by shebeens, but even when buying at shops some of them do

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not know how to count their money. What happens is that they do not get a receipt for what they got on credit and on payday almost half or even more of the pension is surrendered to the shop owner, which is not very good because these old people are basically robbed.

We in the Ministry have been looking at this issue, trying to find a possible way to redress that situation. We have been consulting with Governors, Regional Councillors and even traditional leaders, as I said in my statement, so that we can put heads together and find ways of addressing this issue. I am spending a bit of time on this because I know that many contributions have touched on this issue of social welfare to old-aged people and how that money is being utilised, and what can be done in order to ensure that the old people benefit maximally from this money.

We have also encountered problems of pay-points being far away from the people, although there is an indication here that in some areas some pensioners prefer these pay-points to be closer to shops and shebeens, but that is not something that we should be supporting.

Having said that generally, the crux of the matter is that we will be looking into that to find a solution together with the local leadership.

Honourable Bohitile, your questions also went around your concern about how the old-aged people utilise their money.

Comrade Kaapanda, you talked about some people being disqualified to receive grants on the basis of their children earning money elsewhere. I am not so sure where that is happening, but all that I know is that once you reach the age of 60, you would qualify to get your pension irrespective of what your family or children or husband are doing. In some instances, from what I know, is that some persons who are already receiving pensions from other sources also benefit from this N\$450. When you have instances of people being disqualified, please provide us with the information so that we can act on it.

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Honourable Ncube, you asked whether a person is entitled to both grants at the same time and that is maybe what I have just been talking about. If you are currently getting a grant for disability and once you reach age 60, the disability grant lapses and you remain with the pension grant. I think that is the information that you needed and I also want to apologise for the wrong terminology and I hope many people around here learned what terminology to utilise. It is really appreciated.

Comrade Katali, you talked about research, leave, permanent and temporary employees, Chinese employers. There were quite a number of contributions relating to the Chinese. What I want to explain here is that the Ministry of Labour has a responsibility to ensure that a conducive environment does exist for stable relationships between employer and employee. This employer could be any person, as long as you are working within the laws of the country and we have been getting a lot of complaints about specific people originating from certain parts of the world, but what we are trying to ensure is that the law should equally apply to everybody who is doing business activities in the country. If a Namibian business person or employer is non-compliant, we would equally act in the same way as we would be doing with an American employer who is residing in Namibia or a Chinese or a Japanese. That is what we try to do. Of course, the people who complain about the many Chinese here, some of those issues have no relation to their Ministries. Once they are here and they are legally permitted to do business here, we will try to ensure that they comply to our laws and they comply with the minimum agreements as they apply to the industry in which they are operating.

Comrade Nambahu, you talked about research. I mentioned in my statement about the Labour Surveys and Surveys on Children. We have internal structures who survey subjects and provide information that would be used by the whole country, but we do not have a specific department within the Ministry for research. We make use of research which has been done by others in order to help us take informed decisions. However, that is a point well taken and something which can be looked into in future.

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Then there was a question by *Honourable Dienda*. We were talking about the Chinese companies, but as I said here, we do not specifically target Chinese companies. I can report that the Ministry of Labour has secured minimum wage agreements for certain industries, such as the security industry and the agricultural industry. Therefore, since the first minimum wage agreement, there was a review and an agreement on the farm workers' status recently. I think we should pride ourselves that somehow the stakeholders, both employers and employees, in both the agricultural and the security industry have been engaging each other and they managed to reach agreement on minimum wages. What now needs to be done is that the Ministry of Labour has to ensure that this is gazetted and applies to every employer in the country.

As far as farm workers are concerned, the minimum wage as from the 1st June would be N\$860 per month. That is what will happen and we should actually be happy, because every employer who pays his farm workers below that amount should be worried because we will be following up with our inspectors to see who does not comply with not only the minimum wage but a series of many other things, such as Social Security registration, etcetera.

There was also a question about the labour inspectors. We really do not have enough labour inspectors, because as I mentioned in my motivation, the work places are about 14,000 and it is served by only fifty odd labour inspectors. That is not sufficient, you can hardly reach all the places and we are trying to make do with the little that we have. We are identifying places with problems and send our people there. The inspections are not only limited to the farms and the work places, we are also looking at child labour, whether there are children under the age of sixteen who are still being employed. They are too few, but the situation has been communicated to the proper authorities and a restructuring process has been suggested and we are expecting to hear from the Office of the Prime Minister which of our restructuring suggestions are going to be approved. We hope that we will get more labour inspectors in order to do our work efficiently.

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Honourable Dienda also wanted to know what other benefits are provided by the Social Security Commission. Apart from the increased maternity leave, that you may be aware of now, we made an announcement a couple of weeks ago of bursaries that have been given to Namibians in appropriate fields, such as engineering, social work and medicine by the Development Fund of the Social Security Commission. Those are the types of benefits and you do not have to wait until you die, you can make sure that your children benefit from these study loans or grants that are available.

I think the case of the previous CEO is still pending. The benefits for the unemployed, as contained in the provisions, are what I have just mentioned of what the Development Fund can offer. There is also a retaining of retrenched workers, a possible benefit they get from that, youth labour market entrants, grants for employment creation and bursaries.

Comrade Amweelo also asked about the labour inspectors and you specifically referred to the factories. The health and safety inspectors are even less than the labour inspectors, but what I have just said a few minutes ago applies.

Dr Tjiriange made a comparison between the veterinary inspections at farms and those by our Ministry and why we cannot do the same. The problem is the numbers and we are still awaiting the approval of our new structure by the Office of the Prime Minister in order to have sufficient inspectors to fulfil our mandate. In terms of the new Labour Act we are required to have more labour inspectors in order to be up to date with issues. The Honourable Minister also mentioned something about workers on a farm that are provided with water from a reservoir where people swim. If we could get specific information on that, we will follow up. We would want to have that name so that we can follow up immediately.

Honourable Mbai also talked about the situation of farm workers. I hope what I have said somehow satisfies you.

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Honourable Esau, you talked about employment services and I did not get you clearly, but I will be able to provide the information at our usual place.

I have covered many things, but there is one issue I want to say something about and that is Section 128 of the Labour Act. Honourable Members, you know that this House has accepted the Labour Act, Act 11 of 2007. It was unanimously accepted and it was signed off by the President in December 2007. Of course, for the larger part of 2008 a lot of work was being done in order to put this law into operation.

The law was put into operation minus Section 128 because that is the Section that relates to labour hire and that Section was being challenged constitutionally in court. Shortly after that the High Court ruled and I hope by providing this information I am not breaking any law. As I said, when the Labour Act was put into operation on 1 November, we actually felt that because of the challenge by the APS, we should not have Section 128 as part of the law until such time that the Court makes its Ruling. The Court made its Ruling in the beginning of December and they outlawed this Section 128 with long explanations and reasons why this should not be part of our new Labour Act. After hearing that and having a law which has already been accepted by Parliament and that has been in abeyance for some time, we thought that now that the Court has made a Ruling on it, we will put it into operation and around the 3rd of December, in order to give sufficient time to the stakeholders, we said this Section 128 will come into operation by the 1st of March.

After having made that announcement, there was another challenge, this time in the form of an urgent interdict which was submitted around the middle of February. Because APS has appealed initially and a date was set for hearing the Appeal on the 3rd of March, they came with an urgent interdict in order to prevent Section 128 being put into operation on the 1st of March. The Court made its Ruling on the 27th of February which was on a Friday and about two or three days before Section 128 would come into operation. The very High Court which initially outlawed this, ruled that we should not implement this on the 1st of March. That is where we are and the most unfortunate part of that was that that verdict was given,

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but there were no reasons. It was clearly said that there would be no reasons given. That was 27th of February and we are now close to 27th of April, no reasons have been given.

What happened on the 3rd of March, the Supreme Court reserved Judgment. The interdict was successful, preventing us to put Section 128 into operation, but we did not get any reasons and now the Ministry is bothered by the affected parties. They feel they should get more information so that possible actions could be looked into. If you have made a Ruling, people might want to appeal especially on the reasons and that is the situation we have. Maybe the Ministry of Justice or the Attorney-General would be able to tell us whether we can have a decision taken as the reasons have now for two months not been given. Thank you very much.

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

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:35 UNTIL 2009.04.22 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
22 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? Honourable Kavetuna.

**TABLING: REPORT ON IPU CONFERENCE ON
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report on the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on International Development, Scrutinising its effectiveness, held in Westminster Houses of Parliament, London, from the 17th to the 21st of November 2008 for note-taking.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? 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:

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY
HON P MUSHELENGA**

- Performance Audit Study on Outsourcing of Consultancy Services in the Office of the Prime Minister for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2005 and 2007;
- Game Products Trust Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2003; and
- Namibia Prison Board for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008.

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

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 10, 13, 17, 18 and 19 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.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

As the Honourable Members may be aware, today is the World Earth Day. It is a day on which we are expected to sharpen our awareness about Planet Earth, about water, about the living creatures of the planet that co-exist with us and to treat the planet as the last resort of human survival and existence. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

22 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 13**
HON DR KAMWI

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
COMMITTEE STAGE**

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

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes in to Committee? Any objection? Secondment. Agreed to.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported yesterday, the 21st of April 2009, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 11, 14, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 10 and 17 have been introduced.

Vote 13 – “HEATH AND SOCIAL SERVICES”, N\$2,414,507,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, first of all, I wish to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Deputy Minister, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, the Permanent Secretaries and senior officials of these offices for the consideration made in the allocation of funds to address the pressing needs of the health sector.

I am presenting the Budget at a time that our country is experiencing considerable challenges, in particular, the impact of the global economic

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downturn and natural calamities in the northern and north-eastern parts of our country.

As a result of the floods, most health facilities have been surrounded or submerged by water, limiting accessibility to health services. However, we appreciate the support the Ministry is receiving from various Offices, Ministries and Agencies, our development partners and the private sector. Natural disasters, such as the floods that are currently devastating the northern Regions, pose risks for importation or outbreaks of communicable diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever, malaria and the wild polio virus. While these challenges remain and while working conditions and circumstances are often not ideal, there cannot be any doubt that we have made progress during the reporting year.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, for the 2008/2009 Financial Year my Ministry was allocated an amount of N\$2,130,873,000 of which N\$1,831,667,000 went to Operational Expenditure and N\$299,206,000 was utilised for development and mainly capital projects.

I wish to take this opportunity to report some of the important milestones accomplished during the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

The Ministry carried out an extensive Health and Social Services System Review which highlighted the successes, challenges and shortcomings of the health sector. The Review formed the basis for the development of a strategic plan for the Ministry of Health and Social Services for the period 2009–2013. I will have the privilege to launch this strategic plan on the 29th of April, 2009.

Accelerated training of health professionals is a priority area for mitigating the shortage of available skills and human resources. A total number of 375 health related students completed their training at the Ministry's Health Training Centres at the end of 2008. This number includes 345 enrolled nurse midwives, ten environmental health assistants, nine pharmacy assistants and eleven medical laboratory technicians. A total of 147 out of 151 newly qualified registered nurses who graduated at

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the end of 2008, at the University of Namibia were employed in the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

A total of sixteen medical students completed their training and commenced with their internship at the Windhoek National Hospital. Similarly, a total of twelve students are expected to complete their training in July, 2009.

A total of fifteen Namibian doctors are pursuing medical specialisation training programmes outside Namibia and three have completed their training in Anaesthesiology and Neurology. In addition, three medical engineers also completed their training in Kenya and these are the first Namibian medical engineers ever to qualify.

Within the policy framework, one of the guiding principles for health and social services is community involvement. As a result, we are collaborating with the Community-Based Organisations, larger Non-Governmental Organisations and Faith-Based Organizations.

The Ministry renewed the Partnership Agreement in Health with the Anglican, Lutheran (ELCIN) and Roman Catholic Churches and signing took place in October, 2008. This agreement will allow Government to provide a 100% subsidy for operational costs, including salaries and benefits, as well as 95% for capital projects of the not-for-profit church health services. The Onandjokwe, Oshikuku, Andara, Nankudu Hospitals and Odibo Health Centres are among the beneficiaries.

The Health Promoting School Initiative was implemented in five Regions, namely Khomas, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Erongo and Hardap, with a total of 146 schools participating.

Namibia has achieved official certification of Polio-free status from the Africa Regional Certification Commission of the World Health Organisation.

The Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission services has been expanded. To date these services are available in more than 60% of

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all public health facilities in the country. These services are integrated within Antenatal Care Services. By the end of December 2008, a cumulative figure of 59,341 Namibians are on ARVs, of which 7,387 are children. This number has long surpassed the target set by the United Nations. The rapid testing for HIV has been rolled out to public hospitals, health centres and clinics. Since 2005, the Voluntary Counselling and Testing programme succeeded to roll-out 184 HIV rapid testing sites to public health facilities from the existing 338.

The first National HIV/AIDS Voluntary Counselling and Testing Day was launched on 9 May 2008, where most of the Honourable Members participated.

The DNA PCR testing for children at six weeks is being implemented at health facilities.

The 2008 Global TB Report ranked Namibia as the country with the second highest Case Notification Rate of TB in the world after Swaziland. However, there has been a downward trend in both case notification rates and absolute numbers of TB cases reported during the past two years. A number of programme activities supporting improvements in case detection and treatment are being implemented. These included advocacy and social mobilisation.

The highlight of the year was the inauguration of a Cardiac Unit at Windhoek Central Hospital to provide specialised services. Three specialists cardiologists and a cardiac thoracic surgeon have been identified for recruitment. Meanwhile, a total of twelve Registered Nurses are undergoing theatre technique courses in Groote Schuur Hospital for the Cardiac Unit. Similarly, a total of two medical officers, one Anesthetist and one Clinical Technologist are also attending courses in Groote Schuur Hospital to complement the team of specialists.

The Ministry has acquired 195 vehicles, including outreach service vehicles and 16 ambulances.

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Accessibility to health care services is further improved through construction of new health facilities in the Oshikoto, Omaheke, Karas, Kunene, Otjozondjupa, Khomas, Omusati and Ohangwena Regions.

The launching of the long-awaited for National Disability Council with Honourable Alexia Manombe-Ncube as its first chairperson.

Namibia was privileged to host the 1st session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of social development. Thus Namibia is chairperson for two years.

We remain grateful to our development partners and the private sector, for the efforts made in complementing Government, including the renovations of hospitals, provision of linen and other materials, outreach service vehicles and ambulances.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I now have the honour and privilege to present before you the Budget Vote 13 for 2009/2010 for your consideration and approval.

An amount of N\$2,414,587,000 has been allocated to my Ministry. This Budget consist of the Operational Budget amounting to a sum of N\$2,080,587,000 and the Development Budget of N\$334,000,000.

The increase in the Budget allocation is motivated by the pressing needs in public health and towards fulfilling our mandate as custodians of health in Namibia. In particular, this Budget seeks to fuel plans and programmes for infrastructural development, equipment upgrading, procurement of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, maternal health and childhood illnesses.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the individual programmes are as follows:

PROGRAMME 1: TERTIARY HEALTH CARE:

This programme deals with the provision of specialised clinical and diagnostic services for patients referred from regional and district hospitals. The activities include bulk provision of pharmaceuticals and other commodities, including blood products, and the transporting of goods and services. In addition, it addresses the infrastructural needs of the Ministry, as well as the development, supervision and training of staff to strengthen the skills and knowledge of health workers through clinical training.

The cost for operational activities under this programme amounts to N\$790,567, 000.

Furthermore, the upgrading and renovation of the Katutura, Windhoek Central, Oshakati and Rundu hospitals are allocated a sum of N\$127,520,000.

I am grateful for the additional resources that have been allocated to the Cardiac Unit in order to provide cardio-thoracic and cardiology services to patients that need open-heart surgery and related procedures, thus reducing the number of patients to be transferred to other countries for this specialised service.

PROGRAMME 02: REGIONAL AND DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES:

The regional and district health services programme objective is to promote, protect and improve the health of families, especially women and children; to reduce maternal and infant deaths as well as malnutrition among under-fives; to increase family planning coverage and access to reproductive health services at all levels of health care delivery; the strengthening of outreach mobile services; improve environmental health in rural areas and the provision of anti-retroviral therapy and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission services.

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For this programme to be realised, a sum of N\$1,255,986,000 is allocated for the activities of this program.

For the upgrading, renovation and construction of clinics, health centres and district hospitals, a sum of N\$ 205,151,000 is allocated.

I am grateful for the additional allocation to Onandjokwe Hospital which will now serve as a referral for district hospitals within its jurisdiction.

From this increased allocation, we anticipate improvements in service delivery in response to emergency and outreach services, better financial management, timely repair and refurbishment of health facilities.

PROGRAMME 03: DISEASE CONTROL:

The programme objective is designed to manage and direct policy development, strategic planning, resource mobilisation, coordination, facilitation, monitoring and evaluation of the national response across all sectors to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria.

The funds required for the operational activities under this programme is N\$16,622,000.

The Development Budget for this programmes amounts to N\$263,000 aimed at the preparation of conducting the Bi-Annual HIV Sero Sentinel Surveillance.

PROGRAMME 04: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

The objective of the programme is to provide benefits and services that help people meet socio-economic needs that are fundamental to the maintenance of society to ensure a state of well-being; to provide support and social relief services to families and individuals with special welfare needs particularly the vulnerable and those living with disability. Through these endeavours the Government expands its service delivery to the most vulnerable groups in society by ensuring appropriate, sustainable and accountable community-based responses and interventions.

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The funds for the operational activities under this programme is N\$17,412,000.

The Development Budget activities have been allocated an amount of N\$1,066,000.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS' CONTRIBUTIONS:

Our development partners have committed an amount of N\$345,994,000 towards the programmes in the health sector and which are funded outside the State Revenue Fund. The funds received from various development partners continue to make a significant contribution to the development of the health and social welfare sector, including the fight against HIV/AIDS, development of physical infrastructure, human resources, strengthening of health systems management mechanisms and other Family Health Services programmes.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, it is worth noting that we still have a long way to go and the resources are scarce, but I remain grateful to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia for quality leadership and guidance in ensuring equitable allocation of the resources. I also wish to acknowledge with thanks, the constructive criticisms from the Honourable Members of this august House. Your continued interest and genuine criticisms have helped to shape much of what we have achieved to date.

Finally, I wish to thank my team, the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the entire workforce at the Ministry of Health and Social Services for their tireless efforts towards the realisation of our primary goal of achieving health for all.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I now have the honour and privilege to present before you a sum of N\$2,414,587,000 for Vote 13 for your consideration. I so move and I thank you.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH

**Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM”, N\$305,648,000 put
for Introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I have the honour to introduce to this august House Vote 18 of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for 2009/2010 Financial Year and following in the footsteps of the Speaker who reminded us that today is the Earth Day, I would like to repeat the words I said to this House last year, which are: *“Namibia is blessed with abundance of natural resources, fish, minerals, forestry, farmland, desert, mountains and wildlife and all these make up our Mother Earth, a joint natural heritage that needs our care and protection. Environmental protection is a pre-requisite for the mitigation of the impact of climate change that has devastating effects to the communities. The challenge for Namibians living today is to ensure that this natural heritage is available to future generations to meet their aspirations and improve their quality of life.”*

As we all know, the North and North-East of Namibia have experienced floods that caused destruction during the past two years. Some of the adverse consequences of the floods are a direct result of poor planning of human settlement. The predicted future climate change risks are expected to exacerbate the already precarious situation. Consequently, highly adaptive responses are needed to mitigate their impacts.

A study done by Reid et.al in 2007 concluded that over a period of twenty years, annual losses to the Namibian economy could be between 1 to 6% of the GDP due to the impact of climate change on natural resources alone. This means annual losses to the economy of between US\$70 to US\$200 million if no action to adapt to climate change is taken. In terms of individual natural resource-based sectors, crop and cereal production that currently contribute together 1,5% of the GDP, will decrease by 10 to 20%. Traditional agriculture that contributes 1,5% of the GDP would decline by 40 to 80%, livestock production that contributes 4% of the GDP may decrease by 20 to 50%, fisheries that contribute 6% of the GDP is predicted to range from 30 to 60% decrease, while no clear changes in

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tourism, which currently contributes directly 2,3% to the GDP were identified. Based on the findings of the abovementioned study, we as a Nation need to develop and adopt mitigation mechanisms to climate change effects.

The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia obliges the State to protect the environment. The combined effects of climate change and damage to the environment would have devastating consequences for individuals and families livelihood. Both climate change and damage to the environment are, to a large extent, a result of human activities. Environmental pollution, including plastic bags, must be watched. The proposed introduction of an environment tax to mitigate, among others, the damage to the environment must be supported by this House and the nation-at-large. In implementing this tax-regime, ways and means should be found to make the culprit pay for the damage.

Honourable Chairperson, it is a known fact that the tourism sector has experienced significant growth during the past decades. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, Namibia is ranked among the top ten fastest growing tourism destinations in the world. The reason for this positive trend is the unique and pristine natural environment, landscapes and biodiversity, wide open spaces, peace and stability, well-developed infrastructure and service industries, rich cultural heritage, cleanliness and tourist-friendly entry requirements.

Tourism has a multiplier effect due to its ability to create jobs both directly and indirectly and generates income for services providers and contributes towards improvement of the quality of life of many Namibians. The active promotion of tourism has resulted in increased conservation efforts and the subsequent increase in wildlife populations across the country.

Tourism is the most productive land use option and can be conducted in harmony with other land uses. With a high level of innovation and creativity, the Namibian tourism sector can offer unlimited opportunities for development in many parts of the country, particularly where few other economic opportunities exist.

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While tourism in Namibia has been growing at a fast rate, we are not oblivious to the current global economic crisis. The Ministry is currently compiling the tourist arrival statistics for 2008 and will carefully study the trends and make projections for 2009.

In my capacity as Minister of Environment and Tourism, I led the Namibian delegation to the International Tourism Bourse in Berlin, Germany that took place from 11 to 14 March 2009. In total, 25 Namibian exhibitors were represented at the Namibia booth. According to a representative survey carried out during the fair, six out of ten exhibitors said that the recession had no impact on their business, though they believe that there will be a change in tourist behaviour. For example, 52% of exhibitors expect tourists to take shorter trips, while 68% expect demand for last-minute travel to increase. More than half of the exhibitors claimed that they were adapting their products to suit the changing conditions.

Therefore, despite the global financial crisis, there was a positive mood among exhibitors. I also attended the International Hunters Convention held in the USA this year and the mood of the outfitters was the same as that of exhibitors in Germany. I express the hope that Namibian players in the tourism industry will adapt their products to suit the changing conditions. Such adaptation is crucial to enable us as a country to find ways for our tourism sector to benefit from the 2010 FIFA World cup and the African Cup of Nations that will take place in South Africa and Angola, respectively. The National Policy on Tourism for Namibia which was adopted by Cabinet last year will guide the industry to play its strategic role in the Namibian economy.

In summary, the task of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is to guide the development of tourism, to manage the environment, protected areas and wildlife resources; to support community-based natural resources management and to regulate sustainable use of wildlife. The Ministry also manages and regulates gambling and lotteries. In order to perform those tasks, the Ministry requires adequate budgetary support.

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I now turn to specific Budget programmes of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

An amount of N\$305,648,000 is allocated to the Ministry for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. This amount represents an increase of 46,04% over the 2008/2009 appropriation.

N\$2,19,781,000, which represents 71,9%, is allocated to the Operational Budget, while N\$85,867,000, which represents 28,1%, is allocated to the Development Budget..

The Budget of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as contained in the Medium Term Plan, addresses the following six programmes:

PROGRAMME 1: PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT:

An amount of N\$136,697,000 is allocated to this programme. The main objective of this programme is to improve the efficiency of protecting and managing protected areas which currently comprise 17% of the country's land surface and to increase those areas' socio-economic value through improved generation of income. The programme will also increase the role of those protected areas in biodiversity protection through increased representation of Namibia's biomass, thus enhancing the main tourism attractions to Namibia.

Namibia established a system of protected areas which is managed by the State. During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, two other parks, namely the Mangetti and the Sperrgebiet National Parks were proclaimed and launched. The management plans for Sperrgebiet and Ai-Ais National Parks were finalised, while the management plans for Bwabwata, Mudumu, Mamili and the Mangetti National Parks as well as the Kunene Peoples' Park are currently being developed.

Provision of water to game, specifically the conversion of electrical boreholes to solar systems with the aim to improve efficiency and reduce maintenance cost was conducted. This activity will continue in the current Financial Year to cover all parks. The Policy on Human-Wildlife Conflict

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Management is submitted to Cabinet. Once approved, it will help us in dealing with the challenges of human-wildlife conflict.

Namibia took over the coordinating role for development activities for the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area (KAZA) for two-years period as from the 1st of January 2009. Partner countries, namely Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe are currently developing the Treaty for the Trans-frontier Conservation Area.

Funding requested for the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework period will be used to finalise the management plans for the protected areas. Similarly, within this programme an amount of N\$10 million will be used to strengthen the northern border fence of Etosha National Park. The funding will also be used to strengthen the efforts to establish a world class trans-frontier tourism and conservation area. (KAZA). The financial contribution from partner countries will be required to fund core activities of the conservation area, KAZA Trans-frontier Secretariat as well as some projects aimed at uplifting rural communities living in the KAZA area. This programme will enhance legal status of protected areas, enable the expansion of the protected area network and increase the ecological integrity, biodiversity and tourism value of protected areas. Through the expansion of tourism concessions in parks, the programme will increase Government revenue and economic growth of the tourism sector.

PROGRAMME 2: PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF KEY SPECIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

An amount of N\$30,659,000 is allocated to this programme. The objective of this programme is to improve the efficiency of protecting and managing key species and natural resources.

In the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, the focus will be to intensify efforts to address species-specific conservation needs that may be identified through monitoring. Efforts are also made to improve the Ministry's ability to manage human-wildlife conflicts. The conservation and sustainable utilisation of rare species are being addressed

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through management plans. Rare species camps will be established to ensure breeding success in roan, sable, tsessebe, puku, oribi, lechwe, hippopotamus, wild dog and buffalo. Namibia has received positive feedback on its publication on rhinos in the Journal for Wildlife Diseases after all the rhinos tested were found to be disease free.

Other activities under this programme include the re-introduction of economically valuable species, such as black rhinos, black-faced impala, roan, sable and other species through the wildlife breeding stock loan scheme. The breeding stock loan scheme is specifically targeting formerly disadvantaged Namibians who are coming into game farming. Monitoring and planning for human-wildlife conflict management, legislation, regulations, policies and procedures for wildlife management will also be put in place.

Towards establishing a healthy game population on communal land, the Ministry, through its Community-based Natural resources Management Programme and with the assistance from the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme trans-located 2,500 heads game to conservancies during 2008/2009 Financial Year. Eleven farms received game through the Wildlife Breeding Stock Loan Scheme during the period under review. During this Financial Year more conservancies will receive game. The number of farms that will receive game through the Wildlife Breeding Stock Loan Scheme will increase from eleven to fifty-four this year. It should be pointed out that translocation of game is a complex undertaking. It requires sufficient human, material and financial resources in order to be successful.

The Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act of 2008 was passed by the Namibian Parliament on 14 December 2008. The Act provides for the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Namibia and the regulation of controlled game products, such as elephant and rhinoceros products. The major impacts from this programme will be to:

- Increase the population size of economically important species;

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- Reduce human-wildlife conflicts;
- Reduce threats and impacts of mining on endemic species;
- Improve the knowledge base for key species;
- Improve management efficiency for key species; and
- Increase access by formerly disadvantaged Namibians to wildlife to complement other forms of land use.

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

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson.

PROGRAMME 3 – COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM:

An amount of N\$24,242,000 is allocated to this programme. The objective of this programme is to strengthen the conservancy system on communal lands and other community-based programmes by improving the natural resource base for economic development. Through such programmes, management of natural resources will bring about enterprise development, thus enhancing job creation and improved livelihood.

Namibia has gained international reputation for its innovative approaches of linking conservation to poverty alleviation through its communal area conservancy programme and pro-poor tourism initiatives. Since the enactment of the Nature Conservation Amendment Act, 1995, conservancies have developed from a small beginning to one of the country's major development programmes. Through capacity building and our support to effective utilisation of land as a means of income generation, trophy hunting has become the second highest source of income for conservancies. Trophy hunting in general has grown by 12

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percent annually in the last 10 years. This is 5% more than the goals set in the country's blueprint for economic development, the Vision 2030.

Major activities under this programme include the creation of an effective enabling legal and policy environment for community-based natural resource management and improvement in the methodology for quota setting. It also aims at expanding a monitoring framework for game and other natural resources and improvement of information management, for the monitoring of community-based natural resource management for poverty alleviation and rural development.

In addition, under this programme, management of integrated ecosystem and recovery of biodiversity will be improved. At conservancy level, members will be trained so that internal governance, transparency and accountability will be strengthened.

During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, three more conservancies were registered and gazetted, bringing the total number of registered conservancies to fifty-three, providing permanent employment to over five hundred people. Seasonal employment is also created. Two thousand five hundred heads of game were trans-located to twenty-three conservancies to add value to the land use.

The current Medium Term Expenditure Framework period will continue with support for new development. For example, commercial trade in medicinal plants, namely Hoodia and Devil's Claw among others. Aggressive promotion of community-based tourism development and campaign for protection of indigenous knowledge will also continue.

The major impacts from this programme will be an improved natural resource base in conservancies. In addition, and in line with the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, more jobs are created and household income are increased through tourism and other natural resource based enterprises. There will also be improved Financial Year management and accountability at community level.

**PROGRAMME 4: REGULATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT:**

An amount of N\$51,800,000 is allocated for this programme. The objective of this programme is to ensure sustainable development by avoiding environmental degradation and non-sustainable use of renewable resources through the enforcement of laws and regulations. This is done through the environmental impact assessment studies and the system of registrations and issuance of permits for use of wildlife resources.

The main activities under this programme include routine processing of applications and issuance of registrations, permits and environmental clearance certificates, as well as law enforcement and monitoring of compliance. The strengthening of legal and policy framework for environmental protection is part of these programmes. Research and development of policy and legal instruments concerning emerging environmental issues will be part of this programme. Efforts for the mobilisation of resources for the Environmental Investment fund will be made.

Other activities will be undertaken to improve data bases and electronic issuance of permits and registration in order to enhance monitoring efficiency and control.

Campaign on environmental pollution and management will be conducted throughout the country. The Ministry has recently launched a documentary, titled “Balancing Act.” The documentary will be used as one of the campaign materials. During the year under review, the campaign to protect our Coast is launched under Coastodian, under the theme, “Caring for the Coast, Caring for the Future. That programme is ongoing.

In the current Budget cycle the focus will be on the operationalisation of the Environmental Management Act of 2007 by establishing the Office of the Environmental Commissioner and the Designated National Authority for environmental assessment and monitoring compliance as defined

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under the Kyoto Protocol. Furthermore, the Ministry undertakes to strengthen the Ministry's ability to provide environmental planning and management and compliance monitoring services at local and regional levels. Hence, the GEF funded, through UNDP, Pilot Project on Integrated Land Management. Namibia is a world leader in this field and the programme aims to significantly improve local economies, the state of the environment and the prospects of sustainable development, through different methods of land use.

Attention will be given to operationalising the Environmental Investment Fund. Since the fund was established the Ministry was not able to capitalise the fund. In this Financial Year the Budget includes N\$15 million to kick-start the Environmental Investment Fund.

The major impacts from this programme will be an improved regulatory framework and increased support from the Ministry for the land reform programme, in particular land use planning and the environmental sustainability of land use. Support from the Ministry for rural development and decentralisation through improved environmental planning, monitoring and management will also be increased. Similarly, improved compliance monitoring will be emphasised.

May I inform this House that most environmental projects with the Ministry are funded by development partners and other stakeholders. I, therefore, want to thank them all for their continued support.

PROGRAMME 5: TOURISM DEVELOPMENT:

An amount of N\$48,967,000 is allocated to this programme.

The objective of this programme is to support the development of environmental friendly and socio-economically beneficial tourism development for the growth of one of the largest economic sectors in the country. Major activities of this programme include the operation of the Namibia Tourism Board and the Namibia Wildlife Resorts, gaming, lotteries and support to community-based tourism.

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The approval by Cabinet of National Policy on Tourism for Namibia was a major achievement during the last Financial Year. The Policy will form the basis for the development of the tourism Act in the course of 2009/2010. This legislation will enhance the achievement of Government development objectives in the tourism sector, as outlined in NDP III and Vision 2030.

The gaming sector provides entertainment to both the local people and the tourists. During the last Financial Year, gaming contributed N\$15 million towards State Revenue, generated from issuance and management of gambling and casino licences. There is a scope of higher revenues from this sector, which is only possible if monitoring and surveillance mechanisms are put in place. The Ministry will employ inspectors and acquire sophisticated computer software necessary to regulate the sector and to remove potential deficiencies. The Nation will be educated on responsible gambling.

The Namibia Tourism Board is working hard to retain and increase its key markets as well as to tap into new markets, including Asia and North America. Namibia has been branded as a soulful, natural and liberating destination and these core values continue to make the country popular with the tourists. The country strives to offer value for money, hence its commitment to the establishment of quality facilities such as lodges, guesthouses and the enhancement of the skills of industry personnel. The importance of meeting our financial obligations to the Namibia Tourism Board to enable this statutory body to market the country locally and internationally more effectively, cannot be over-emphasised. The Namibia Tourism Board also has a responsibility to prepare the industry to be ready for the 2010 FIFA World Cup and African Cup of Nations. Provision of N\$33 million in subsidy and N\$2 million for international marketing is made in the proposed Budget to support the Namibia Tourism Board in its operations.

There is a great need to accelerate broad-based black economic empowerment. The Tourism Development Programme will promote and support community-based tourism. An amount of N\$500,000 has been allocated to this activity. The Tourism Industry Transformation Charter

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sets the platform for these enterprises to succeed and all efforts need to be made to assist with its implementation. Mentoring and skills transfer are important components of this Charter.

Under this programme, the Ministry will improve the process of designing, awarding and monitoring of tourism concessions in a fair and transparent manner, support community-based tourism enterprise development and management and support of the development of empowerment initiatives in the tourism industry.

Namibia Wildlife Resorts remains a key state-owned company and a vehicle for the State and public to benefit from the Namibian tourism sector and to contribute to the national economic growth. The company is responsible for managing tourism facilities country-wide within the national parks. Significant progress on Namibia Wildlife Resorts Turnaround Strategy has been achieved since its approval by Cabinet in June 2006. NWR has now brought a number of its facilities to international standards, added one more new facility, namely the Onkoshi Camp in Etosha National Park and diversified a range of its products to offer a more exclusive and natural product and experience. In accordance with the Namibia Wildlife Resorts Act (Act 23 of 1998), Section 7(2)(b), the NWR has entered into nine Public-Private Partnership Agreements.

I am happy to report that we are already receiving positive returns in terms of revenue on the investments made so far through the Turnaround Strategy. However, the facilities that have not received financing through the Cabinet Decision of 2006 are placing a heavy burden on the returns of the company, as those facilities are still seriously dilapidated because there has been no intervention there. Henceforth, profits generated by refurbished products are continuously subsidising those other resorts. Against that background, there is a need for money to be made available for the dilapidated facilities to be brought to a standard so that NWR can be profitable and pay dividends to the shareholder.

The major impacts from this programme will be continued growth in the tourism sector, increased revenues to the State, employment creation, community participation and ownership of tourism enterprises, enhanced

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regulatory and planning framework, monitoring of tourism development and improved service delivery. The programme will improve tourism planning and development at regional and local levels.

PROGRAMME 6: IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROTECTED AREAS:

An amount of N\$13,288,000 is allocated to this programme.

The objective of this programme is to improve the Ministry's contribution to State revenue and to promote value addition and trade in natural resource-based products. The main activities include monitoring of economic value of natural resources, review of revenue streams and tariffs; implement wildlife breeding stock loan scheme and conduct wildlife auctions. The impact will be increased revenue generation and improved understanding of the economic importance of the sector.

During the last Financial Year, Namibia has remained consistent in promoting sustainable use of natural resources. This resulted in the granting of final approval to sell our ivory stocks. Subsequently, 7,504 kilograms of ivory was auctioned to buyers from China and Japan. The auction generated an amount of N\$11,685,515, which was paid into the Game Products Trust Fund to support conservation and community development.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism also realised revenue of N\$19 million through auctioning of live rare game species from the parks in 2008. The following animals were auctioned: 90 black-faced impala, 40 buffaloes, 21 giraffes, 16 sable antelope and 8 black rhinos. With the approval by Cabinet of the concession policy, trophy hunting in protected areas has resumed. The first auction for hunting concessions in protected areas is taking place this morning, the 22nd of April 2009. An amount of N\$13,681,000 have been generated for this current year. As you know, those who got the concessions will have it for three years and every year a 10% will be added to what has been auctioned.

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The allocation for this current Medium Term Expenditure Framework period will be used for the development of infrastructure and monitoring of economic value of natural resources and their contribution to economic development. The promotion of value addition and trade in natural resource-based products and implementation of wildlife breeding stock loan scheme will be part of this programme. The improvement of the monitoring of the economics of tourism and other natural resources and their management will be enforced.

Comrade Chairperson, to effectively implement the programmes mentioned above, the challenges facing the Ministry are to be addressed. The main challenge facing the Ministry is its operational structure. The current structure can no longer meet the operational needs of the Ministry, especially now that the Ministry has to administer new laws and policies as well as international treaties and conventions to which Namibia is part of. The most affected Directorates are the Directorates of Environmental Affairs and that of Tourism. The restructuring process has started and it is my hope that the Public Service Commission will handle the matter with the urgency it deserves.

In conclusion, I thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Honourable Director-General of National Planning Commission and their staff members for preparing a Budget that addresses the real problem of the people in the face of the current global financial crisis. In the same vein, I must thank the staff of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for having performed their tasks with commitment and dedication, thus enabling the Ministry to accomplish its set objectives.

May I also thank my former Deputy Minister, Honourable Jooste, who left the Ministry at the beginning of the year. He has made his valuable contribution during the period under review.

I now ask this Honourable House to approve an amount of N\$305,648,000 to enable the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to fulfil its mandate and I thank you.

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Vote 19 – “TRADE AND INDUSTRY”, N\$344,745,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House.

It is my honour to introduce to this august House, Vote 19 for the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. I wish to take this opportunity to express my support for the 2009/2010 Budget that has been presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance to this House. I wish to thank the Minister of Finance and the NPC Director-General for the proposed allocation to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

I have no doubt that I will also have the support of this Honourable august House for my Vote.

2009/2010 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, my Ministry has been allocated a total of N\$344,745,000 for the 2009/10 Financial Year. This amount is broken down into:

- N\$220,207,000 for the Operational Budget; and
- N\$124,538,000 for the Development Budget.

This overall amount represents an increase of 85.4% in comparison to the allocations of the previous Financial Year. In this regard, there is a 40% increase in the Operational Budget from N\$157,240,000 during the 2008/09 Financial Year to N\$220,207,000 for the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

The Development Budget increased from N\$28,664,000 to N\$124,538,000, representing a whopping 334% increase.

I am pleased to say that this significant increase will enable my Ministry to expand its development programmes across the board, and to play its

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meaningful part in contribution towards the achievement of set national socio-economic development goals, especially in the areas of trade and industry development and promotion.

The Budget of my Ministry covers the following five key programme areas:

1. Trade promotion and facilitation;
2. SME and Entrepreneurship development,
3. Domestic and Foreign Direct Investment Promotion;
4. Domestic Market Competitiveness; and
5. Industrial Planning and Infrastructure Development

Let me now elaborate on my Ministry's Budget allocation in respect of the programmes that I have summarised above.

PROGRAMME 1: TRADE PROMOTION AND FACILITATION:

International Trade has to be carried out in a world that has fundamentally changed in the last decade. Today, we live in an era of profound change, characterised by trade liberalisation, which we can neither roll back nor ignore. Trade liberalisation has led to the unprecedented dismantling of barriers to trade and capital mobility, together with technological advances in areas such as transportation and information communication technology (ICT).

Namibia's Trade Development Programme is largely derived from obligations emanating from its membership to treaties, conventions and agreements at regional and multilateral levels, and the mandate of the trade and industry sector as provided for in the National Development Plans and Vision 2030.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is the national focal point for trade promotion and facilitation. Its core responsibilities in this regard entail the management of Namibia's import and export regime and the negotiation and safeguarding of Namibia's interests in the regional and multilateral trade arena. Our trade development agenda focuses on the promotion of

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deeper regional and wider economic integration and South–South cooperation. The ultimate aim is to foster increased trade opportunities and diversified export markets, increased international competitiveness, and a widened economic and trading space that can in turn help stimulate market and product diversification and enhanced production efficiency.

A sustained export-oriented and market development strategy is crucial, given the small size of our domestic market, and in order to enhance the export potential of the primary sector and opportunities for local manufacturing and value addition to natural resources. To this end, the Government made export promotion and export market development a central component of the country’s economic growth and development agenda.

Over the past years, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, in collaboration with stakeholders, spearheaded the maintenance and negotiations of agreements on preferential market access for our goods and services under the following bilateral, regional and multilateral trade arrangements:

- The Southern African Customs Union (SACU), which continues to be an important market for our products as well as a source of most of our consumer goods, with South Africa as the main trading partner;
- Conclusion of the negotiation of a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between SACU countries and the MERCOSUR countries of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, last year;
- The Free Trade Agreement between SACU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries of Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Lichtenstein, which was signed and ratified;
- The implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade, which process has resulted in the launch of the SADC Free Trade Area in August 2008;
- The Generalised Systems of Preferences (GSPs) and the USA Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) that provide duty and quota free

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access for a range of manufactured products into the USA and other developed economies' markets; and

- Namibia is also leading SACU negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement with India, and negotiations are still in progress.

Without a doubt, trade arrangements bring opportunities but also challenges. The latter require urgent and deliberate policy strategies and interventions. Due to its limited industrial base, Namibia continues to face competition from other economies in the Region, especially South Africa, resulting in trade imbalances and its domestic market being flooded with imported goods.

Urgent and concerted efforts are required to increase Namibian exports and market access, in light of the launch of the SADC Free Trade Area in 2008, the current SADC-EU EPA negotiations and the expected formation of a SADC Customs Union from 2010 onwards.

I am happy that a budgetary allocation of N\$100,155,000 has been allocated to trade development and promotion in the 2009/2010 Budget, representing an increase of 82%.

In addition to the execution of our obligations under regional and multilateral trading arrangements to which we are a member, this Budget will be used to undertake the following trade-enhancing activities:

1. Construction of basic trade facilities such as trade exhibition centres in identified towns and Regions in the country, to provide appropriate space for local entrepreneurs to exhibit and find buyers for their products;
2. Organisation or facilitation of participation of Namibian entrepreneurs in trade fairs at home and abroad. My Ministry supports the cost of transporting exhibition materials and products and part of the cost of participants;

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3. In keeping with our obligation under SACU, the Ministry of Trade and Industry is working to establish the Namibia Board of Trade, which will be responsible for tariff setting and investigating matters related to anti-dumping;
4. In the absence of a fully-fledged embassy in Geneva, Switzerland, the Ministry's WTO Liaison Office has been serving an embassy-type of role, although it is not equipped for this. My Ministry plans to acquire appropriate office accommodation and means of transport to cater for larger delegations from Namibia, because whenever Namibian delegations or Parliamentarians go there, that young man is helping with them without having any resources and that is why we are taking that action to augment the capacity of this office in general during the current Financial Year;
5. Despite the securing of preferential market access, the majority of Namibian business people have interest but have so far been unable to penetrate export markets to take full advantage of the business opportunities they offer. This is due to, among others, difficulties related to the acquisition of appropriate warehousing and product distribution facilities in target export markets, including neighbouring Angola. The Ministry thus plans to investigate and construct trading facilities, starting with Angola, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and
6. We plan to strengthen cooperation with, and render direct support to formal business associations so as to create and boost their capacity to assist in executing some of the business and trade promotion services on behalf of, or in partnership with, the Ministry.

PROGRAMME 2: SME AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

The Government recognises the role of the small-scale and informal industry as a viable solution to growing unemployment and poverty. The development of a dynamic SME sector and small-scale industries has largely been inhibited by the high cost of financing. Other factors such as

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a lack of business management skills; competition from relatively cheap imported industrial goods that are easily available to Namibian markets; high transaction and information costs; low productivity and product quality; and limited capacity for technology management and knowledge acquisition, have also played their part.

Our SME Development Programme is designed primarily to increase the entry of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are predominantly owned by the previously disadvantaged members of the Namibian society, into the mainstream economy. It also aims to increase value addition, employment and income generation and production through technology transfer.

A budgetary allocation of N\$41,692,000 has been allocated to enable the Ministry to continue and devise new interventions under this programme in support of SME development.

The following main activities are planned for implementation under this programme during the current Financial Year:

1. Financial assistance towards feasibility studies and business plans for business ideas and opportunities with great potential for success and employment creation, and with special focus on young and women entrepreneurs;
2. Development of business linkages between SME operators and larger suppliers and distribution houses with the purposes of helping the small producers to source cost effectively and secure market access;
3. Provision of a range of business development and mentoring services in areas such as business management, tender procedures and project management, product and market development, facilitating access to technology, and business exposure visits; and
4. Assistance to SMEs to procure production machinery and inputs in order to improve their production capacity and product quality and

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reduce the cost of doing business.

In this regard, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has designed Group Purchasing and Equipment Aid Schemes. The focus of our interventions is on building the production capacity of SMEs in sectors such as garments and clothing, leather and mineral processing, specifically to reduce input costs and to increase their buying power.

With technical assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat, we have enabled the formation of, amongst others, a Textiles Association, which started off with four textile and garment manufacturers as founding members, drawn from Windhoek, Arandis and Swakopmund. Membership has since grown to 150 companies, predominantly involving the youth and women. My Ministry's support is in the form of financial assistance towards the procurement of production machinery and inputs, and business advisory services in the areas of product quality and marketing.

During this Financial Year, we plan to expand on this initiative by creating additional or new garment-making business units that can provide employment opportunities to some young people, especially those who lost their jobs following the closure of Ramatex.

The other planned activities under this programme is the construction and setting up of cottage centres for gemstone cutting and polishing, in order to boost local value-addition and beneficiation to our natural resources, and curb the exports of unprocessed stones for value addition elsewhere;

We also plan to carry out a national Enterprises Establishment Census this Financial Year, in order to collect and produce reliable and accurate statistical data on the number and categories of enterprises in the country, for effective policy planning and other interventions;

As per Cabinet directive, our effort to dissolve and transform the Small Business Credit Guarantee Trust into a self-sustaining SME financing bank is at an advanced stage. Without any doubt, if this financing institution is fully established, it will provide a much-needed additional

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financing window for SMEs in the country. The current proposed partnership in the envisaged new SME bank involves the Government, commercial banks and other institutional investors.

In order for us to build a large pool of competitive and innovative domestic enterprises, there is a need for an integrated approach and strategy involving not only my Ministry and the Government, but all other stakeholders, including private service providers such as financial institutions. The education and training sector also has a critical role to play both in developing entrepreneurial mindsets, as well as in equipping entrepreneurs with the necessary business management skills and tools.

**PROGRAMME 3: INDUSTRIAL PLANNING AND
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

This programme is aimed at addressing the constraints related to the high cost of acquiring land and business premises, especially by the micro-enterprises and SMEs in the country. Through this programme, the Ministry secures industrial land from local authorities in the country for the development of reasonably-priced trading and market outlets and manufacturing space for lease by micro and small and medium enterprises, through its Sites and Premises Development Programme.

My Ministry has, to date, constructed a total of 42 diverse business and industrial parks and facilities in some 27 different places across the country. The enterprises that are operating from these Government-developed facilities employ over 3,800 people on a permanent basis, while some 7,300 people were employed during the construction of such facilities. It is also worth pointing out that almost 60% of the small businesses that are operating from our business parks are owned and/or managed by women. In this connection, this programme makes a positive contribution to the empowerment of historically disadvantaged members of our society.

The provision of affordable trading and manufacturing spaces has had positive effects. One of these is the exposure of small businesses that used to operate under trees or concealed back-yard garages and were therefore

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hardly noticed by potential customers, thereby increasing their chances of success and growth, employment and poverty reduction.

Our main focus with this programme is to provide basic industrial land, market and trading infrastructure that are needed by investors or business people, in Regions or places where the regional or local authorities are unable to satisfy this demand.

In light of the positive impact of this intervention, the Ministry of Trade and Industry plans to expand this programme in the coming years. I am thankful for the budgetary allocation to this programme in the current Budget amounting to N\$84,857,000.

The major activities to be undertaken with this Budget are as follows:

1. The construction of Phase 2 of an SME Business Park and related facilities at Okongo in the Ohangwena Region;
2. Provision of electricity reticulation and related bulk services to a site intended for the construction of an agro-food processing centre at Oshakati;
3. Construction of additional warehousing facilities at the Katwitwi business park in the Kavango Region;
4. Feasibility studies for the development of modular community market and business centres at Rosh Pinah and Ruacana; and
5. Construction of the Ministry's Regional Office for the Caprivi Region at Katima Mulilo.

THE NAMIBIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NDC):

In keeping with the identified need and consequent decision by Cabinet for a revitalised State-owned industrial and agricultural development agency, the Ministry is working on the recapitalisation and transformation

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of the NDC to perform this important developmental role. In this regard, I have visited the agricultural projects, namely the Cattle Ranch in Kavango and plan to also visit the grape and date farms in the south of the country. I am greatly concerned that the Corporation does not have the required financial and human resources to fully exploit the huge economic and employment-creating potential that the projects under its management offer for the benefit of the country.

My Ministry, in consultation with Cabinet, plans to vigorously pursue the transformation of the NDC.

EX-RAMATEX FACTORY PREMISES:

As it is well-known, Ramatex closed its textile and garment operations in April 2008 and later filed for voluntary liquidation in the Namibian High Court in May 2008. There has since been a legal dispute between joint liquidators appointed by the Master of The High Court and the City of Windhoek, with the former contesting the cancellation of the lease agreement by the City of Windhoek as well as the ownership of the more than 8 ex-Ramatex factory buildings. I am informed that the liquidators have filed a Court application, in which the Ministries and Trade and Industry and Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development have also been cited as second and third respondents, respectively.

As a Ministry and Government that, together with the City, invested in time and resources in making the Otjomuise industrial site usable for job creation, we are not happy that the facilities are tied up and cannot be made available to other potential investors. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is consulting in order to find a speedy solution to this matter.

PROGRAMME 4: DOMESTIC MARKET COMPETITIVENESS:

This programme is intended to enhance Namibia's competitiveness in the areas of business establishment and expansion. During the past years, my Ministry dedicated itself to set appropriate institutions to foster a vibrant and competitive domestic market environment as well as reduce the cost

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of business establishment. Our interventions in this regard is focused on improving our systems on business registration as well as setting up legal and institutional frameworks to enhance competition and the quality of our products in the local and foreign markets. In this regard, the Namibia Competition Commission has been established, albeit still in its starting-up stage, to deal with uncompetitive practices, such as price collusion, dumping and price gouging. The Namibia Standards Institution (NSI), our own national standards and quality assurance body, has been established and is fully operational, although still getting technical support from South Africa's SABS/National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) in its formative stage.

On registration of businesses, trademarks and patents: We have re-engineered our processes and this has resulted in the automation and streamlining of the registration system and processes. This "Process Re-engineering Initiative" has made it possible for a business to be registered in five working days. Applicants can also now receive acknowledgement and possible date of collection of their processed applications at the time of application. This has in turn resulted in an increase in the number of businesses registered and revenue collected for the State.

When fully implemented, this integrated business registry system will offer online Internet application features and capabilities that will enable applicants to apply electronically and from wherever they are.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, an amount of N\$88,878,000 has been allocated to enable the implementation of a number of planned activities under this programme. These are the financing of the Namibia Competition Commission; enhancing the operational capacity of the Namibia Standards Institution and the construction of its bio-toxins laboratory and testing centres; consumer protection related activities; trade inspections; establishing a national accreditation programme; maintaining the computerised companies registration system; setting up of a market regulation and consumer protection unit within the Ministry, and undertaking related activities in collaboration with the business sector.

**PROGRAMME 5: DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN DIRECT
INVESTMENT PROMOTION:**

Until the current global financial crisis and economic downturn, the trend in especially foreign direct investment remained positive with a number of new investments taking place over the past years. Although Namibia has performed relatively well in terms of investment inflows in comparison to other countries in the Region, the level of Foreign Direct Investment and domestic investment remain very low and inadequate to help the country to generate the desired levels of employment, growth and development as envisaged in Vision 2030 and the Millennium Development Goals.

As far as domestic investment is concerned, it is also pleasing to note that there has been an increasing movement towards local value addition, especially mineral beneficiation. A number of new investments and expansions by local companies have been noted especially in the construction, retail, property development and tourism sectors. There is, however, still greater scope for expanded local value addition and exports of manufactured products.

The level of manufacturing and its contribution to the country's GDP, and employment in particular, continues to be relatively low.

A number of the notable investments and expansions have been undertaken by Namibian companies such as the Olthaver & List Group of companies, the Namundjebo Plaza Hotel development by Namibia's United Africa Group, the Frans Indongo Group, and Bank Windhoek, to name just a few. We are proud to see that even formerly disadvantaged people are now building a five-star hotel.

A number of significant investments have also been realised in mining and mineral processing over the past years, namely diamond cutting and polishing, as well as large-scale investments in uranium extraction worth billions of dollars. These and other such investments have created and are expected to create thousands of jobs for Namibians and business opportunities for existing and other new enterprises in the country through procurement of goods and services from local suppliers.

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A number of challenges have been and continue to be encountered, which need to be addressed in order for our country to retain and improve on its investor-friendly status.

Studies by the World Bank's Foreign Investment Advisory Services (FIAS) and the USAID-funded Southern African Global Trade Competitiveness Hub in 2006 and 2005, respectively, have concluded that

- The existing law on investment, the Foreign Investment Act, 1993 has become outdated and is no longer serving as a useful tool for attracting investment into the country, and therefore needs a complete overhaul; and
- The investment admission and facilitation framework and procedures are in most cases very cumbersome, unpredictable and require re-engineering and streamlining so as to make them more responsive to investor needs in terms of time and quality of service.

This conclusion was confirmed at national level as the result of a consultative workshop that the Ministry of Trade and Industry hosted at the end of last year on the effectiveness of the current legislation and regulatory framework.

The purpose of this programme, for which N\$29,163,000 has been allocated, is thus to promote and facilitate increased domestic and foreign direct investment in Namibia by creating an enabling environment and promoting Namibia as a preferred investment destination.

We plan to do the following during the current Financial Year:

Intensify investment promotion and marketing of Namibia by:

- Carrying out invigorated investment promotion and marketing campaigns at home and abroad, also in the form of advertisements such as the one that I hope most of you would have seen running on CNN;

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- Establishing commercial offices in identified strategic locations around the world;
- Producing investor guides and related information materials on investment opportunities and outlining procedures and requirements for admission and doing business in the country; and
- Organising or participating in investment promotion seminars and events.

We also plan to set up and operate an investor registry and tracking system, for purposes of statistical registration of investors and tracking their investment activities;

The promotion of the development of the Trans-Caprivi and Trans-Kunene Development Corridors, a regional development initiative aimed at identifying, showcasing and promoting investment opportunities around major transport networks between Namibia and its regional neighbours; and

As mentioned, the revision of the legal framework on investment. We have initiated the reform process, which we aim to complete during the current Financial Year.

I thank my Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary, entire Ministerial staff, and I re-affirm our dedication and commitment to execute our mandate to the best of our abilities, with the financial resources that will be allocated to us, with your support.

Therefore in conclusion, Hon. Chairperson and Members, I hope I have adequately motivated my Ministry's Budget. I now seek your support and I thank you all for your attention.

Vote 17 – “REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT” put for Discussion.

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 17
HON DR AMATHILA

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing, I do not expect less from you because we started this Ministry together and I am happy that you are back there.

Let me start on page 3 while one of my Colleagues who was complaining about lack of housing is sitting here. If you look at the last paragraph, the Build-Together Programme has built 1,176 houses. Honourable Tjihuiko, you were saying that the Government has done nothing about housing.

Honourable Minister, let me congratulate your Councillors in the different Regions, particularly the Omaheke Region. When we were struggling to get houses for the San people, your Councillors in Omaheke built beautiful houses for the San people and I congratulate you for your assistance and I was asked to come and hand over those houses.

On page 15 you listed the projects finalised and implemented during the review period. While Rural Development was in the Ministry of Agriculture, they started working on those projects at Omega and now I am very happy that you have come back and we are going to work very closely on these projects.

Secondly, this place, Oshanashiwa in the Ohangwena Region, during the war the San people ran away from that place but there was a wonderful traditional Councillor who kept this place in abeyance for the San people. He said these people are going to return, they left from here and nobody is going to fence-off this place. When the people came back, he gave that land to the San people and with the help of Rural Development he fenced it off and you should really pay attention to this place, because it is removed from other people and if you can concentrate on that place, I will be very happy. That is a very important place for gardening.

The other day when the Speaker of the National Assembly was responding, he kept on saying, "*they told me to say this.*" Your people

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have made a mistake at bullet 3, the bread-making project is not in Oshivelo but in Tsintsabis. This is a project by Women Action, they want to train bakers, they want to train computer experts. You saw it on television when we were handing over the certificates.

The San people who are in Rundu are really suffering from a lack of water, the same in Okakarara, the same in many places where they are isolated and they do not have water. I think we will concentrate on that so that Rural Development can go there and give people some water.

Lastly, on page 16, the handover was not in 2009 but in 2007. Otherwise I do not have anything to add. Let me just say, I wholeheartedly support your projects and I am looking forward to working with your Rural Development Division. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Goreseb.

HON GORESEB: I thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 17 and to make a few comments and ask a couple of questions. I am on page 439 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

One of the main objectives of the Ministry is to secure sufficient land for housing because a house is a very important commodity in one's life, but unfortunately the prices of the plots in towns, cities and villages are very high and unaffordable. Is it perhaps possible for the Honourable Minister to intervene, in collaboration with the municipalities and Regional Councils, to control the prices of the land to be affordable?

On the very same page, Ministerial Targets: This time it has been mentioned that decentralisation is due to start and that three functions are going to be delegated to the Regional Councils. Will this decentralisation

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take place in conjunction with the staff members and will sufficient funds be provided to the Regional Councils to be effective?

Rural Housing Lans is a very good programme, but it needs effective monitoring. There are half-completed houses in our towns. The rural areas are testimony to this effect.

Informal Settlement Upgrading is a great relief to the smaller towns and cities because they cannot afford to render the basic services, such as water, etcetera. I want to know from the Honourable Minister whether these smaller municipalities request the Office of the Minister for surveying and planning services, because surveying is very expensive and, therefore, towns cannot develop? Can they be assisted by the Ministry?

Fire brigade services: Act 5 of 2007, Section 2(3), stipulates that the Minister must subsidise the fire brigades and other emergency services rendered by Local Authorities. My question is, most of the smaller municipalities have outdated fire engines. Can they be assisted to replace these fire engines in order to be effective and to benefit from this subsidy? Do they qualify for a subsidy for services rendered although the services might be below average?

My last question to the Honourable Minister is on the Trust Fund for regional development and Emergency provision. How does this Trust Fund work? Are the benefiting towns and municipalities required to repay the cost at the end? Do Local and Regional Authorities contribute to this Trust Fund and on which basis? I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, first of all, I thank the Minister for the transportation which was provided to the Traditional Authorities. This is really a step forward, but this has solved only one of

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the about fifteen problems. They need medical aid, they need everything and the best would be to meet the Traditional Authorities countrywide and get firsthand information in order to solve their problems.

I want to comment on something on page 4 and I am sure the SWAPO Members are ready to interject. I want to know what are the criteria of the SWAPO Government to declare a village or a settlement as a town. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question? Do you know that there is potential that during the coming elections the creation of villages and towns can take place even though there are no structures?

HON MOONGO: The Chief wanted to fire the first bullet, but that is why I was saying that according to my traditional professional knowledge, a town has to be declared after you are satisfied that they can run their own affairs and they have enough resources, but their plan is to score political points, as the Chief said. The reason why SWAPO is declaring so many villages as towns is for political reasons and those are the criteria they use and in the end the officials are not paid. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. I think the DTA is not in favour of the creation of towns because during the elections they are always embarrassed when they get twelve votes.

HON MOONGO: In the end the town is unable to pay the officials and even the clerks of the newly proclaimed towns cannot dictate. That is why they have their minds and they milked the villagers who stayed in that small town. They put up a garden, there is no garden to be paid. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson, can we please pray so that we can save this House from this kind of talks?

HON MOONGO: I know that the SWAPO Members are praying that I must not come back, but the people will decide. It is a pity it is not a SWAPO decision but for the people to decide whether I will come back. Whether you want it or not, I will come back. So help me God. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, yesterday I approached you in the restaurant to advise you to please grow up and you promised that you would do that, but you still continue acting like a child.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo, be serious now, you are not serious. We do not need to know whether you are coming back or not. Let these prayers take place in the churches, not here.

HON MOONGO: The officials need to buy cars and now they milk the poor communities. The community has to pay for a garden and there is no garden. They have to pay for the land and there is no limit to what they are going to pay. They keep on milking the poor communities and they doubled the water rates, they doubled their salaries. (Intervention)

HON P MUSHELENGA: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? I have been listening to the Honourable Member talking about a lot of things, not really in terms of our Rules here and I do not know why all the excitement, but my question is: Who has touched the iron and still remain with the iron smith?

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HON MOONGO: On page 5 they are talking about sewerage. Of course, we are happy that new towns, such as Omuthiya, will have sewerage systems, although there are only a few houses and they cannot afford to pay the salaries of the people, but SWAPO proclaimed it as a town because it wants to win.

Colleagues, I appeal to the Ministry to also look at many other towns who also do not have sewerage systems after nineteen years. Those towns were built by the colonial Governments, but you failed to bring sewerage. However, I am happy about the other towns which still have the bucket system. (Interjection). What medicine did you give to the *tokolosh* so that the people vote for you, the one you used to push in those towns?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo, this is not the time to talk about *tokolosh*.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you are talking about all these things. What made you fail to run the Government of this country. Why did you not win the elections with all those ideas? If you have all those ideas, what makes you to cry? Why do you not put them into action? We have won the elections and we are doing something, why do you not win the elections and do those things?

HON MOONGO: In many municipalities the poor communities with *kapanas* are paying fees, they are pushed around. That is why I am asking what *tokolosh* you are using. You push them around but they are still voting for you. I support the Vote.

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

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Vote 17.

In the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, page 227, on the subsidies to the Regions, there is quite a huge difference between the two. In the development of new towns the allocation of subsidies should be increased so that at least the towns could perform their duties in terms of provision of services such as water, electricity and roads.

Secondly, I am happy that the Ministry has allocated funds for the fire brigades. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a tiny question? How can subsidies be given to half-built houses all over the country? Money is pumped into those areas but what happened to that money?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Comrade Chairperson, being a former Mayor, subsidies do not go into buildings, subsidies go into institutions to take care of civic services, such as water, roads and electricity and not to half-built buildings.

I was saying that I am happy that this Financial Year we have an allocation for fire brigades. We have experienced houses burning in some of the towns and I am happy about that allocation.

On page 229 I notice that there is quite a drastic decrease on the loan to the Build-Together Programme from N\$33 million to N\$5 million, then to N\$2 million and in 2012 it is almost zero. Why the decrease in the Build-Together Programme? However, I notice that there is an increase in the amount allocated to the Shack Dwellers. We must remember that the Shack Dwellers, the Build-Together Programme and National Housing Enterprise cater for different categories of income groups of our society.

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Lastly, Comrade Chairperson, maybe just an idea which goes along with the aspect of rural development. We are creating towns mostly in the rural areas, Omuthiya, Divundu, Bukalo, Outapi and many others. When it comes to the use of land within the boundaries of towns or adjacent to the towns, can we not set up projects, maybe through the Green Scheme, and create small farming units, create small manufacturing units so that people can benefit from the services in towns, such as water, electricity, etcetera, so that they could be the feeders of the economy in these small towns and so that the towns can be developed with the assistance of the small communities who can produce. Maybe we can look into that aspect so that we can develop our small towns in a way that everybody has a stake. That would minimise the influx of people into cities like Windhoek and towns elsewhere.

These are my few comments, Comrade Chairperson, and I support Vote 17.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I need your protection please, because I want to direct myself to the Honourable Minister Jerry Ekandjo and I know that he is capable of answering my questions. Therefore, I would appreciate if he could be allowed to answer my questions and nobody else.

On page 2, paragraph 5, rural development: When you elaborated on the rural development process, you were saying that the restructuring process of Rural Development has been completed and approved by the Public Service Commission. Then you went on to say: *“The key results of our focus area in rural industrialisation...”* That is the way I understand rural development, but page 447 in this big manual you are saying: *“Rural Development: Food and Cash-for-Work”* and then you said: *“The*

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project seeks to encourage people to remain in rural areas and to improve their nutritional well-being. Beneficiaries are unemployed adults.”

What I want to know from the Honourable Minister is, which one is which? Is rural development meant for rural industrialisation or is it meant for providing food for specific persons to do something? That is the first question.

The second question, Honourable Minister, is on page 3, housing. I do not know whether the Minister was here when we were discussing housing. You are saying in your motivation: “*Housing remains one of the principal factors that has a great potential to vitalise economic growth of the country.*” You are one hundred percent right. Then you went on in the last paragraph: “In the case of Build-Together Programme, a total number of 1,176 houses were built” and you seem to be very excited about this. The question is, we have a backlog of plus minus 80,000 houses and you are only able to build 1 100 houses per year, which means, according to the statistics, that if you take the 1,176 and divide it by the thirteen Regions, you are building 90,5 houses per Region. How can you be excited that you are doing something when you are only building 90 houses per Region?

Take for instance the Otjozondjupa Region, ninety houses, no wonder that today we are facing a situation where people are sleeping under tents and kids are being taught under trees. It is because of that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Tjihuiko, I think you are completely wrong. The Build-Together Programme is only one of the programmes, but there are many institutions which are contributing to the building of houses and different schemes. There is the Shack Dwellers, there is the Councils, there is National Housing Enterprise, AgriBank and there is a housing scheme for Civil Servants. There are so many, you cannot try to attack the Build-Together, that is not the only programme, there are hundreds of other programmes including your own individual initiative. What are you yourself doing?

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HON TJIHUIKO: I do not know how many Honourable Ekandjos we have in this House. Honourable Minister, are you aware of the fact that two weeks ago there was a demonstration in Okakarara about the houses that have been built in that town. The houses are so small, to the extent a tall guy like myself cannot even stand up straight. The houses that have been built by Build-Together are even worse than the houses which were built by the colonial regime. It is worse than those and if you want to see it, go to Okakarara. People have demonstrated against your Government. What are you going to do about that?

I understand that the people are saying that some the money which has been given to build these houses has disappeared. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: Those are your Councillors!

HON TJIHUIKO: Okakarara is being run by two political partners, the DTA and SWAPO. The mayor is from SWAPO, the management Committee is SWAPO. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. If somebody is touching the beard of his father, it is not a good thing.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Before I conclude, Honourable Minister, there is a saying in Afrikaans that: “*Soek uit die verlede en bou daarop die toekoms.*” (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I want to give an explanation before he sits down, because he is going to give wrong information to the

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community out there. The reason for Build-Together and the name Build-Together means that you get your funding, small as it is, you build your first little place and later on you can extend the house. Build-Together does not mean that you get a four-room house because you need to get the money which you will be repaying. Therefore, you take what you can afford and then you add to the house. That is the concept of Build-Together.

HON TJIHUIKO: If you try a scheme that you have copied from somewhere and it a failure, for the last twenty years this programme has not worked. So, you must either throw it out or develop a new one. If you cannot think of a better structure, NUDO is prepared to help you. You can get our concept, we are going to launch our manifesto soon. You will see and I think you must approach us to help you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time up. I recognise Honourable Muharukua.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I stand here to thank the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development for the houses we have in Kamanjab, Opuwo and Otuzemba. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: It is a Point of Order, it is not a question. We have problems with Build-Together, they built houses here in Windhoek in Cimbabasia. The water went through those houses.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Chief, the Deputy Minister is talking about something different.

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HON RIRUAKO: She is talking about houses in Kamanjab, houses in Opuwo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: If we do not thank the Government it is wrong, because we are here to look after the Government. When we say Government is doing nothing, it is not right.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. The point is this, we are not talking about the Government, the structure, the people who build these houses and misuse the money.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Chief, I know, but when we are here we have to thank the Government which is giving the money to the people and when we go out there to talk to people, we have to ask our people why they are misusing the money. However, you are going to the people and telling them that the SWAPO Government is doing nothing and today you say the money is being misused by the people there. You are giving the wrong information.

Comrade Minister, on page 9 of your motivation you talked about allowances for the Traditional Authority. Some Traditional Authorities took the SWAPO Government to Court, but you are giving them allowance. Are those people who are taking the Government to Court getting allowances or not? I want you to tell the public out there. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I recognise Honourable Kawana.

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support Vote 17 and I would like to register my appreciation and gratitude to the SWAPO Party Government for the project of phasing out the bucket system. I am really very, very happy about this project. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: After 19 years!

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Comrade Minister, I am also happy to learn that there is a programme to have a Storm Water Drainage Master Plan and I believe that this will go a long way to prevent flooding of some of our towns, particularly during the rainy season. I also want to register my appreciation and gratitude to the SWAPO Party Government for providing transport to our recognised traditional leaders. This is indeed an indication, contrary to some of the assertions by the Members of the Opposition, that we always only consider the SWAPO Party traditional leaders. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. We happened to take the Government to Court, yes, and after that we agreed behind closed doors and whoever is taking the Court is not the Opposition, it is the gentleman there, Honourable Moongo.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson, I want to register my appreciation and gratitude to the Honourable Chief because I know he put it in writing that he is no longer interested to take the Government to Court and this issue has been resolved amicably in the interest of peace and stability in our country and I would like to register my appreciation to the Honourable Chief. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kawana, are you aware that even today the Traditional Authorities are here to meet with their lawyer to take the Government to Court. I am talking about today, not last year. Are you aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: I am not aware of that, but as far as NUDO is concerned, they gave their maximum cooperation to Government and we appreciate this spirit of Namibian-ness for the sake of peace and stability. We have to give credit where credit is due. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. It is unfair to touch the beard of the father. Namibians have rights and the main right is the right to justice. When somebody is being deprived of recognition, you have the right to go to Court. How many Court cases against you are still pending? You rigged the election and it is still pending.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order. There is nothing about elections here. Proceed, Honourable Member.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson, I just want to register my appreciation for the provision of transport to our Traditional Authorities, regardless of party-political affiliation. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: There is no case, it was my case but I have withdrawn the case. On what basis did this case have to go to Court?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: In conclusion, let me once again thank the SWAPO Party Government for these projects.

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We look forward to serving our people as that is in the first place the mandate of the SWAPO Party Government and, indeed, our people's welfare comes first. I support Vote 17.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I recognise Honourable Basson.

HON BASSON: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My concern is on pages 3 and 4. I was happy about the report given here on the Build-Together Programme. On page 4 there is a report on the Shack Dwellers Association houses, but my concern is about the National Housing Enterprise houses. According to my knowledge National Housing Enterprise is a parastatal under the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. Therefore, if the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development is not giving us information about National Housing Enterprise, where will we get the information? The reason why I am asking this is because everybody knows that National Housing Enterprise houses are very expensive. If you now go to any house of National Housing Enterprise here in Windhoek, you will see that the person owning the house now is the third or fourth owner, not the first owner of the house. The houses are very expensive and they are so small. I just want to know who should give us information about National Housing Enterprise houses.

My second concern is on Build-Together Programme which is a very good programme introduced by the SWAPO Party Government. The only problem is that the maximum loan you can get under this programme is N\$40,000 which is not enough with the rising prices of building materials. I want to ask the Minister to increase the amount at least to N\$60,000. Otherwise I support the Vote and I thank the SWAPO Party Government for building houses throughout the country. Especially in the Hardap Region the people have houses and they are happy. (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. It is better to sit down instead of listening to this NHE propaganda. What is the objective?

HON BASSON: Comrade Chairperson, my concern was on the National Housing Enterprise houses and I hope the Minister will inform us who will give us information on how many houses were built in this current Financial Year. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-CUBE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all I would like to register my appreciation to the Ministry for the development which took place, such as the programme to replace the bucket system, and the establishment of the Trust Fund for Regional Development. Congratulations, Comrade Minister, because I see that the Fund is really serving its purpose. It has also constructed the houses for the war veterans and it has purchased the farm Emmerentia, etcetera.

With regard to the bucket system, Honourable Minister, I do not see that for instance Kalkfeld is mentioned elsewhere. It is a Village Settlement but this system is still a matter of concern, especially the toilets which are for communal use which are really a health risk. I would like to find out from the Minister, what programmes are in place to make sure that we do away with the bucket system, especially in Villages Settlements such as Kalkfeld? Thank you very much and I support the Vote.

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

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HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to refer to the bucket system as mentioned on page 5 of the speech.

Comrade Minister, there are a number of scientific technologies which are being used on the African continent. One of the appropriate technologies to be used is ecological sanitation, "*Ecosan*". (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question? We are a variety of human beings here and the language you sometimes use passes without being acknowledged.

HON DR AMWEELO: No, it is sanitation that I am talking about. Ecosan is new technology in sanitation to deal with human waste and water from households. It is a resource which can be recovered, treated and safely used again. We have a scarcity of water in Namibia and this toilet will not use water. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. When I was chatting outside with the Colleague, I said, "*do not talk about these engineering things, you always talk about complicated things.*" Do you think our people in the communities can drink that water? They will not drink that water. Those are European things, man.

HON DR AMWEELO: We learn from each other, this is our university, just listen. The toilet I propose does not use water, you do not need to use water in the toilets because this one has an extractor fan and the most important thing is that this new technology uses shallow pits which reduce any chances of contamination of groundwater, because if you use a deep pit, the groundwater can be contaminated. (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. Since we had a flood, is that purified water all over or is it bad water, according to your scientific views?

HON DR AMWEELO: What I am saying is that if we replace the bucket system with the ecological sanitation toilet, we will save money and water. Therefore, Comrade Minister, I support your Vote hundred percent but I would suggest that you consider the new technology with regard to ecological sanitation.

Honourable Moongo, the world is changing, do not remain behind. Thank you, Comrade Chairperson.

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

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is probably prompted by what I really like within the presentation by the Minister and that is on food security, food-for-work. I understand that storage facilities have already been erected although not by the same Ministry, but I want to see collaboration between the line Ministries with regard to food security. You encourage people to produce more and then you would want to give them some kind of incentive. To give them incentives, you need a structure. I just wanted to see that collaboration, because it is not necessarily this very Ministry's responsibility, it should be shared among some Line Ministries, I would think. I want to have clarity on that.

Then to add value to the food that we produce. For example, during a good harvest you want to store as much as possible, the Government would buy as much as possible and store it. When buying from the communities, you give them cash up there wherever they bring their bags

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of food, but then you probably also need marketing. This collaboration effort should be highlighted.

Talking about value adding, let me take a simple example. In the northern Regions you have millet, mahangu. From mahangu you can produce *iikwiila*, homemade bread. This homemade bread made from mahangu flour could be sold. I know this will probably spill over to the Ministry of Trade where they will sell this homemade bread. I know there is a certain outlet where they sell these right now and a lot of people buy this at Ongwediva. Adding value to our products would be very essential. For example, we may be able to produce *oshithira*. You have wild watermelon seeds and we should encourage people to produce more of these. I am talking about food security and collaboration between the Ministry concerned and the line Ministries. Maybe the Minister would be able to elaborate more on that. I thank you very much.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chair, let us talk about what Honourable Ankama has said now. Most of the people do not eat mahangu, but some of us eat mahangu and you can find it in the shops here in Windhoek. In Europe it is the most wanted meal and here we pretend that we do not eat mahangu. That is unfair to yourself.

The fact is that the Minister said he mixed the two, food and how to give it to the people and you do not eat some of your own products. Some of them are saying this mahangu is only an African product, which is wrong. The taste is the same and you cannot dislike yourself, instead you have to change the way of doing things. Many of us here produce while we are not using that product. You have to do things which are relevant to your own existence rather than to pretend. That is why we are so keen to know about how the product is given to the people to encourage them to take care of themselves, but they do misuse the money. It is not the people

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who are given the money, it is the people handling the money and there is a call to the Government to discipline those people who misuse the money before it is going to reach its objective. That is not fair.

I thank you for what you have done. You gave cars to the Chiefs and that was good. (Intervention)

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Could I ask the Honourable Chief a question? Does he not think that this kind of development can only come from a Government which is people-centred?

HON RIRUAKO: It comes from the Government. You have to differentiate between a Government and a Political Party. This is the Government of the people, to the people, not a Party.

HON DR AMWEELO: Comrade Chairperson, on a Point of Information. When I was talking Honourable Moongo was not considering what I said as serious. This is a picture of the new technology I was talking about. I said that in an area like the South we do not have enough water...(Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Just call the Messenger to collect the information and give it to him. Proceed, Chief.

HON RIRUAKO: I am here to give credit where it is due, that is me, but if I see this thing is wrong, I will say that you are wrong. This is a House of talking, but talking logic, not something else I cannot mention here.

Honourable Minister, I wanted to give you credit yesterday about how you put your structure together and your approach. For that matter, I am here to thank you.

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HON DIENDA

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of the South West Africa People's Organisation. My first question is on page 7 of the speech of the Minister, financial reports from Village and Town Councils which are so long overdue and the people who are responsible for those financial reports are saying it is because of a lack of commitment.

Honourable Minister, training, as you have said here, cannot change a lack of commitment, but discipline will change it. How does the Minister intend to address this problem of people who have been sitting in positions for so long but they cannot give us financial reports.

My second question is still on the speech of the Minister where it reads: *"Professional staff, such as accountants, have been recruited and deployed at eleven Village Councils."* Honourable Minister, who will pay the salaries of these accountants, since the income of Village Councils and Town Councils are so low?

Thirdly, on the same page 7, *"outstanding third party accounts were settled."* For how long does the Minister intend to bail out these councils and towns? For how long?

Fourthly, who determines the salaries of CEOs? Is there no minimum and maximum scale rate determined by the Minister? There is now a case whereby the CEO gets less than the people whom he supervises. Yes, you must listen to Chat Show. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Are you afraid of saying a spade is a spade? Could you tell us the truth?

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HON DIENDA: Honourable Chief, I think the Minister knows about this matter, his name was also mentioned on that programme.

My next question, Honourable Minister, is on page 229 of the Revenue and Expenditure, the Habitat Research and Development Centre. Current expenses, N\$2,979,000, construction cost N\$950,000 budgeted for. What is the status of this entity? Are they only working towards benefiting themselves or do they also recycle and sell to other entities?

My next question is on the same page 229. The Windhoek Municipality, which falls under this Ministry, has recently decided to write off outstanding debts of debtors who, according to them, cannot be traced, but the same municipality, on the other hand, is selling the houses of poor people who are in arrears with N\$10,000. What principles did the Windhoek Municipality use to determine who to take action against? (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. The municipality is in a commotion. They have sacked all the officials and they retrenched them without notice and out of that how can you keep the evidence.

HON DIENDA: Thank you for the information, Honourable Chief. Honourable Minister, I am still with the Windhoek Municipality, parking facilities. Honourable Minister, there are car watchers or watchmen, whatever they are called, who are watching our cars. Parking tickets are being issued and put on our windscreens. Either they remove it, the wind blows it away or somebody else removes the parking tickets. Then the municipality will not send you a reminder in the mail so that you can come and pay the parking ticket. How will the owner of the car know that there is a parking ticket issued in your name if you are not informed by the municipality beforehand? Now they arrested us for things which they do not have proof that I have received it. Honourable Minister, there is a loophole in this system. Can they please follow up all these tickets that were issued in the parking areas? We cannot pay for things which we do not have proof of. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. I want to inform the Honourable Member, please leave some questions for 2010 or do you think that you are not coming back to the Chamber?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Muharukua, you are here on the ticket of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation, I am here on the ticket of the Congress of Democrats. Please allow me to speak.

Page 229, informal settlement upgrading – N\$3,908,000. Honourable Minister, how do they determine how many water taps and toilet facilities are needed in those areas? Sometimes you will see 200 people sharing one toilet and one tap.

Honourable Chairperson, the Build-Together Project. As much as we would like to cover up these issues, there are loopholes. Why can the houses, as small as it is...(intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. The interruptions are too much. We come with very important issues and you know that and I know that. Let us concentrate on what she is going to say and then answer her.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Chief is Out of Order because, he is the one who is disturbing.

HON DIENDA: Why can the houses, as small as it is, not be built and given to the owners? Too many risks are involved in giving people money to do it themselves.

My second-last question is on page 4 of the speech. Honourable Minister, when did this programme on food and cash-for-work start again? In February 2009 when we were visiting the Caprivi Region, the people there

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were complaining that it was stopped. Will you inform them now about this new development? I thank you.

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

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support my Vote because I also live in the rural area.

I would really like to express my support for the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision. I would like to say that this Fund, if properly developed, could really fulfil a very important role, but as it is now, we probably need to give little more attention to it by providing it with a proper secretariat and all other mechanisms that the Fund needs in order to function properly and to stop some of the activities going on, such as using the Fund's money to bail out Councils or Local Authorities that are struggling for whatever reason or who did not manage their funds properly. This Fund should refrain from that because there is just too much that it can do and the money should not be used in this respect. Once properly established, the allocation to the Fund should be increased. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: It is well and good to stop the funds but the criticism will come upon you, not upon the Government who stopped the funds. You must look for experts to take care of the Fund and how it is functioning.

HON NAMBAHU: My second point is on rural development. I really salute the Ministry for refocusing on this aspect. On page 13 of the Minister's motivation speech all the other responsibilities and purposes

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are brought in, such as industrialisation, management of natural resources. There is one thing which I do not see and maybe you could have a look at it and that is chaotic development taking place in areas which are not proclaimed. If an area is not proclaimed, it does not mean that life is not going on there. There is uncoordinated planning, setting up of infrastructure not based on a scientific approach and you should have some mechanisms to take care of these areas.

There are even some secondary schools and clinics near sewerage ponds which are not fenced off and the floods have taken this water away. These issues should really enjoy our attention and there should be an advisory unit to advise the Colleagues.

Another area is Traditional Authority reform. Training is not mentioned in here and I think it should be mentioned. The Traditional Authorities are playing a very important role in allocating land to people, but they are doing it without any proper knowledge of land-use management. I usually hear people talking about farms and carrying capacity for animals. Is there is no such thing as carrying capacity for human beings? People are being crowded into one very small area where you cannot even have a chicken. Where is your goat going to graze? Some of these things need to be looked up and maybe the colleagues could be trained in order to also consider the carrying capacity and land management.

Comrade Minister, my last point concerns the Habitat Research Centre. I feel it is time that the Habitat Research Centre becomes visible. If one of its purposes is to develop local building materials, I was in Zambia, I was Ethiopia and I saw people at *kambashus* building doorframes, window frames. One of the functions of the Centre should be that they encourage building materials to be local. Maybe the Centre could encourage this and also become visible so that we know what exactly they are doing and maybe the population could also be advised.

With all these remarks, I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

HON KASINGO: Thank you very much for giving me the Floor, Honourable Chairperson. My point on the Trust Fund has already been taken by Honourable Nambahu and I will only add something, but before that, I would like to congratulate the Minister in particular for the work being done by the City Police of Windhoek. They are doing a marvellous job. They are looking after our houses, they are succeeding in arresting the criminals.

Yesterday I was listening to the Minister of Veterans Affairs when he was expressing disappointment in the people who are guarding their houses. Maybe they can make use of the services of these people, they are good. You can just inform them that you are going somewhere and they look after your house. Congratulations on a job well done.

Having said that, I want to say that the Regional Development and Equity Fund is very important and that I do not think the N\$3 million allocated are enough, considering the floods which we have experienced in the two Regions. They need the support of not only the Government and outside donors, but local donors. Especially those who are getting tenders from the Government, must contribute to this Fund. As I have said earlier, before being given a tender, you must contribute to a certain Region, a certain component of your profit must go the Regions. These people are getting a lot of money.

The last question I would like to ask the Minister is on the difference between this Fund and the other Fund of the Governor. I was made to understand there is also a Governor Fund. What is the relationship between the two? With these few words, I support Vote 17.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Minister Tjiriange.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I support the Vote and I have one or two questions.

As you are aware, Comrade Minister, the building of houses for veterans is still with the Ministry of Local Government and it is about to be transferred to us. I have seen that you did not say anything about it, but it is listed under the functions of the Trust Fund. I only want to know whether you are going to transfer this function together with the funds.

I was saying that the housing for veterans is now being carried out by the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing, but in the near future it is going to be transferred to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. The Minister did not say anything about it, but I have seen that the Fund was actually financing this. When this function is going to be transferred, will it be transferred together with the funds earmarked for those buildings or what are you going to do?

Lastly, you talked about the Traditional Authorities. It appears that this issue has become a problem, but I think we are dealing with things of our own making. If we could have followed the Tanzanian way, we would not have had this problem. Now we have created a problem for ourselves by passing a law for the recognition of Traditional Authorities in this House. In Tanzania, from the word go, they said that they are not going to have anything with that and that institution is irrelevant and it does not cause any problem.

Because of the money and benefits involved, everybody is trying to find a way of becoming a Chief, so that it has now become a territory of survival and it was created by ourselves. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjiriange is comparing Namibia to Tanzania in terms of decisions made at the time of Independence on recognition or non-recognition. Comrade Tjiriange, are you aware that most of the Chiefs in this country were given weapons by our enemy. Some of them even had machine guns, many of them have military bases. Do you not

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think that our policy was in defiance of these very traditional leaders, to neutralise them and sway them away from the enemy by giving them such due recognition?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Yes, it might be, surely it was not a blind thing, there must have been reasons, but whatever the reasons might have been, we are living with this dilemma. It might have been good at that time. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. I want to inform the House and the Colleague that the colonial regime did not only give one .303, but are you aware that since time immemorial our traditional Chiefs had community weapons, a lot of them. It is there and the Police know about it. A Headman or a Chief does not have only one, they have many, but it is only for our elderly chiefs who inherited it.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I do not care how many weapons you have, I am talking about your recognition which is causing problems. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: We did not bring weapons into this House, your Colleague did that. Who provoked who?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order, Chief. There is no provocation.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I have said what I wanted, but we have created a problem, we have to face it, the law is already there, we should have stopped it from the word go, but maybe for the reasons that the Honourable Member has mentioned, we are already there. (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. Since the Colleague is now unhappy about the weapons of the traditional leaders, how many weapons does SWAPO still hide? There are still a lot of weapons among you.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I do not know whether this man listens or not. I have never said anything about weapons. This House did not make weapons, it made the law and I was talking about the law, not weapons. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Chairperson. I support the Vote of my brother and I support everything he is doing. On page 7 it is said that the Ministry is paying for overhead charges by NamPower on a monthly basis on behalf of some Village Councils.

I sympathise with my brother because the lifeline of most of the municipalities is mining. People could survive, but once the mine is decommissioned, then automatically there is not enough cash flow for the municipalities. It is not that it is misuse of funds, but rather lack of funds in the areas.

I want to ask the Honourable Minister what will now happen to the municipalities which are not able to cope financially, because of the closure of mines? Here you are only mentioning the Village Councils, but what about other municipalities who are unable to cope with the situation because of the closure of mines? Tsumeb is now experiencing problems, Arandis may survive for some years, but once the mine is decommissioned, they will also have some problems. Oranjemund might have problems and a lot of other towns. Usakos has no lifeline

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whatsoever. A long time ago they had the railway-junction, but nowadays people are no longer travelling by rail.

My question is whether you are only considering the Village Councils or whether you are going to demote those towns to villages once there are no longer any activities or what? Thank you very much.

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

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to congratulate the Deputy Prime Minister for what she has done, the Ministry is her baby.

Honourable Goreseb, you asked whether the Ministry can intervene in the purchase of land? Land in the Local Authorities, because of the economic growth and prices, is currently very expensive. Local Authorities are not subsidised by the Central Government. I am told before Independence most of the Local Authorities were not subsidised, but they were borrowing from the then so-called Central Government and the result is that today most of the Local Authorities are still struggling to repay the loans. For instance, when they built the single quarters, they borrowed from the Central Government. Since Independence the local authorities have not been subsidised and the result is that they depend on the sale of land, water, rates and taxes.

If one goes to Grootfontein, as an example, one would ask why is Grootfontein dirty. Last year the electricity of Tses was cut off by NamPower and the people demonstrated. People had prepaid electricity but their electricity was cut off. People demonstrated and asked, “*why is my electricity cut off while I have paid?*” It is because the village Council

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is not subsidised. Instead of paying that money to NamPower, they used it for the running of the town.

I have written to all Local Authorities countrywide, requesting them to provide me with their proposed Capital Budgets for the 2010/2011 Financial Year so that once they submit their capital projects and cost it. Then I will indicate to Cabinet that this is what the Local Authority needs for this, so that we can see whether the Central Government can also assist local authorities.

We say Windhoek is clean, Keetmanshoop, Walvis Bay, but they are struggling because of the selling of land. Can we not maybe assist Local Authorities to service land? At the initial stage of Build-Together the money was given to the beneficiaries and later we gave it to the suppliers, but now the money is given to Local Authorities for Build-Together. Build-Together takes care of the people whose salaries are less than N\$3 000, such as the cleaners and the *kapana* sellers. The highest amount one qualifies for is N\$40 000, which you have to repay over twenty years.

Coming to Walvis Bay Municipality, they said that when it comes to Build-Together it is a slow process. They sell land and the Town Councillors said to service the land it is N\$30,000, you qualify for N\$40,000, they subtract N\$30,000 and then you remain with N\$10,000.

Rehoboth and other towns service the land with N\$5,000 which they subtract from the N\$40,000. Early in 1991 after Independence there were people in riverbeds, etcetera, and the Municipality of Windhoek serviced the area north of Ashipena and Nasboukor was about to build houses, but Dr Amathila stopped them and said they must only build flush toilets. They built flush toilets, we provided tents and we took the people from the riverbeds. If one goes there today, you will find Moses Garoëb and Tobias Hainyeko Secondary School, Hage Geingob Secondary School, it is a township.

I think to solve this issue of land for Build-Together, why can the Central Government not subsidise a town or village and service a hundred erven

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and once you get the loan of N\$40,000, you only spend that on the construction of the house. I think that is one way to solve the problem.

Currently the Central Government does not subsidise. The amount here is almost N\$800 million, but close to N\$600 million is for the Operational Budget and the rest is for the Capital Budget. I want to change the way we operate. At least the Central Government must support. If you go to New York, Beijing, Paris and all the towns in the world, even Johannesburg, Central Government is subsidising Johannesburg with one billion per year. In France all the towns are subsidised, Germany, Britain, in America Washington is subsidised by the Central Government, but in our case we do not, we leave it to the poor in Okahandja. We will keep on demoting. Otavi was a town, we demoted it to a village. We are now thinking of also demoting Karibib and maybe Rehoboth. Tomorrow we will demote Keetmans. Tomorrow we will demote Windhoek from a city to a town, tomorrow we demote Walvis Bay. If we leave the towns to be on their own, the result is that the land becomes expensive, they increase the water and electricity tariffs because that is how they live.

Now we have REDS. NamPower sells power to REDS and they distribute it. Most of the Local Authorities want to withdraw from REDS. For instance, in Katima Mulilo they said they used to get N\$400,000 per month but now they only get N\$30,000 from RED as a surcharge. In Walvis Bay they say they are dirty, Swakop says they are dirty. The result is that those towns under the REDS want to withdraw. The electricity of those without REDS is cut off. I think the only way to save our towns is if we subsidise.

All Members of Parliament go to Usakos or Grootfontein or wherever and then they ask the Minister why is Kamanjab dirty. If you ask the councillors, they say, "what does the Central Government do for us?" I think it is high time that we inject funds into the Local Authorities so that we encourage them. I thank everybody for supporting the Vote.

HON RIRUAKO: I agree with the Minister, but we have solar panels that can become cheaper. We have to think about that.

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HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 17? Agreed to.

Vote 10 – “EDUCATION” put for Discussion.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: I wish to extend my gratitude to the Minister of Education for tabling the most practical Budget especially as far as the training and education of our Namibian citizens are concerned. I also congratulate you on the additional allocation of N\$157,513,000 to the Namibian Student Financial Assistance Fund as it is a welcome move which shall afford many needy Namibians the opportunity to study in the various fields of their choice in Namibia as well as in other SADC countries. As much as I appreciate this move, Honourable Minister, I wish to ask whether the Honourable Minister has engaged the Rector and the Council of the Polytechnic of Namibia on a name-change of this institution, to the name of National University of Science and Technology. If it has been done already, I want to know whether there are any recommendations with regard to this matter as the Debate is continuing.

I move further to page 15 of your motivation speech. The Honourable Minister has mentioned the severe floods which have affected the Ministry's programmes especially at the schools in the northern and north-eastern parts of our country. Comrade Minister, as we are now close to the end of the first semester, I want to know what measures are put in place to assist these learners to catch up with the syllabus.

With these two questions, I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Helmut Angula.

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HON H ANGULA

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I rise to support Vote 10 and I just want to seek again the future policy direction of the Ministry of Education in respect of vocational education and training.

I am very much concerned with this Vote in terms of the balance in allocations. The allocation for general education is N\$4,1 billion. The allocation for vocational education and training is N\$164 million and the allocation for tertiary education is N\$923 million.

Comrade Minister, I am not sure how we can solve these imbalances. We are confronted on a daily basis with a situation of school-leavers, Grade 12s, with no skills but being available in the job market with no prospects of ever getting jobs in the market. Yet the allocation to vocational education is not improving as desired. From 2006/2007, N\$73 million, next Financial Year, N\$75 million, a meaningful increase in 2008/2009, N\$134 million and this coming Financial Year there is an improvement, but judging from this resource allocation and looking at the number, it is said in the motivation of the Budget that enrolment for Grade 11 by 2012 will be 22,000. If 90% of those will go to Grade 12, it implies that 21,000 learners will write Grade 12 and if 90% of them are successful, it implies that 20,000 will be available for tertiary education as well as vocational education.

We are aware that the intake for vocational education and training is 5,378. That leaves 14,000 learners graduating from Grade 12. If we take the population of UNAM and Polytechnic, UNAM is said to have 10,000 in total, both resident and non-resident, Polytechnic around 7,000. That is the total population. However, when it comes to the remaining 14,000, it implies that out of the 14,000, only 4,000 may enter tertiary education, leaving 10,000 roaming around the town without access to vocational training, without access to tertiary education, with no skills.

Way back in 1993 when the first Commission of Inquiry in Education was held, I proposed in writing to the extent that this imbalance can only be addressed if we seriously enrol or incorporate vocational education and training into normal higher primary, lower secondary and secondary education, so that there should be a parallel education system whereby, if

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at upper primary you have children who have acquired skills and they could get a certificate of relevant skills, they will go to the streets with some skills and certificate, enabling them to enter the job market.

Then at the lower secondary level, those learners who are unable to get higher education to enter upper secondary school, will get a certificate for a profession. Then they are joining the market with some certificate to show in order to be incorporated. At senior secondary education, students who are not able to qualify for Grade 12, will have a certificate of competence in the specific area of their choice and they go to the street with specific competencies and skills.

This approach would have cut the Budget on infrastructure, because this training would have taken place in the same schools where the academic training took place. This was the reason why we had distributed Rural Electrification. Today you find schools using electricity in the evening, while nobody using those schools, because classes only go up to 12:00 or 14:00. What is the purpose of electricity provision to schools then? At times you find that there are no computers and no evening classes, yet the school are electrified. The electricity is now available at a cost, but it is not being used for its original purpose.

We must go back to the drawing board and seriously consider introducing parallel schemes of Vocational Education and training throughout all the schools. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. I have on many occasions listened to the Comrade Ilonga, it is only that we do not listen. Honourable Ilonga has been talking about parallel vocational training together with the normal education system, but nobody listens.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I recognise the contribution of Comrade Ilonga, but I am talking about the submission in writing in 1993, which is available on record. I am also talking about

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submissions that I have made in this House way back in the nineties. I am just recalling what I have said earlier and not contradicting whatever Ekanda was saying and we are on the same wavelength when it comes to this parallel education.

The point is that when we look at the resources available for capital projects, there is hardly anything. Out of that amount, there are only three Vocational Centres to be financed during the Financial Year and that is at Gobabis, Keetmanshoop and the Katima school. These are the only Vocational Training Schools being developed for the Higher Teachers Certificate (HTC) but they cannot absorb the more than 10,000 kids, because they already have 5,000, which means every year the intake is less than 1,000 in all the schools. Even if the district schools come on board, there will still be many children that will not have entrance.

The most important thing is that in order to combat unemployment there is a need to empower children with skills right from the primary level, secondary level to tertiary level. I thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 10 and I want to refer to NAMCOL on page 4. The Government has a policy for the Grade 10 learners to repeat but really, we need to do research, we have some principals who do not implement the policy of the Government and then the Government is blamed. A person has failed only once, but the principals do not allow them to repeat and we really need the principals to implement the policies of Government. If there is no space, then we need to encourage our children to go to NAMCOL.

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I have done research and I have found that many of the graduates who received diplomas and degrees have improved their Grade 10 or 12 results through NAMCOL. I want the Ministry to do research on how many of the students who went through NAMCOL entered the higher tertiary institutions.

Comrade Minister, if we want to build loyalty towards the country, let us avoid this class division that Ilonga's or Nangolo's child cannot be given a bursary by the State. I can tell you that we are creating a high society which is Anti-Government, because they do not get anything. How did the Government help me? Let us do as countries in Asia did. Last November when we were in Thailand and Malaysia they said, "*yes, we were there where you are now.*" They do not look at the family status, they look at the skills needed in the country and they send as many of their people as they can and when these people return, they return with loyalty and they serve the country. Comrade Minister, I want us to change this system, it is not a good one. With that, I support Vote 10

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

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, allow me to express my gratitude to the Minister of Education and his entire crew.

Nelson Mandela said that education is the most powerful tool which we can use to change the world. In fact, many Namibians, through the tireless efforts of your Ministry, have realised the importance of education and they took it as a key to a better life. It is why the enrolment at all levels of education has increased. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. Education is meaningless without handicraft. Germany was defeated twice and were uplifted by the handicraft men to be what Germany is today. It is not people with

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degrees, they could not do anything at all. Go and look at all the towns and structures, they were renovated by handicraft men.

HON KAVETUNA: Secondly, the fact that the Ministry makes education affordable, accessible and accommodative to all is indeed a milestone that most of the other Nations that received Independence before us are struggling with. Most of them could not reach these two pillars.

Thirdly, through the Minister, I thank the Minister of Finance for allocating such massive financial resources for the good cause of ensuring development of our country through education.

I would further like to provide some food for thought that would possibly be vital to the improvement of education. It is on page 4, the re-admission of Grade 10 failures. I think that was a good move that the Ministry provided a chance for everybody to go back to school, but I want to ask the Minister whether it is possible for us to divide these people into maybe three categories. The first one of those who failed with 20 to 22 marks could be given a supplementary examination in January, write one or two subjects and pass it and go back to school, rather than just searching for one mark for the entire year with NAMCOL. One could also have the category of people who have 11 to 19 marks. Those ones can be sent back to school fulltime, while those who failed with 10 marks downwards could enrol with NAMCOL and take a few subjects per annum, rather than taking all six or nine subjects per annum.

My other point is on COSDEC. I think it was really a good initiative that we established the COSDECs, but to this end, COSDECs are run like community projects that do not have a proper vision, because there is no finalised curriculum or a standard qualification. If I drop out of COSDEC Otjiwarongo and come to COSDEC Ondangwa, I cannot enrol because the curriculum there is different and the teachers there are not really formal teachers with qualifications. Therefore, I think it is very vital for us to make this one a bridging course for those who want to go to vocational

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training centres with a standardised curriculum across the country for all the COSDECs.

The issue of technical subjects in primary education has been mentioned. This should be started from Grade 4, because not every person is academically compliant. Some of them may drop out of school or become Grade 10 failures or be promoted annually, because it is not that they do not like school, they are better with their hands. We have to make sure that we introduce the technical subjects again.

Another point is the vocational training centres, page 7. I believe when the people graduate from the vocational training centres they are potential employers of their own, but the reason why they sit at home is because they lack two things and I would like the Honourable Minister whether it is not possible to look into this, namely to create modules of business orientation where somebody can start and run an own business and make it effective and another one is giving the graduates starter kits. When an electrician graduates, he can immediately go into the market and start working, rather than waiting for Mr John to employ him.

Lastly I would like to touch on the issue of the NFFAF on page 9. I am pleased that the Ministry has been given such a large amount for the students to study at various higher institutions, but I think we missed a point somewhere somehow, because all these people will not come back and contribute to the Fund, because some of them are unemployed, some of them are doing clerical work with a degree in tourism and others are just sitting at home. It would be good if we could turn this Fund into a bursary scheme, so that we can have identified fields that the Government needs. If we need forensic investigators, if we need whoever, then we can advertise and bursaries are given to specific fields and people are obliged to come back to the Government to work because you have given them a bursary. Now we are training for the private sector, we are training for the street and I think we have to look at this issue again. I thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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HON MUHARUKUA

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 10 and I have one question.

Comrade Minister, the capital of Kunene is Opuwo, but the Directorate of Education moved from Opuwo to Khorixas. I do not know whether it moved to Khorixas to be the headquarters of UDF or why did it move from Opuwo? (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. The structure in Opuwo is run by people who are from Khorixas. All the employees are from there.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: This thing is serious because the SWAPO Government chose Opuwo as the capital, because of the marginalised people, but the UDF Governor moved the office to Khorixas. That is why I want to know and the people in Kunene want to know why the Department of Education was moved to Khorixas.

HON MOONGO: I would like to know whether the Colleague knows that SWAPO is the minority in Khorixas and also in Opuwo they are in the minority, the DTA is ruling there.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I posed a question and this is a serious question. The people wanted to demonstrate and I even went there to stop them. I want to ask the Minister to tell the people out there, particularly those in Kunene Region. I support Vote 10.

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HON GORESEB

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

HON GORESEB: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise again to support this very important Vote, Vote 10, and to make a few remarks and, if possible, ask a question.

Unfortunately, because my papers are open, they took all my important points but I will just continue with the remaining ones. I am very happy with the speedy implementation of the ETSIP programme because during my maiden speech I was asking the Honourable Minister whether he has the capacity to implement this huge programme and to my surprise he has done it and the effects are visible at various schools as well as institutions of higher learning. Here I will single out NAMCOL, for example.

Those learners who could not make it was given a second chance and they have made it and the results at NAMCOL have improved. Thank you very much for the speedy implementation of this ETSIP programme.

Another issue which was raised by my Colleague is the COSDECs and I have to mention it again. During one of my speeches I really praised the father of education, Comrade Nahas Angula, for this initiative of COSDECs, but unfortunately something went wrong and COSDEC Omaruru was closed. Then I told this House that Omaruru COSDEC produced very excellent students who are now working in banking institutions and some have been taken up by the mines in the Region. Some individuals formed close corporations, so COSDEC Omaruru was doing very well. If possible, Honourable Minister, would you please consider the reopening of COSDEC Omaruru.

Another issue which was already mentioned is the provision of N\$20,7 million for the National School Feeding Programme. This is a very important programme especially during this time when we are faced by economic downturn. This will enable the rural poor nutritional food as well as to encourage the youngsters to go to school.

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Honourable Chairperson, I have only one big concern and that is the nationwide renovation on page 101 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The objective of that project is to provide a safe and healthy environment for learners, teachers and hostel staff, so that conducive teaching can take place. During my previous speech, I indicated that there are many schools in the Kunene rural, Erongo rural, Omaheke rural which have not been completed, but luckily when I studied that document, I saw Moreti Secondary School, Opuwo, features in the Budget document. They are on the lucky side, but not the rest.

My question is: Does it mean that because they have not budgeted for, those schools which do not appear in the Budget document can even approach their Regional Office or the Ministry so that they can get attention and be renovated because they do not appear anywhere.

Somewhere there is mention of a School of Medicine. Is it true, Honourable Minister, that that school is going to be built in Karibib? I only want to find out if that rumour is true. With these few remarks, I thank you very much.

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

HON BOHITILE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much. I rise to support the Education Vote, Vote 10 and I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Education for his motivation and I also want to thank the Minister of Finance for her continuous support for this sector and for her understanding and allocating the biggest slice of the national cake to the education of this Nation.

On Main Division 7, an amount of N\$56 million has been allocated to NAMCOL to enable this institution to offer programmes to adults and also to out-of-school youth for further education. However, I think it is high time that Members of this House really appreciate what NAMCOL is

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doing. For many years some Members, especially from the side of the Opposition, were against this institution, condemning it.

My question to the Honourable Minister is whether it is possible for a speedier transfer of funds to NAMCOL after the Budget to enable them to function and to avoid overdrafts. That is because the Budget still goes to the National Council and by that time the Financial Year has started, the educational programmes have started and NAMCOL caters for the disadvantaged of which only about 1% of those students have some sort of income or are gainfully employed. They do what the Katutura people call *zula* in order to pay the registration fee of N\$50.

HON RIRUAKO: We are not calling our students just for their survival, we are here to protect every individual human being, low or high. They are going to end up the same. Those who are going there are going to prove themselves.

HON BOHITILE: On Main Division 8 on Education: Honourable Chairperson, UNAM gets its subsidy every year. In 2007 they received N\$185,4 million of which a third went to personnel expenditure, which means salaries. In the last Financial Year they got N\$260 million and now they will get N\$306 million. However, at the beginning of this year when the fulltime students registered at UNAM, they could not get lectures throughout the day, they got evening classes. What the students were told is that the lecturers are employed elsewhere and, therefore, they can only teach in the evening. Does it mean that UNAM employs most of their lecturers as part-time lecturers and not fulltime lecturers at this institution?

Those students that came from the Regions are fulltime and some of them staying in Katutura had to take taxis in the evenings to go for lectures, but the whole day they were doing nothing. It just does not make sense.

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

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HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, my first question is on page 114 of the Development Programmes and it reads as follows: “*The project objective is to build a new primary school at Cimbabasia in order to accommodate students from that area.*” They say it is 21 classrooms, an administration block and a three-bedroom teacher’s house. Honourable Minister, I want to know what is the purpose of the teacher’s house in Windhoek since I think all the facilities are available for teachers in Windhoek while in the rural area there is no provision made for teacher’s accommodation.

Secondly, if a teacher has to teach in a far remote area, are there any incentives to encourage teachers to teach in rural areas? There is no accommodation, no shopping centre, what can the Minister offer them?

Thirdly, Honourable Minister, **the school-feeding programmes** are only for primary school learners. What about the OVC who will continue with his education in the secondary phase? That child is still vulnerable but the school-feeding programme is only for primary schools? Is there maybe any way that you can extend the programme also to cater for the secondary school OVCs.

My fourth question is on **teenage pregnancies**. I think the last time I asked this question the Honourable Deputy Minister of Education said the changing of this policy is in the pipeline. How far are you with that policy? The policy says you must go and stay at home and after one year you can come back.

I also want to know, is there any other programme for our school girls with regard to sexual relationships with teachers and sugar daddies and mommies, because so many babies are being dumped.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. You cannot determine for our people whom they are supposed to play with. If they are not school children, they are adults, you cannot talk about their sexual relations with other people.

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HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chief, I do not know what you said but thank you. Honourable Minister, in the Education Act they say that a child who is ten years old and who goes to school for the first time cannot be allowed to start at Grade 1 at that age. That child needs special permission from the authority to attend school. Is that not discrimination while we are at the same time talking about Education for All? How long will that application take and at the end of the day the child is fourteen years old. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I do not know if the school system has already expelled children from school. Where does this question come from and how can we accommodate these questions? It is time for us to come to the realities and the nitty-gritty.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chief, that is why I am asking the question, I know the Education Act. Some schools in the rural areas cannot make use of modern facilities, such as photocopy machines, fax machines because of electricity. Is there any working relationship with our local leaders to at least take the service to the people?

Honourable Minister, the **maintenance of our schools:** Currently parents have fundraising programmes for the maintenance of the schools because they are saying that Government takes too long to renovate their schools and this is another way of increasing the school development funds.

HON RIRUAKO: I have seen a dilapidated school and I asked that society, "*what is this?*" The next week I saw they have already renovated that school. You are supposed to take some initiative and prove that you are capable of taking care of yourself and afterwards show the Government this is what I have done.

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HON DIENDA: Honourable Minister, what is the current situation with the late submission of teachers' remuneration? Are they now getting their salaries on time?

Honourable Minister, what is the current turnover of teachers? So many teachers are resigning because of poor salaries and teaching is one of the most important professions in this country. I thank you.

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

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to touch on only two points. There is no question of not supporting this very important Vote, I fully support it.

There are two points that I would like to touch on, maybe I should start with the last one. I have seen at some schools that there is a lack of subject teachers. What I do not understand is the process of recruitment. Maybe it takes too long or maybe it is a lack of money, but if one teacher leaves, then that teacher should be replaced, because at the end of the day the learners in particularly Grade 10 and 12 will be left behind. It is a technical problem that the Ministry needs to look into.

Also the ordering of school-based materials, books, teaching aids. Up to a certain time during the year they have not arrived at schools. Maybe we need to review our system and see whether we can improve on that.

The issue I want to highlight is ICT. We all speak about e-Governance, e-education, etcetera, but currently there is a backlog in ICT as far as we are concerned. There is something on paper, which is a very good thing, but currently we do not have something tangible that we can say we are doing something about it.

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The schools I have visited where there are computers, are not utilising the computers. Why do we send computers? Why do we create an ICT subject in schools if that is the situation, but yet we do not have people who are there to maintain them. It is difficult to understand how we should work to make progress. I feel that if we introduce ICT, there should be some people responsible for the maintenance. These machines should not be there idle; they will get old and outdated.

ICT should be society-driven, educating a child probably how to use it in agricultural means of production. By this I mean they should learn how to create software and probably hardware, not typing and doing things that have already been done by someone else. They should also learn about programming and general maintenance, because you will only be able to produce a skilled person when you have the necessary skills. If they have the skills to maintain, to manufacture software, then we will have no problem, because at the end of the day we will reach our dream, Vision 2030. By that I mean education should really go along this line for us to practically implement the ICT policy as envisaged. I thank you, I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 10 with a few comments and questions. One of my points which was already taken, is the integrated education system with vocational training.

My second point is on the teaching of History in some schools. Last year when I was invited by communities in the far remote areas in the North, the parents complained that there are some teachers who do not want to teach history of Namibia at some schools, because the history of Namibia contains SWAPO's background and whatever. How will the Ministry of

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Education address that problem? History is the backbone of any Nation in the world.

My third point is on page 9, the funds allocated to the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund. This will reduce the working visas in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, because from the 3rd of April to the 31st of March 2009 we have approved 25,402 working visas for non-Namibians to come and work in Namibia and all these motivation letters are coming from all sectors in this country, from the Government institutions, the private sector and they always said that those people have skills which we do not have in the country. These exclude the employment permits of 7,506. I am not talking about the business visas for investors, I am talking of the people who applied and got jobs in this country.

With these few words, Comrade Chairperson, I once again support Vote 10.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Minister Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Even if I do not record my appreciation of this Vote, everybody knows that I do. There is just nobody in this House called "*honourable*" who does not support this Vote, we all do.

However, Comrade Chairperson, allow me to sound like a broken record, because I am going to repeat what I said before a few years ago and what others have said tonight about the integrated vocational education in secondary education. We cannot say that enough here.

Those who have been here long will remember the story I related of a certain secondary school in the Mukwe Constituency where I went to address a political meeting and then afterwards we were accommodated

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for lunch at that secondary school in a big classroom the size of this Chamber with all equipment you can think of – stoves, spoons, plates, zincs meant for home economics, but ever since Independence that school is standing idle. Home economics has died a natural death in Namibia. Tell me which school is teaching home economics? That is precisely why I think Namibia is a country with the worst cuisine in the world. We do not know how to cook, we only eat porridge and meat.

When you travel in Asia, you will see how healthy people are eating. They know what is a balanced diet. Many Namibians nowadays have contracted diabetes and I am not from the medical background, but the cause of this is poor diet. We only eat *pap* and meat.

This is just one aspect of integrated vocational education. Our children nowadays leave secondary education without knowing how to type, but in my days there were secondary schools where typing was a subject and immediately after Grade 12 those school leavers could be employed as typists or secretaries.

I just want to find out why Colleagues are hammering on this issue. We cannot talk on it long enough, it should be done.

The Grade 10 repeaters. I am not shying away from repeating what others have said because these were my points. Comrade Minister, I want to find out whether or not it is optional for child who failed to repeat, because I know of a school where 82 children sat for Grade 10 examination and only six passed. Imagine, out of 82 students only six passed and this school has refused to allow repetition of Grade 10. The parents are crying, they called me in Windhoek. I called the Director of Education in Outapi, but up to this moment those kids are sitting at home because the principal of that school has refused. The question is, is this policy optional and if it is not optional, why are certain principals behaving in this fashion?

I am not negating what others have said on NAMCOL, it is doing very well but NAMCOL should not be a substitute for the policy on repetition. Those who go to NAMCOL, fine, but repetition should be allowed.

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Comrade Minister, I did not say all these things to negate what the Ministry of Education is doing, you are doing a great job, but those potholes on education must be filled before they become ditches. Thank you and I support Vote 10.

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

HON RIRUAKO: I have to say that we have exceptional cases. We complain and complain about it, all of us did not have it before and the way we have our education today is something we have inherited, but it does not say we have to create a kind of conducive atmosphere for it.

Honourable Minister, I would like to thank you for what you tried to do, but do not leave the complaints out, you must look at it. The Budget is fine, but the performance sometimes is not fine although it is not of your creation.

I may say we feel good and say we have a very good education structure-wise, if you look at the buildings. The atmosphere where our students study is really first class, but vocational education is still ahead of us, we need to be educated and that is a problem all over the country and all over the world too. However, we cannot put our tools down, because we have not yet reached our goal. We have to strive for it. Without vocational education there is no Nation at all. Somewhere some people lagged behind in order to accommodate certain areas which are being left aside. Those who are passing and are promoted and reach their goal, we appreciate that, and those who are left behind need to perform, we have to accommodate them too. I may say thank you for that. I do not want to argue as a man who goes out and come back.

I may say that this is how we should continue, we are proud of it but our shortcomings must be taken care of. I thank you.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Minister Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. In supporting Vote 10, I would like to make the following observation and of course, from the onset I want to congratulate you, Comrade Minister, and your staff. I know this is one of the difficult and challenging tasks.

The first observation, Comrade Minister, is on page 10 of the motivation speech where you are talking about knowledge creation and innovation. I am specifically interested in the innovation for economic development in relation to research.

I believe that at one point research on some of our agricultural produce to see how value can be added and how they can be used in different ways had started, I am just wondering whether that particular component is taken care of under the current programme and whether there are any findings that the Minister may share with the general public.

Another issue is on the improvement in the sector, which is mentioned to come as the Government implement this ETSIP programme. I want to find out, Comrade Minister, as to what is the response of the major role players. The major players remain the teachers, principals and inspectors, because I have seen that in terms of access to education we now have more children who have access to education and the main challenge now is to improve. The improvement that we are talking about, Comrade Minister, will only be realised if you have the full commitment of the teachers, the principals and everyone.

I also want to find out, Comrade Minister, what are the minimum points required for one to be enrolled in the Teachers College, because this also has an impact if we have to improve on the education.

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On page 6 you are talking about the performance of the fulltime candidates, which was 95% compared to 90.5% for the part-time candidates. Comrade Minister, I know that every time when you are evaluating this, you provide the Nation with the top performing students for every year. I want to find out what is the motivation for top performing students in addition to the 1,800 that you give to each in that category, the first, second and the third. If the parents of one of these top performers have difficulties to assist that student to continue with his/her education, is special provision being made to assist those learners? I asking this question because last year one of those students applied for a bursary could not get it and not even an acknowledgement letter was sent. The parents got the student admitted at the Polytechnic but could not get hostel admission even though they do not leave in Windhoek. What is there to really motivate a person who is performing well and the parents are not in the category which is mentioned there, that maybe they are on the higher scale of payment.

The other issue, Comrade Minister, is the English language when it comes to admission into institutions of higher learning. I am fully aware that English is our official language and people need to know it, but here you have the situation of a learner who got over 40 points in Grade 12, but simply because that learner under-performed in English, that learner could not be admitted to either Polytechnic or UNAM and had to go to NAMCOL. Of course, all the subjects are in English. When you are discussing with some people in the education sector, you are told that examination for English are not necessarily based on grammar, but based on general knowledge.

One person was giving me an example of an exam question, that you find a question which is asked to a learner: *"You are travelling between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay and an accident occurs and you now find yourself at the scene of accident, can you explain what should be done?"* A child who has never been at an accident scene will just get a zero. That child has never seen the environment between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, let alone knowing about the Police. A child will just look at the paper and cry and leave it and that is why the child is able to do well in other subjects, get over 40 points but under-perform in English.

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HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. While Comrade Minister was giving this example of writing about something you have never seen before, I was thinking about a composition which we were writing about being lost in the bush and one of our students wrote, *“when the sun set I heard footsteps behind me and when I looked back, it was a snake.”*

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: That explains the difficult situation the learners find themselves in when writing English examinations. Maybe this needs to be looked into because many of them are held back by this.

Lastly, Comrade Minister, is a public issue. What is the status of the Polytechnic. People are now talking about it becoming a university, is it or not becoming a university? It is a question by the public and maybe they could benefit from your explanation at this platform. I thank you, Comrade Chairperson.

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

HON CHRISTIAN: I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister and if he can read all the documents that we were given by the Minister of Finance, we will not have a problem with education.

Thank you very much, Honourable Minister, for the vocational training centres you have inaugurated in Keetmanshoop and Tsumeb. It was great. Thanks goes to you, the Minister of Education and your team and all the stakeholders.

On general education, I would also like to thank you for also including the pre-primary education in this 4 billion as sub-programmes. We have been trying for between 10 to 18 years for the integration of pre-primary

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schools into the formal education, because as teachers responsible for the lower primary phase, we are suffering with the learners coming from the pre-primary centres because most of them were not trained and the children are also now benefiting from formal education.

Let me move to page 12 of your speech dealing with the knowledge-based society. It is true, you have practised this because this introduction of yours is good.

I was recently at some of the schools in Kavango and I can speak of experience, that most of the rural schools need attention as far as libraries are concerned. In the rural areas even the teachers do not have anything to read and the children are interested in reading and gaining knowledge, therefore we should make extra provision, taking from some of the schools in the urban areas to allocate more funds to the libraries in rural schools, because they have more time to read than children in urban areas. Reading is also a very good thing for knowledge-based education. At some schools the books are there, but there is no accommodation and the library books are only gathering dust at schools. I thank you.

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

HON NASHANDI: Comrade Chairperson, I rise to support and congratulate the Honourable Minister for a well-balanced motivation. However, I have one question to ask because I underlined “*well-balanced*.”

Last month I visited the School of Mines in Bulawayo in Zimbabwe and I was highly impressed to learn that some of their students came for attachment at various mines in the country. Last week I went to Toyota and I met some students from the VTC who were also on attachment because they were doing motor vehicle mechanics. The question is, when these students have graduated, how will the Minister assist them through

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the Ministry of Mines and Energy to get jobs? The list is long, some of those who are doing law school are coming on attachment. With that question I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: First I must thank all the Honourable Members for their support and encouragement. I thank all my mothers, my uncles, my friends, my sisters and the Chiefs. Your comments are highly appreciated.

Let me start with one of the issues which is truly a principle issue and I think there are other two. One is the issue of Government policy. We as a Ministry cannot work outside the guidelines of the national Government. We have a unitary State and in each Region we must follow the same programmes and same procedures.

On the issue of where the office of the Regional Director of Education in each Region should be: Clearly in the regional capital. That is the answer. If there are any excuses that there are no houses, there are no facilities, we should have prepared ourselves well in advance to make sure that we are where the Governor is operating, where the Regional Council is operating because we are supposed to help, advise and facilitate from the Regional Headquarters. Any deviations can only be temporary, but it is not the standard procedure.

Then on the status of our second institution of higher education, the Polytechnic of Namibia. Both the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia are created by Act of Parliament. They have separate Acts. Unfortunately we do not have one Act covering all institutions of higher learning and therefore, this one does this, that one does that. However, only you Honourable Members of this House can change laws and, therefore, as of now until such time that things have

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gone through the Cabinet and Cabinet authorised your Minister of Education to come back here and change the law, the status quo remains. We cannot change things in the law by pronouncements, the law is law. I want that to be clear.

There were principle questions like what are we going to do about those children who missed out because of the floods and some of them, unfortunately, are still continuing to miss out. In the north the flood waters have started subsiding, but especially in the Caprivi Region is still too high and, therefore, in my view, those children between Grade 1 and 7 are not missing much because they have a lot of time to catch up, but for those who are in Grade 9 and moving to Grade 10, those in Grade 10 and those in Grade 11 moving to Grade 12 and those who are going to write the final examination of Grade 12, we have to come up with a programme to make sure that they get classes over holidays, over weekends and provide certain additional materials so that they at least have a competitive chance to compete with others, because there is not going to be a special examination for some because of floods. The examination has to be the same nationally.

Then on the issue of vocational education and parallel education. I think we should not compare the money. General education covers over 400,000 learners. It is a question of numbers and their teachers are more and the classrooms have to be more. Therefore, it is not a question of discrimination. We should stop being snobbish, I want a certificate, a diploma or degree. I met one of my former students, he is as big as Hage Geingob – and I am picking on him because he is not here – who is now a builder. Just imagine a kid who was a refugee, he is now a builder and he has more money than the person who taught him. Unless we are not aiming to improve our lives, but are aiming to show off with papers, we should definitely try as hard as we can to diversify our families in terms of professions.

There are stories that say in some countries, when you send your one son to the university, you must send the other one either to the Army or to the Police or when one goes to the Navy, one should go to the air force, but

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not to send all your children just to have papers. I am in agreement and we will see what we can do.

We must also appreciate that we are upgrading all the COSDECs. They started as community centres and it is true you can gain skills and you can proceed to formal vocational education centres.

Then we have the issue of whether teachers, school principals and inspectors follow ETSIP accordingly and uniformly. As I have said before, we have Regional Directorates of Education, we have inspectors under them, we have school principals, HODs and we have teachers. Human beings that they are, some of them are true to their profession, true to their commitment, but we have noticed that some Directors, some inspectors, some teachers are trying to pay more attention to some issues than to the issues for which they are paid and with your support we will try to correct them.

Then there is the issue of class division and this is a very tricky issue. If I say that all those kids who do well should get scholarships, Mungunda's daughter gets a scholarship, my cousin Marco Hausiku's son gets a scholarship, Helmut's son gets a scholarship, then they are going to say, what about the children of the poor, because the problem is that the funds are not enough to cover all of them. Therefore, it is definitely slanted towards poor children and it is proportionally divided between the Regions. We will have to make sure that if a child, for example this one of Honourable Netumbo, has all those marks and even won a prize, and for the technicality that the parent is cleaning in the Ministry of Education, therefore the child cannot get a scholarship. It is one of those bureaucratic things where we have a tunnel vision, because the child needs to be helped. The child has proved right from the beginning that he or she is a good student.

On the issue of Grade 10, I personally do not like the idea that we call them repeaters. These are just learners like everybody else who need to improve their marks. To repeat is necessary, but they are not repeaters. You are going back to the elections in November, are you repeaters because you want to come back? Every time you give a wrong

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connotation to some people, that stigma can create problems in their later lives. One person may improve his or her marks in Science, Mathematics or Language and then at the university can beat the other one who did not repeat, so they are not permanent repeaters, they are just good students like anybody else.

The school-feeding programme was started to cater for very young children in poor communities and we have expanded it and now you want it to be expanded to secondary level. It is a question of money. Depending on the circumstances, if it a secondary school in Tsumkwe or Gam or Etanga, you can justify, but you cannot justify giving food to secondary school children who are studying in Oshakati, Rundu or Katima, etc. It may be just too much.

People in the Ministry of Education did not think that somebody can get such high marks if they fail the language, but it is true, it happens. From what I remember you are given at least two or three topics to choose from. You can write about your trips or your home or the person in the world you respect, but if you have language skills, you can create a story. The teacher is not looking at whether you are treating the person properly or not, but are you making some sentences such as; "*I was scared stiff, I could not move, I went on my knees or I ran away, I collapsed.*" If you know the language it can help you, but the teacher is not looking for the correct procedure as a medical person, you must only write something that makes sense.

Honourable Chairperson, thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 10? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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ADJOURNMENT

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until tomorrow
afternoon 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:53 UNTIL 2009.04.23 AT 14:30